

South Tahoe food poisoning incidents increasing

By Kathryn Reed

Baja Fresh joins Raley's at Stateline in having food tampered with.

A 12-year-old felt sick after eating at Baja Fresh on Nov. 19. The child was treated for symptoms related to food poisoning at Barton Memorial Hospital.



Police are looking for this man.

South Lake Tahoe police officers said an unknown suspect put an unidentified substance on the salsa. The incident is similar to what occurred at the Raley's in the same shopping center.

"It's reasonable to assume there could be other places that are just now, because of media attention, realizing that they could also have been victims," Lt. Brian Williams told *Lake Tahoe News*. "They could have thrown out the food and restocked without calling the police. That would be reasonable."

A commenter on *Lake Tahoe News* last week wrote about a bleach-like smell at the salad bar at Goodfella's Pizza.

A bleach smell is the overriding similarity between the incidents.

The FBI office in Sacramento is now involved in the case.

"They are helping us facilitate with the laboratory analysis through the California Department of Health. They are prioritizing it," Williams said.

At this point the exact chemical being put on the food is not known.

Officers have surveillance photo of the suspect, but no identity or reason why he is doing this.

In talking with at Baja Fresh workers, police learned there were similar food tampering incidents in the previous two weeks.

The suspect is described as a white male adult, approximately 5-feet-7-inches, with a thin build. The suspect was last seen wearing a black hat, dark sunglasses, a black or dark-colored long sleeve shirt, black backpack, blue jeans, and black-and-white shoes.

Anyone with information should call the South Lake Tahoe Police Department at 530.542.6100 or Secret Witness at 530.541.6800. The South Lake Tahoe Police Department is also advising citizens to be wary of open-source or self-serve food, and to report any suspicious activity to the police.

Nevada could act on opioid abuse

By Daniel Rothberg, Las Vegas Sun

First responders know all too well that there is a brief window during which the effects of an opioid overdose can be reversed by a medicine known as naloxone. It's no cure to the opioid epidemic, but it has become an essential tool for first responders.

Parents or other witnesses can administer it and call 911, then continue with chest compressions, says Joe Engle, a Henderson resident whose eldest son, Reese, died of a heroin overdose in 2011. But Engle says access to naloxone often is limited by a high price for the prescription drug, insurance companies dragging their feet and little training for parents who might need to administer it.

Health experts recommend Nevada continue to emphasize access to naloxone as it considers how to address an opioid epidemic that has withered communities throughout the country. The issue has been especially acute in Nevada, where for every 100 Nevadans, doctors write 94 painkiller prescriptions, which can open the door to heroin use.

[Read the whole story](#)

Music fest to benefit fallen

deputy's family

A music festival and memorial event to honor fallen Carson City sheriff's Deputy Carl Howell has been set for Aug. 19, 2017, at Battle Born Harley-Davidson in Carson City.

The event will be put on by the Last Response Memorial Fund, a nonprofit organization established by Carson City resident Don Alexander and a handful of community members.

The festival, which organizers hope to draw at least 5,000 people, will serve as a fundraiser for Howell's children. All proceeds will be placed into a trust fund for their benefit.

For more info, go **online**.

On Aug. 15, 2015, Howell, a former U.S. Marine and nine-year veteran with the Carson City Sheriff's Office responded to a domestic violence call where he was killed in the line of duty. He left behind a widow and four children.

SLT going after vacation home rental violators

By Kathryn Reed

Enforcement, or the lack thereof, is a major complaint of South Lake Tahoe's vacation home rental ordinance.

Temporary relief is on the way. The City Council last week approved funding for a private security firm to work exclusively on VHR issues.

The \$30,800 for the 90-day contract is coming from the Undesignated Vacation Home Rental Fund. This pot of money is accumulated from permit fees.

The security force is expected to start working in mid-December.

“For 80 hours per week, these private security personnel will serve to function as a preventive presence and eyes-ears for the police department,” the Nov. 15 staff report says.

Police Chief Brian Uhler, whose department is responsible for enforcement, told *Lake Tahoe News* with nearly 385 permits recently expiring, he’s worried people may start operating under the radar.

The city in fall 2015 enacted a beefed-up VHR ordinance in which homeowners must have their rental up to code. Hundreds of people got permits just before the new rules went into place. However, upon renewal this year they would have had to have gone through the new inspection process.

What city officials don’t know is why those nearly 400 homeowners did not seek to renew their permit.

