

# Rental income profit at all-time high

By Jordan Yadoo, Bloomberg

The value of owning a home in the U.S. has never been greater, at least according to one figure buried in a monthly Commerce Department report.

The share of Americans' total personal income coming from rental profit rose to a record 4.4 percent in the first quarter of 2016, data released in June show. That's at an all-time high in figures dating back to 1947, and is up from just 0.7 percent 30 years ago.

Rental income includes landlords' profits, according to the Commerce Department's definition. What's perhaps less obvious: It also includes how much owner-occupants would make if they rented out their house or apartment, after accounting for expenses including mortgage interest and property taxes or insurance.

**Read the whole story**

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## Study: Another mosquito species in Nev. can spread Zika

By Pashtana Usufzy, Las Vegas Review-Journal

A preliminary study in Brazil found that a mosquito species

detected in Nevada and other states can spread Zika virus, the Associated Press reported Thursday.

The study by the Fiocruz institute found that *Culex quinquefasciatus* mosquitoes gathered in Recife, Brazil, could transmit the virus to people, though it's unclear if the species has contributed to the spread of Zika, according to the Associated Press.

James Wilson, director of the Nevada State Infectious Disease Forecast Station at UNR who'd spoken months earlier about the possibility Zika could be found in other mosquitoes, said the news doesn't change his assessment that a Zika epidemic in Nevada and across the United States is unlikely.

**Read the whole story**

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## Snippets about Lake Tahoe



Casey Blann is now vice president of mountain operations at Alpine Meadows. In addition to managing operations at the ski resort, Blann will oversee risk management and loss prevention for Alpine and Squaw Valley.

Tahoe Blue Vodka is donating \$5,000 to support the League to Save Lake Tahoe's beach cleanups. The donation was a matching gift, which enabled the League to raise an additional \$5,000 from community members.

Leo Drozdoff, director of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, will retire in September.

He has been instrumental in a number of Lake Tahoe issues.

- The Washoe County Sheriff's Office's front desk hours will be reduced during the week of July 25 to 7am-5pm.
  - Here are the El Dorado-Tahoe and Sierra roadwork schedules for the week from Caltrans.
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## Record crowds witness stars battle for ACC lead



Mardy Fish was in the hunt last year at the ACC, and goes into the final round this year as the man to beat. Photo Copyright 2016 Carolyn E. Wright

**By Susan Wood**

STATELINE – This time it was the swing of a golf club that pushed retired tennis great Mardy Fish to the lead on the second day of the American Century Championship at Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course.

The three-day celebrity golf tournament wraps up Sunday.

The sports celebrities were out in rare form with swarms of fans, many of whom followed Warriors guard Steph Curry among others.

Fish is in the lead going into Sunday, scoring 50 points, with longtime player and actor Jack Wagner just behind with 48 points. Mike Modano is tied at 45 with pitcher Mark Mulder, who won the tournament last year. Chicago Bears linebacker Brian Urlacher is in fifth at 41.



Retired baseball pitcher Derek Lowe gladly quenches his thirst with an adult beverage provided by fans. Photo/Susan

Wood

All the players seems to be in good spirits at the end of their rounds, with compliments to their fellow competitors, a genuine happiness about being there with the fan support, and some with gratefulness their families could cheer them on.

"Daddy, daddy," Fish's 2-year-old son called out as the tennis pro made his rounds. At one point, the youngster was holding a golf club.

"He's pretty good at his swing. It's been great having (the family) here. He was able to walk a few holes with me. And we've got another one on the way," a beaming Fish told *Lake Tahoe News* when asked if the family support helps the game given Mulder's family presence was strong last year. "This is a great family atmosphere."

There must be something to that. Mulder's children were seated in the front row of their father's press conference.



2015 ACC champion Mark Mulder is in the hunt for the lead this year. Photo/Susan Wood

Whether it's using family support, fans cheering or a mechanism to calm nerves, the sports celebrities try to pull out all the stops they can to win on the 18-hole course.

For Mulder, he told *Lake Tahoe News* during his press conference that he still trains in high altitude.

For hockey greats Mike Modano and Jeremy Roenick, it's a "bro-mance" of sorts since they played together Saturday, according to Modano. Both men had major compliments for each other, despite Roenick allegedly giving Modano a concussion when they played hockey against each other.

For ex-soap opera star Wagner – a crowd favorite over many years – it's knowing that in his competitive nature he can be grace under pressure when the bright sun hits him like the bright illumination of a studio light.

This could be especially put to the test Sunday when he, Modano and Mulder will need to fight off Fish. Fish and Mulder are lefties, even though Fish played tennis right-handed.

"We're all hitting the ball pretty well," Wagner said, while complimenting Fish. Fish places fourth last year. But at the end of the day, the actor made it clear he's been there before and plans to play for the title on Sunday.

Wagner characterized the competition as "eat or be eaten."

All the competitors appear to realize the big stage they're on, with Mulder telling *Lake Tahoe News* that he thinks "these are the biggest crowds ever seen at this tournament."



Record crowds have been descending upon Edgewood Tahoe for the 27th annual celebrity golf tournament. Photo/Susan Wood

The moments are priceless and lasting. Mulder shook his head when also telling *LTN* he was excited to see Heather LeMaster come out and make the record 336-yard drive this week. LeMaster is a long-drive golf pro.

"That's so impressive to see something like that," he said. "But that's what this event has come to."

