

Nevadans face longer wait for medical pot

By Eric Hartley, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Nevadans might not be able to buy marijuana in legal dispensaries until summer – or later – as a legal tangle continues over pesticide rules.

The delay means continued frustration for patients and lost money for businesses that once hoped to begin selling medical pot in January.

It could be months until workable pesticide limits are in place – and even longer before the first significant marijuana crops are ready.

The problem centers on a Nevada regulation that says marijuana tested in state-licensed labs must meet the “most stringent acceptable standard for an approved pesticide chemical residue in any food item” under federal rules.

Read the whole story

Toll lanes would fund Tahoe projects in Nev.

By Associated Press

CARSON CITY – Nevada lawmakers are reviewing a bill allowing for separate toll lanes to be built on Interstate 11.

Republican Assemblyman Jim Wheeler presented AB 450 on

Thursday to the Assembly Transportation Committee.

Wheeler said the bill would allow partnerships between public and private organizations to build toll lanes on I-11 to alleviate traffic and raise money for other transportation projects. He said money raised from the tolls would help fund a separate project helping to rebuild highways on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe.

Wheeler said the bill wasn't intended to limit lanes on I-11 but to create separate so-called "hot lanes" on the interstate usable through a fee.

The proposed interstate would connect Las Vegas and Phoenix and would eventually create an interstate linking the U.S. to Canada and Mexico.

Solar industry squares off with Warren Buffett, NV Energy

By Kyle Roerink, Las Vegas Sun

One of Warren Buffett's senior vice presidents at Berkshire Hathaway Energy – NV Energy's parent company – warned of the dangers of rooftop solar at an energy conference in July. His message was clear: Rooftop solar programs cut into utility profits.

Nine months later, Nevada's burgeoning rooftop solar industry, 6,000 jobs and carbon-free energy production are facing a roadblock.

The impasse is part of a nationwide battle between solar and power companies that's been fought in public utility commissions, legislatures and courtrooms. In Nevada, there is a debate about utility rates for residential solar producers, pushes for new legislation and questions about the expansion of an industry into territory traditionally dominated by what the solar industry calls NV Energy's regulated monopoly.

At stake is the small share of the utility marketplace that the rooftop solar industry has won thanks to a policy known as net metering.

Read the whole story

Panel discussion to focus on AIS on North Shore

The Tahoe Fund and the Tahoe City Rotary are hosting a panel discussion and dinner with local aquatic invasive species experts to learn about current efforts to control the spread of aquatic invasive weeds at the Tahoe City Dam and down the Truckee River.

The event will take place at 6pm May 19 at Moe's Original BBQ in Tahoe City. Admission is free to attend the panel discussion. A barbecue buffet will be offered for \$25 per person. Space is limited. Please RSVP to Patti Boxeth at pdboxeth@charter.net.

The panel will feature the following experts:

Dan Shaw, California State Parks

Dennis Zabaglo, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Nicole Cartwright, Tahoe Resource Conservation District

Sudeep Chandra, UNR
Marion Wittmann, UNR.

Reno wants to be Silicon Valley's back office

By James Nash, Bloomberg

Reno, Nevada, a town that built an economy on quickie divorces, is mapping out the second act of its American life.

Faded casinos are being reborn as condominium towers. Discarded cardboard and wood – even junked cars – are being fashioned into gigantic pieces of art for the annual Burning Man festival in the nearby desert. The mayor governs the city of 233,000 with the aid of a kidney donated by her sister.

Few cities needed a second chance as much as Reno. By January 2011 unemployment was 13.9 percent, and two-thirds of homes sold that year were short sales or foreclosures. The malaise contained the seeds of the rebirth: The newly unemployed snapped up dirt-cheap real estate, spawning an artist-entrepreneur economy.

“A lot of people like us lost their jobs and started asking, ‘Now what the hell am I going to do?,’” said Eric Raydon. His answer was to go into business with two brothers buying and rebuilding properties in a gentrifying area known as Midtown. “We saw opportunities here.”

