

S. Lake Tahoe man arrested on pot charges in Nebraska

By North Platte Bulletin

In another weekend drug bust on Interstate 80, an Arizona man was stopped Dec. 16 for speeding and ended up in jail after a Nebraska State Patrol trooper reportedly found 99 pounds of marijuana in the trunk of his car.

Just before 8pm Dec. 16, a trooper stopped an eastbound 2008 Chevy Malibu for speeding on I-80 near Alda, in Hall County, NSP spokeswoman Deb Collins said. An NSP dog sensed the odor of marijuana at the rear. The trooper searched and found a wrapped bale of marijuana in the trunk.

The driver, William R. Reid, 75, of Mesa, Ariz. was lodged in the Hall County Jail, charged with possession of marijuana with intent to deliver.

Four days earlier, state troopers seized nearly 80 pounds of pot, including 20 pounds from a car near Paxton after the driver was stopped for speeding.

Slightly less than 20 pounds of marijuana and 1.02 ounces of hashish were located in luggage in the cargo area, Collins said.

The driver Chris R. Loeffler, 30, of Auburn and a passenger Dean J. Meyer, 31, of South Lake Tahoe were taken to the Keith County Jail on Dec. 12, charged with possession of marijuana with intent to deliver.

Read the whole story

4 DUI arrests in South Tahoe in 3 days

The winter holiday anti-DUI crackdown resulted in a significant number of DUI arrests overnight from routine traffic enforcement and special Avoid the 6 DUI deployments in South Lake Tahoe.

From 12:01am Dec. 16 through Dec. 18, South Lake Tahoe police officers arrested four individuals on charges of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. In 2010, five DUI arrests occurred during the same weekend.

On Friday, one driver was arrested after crashing his Toyota truck into the back of a Stateline hotel. Sunday night, two drivers were arrested from one traffic stop. While working a DUI patrol, Officers observed a blue Toyota SUV pull into the driveway of Ski Run Liquor, stopping in the middle of the driveway. They observed Wendy Ebanks, 36, of Longview exit the driver's seat and get in the passenger seat. They then observed Anthony Mancini, 36, of Logan, Utah, drive away.

When stopped, both were reportedly intoxicated.

On Dec. 23, a DUI checkpoint will be conducted in South Lake Tahoe. Extra patrols will continue through the weekend.

Youth in hospital after falling off chairlift at Sugar Bowl

By Reno Gazette-Journal

A 7-year-old boy is in critical condition at Renown Regional Medical Center after falling 60 feet from a chairlift at Sugar Bowl Ski Area on Sunday afternoon.

According to John Monson, director of sales and marketing at Sugar Bowl, the boy, whose name has not been released, is a member of the Sugar Bowl Ski Team. He was riding on the Mt. Lincoln Chair Lift with two other skiers when he fell from the lift onto a hard-packed surface. Some of the area below the lift was not covered in snow.

The youngster was transported to Renown Regional Medical Center with traumatic injuries. He was wearing a helmet, Monson said.

Investigators are still attempting to determine whether or not the safety bar on the chair lift was down, Monson said.

Reno man fined after admitting he baited bear

By Jeff DeLong, Reno Gazette-Journal

The Reno man who killed the first bear in Nevada's controversial black bear hunt pleaded guilty today to charges

he illegally baited the animal.

Avoiding a scheduled trial in Reno Justice Court, Timothy Kawelmacher was ordered to pay \$730 in fines, fees and civil penalties and to surrender the meat of the bear he killed in the foothills west of Reno Aug. 20.

Kawelmacher said his misunderstood the law and thought baiting prior to the hunt's Aug. 20 startup was legal, said Mike McCusker, a game warden with the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Kawelmacher's cooperation with authorities warranted less-than-maximum penalties, said Chris Hicks, deputy district attorney.

"I genuinely believe he misunderstood the law," Hicks told Judge Jack Schroeder.

Kawelmacher could have faced total penalties of up to \$3,000 and up to six months in jail for each of two counts of illegally baiting a big-game mammal for the purposes of hunting.

Read the whole story

Embracing the family aspects of the season during Hanukkah

By Brian Nordli, Reno Gazette-Journal

For each day of Hanukkah, Judy Schumer of southwest Reno gathers with her family and passes out a gift to each of her grandchildren.

The family will feast on traditional latkes (fried potato

pancakes); light a candle on the Chanukiah, which many call a menorah; and play Dreidel. Many other Jewish families will do the same for the eight-night holiday that begins at sundown on Tuesday.

“Many people call Hanukkah the Jewish Christmas, but it has nothing to do with Christmas,” Schumer said. “It actually means dedication. “» Sometimes, it comes at the same time as Christmas. Sometimes, it does not.”

Yet, Hanukkah wasn’t always a big family gathering that involved exchanging gifts.

Schumer, 66, recalled a time when her father gave her a dollar each day, but it wasn’t a major celebration. But the holiday, which falls on the 25th day of the Jewish month Kislev, often lands within weeks of Christmas. That proximity has caused the holiday’s reputation to grow during the years.

“As Christmas has gotten bigger and bigger, Jews have responded,” North Tahoe Hebrew Congregation Rabbi Meredith Cahn said of the growth of Hanukkah. “I think it’s a particularly American thing.”

Hanukkah is considered a minor holiday in Judaism, a remembrance of how Judah Maccabee and the Jews successfully rebelled against King Antiochus IV and the Syrian oppression. When the Jews retook their temple, they always had to have a lamp lit. There was only enough oil for one day, but thanks to a miracle, the oil lasted eight days.