The added enforcement, especially during the peak winter rental period, will allow crews to crack down on illegal rentals as well as legitimate ones violating aspects of the ordinance, like parking, noise and garbage.

The security force will work 80 hours a week. The funding also includes a full time temporary community service officer.

Their specific duties include:

- Patrolling assigned areas and addresses;
- Checking on expired VHRs by address to see if there appears to be illegal renting going on;

- Looking for noise and trash violations;
- Alerting CSO to issues;
- Serving as backup to CSO as needed.

These people are in addition to the community service officer who is working 40 hours a week. The added security will also mean the ability to handle more complaints, especially during peak holiday times.

Uhler said once the contract is up the department will assess how many complaints there were, the impact the security force had and whether retaining them in summer might be appropriate.

Editorial: The digital virus called fake news

Publisher's note: *This editorial is from the Nov. 19, 2016, New York Times.*

This year, the adage that “falsehood flies and the truth comes limping after it” doesn’t begin to describe the problem. That idea assumes that the truth eventually catches up. There’s not much evidence of this happening for the millions of people taken in by the fake news stories – like Pope Francis endorsing Donald Trump or Mr. Trump pulling ahead of Hillary Clinton in the popular vote – that have spread on social media sites.

Most of the fake news stories are produced by scammers looking to make a quick buck. The vast majority of them take far-right positions. But a big part of the responsibility for this scourge rests with internet companies like Facebook and

Google, which have made it possible for fake news to be shared nearly instantly with millions of users and have been slow to block it from their sites.

Read the whole story

Shoddy record keeping as hate crimes increase

By A.C. Thompson and Ken Schwencke, ProPublica

In 2015, the authorities in California documented 837 hate-crime incidents, charting a surge in offenses motivated by religious intolerance toward Muslims and Jews, while crimes against Latinos grew by 35 percent.

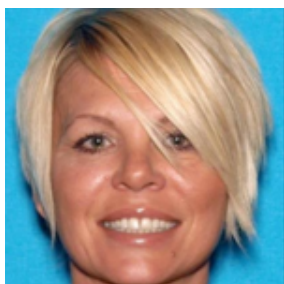
Shortly after Donald J. Trump was elected the country's next president, the Southern Poverty Law Center put up a form on its website encouraging people to share details about potential hate crimes. By the next day, they'd received about 250 reports – more than they're used to seeing in six months.

Then the FBI released its latest national tabulation of hate crimes, data that showed an overall uptick of 6.8 percent from 2014 to 2015. The accounting, drawn from information passed on to the bureau by state and local law enforcement agencies, charted a 67-percent increase in anti-Muslim hate crimes.

Read the whole story

El Dorado County puppy mill operator sentenced

A former El Dorado County resident was sentenced to one year in county jail for felony animal cruelty, operating without a license and 11 other counts related to her sale of puppies imported from South Korea



Ginger Turk

Ginger Turk, 46, was a puppy broker, imported tiny, underage, unweaned, high-priced (\$4,000-plus) puppies from South Korea and sold them over the Internet and in person. Turk operated under multiple business names such as Teacup Puppy Couture, La Chic Puppy Boutique and Beverly Hills Teacups, and used multiple aliases such as Ginger Maree (Hunter), Jen Turk and Jenna Brennan.

Turk sold animals throughout the U.S. and in other countries. She has had multiple complaints from consumers who purchased sick puppies from her.

Part of her sentence that was handed down Nov. 18 includes the prohibition of selling, possessing, transporting or importing dogs for at least 10 years, she is required to pay restitution for the investigation and other penalties. Turk will be on felony probation for five years with searchable provision and required to notify any animal services agency where she resides of her address and any name change.

She will begin serving her sentence Jan. 13.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Vegas venues would add oomph to Tahoe Olympic bid

By Sean Whales, Las Vegas Review-Journal

The Lake Tahoe area still dreams of hosting its second Winter Olympics. And the International Olympic Committee's new push for regional bids could give Las Vegas an important role in any Northern Nevada proposal to host the sports showcase.

"We believe that Lake Tahoe will be the site of the next Winter Olympics in the U.S.," said former Nevada Lt. Gov. Brian Krolicki, who has been leading the effort to bring the games to the state for more than a decade as chairman of the Reno Tahoe Winter Games Coalition. "It is our goal and our hope. But it is complicated."

Jon Killoran, chief executive officer for the coalition, said the IOC issued a policy called Agenda 2020, which urges bidding cities to minimize infrastructure costs through regional efforts.