As downtowns across the U.S. revive, Reno is among cities that have a tougher task to reinvent themselves. Detroit, the largest U.S. city to go bankrupt, is repopulating downtown

towers with companies such as Quicken Loans Inc., which moved from the suburbs in 2010. Atlantic City, N.J., battered by Superstorm Sandy and the closure of several of its casinos, wants to diversify beyond gambling and rebrand itself as a university community.

Reno is rebounding. Unemployment dropped by 1.5 percentage points in February from a year earlier, to 7 percent, according to U.S. Labor Department data. Nationally, joblessness fell by 1.2 percentage points in the period, to 5.8 percent. City sales-tax receipts are projected to rise 7.9 percent in 2015 toward the 2008 peak.

Read the whole story

Volunteers sought for bike race in S. Lake Tahoe

The Amgen Tour of California Women's Race at Lake Tahoe is seeking community members, businesses, service groups, and cycling aficionados to volunteer during the two stages, May 8-9.

The Local Organizing Committee is seeking 300 volunteers for the first stage and 200-250 for the second. Participants may get involved either or both days and commitment of four to six hours is anticipated. All volunteers will receive an Amgen volunteer shirt and hat.

Positions consist of a course marshal where the individual assists race staff and local law enforcement authorities along the route. Other jobs involve media support, security, check-in, monitoring pedestrian traffic, surveying barricades, road

closures, and communications – keeping spectators informed as the race progresses while collaborating with the cyclists and their teams. No experience is needed and a brief training session will take place prior to the event.

Those interested in assisting on either or both of the race days can register online. Registrants must be at least 18 years old, or accompanied by an adult. Interested applicants can contact Volunteer Committee co-chairs Sean Sweeney sean@athletesunited.org or Jason Collins jason@epictahoe.com

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



- People are invited to plant sugar pines with NV Energy and South Lake Tahoe Girl Scouts on April 19 from 10am-noon in Glenbrook. Meet at the old Kingsbury Middle School.

- Check out this video about Nevada bears.
 - Truckee tax measure for trails and road maintenance workshop is April 13 from 1-2pm at the Truckee Airport.
 - Squaw Valley is staying open at least until April 19.
 - The *Tahoe Daily Tribune* building has sold after being on the market for years. Newspaper operations are going to remain at the site. Façade changes are coming.
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USFS set to burn throughout Tahoe basin

The U.S. Forest Service may continue prescribed fire operations beginning April 13, weather permitting. Operations may take place in Blackwood Canyon between Tahoe City and Tahoe, on the south side of Meeks Bay, at Ski Run Boulevard near Heavenly and on the East Shore near Logan Creek Drive.

Operations may last through the next several weeks as conditions allow.

Each operation follows a prescribed fire burn plan, which considers temperature, humidity, wind, moisture of the vegetation, and conditions for the dispersal of smoke. This information is used to decide when and where to burn.

Smoke from prescribed fire operations is normal and may continue for several days after an ignition depending on the project size. Agencies coordinate with state and local county air pollution control districts and monitors weather conditions closely prior to prescribed fire ignition. They wait for favorable conditions that will carry smoke up and out of the Basin.

The Forest Service updates the local fire information line at 530.543.2600, ext. 6.

The serious business of pulp

fiction

By Paula Rabinowitz

Cheap paperback books are like sex: They claim attention, elicit memories good and bad, and get talked about endlessly. The mid-20th century was the era of pulp, which landed in America in 1939.

You could pick up these paper-bound books at the corner drugstore or bus station for a quarter. They had juicy covers featuring original (and sometimes provocative) art, blurring the lines between canonical literature (Emily Brontë and Honoré de Balzac) and the low genres of crime, romance, and Westerns. Even fairly tame cover images grabbed attention. “The Unexpected!”, Bennett Cerf’s 1948 collection of “high tension stories” for Bantam Books, featured a cover by artist Ed Grant of a woman and a man – both in proper suits, though hers is flaming red – standing horrified in front of an open trapdoor. It hints at the thrills within.