Tickets sales are up 66 percent and concessions increased 40 percent from last year. Many of the "concessions" were cold alcoholic beverages to balance the near record heat on a beautiful picturesque Lake Tahoe day.

Some of the celebrities even stopped to partake in the beverages with fans hugging the ropes. Baseball pitcher Derek Lowe, who played on the Boston Red Sox World Series team, rushed up to get his own cup of vodka lemonade from a large group of Stockton fans.

When asked by *Lake Tahoe News* what he thought of David "Big Papi" Ortiz retiring this year, he said: "He shouldn't."

There were good spirits throughout the grounds.

Jordyn Bsharah of Reno was speechless when she got Green Bay Packer quarterback Aaron Rodgers to sign the Packers golf bag she bought at Edgewood.

“I bought it for him, but it’s really for me,” she said, turning to friend Patrick Mahoney, while jumping up and down.

The biggest fan draw was Curry, who seemed to prompt a cheer every time he drove or putt the ball. When the ball didn’t cooperate on the 12th, he acted like he wanted to elbow it in. The crowd erupted.

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# **K’s Kitchen: Grilled watermelon with salsa**

**By Kathryn Reed**

Watermelon has evolved since I was a kid. Then it was all about not getting in trouble for spitting the seeds. Today it’s all about finding new ways to use it.

This recipe is quick, fun and tasty.

It would be easy to have this as a side or dessert.

Just make sure your grill is hot before you start cooking. It will just take a few minutes to get those char marks.



## Grilled Watermelon with Salsa

1 avocado, cut into small pieces

1 C cucumber, diced

3 T fresh lime juice

1 jalapeño, diced

$\frac{1}{4}$  tsp ground cumin

$\frac{1}{4}$  C olive oil, plus more for brushing

Kosher salt

Pepper

1 4-pound watermelon, cut into wedges

$\frac{1}{2}$  C cilantro

Light a grill so it will be hot when ready.

In a medium bowl, mix the avocado, cucumber, lime juice, jalapeño, cumin, cilantro and  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of olive oil. Season with salt and pepper.

Brush the watermelon pieces with olive oil.

Grill over high heat, turning once, so it's charred on both sides. Spoon the mixture on the watermelon. Optional – add cilantro sprig.

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# UNR creates center devoted to water issues

The Nevada System of Higher Education board of regents has approved the Global Water Center: Solutions for Sustainability at UNR.

The goal is to foster creative, interdisciplinary research aimed at answering critical questions related to water resource management and sustainability.

“The issues surrounding water resources, water quality and ecosystems aren’t just single-focus that can be solved by isolated scientific disciplines or individual scientists – they are multidimensional and need collaborative data-driven solutions,” Professor Sudeep Chandra said in a statement. He had been leading the formation of the new center.

Undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students will work on interdisciplinary research projects, which contributes to experiential learning and augments classroom instruction for specific disciplines.

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# Backcountry trek all about Tahoe history

Nevada State Parks is putting on a ranger-led tour in the backcountry of Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park on Aug. 26.

Travel up Tunnel Creek Road and view the remains of the tunnel that took two flumes through the mountain, then hike out to the Bullwheel at the top of the historic Crystal Bay Railroad for talk about logging history.

The tour will begin at the Tunnel Creek Café parking lot in Incline Village at 8:45a. Four-wheel drive is necessary since the tour will follow an unpaved backcountry road. Let park staff know if you're willing to take additional passengers.

There will also be some moderate hiking so come prepared with sturdy boots, sunscreen, lunch, drinks or snacks. Children over 8 years of age are welcome. The tour is free, but any donations to the park will be accepted..

Reservations are necessary; call 775.831.0494. The tour is from 9am-1:30pm.

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## **Study: Managed aquifer recharge a drought buster**

**By Rob Jordan, Stanford**

Strained by drought in recent years, California desperately needs more resilient water supplies. An affordable solution that provides a wide range of benefits is within reach, according to a Stanford study.

Published in San Francisco Estuary & Watershed, the study reveals the costs and benefits of using groundwater recharge and storage across the state. This process, known as “managed aquifer recharge,” or MAR, can incorporate co-benefits such as

flood control, improved water quality and wetland habitat protection. The study found the median cost of MAR projects is \$410 per acre-foot (the amount of water required to cover an acre of level land at a depth of 1 foot) per year. By comparison, the median cost of surface water projects is five times more expensive – \$2,100 per acre-foot.

Managed aquifer recharge allows for local water storage, access and management to a much greater extent than large surface water reservoirs, which are often managed by state and federal entities. Although excess surface water can be limited in some regions of California, treated wastewater and urban stormwater offer sources for MAR that aren't fully utilized by centralized surface water storage infrastructure.

**Read the whole story**

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## **Used USFS vehicles for sale via auction**

The U.S. Forest Service is unloading vehicles from several national forests and the Regional Office in an **online auction**.

Thirty-four items including pickup trucks, SUV's, crew carriers and miscellaneous ATV parts/tires will be sold to the highest bidder from July 25-Aug. 1.

For questions about individual vehicles, call 530.621.5289.

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# Food Bank to be in SLT next week

The Food Bank of El Dorado is having a free farmers market on July 27 from 10-11am.

The distribution will be in the parking lot of the American Legion Hall, 2748 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe.

The Food Bank is in need of 10-15 volunteers that day from 9:30-11:30am to distribute emergency supplemental groceries to those in need. Volunteers will assist in handing out food and signing people in.

For information on how to give or get help, call 530.621.9950 or email [info@foodbankedc.org](mailto:info@foodbankedc.org).