

Nev. helps develop defense systems against drones

By Nicole Raz, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Nevada drone experts have finished a Federal Aviation Administration operation in Denver to develop the counter unmanned systems industry, which is the development of defense systems against drone threats.

“Right now airports do not have a radar that can effectively detect small drones (weighing less than 55 pounds),” said Chris Walach, director of the FAA-designated Nevada Unmanned Aviation Test Site. “When a bird gets sucked into an airliner engine, you have an engine failure. If a bird can produce that type of damage to an airline engine, you can imagine what an unmanned aircraft could do.”

The FAA chose Nevada to lead the operation to test different detection technologies that air traffic control could use to detect unmanned aircraft. Flight teams worked Sunday to Friday flying multiple aircraft at once with different frequencies with the goal of confusing various radar technologies.

Read the whole story

New restaurant for Community Soup Night

Slow Food Lake Tahoe and Tahoe Food Hub are partnering with a new venue for Community Soup Night.

Mellow Fellow in Truckee will be serving up the soup for the second event of the fall series on Nov. 30 from 6-7:30pm.

“Soup Night taps into the very heart of what Mellow Fellow is all about...community,” owner Ryan Eller said in a press release. “We are excited to showcase the talents of Chef Clint Jolly with Great Thyme Catering in Reno, who will be making a satisfying bowl of mulligatawny soup for all to enjoy.”

Soup Night is a family friendly event. All are welcome to attend and no RSVP is required. The cost is \$5 at the door for soup and bread. Kale salad can be added for \$2. A vegetarian soup option will also be available).

Mellow Fellow will be offering drink specials and other food items from its bar menu. Live music will be presented by Truckee’s Aaron Oropeza.

Free-climber scales Yosemite rock wall in record time

By Scott Smith, AP

Gripping tiny slices of sheer rock and hoisting himself up 3,000 feet with only his strength, Adam Ondra quietly inched his way up one of the world’s most challenging rock walls and into the record books, a spokesman for the climber said.

Ondra, a 23-year-old from the Czech Republic, took eight days to finish the free-climb up the Dawn Wall of the famed El Capitan in Yosemite National Park.

He completed the second-ever free ascent of the wall Monday, said John Dicuollo, a spokesman for Black Diamond Equipment,

which sponsors Ondra.

Nearly two years ago, U.S. climbers Tommy Caldwell and Kevin Jorgeson were first to chart and conquer the route, a feat that took the pair 19 days.

"It's like being a proud parent, in a way," Jorgeson said Tuesday, honored that Ondra was drawn to the challenge. "That's the point: To raise the bar so someone else can do the same thing and stand on our shoulders."

Unlike climbers who need more elaborate equipment, free-climbers use their strength and ability to grasp tiny cracks and lips on the granite rock with their fingertips and toes. They use ropes and harnesses only for safety to catch a fall.

Throughout the climb, Ondra took to social media to post about the cold, soaking rain and the pain from the granite wearing down the skin on his fingers. He also celebrated victories.

"Hard to find the words to describe how I feel," he wrote on Instagram as he neared the top. "We made it up to the Wino Tower and no more hard pitches guard my way to the top. I could not have asked for a better day."

Ondra, pictured in jeans and a T-shirt pumping his arms after completing a difficult stretch of the climb, was not available for comment. Dicuollo said Ondra's cellphone was off as he celebrated by resting.

Ondra completed the climb in his first visit to Yosemite Valley. He arrived in mid-October, spending several days practicing some of the wall's most harrowing sections, before launching the formal climb on Nov. 14.

To rest, Ondra and his team pitched tents suspended on the wall's sheer face towering hundreds of feet above Yosemite Valley. The park – famous for its grand views, giant sequoias and pristine meadows – is known for attracting daredevil

adventurers from around the globe.

Ondra had already distinguished himself as the first to hold two world championships in climbing, his sponsors said. Earlier this year, he also completed his university degree in business management.