Paperbacks went beyond lurid fiction. They brought high culture and scholarly nonfiction to readers, covering every conceivable taste and topic, from anti-Semitism (James Parkes’ 1946 “An Enemy of the People”) to works by diplomats, philosophers, physicists, anthropologists, even Sigmund Freud and Stendhal.

At 25 to 35 cents a pop – wages for a night of babysitting or the cost of a pack of cigarettes – paperbacks could be had by anyone, and so enabled teenagers and poor and working people to enter fully into the cultural landscape. Irving Shulman’s “The Amboy Dukes” was passed among Brooklyn street kids who emulated the gangs rampaging through the novel; bored housewives whiled away hours in suburbia minding house and children by reading paperbacks they picked up at the grocery store. In the 1950s, these books created secret communities of

readers who fashioned identities through ownership; women in rural America might come to recognize themselves as lesbians after finding "Women's Barracks" by Tereska Torrès on a candy store rack; would-be intellectuals could glimpse William Gaddis' postmodernism in the "New American Library's New World Writing" collection.

Unlike other forms of mass media that could be consumed at home – radio and later, television – paperbacks offered more than ephemeral content. Compact enough to carry anywhere, they were total packages, providing content not only through the text in their pages and illustrations on their covers, but also as objects. The books' shape, smell, feel, even the sound of their cracking bindings helped to create a rare sense of connection among readers, booksellers, publishers, and authors. E.L. Doctorow, who was an editor at New American Library before becoming a published author, remembers his first deep reading experience plowing through the first 10 Pocket Books published in 1939 while he languished in a hospital bed recovering from a near-fatal disease.

Paperbacks could be serious business. "In His Eye Is on the Sparrow" (1952), Ethel Waters told her story of fighting against racism, poverty, and abuse to become a breakthrough singer and actress on Broadway and in Hollywood. Declaring her birth, "October 31, 1900, was the date, Chester, Pennsylvania, the place, which makes me, I trust, an American citizen," she connects her life to that of the century and the nation, making clear that by 1951, even before *Brown v. Board of Education*, a poor, black woman claimed full citizenship in this country. Daphne Rooke's "Mittee" (1953) unveiled South African apartheid through an interracial love triangle involving a white man, a white woman, and her mixed race female servant. The book included a glossary of Afrikaans terminology for U.S. readers to enlarge their vocabulary and open their eyes to distant parts of the world.

Since the publication of my book "America Pulp: How Paperbacks

Brought Modernism to Main Street", I have had the moving (and somewhat bewildering) experience of hearing very personal stories that confirm my argument about how paperbacks permeated daily life. Dozens of people – total strangers, long-ago boyfriends, friends of friends, collectors, bibliographers – have written me emails and letters, and sent me packages containing pulp pulled from their shelves.

I recently received an email from one reader, who wrote about her relative, Jack Nemec, an immigrant who wrote a dozen kinky titles, including "Sin Caravan", "The Spy Who Came to Bed", and "The Darkest Urge". She learned about these books after his death; some relatives are a "smidge embarrassed that we have a 'porn' writer in the family," she wrote – in fact, they threw out all his books after he died. Nemec's books are hard to come by these days; she has read only one, "Is She a Dyke?" Her email concluded that she is a "bit proud that we're a part of this little part of Americana."

Her pride zeroes in on the crux of what pulp meant in the middle of the 20th century – and how we might understand it now. These books are a little piece of Americana; they linked the midway to the bedroom. The plot of Nemec's "Easy Sue" – there's one copy available on eBay – features an enormous woman who finds fulfillment working in a carnival where she meets the human giant; he's well endowed. And yet the book's design – its sleazy cover and handy shape – resembled the cover of William Faulkner's novel "The Unvanquished". Appealing to every taste, paperbacks were (and still are) trafficked – bartered, bought, exchanged, sequestered, hidden, destroyed ... and loved. Because they carry traces of both the illicit and aspirational, they figure as distillations of America's various dreams.