Nevada's opportunity to host a Winter Games – perhaps as soon as 2026 – has been enhanced by the opening of T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, soon to be home of the city's new National Hockey League franchise, as well a potential new 65,000-seat domed stadium in the city.

[Read the whole story](#)

Voter-approved parole changes hasten end to federal oversight of Calif. prisons

By Dan Thompson, AP

SACRAMENTO — Voters' approval of Gov. Jerry Brown's sentencing reform initiative may give California the long-term solution it needs to end a decadelong legal battle over prison conditions that twice reached the U.S. Supreme Court and has cost taxpayers billions.

Proposition 57 was pitched as a safety valve to reduce an inmate population that is steadily increasing despite state efforts to shift felons from overcrowded state prisons into equally burdened county jails over the past five years.

The initiative incorporates rules into the state Constitution to speed up how quickly felons can be paroled. It also grants the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation broad discretion to give more early release credits to inmates who complete rehabilitation programs.

California's 34 state prisons are on track to exceed a federally imposed prison population cap of about 116,000 within a year, the Public Policy Institute of California said, unless more is done using tools such as those in the proposition, approved by 64 percent of voters on Election Day.

"It provides the tools, but it does depend on how it's implemented," institute researcher Magnus Lofstrom said.

Law enforcement officials who opposed the measure said it

gives bureaucrats too much power. Opponents predict it will put more felons on the street and boost crime rates that already jumped last year.

The Democratic governor and other supporters said the measure will prevent the indiscriminate release of inmates as a way to keep the prison population below the level that federal judges ruled is necessary to avoid violating inmates' constitutional rights.

California has made unprecedented efforts to reduce what once was the nation's largest state prison population, but the judges warned this year that the state must do more to keep prisons from becoming overcrowded again.

The population is increasing despite Brown's 2011 criminal justice realignment law that sends less serious felons to county jails instead of state prisons, and despite voters' approval two years ago of an initiative that reduced several drug and property crimes from felonies to misdemeanors.

Those changes reduced the prison population by more than 40,000 inmates as of July 2015, but it's creeping back up by about 200 inmates a month as the number of serious, long-term criminals grows.

The new parole standards could offset that jump by releasing more inmates earlier. But the greatest flexibility is in how broadly the administration will use its authority to grant credits that result in other early releases.

Corrections officials wouldn't comment other than to note that under Prop. 57, they "must be certified as protecting and enhancing public safety."

Critics fear the open-ended nature of that provision.

"It provides absolutely no limitation on how those credits will be assigned or when they'll be assigned, so at the whim

of the head of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation they can decide when to give credits and when not to give credits,” said George Hofstetter, president of the Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs.

At least 15 other states give their governor, corrections director or parole board authority to release inmates or reduce their sentences because of overcrowding, according to the Association of State Correctional Administrators.

As an alternative, state officials could decide to increase prison capacity by adding beds, said Drew Soderborg, a criminal justice analyst with the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst’s Office.

However, the judges have discouraged a previous stopgap measure by the state of sending thousands of inmates to private prisons in other states.

California is spending about \$800 million this year to house nearly 11,000 inmates in private prisons and to operate new cell houses built for more than 5,300 additional inmates, the state Department of Finance said.

The amount doesn’t include the \$3.2 billion spent on prison construction, and it is unclear how much might have been spent without the court order.

Critics said the state now risks shifting the social and financial costs to local governments through increases in crime.

Lofstrom said the success of Prop. 57 depends in part on whether the corrections department can quickly provide programs that will ultimately reduce crime.

The initiative is likely to spark a clamor among inmates for education and rehabilitation programs that could speed their parole.

However, the measure includes no additional money for prison rehabilitation programs.

The Chief Probation Officers of California supported Prop. 57, but the group's president warned in a statement that the regulations must be carefully written if they are to encourage inmates to turn their lives around.

"The hard work starts now," said Amador County Chief Probation Officer Mark Bonini.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe

- Squaw Valley Alpine Meadows has partnered with Alpenglow Expeditions to provide lift-accessed guided backcountry skiing and snowboarding in terrain immediately surrounding the ski resort.
- The Minden Library is showing "Finding Dory" (rated PG) on Dec. 3 at 2pm in the meeting room. The movie and popcorn are free.
- 4 Piece Puzzle will be at Whisky Dicks in South Lake Tahoe on Dec. 23. Doors open at 9pm. Cost is \$5.
- The merging Park 968 and Park Tahoe Inn into one hotel is just about complete. The **Joie de Vivre** run hotel in South Lake Tahoe is now Hotel Becket. It will open in December.