He closely monitored Caldwell and Jorgeson's accomplishment in early 2015, drawing on inspiration from their climb to attempt his own, his sponsor said.

Yosemite climber and historian Ken Yager said there is no doubt that Ondra is the strongest climber alive today. Yager, however, credits Caldwell for taking years to chart the path up the Dawn Wall, the most difficult of several routes that climbers can take up El Capitan.

"Hopefully, Adam, with his skills, will come back and pioneer his own route," Yager said. "He can push it to his own level. He's got the skills to. It's whether he has the desire, too."

Study shows vulnerability of quake on San Andreas fault



The San Andreas fault in California.
Photo/U.S. Geological Survey

By Rong-Gong Lin II, Los Angeles Times

A sobering new report on California's seismic vulnerabilities said that up to 3.5 million homes could be damaged if an 8.0 earthquake ruptured on the San Andreas fault.

The new estimate, from the data firm CoreLogic, is based on a theoretical rupture of the entire San Andreas fault, which passes through Los Angeles County and the San Francisco Bay Area and spans more than 800 miles, from the Pacific Ocean south of Eureka to Imperial County near the Mexican border.

Scientists now say it is possible – although not likely – that the northern and southern sections of the San Andreas fault can rupture simultaneously.

The cost of reconstruction could be greater than \$289 billion.

Read the whole story

Couple says they fell for VHR scam in Tahoe

By ALi Wolf, Fox 40

It looked like the ideal place to spend Thanksgiving: a four bedroom home with a hot tub, steps away from Lake Tahoe.

Bob Busser and his wife were excited to spend four nights in a South Lake Tahoe rental, but when they pulled up Tuesday night.

“There’s nobody there, we called the number,” said Busser.

It didn’t take long for them to realize they had been scammed.

Read the whole story

EDC supes to discuss capital improvement program

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors on Dec. 6 are scheduled to have a public hearing on the county’s capital improvement program and traffic fee mitigation program.

Certification of the environmental impact report for the proposed West Slope roadway traffic improvement and mitigation fee program is expected.

The board will have seven related items to vote on.

The hearing will start no sooner than 2pm at the Community Development Agency, Building C Hearing Room, Placerville.

Calif. weather changes affect power supply

By Lisa Meadows, CBS-13

California has set big goals for switching over to green energy within the next decade. The difference with these

energy source, they depend on the weather. Water (hydro energy), wind (wind turbines), and sun (solar energy) are the key components to generating renewable energy. In California, lawmakers have set high standards for how green we want to be in the next 10 to 20 years. The goal is to have switched over 33 percent of the state to renewable energy sources by 2020 and half of the state by 2030.

Since all three are affected by the weather, that means high stakes weather forecasting for the California Independent Systems Operator. This government group manages the state's power grid. Steven Greenlee of Cal ISO says, "We have to make sure that the grid is ready to deliver all of those megawatts that the utilities need to meet these goals."

Read the whole story

Opinion: Calif. not built to become its own nation

By Joe Mathews

California may have the size and economy of a good-sized country. But California is not a nation. Which is why it would be self-destructive to seek to become one.

It's understandable why the election of an evil white supremacist swindler as president has given the idea of California independence such currency. A secession movement has taken hold in the media, made its intentions known on billboards, and begun planning a referendum. Many Californians are renewing objections to how America's outdated 18th century governing system, from the Electoral College to the U.S.

Senate, works against California's interests.



Joe Mathews

Last week, I was constantly asked about the possibility of California's independence while running a global forum on democracy. The conference was in Spanish Basque Country, whose people have sought their own nation within the Iberian Peninsula for centuries.

So I answered California independence questions with my own query: Do you think we would be better off trying to go our own way? The responses were sobering: the process of winning independence is always costlier than secessionists think. Basques said they've sustained their effort because of a political culture that prizes stubbornness, protecting the nation's distinctive culture, and a willingness to fight.