Pulp elevated working people into writers and collectors and was a quirky means for immigrants to assimilate to American culture. A rural Midwesterner moved to New York City and found paperbacks were the vehicle for his social mobility. The man's

daughter, who lives in the Netherlands, sent me a copy of his memoir. Karl Zimmer became “a Johnny Appleseed from the Heartland [who] spread American books across three continents.” In the 1950s, he drummed Ian Ballantine’s paperbacks to booksellers up and down Manhattan while working “a night job operating a machine that extruded insulation onto electric cable at a factory in Brooklyn.”

Hawking paperbacks was an uncommon route out of the Midwest and into pulp; most entered as consumers, picking something off a rack. A New York artist described in an email how she remembered her parents’ bedroom side tables filled with paperbacks. They bought the books at Pete Bianchi’s soda fountain and tobacco store in Ohio, “where our father used to take us kids for comic books and treats, and where he could peruse the rotating shelves of pulp mysteries.” Those drugstore visits to find books that were unavailable at the local library still inhabit readers’ memories. Encountering pulp was a family affair, undertaken together, in plain view, not hidden in a plain brown wrapper as Nemec’s novels surely would have been. Those books were a part of the landscape of Smalltown, U.S.A. They made us who we are: a pocket-book nation.

Cheap paperbacks helped to forge modern ideas about race, sex, war, science, and much more. During their heyday from the late 1930s to the late 1950s, pulp spread the practice of everyday reading, bringing to a mass audience of avid readers – everything from smut to theology; from whodunits to “Macbeth”. Paperbacks ‘R’ Us.

Paula Rabinowitz is professor of English at the University of Minnesota and author of “America Pulp: How Paperbacks Brought Modernism to Main Street”. She wrote this for What It Means to Be American, a national conversation hosted by the Smithsonian and Zócalo Public Square.

Tahoe Princess extraction causes oil leak



The Tahoe Princess hit a snag April 10 will being pulled out of the water at Tahoe Keys. Sand covers the spill area. Photo/Kathryn Reed

By Kathryn Reed

The Tahoe Princess looked like anything but royalty as it sat Friday afternoon on the Tahoe Keys Marina boat ramp.

"A hydraulic line busted when we pulled it," Vincent Vernaza told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Vernaza recently purchased the pontoon tour boat from Aramark. His plans are to overhaul the vessel and return it to its glory days. To do so it had to be pulled from the water.

One semi-truck was on either pontoon, dragging the boat onto

pipes. With the boat just barely out of the water, one of the hydraulic lines on a tow vehicle busted.

Operations stopped so officials could assess the situation.

El Dorado County environmental health and South Lake Tahoe firefighters responded to the hazardous waste spill. The county inspector ensured all the oil was cleaned up, asking for a receipt once it was disposed of and said a fine could be forthcoming. The California Office of Emergency Services also must be notified.

While a boom was placed about a dozen feet from the water line into the marina, no oil is believed to have made it into Lake Tahoe. An absorbent sand-like substance was placed onto all areas of the parking lot where the oil leaked. It will be secured and hauled to a hazardous waste facility in Nevada.

The goal April 10 was to use the pipes as rollers to move the nearly 60-ton boat to a storage area at the marina. It had to be done this way because trailers don't exist for this type of watercraft. Vernaza expects to spend the next six months refurbishing the Tahoe Princess. It was beaten up during the winter when it broke from its mooring at Zephyr Cove and was banging against the rocks. A sundeck platform will be added to the top. Vernaza said it would be nicer, newer and modern when the overhaul is done.