Read the whole story

South Shore chamber breakfast

The inaugural Lake Tahoe South Shore Chamber of Commerce Breakfast is Jan. 26 from 8-9:30 at Inn by the Lake in South Lake Tahoe.

Learn what the chamber has been up to for the past five years and what's in store for the future.

Guest speakers include chamber President B Gorman as well as board members and staff.

Tickets are \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members.

For more information, contact Emily Abernathy at Emily@tahoechamber.org or (775) 588.1728, ext. 303.

Burning Bowl Ceremony

Unity at the Lake's New Year's Burning Bowl Ceremony is Dec. 31 from 7-8pm at the South Lake Tahoe Senior Center, 3050 Lake Tahoe Blvd.

Come experience a powerful and healing Burning Bowl ceremony. A wonderful opportunity to release all that no longer serves our highest selves and choose what we want to bring into the new year.

For more info, call (530) 544.2266.

Unity at the Lake Christmas Eve service

Unity at the Lake's Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service is at 6:30pm at the South Lake Tahoe Senior Center, 3050 Lake Tahoe Blvd.

From 7-8pm is 12 Powers Candle Lighting Service. Explore the 12 "Gifts of God" in this sacred Unity at the Lake tradition.

For more info, call (530) 544.2266.

Nevada's health ranking improves, but obesity, smoking remain concerns

By Sean Whaley, Nevada News Bureau

CARSON CITY – Nevada's overall health improved five spots this year compared to the rest of the nation, but still ranks in the bottom 10, according to the 22nd edition of America's Health Rankings.

Nevada's health improved from 47th in 2010 to 42nd in the new report.

The good news: Nevada has a lower prevalence of obesity than other states, ranking fourth with 23.1 percent of the adult population identified as overweight.

Smoking has also decreased significantly in Nevada, from 29 percent to 21.3 percent of the adult population in the last 10 years.

But these positive developments mask just how serious these health issues continue to be, said Steven Evans, chief medical officer for UnitedHealthcare of Nevada.

While Nevada's obesity rate may be lower when compared with other states, the reality is that in the past 10 years, obesity has increased from 17.9 percent to 23.1 percent of the adult population. There are now 470,000 obese adults in the state.

And while Nevada's smoking rate has declined due in large part to voter approval of tough smoking restrictions in 2006, there are still 434,000 adults who smoke.

"Obesity has actually increased in the past 10 years," Evans said. "So although we, compared to the rest of the country, have done better, there is still a significant portion of our population that is obese.

"We definitely have not turned the corner on that health issue and it has probably become our No. 1 health issue we need to start worrying about," he said.

"I almost don't even want to celebrate the fact that we are less obese than the rest of the United States because we still have significant issues with that," Evans said.

The report was released earlier this month by the United Health Foundation in collaboration with the American Public Health Association and Partnership for Prevention.

"America's health rankings from United Health Foundation is an incredibly valuable tool for us to clearly understand health trends facing us as a nation and here in Nevada," Evans said. "By identifying the key opportunities we face as a state we

can pursue innovative solutions to those opportunities.”

The report shows a few other positives for Nevada.

The state has a low incidence of infectious disease, ranking fourth with 4.8 cases per 100,000 of population. Nevada also has a low rate of preventable hospitalizations, ranking 15th at 58.6 per 1,000 Medicare enrollees.

But there is more bad news as well.

Nevada has a low high school graduation rate, ranking 50th with only 56.3 percent of incoming ninth graders graduating within four years. Evans said those with higher education levels tend to have access to health insurance and take better care of their health overall.

Nevada also has a high violent crime rate, again ranking 50th with 661 offenses per 100,000 population, and a low immunization rate, ranking 49th with 84.6 percent of children aged 19 to 35 months covered with the appropriate inoculations.

In the past year, the percentage of children in poverty increased from 17.9 percent to 23.6 percent of persons under age 18. And in the past five years, diabetes increased from 7.1 percent to 8.5 percent of the adult population. There are now 173,000 Nevada adults with diabetes.

The report shows that for the fifth year in a row, Vermont was the nation’s healthiest state. States that showed the most substantial improvement include New York and New Jersey, both moving up six places. Idaho and Alaska showed the most downward movement. Idaho dropped 10 spots, from number nine to 19 in this year’s rankings, and Alaska dropped five places.

It also shows that the nation’s overall health did not improve from 2010 to 2011 because gains in one area were offset by worsening conditions in another.

One example of this stagnation is improvements in the number of smokers being off-set by worsening rates of obesity. The rankings found that, for every person who quit smoking in 2011, another person became obese.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



- On Jan. 1, in El Dorado County birth certificate fees will increase by \$2 to \$21; death certificates will go from \$12 to \$14.
- Carson City IHOP is open after being closed in the aftermath of a deadly shooting in September.
- An interview with White Wolf owner Troy Caldwell on UnofficialNetworks.com gives some insight into how a deal to link Alpine and Squaw is progressing.
- The Tahoe Heritage Foundation received \$7,050 from Tahoe Mountain Milers. The running club raised the money during the 2011 Kokanee Salmon Run. These funds will be used to support next year's Kokanee Salmon Festival and the college internship summer program at Taylor Creek Visitor Center.
- Eric Schaefer has been elected as president of the South Tahoe Public Utility District board and Jim Jones vice president.