Such feistiness is inspiring. But it is not very Californian.

We are an un-nation. The word nation, after all, comes from Latin and old French words for "birth" (naissance). But more than a quarter of Californians were born in some other country, and millions of us entered the world in some other state. Nations are defined by common descent, history, language or culture, but Californians pride ourselves on the lack of shared history that makes us so diverse.

It is our inclusive un-nationhood, and not just our political preference for Democrats, that makes California the natural opposition to the prospect of a federal government peddling racist and xenophobic nationalism. Which is precisely why the

idea of an independent California country—so long discussed—is now newly serious. And newly dangerous.

To be blunt: Do we really want to answer Trumpian nationalism with our own? For our un-nation to pursue its own nationalist project would be nothing less than a betrayal of ourselves, a suicide of the universalist California idea.

It also would be a nasty business. The conflict could last decades, and the costs would mount financially and politically—and in blood.

We'd have to battle Congress and other states to get their support if we wanted to leave peacefully, and we'd certainly have to take more than our share of America's debts with us. And if things got so bad that we chose to leave without permission? Do you really think a country as violent and war-prone as the United States would let its greatest province exit without a fight? (Just ask the Confederate States of America).

Inevitably, the fighting would pit Californian against Californian. Many of us would not want to leave the U.S. Don't forget: While Hillary Clinton won California by 29 points and more than 3.5 million votes, one third of California voters cast ballots for Trump—an uncomfortably large Fifth Column.

Taking on an independence war of choice makes no sense when we already face so many other consequential fights? Climate change threatens like the big waves that I watched splash over the top of Basque sea walls. The world confronts regional wars and stagnant incomes.

Californians shouldn't waste another second contemplating independence. We must instead focus on defending our nation and protecting its people, regardless of race, religion or legal status, against whatever horrors the haters in Washington, D.C., might send our way.

But in doing so, we must be careful to avoid escalating the conflict. Ours will have to be a strategy right out of the Cold War. Contest every incursion of the Orange-Haired Empire, while carefully avoiding rhetoric or actions that lead to greater conflict or violence. Build our own alliances and collaborations with states and countries that share our values.

We will have to be especially disciplined about not impugning the motives of those who support the new American regime. Instead, we must relentlessly urge them to change their minds, and assure them that when they realize their nationalist path is mistake, we will welcome them back, like the sanctuary we've always been.

So, on this Thanksgiving weekend, let's avoid rancor at the family table. Instead let's give thanks for the United States, and for the fact that we're its biggest, most powerful state, with plenty of weight to throw against Washington.

America, for better and for worse, is California's nation. Why would we ever surrender it?

Joe Mathews writes the Connecting California column for Zócalo Public Square.

Surviving Thanksgiving: Fight, flight or drink

By Maura Judkis, Washington Post

Every year at Thanksgiving, we're subjected to stories about how to cope with your drunk uncle, your bratty cousin, your

grandma with an ax to grind. And every year, at least for those who come from your typical, slightly dysfunctional but lovably kooky family, the idea that we'd need an entire coping strategy to get through one meal seems a bit histrionic.

This year is different.

Hoooboy, do some of us need advice on how to get along with our families after a year like this one. Could we postpone Thanksgiving for another month or so, until we've all cooled down? No? OK then, let's take a deep breath, set out the decorative gourds, and dive in.

Read the whole story

Experts: Best holiday deals closer to Christmas

By Adam Candee, Las Vegas Sun

Setting up a tent and camping for days outside your favorite big-box retailer for those screaming Black Friday deals sounds like either an adventure or a nightmare.

For those tent-dwellers, experts have some bad news to share: the best holiday shopping values might pop up closer to Christmas this year.

"I think the discounts get larger as you get closer," said Melina Cordero, head of retail research for the Americas at CBRE, during a conference call on holiday retail trends last week.

Read the whole story