Illegal marijuana grow shut down in Markleeville

More than 100 pounds of dried and finished marijuana were confiscated Tuesday from a residence in Markleeville and one person was arrested.

This is the second illegal grow Alpine County sheriff's deputies have uncovered in a matter of days.

Deputies said they found "an elaborate indoor and outdoor facility for the cultivation, harvesting and processing of marijuana" at 180 Larson Canyon Road.

One-pound packages of marijuana, 20 plants as tall as 6-feet, 30 immature plants, a small number of psilocybin mushrooms, and concentrated marijuana known as hashish were confiscated.

Jason Scott Miller, 37, of Markleeville was arrested Oct. 16 and booked on charges of marijuana cultivation, possession of concentrated cannabis, possession of marijuana for sale and sales of marijuana.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Christian writer upsets bookstores by using the word 'vagina'

By Ruth Graham, Slate

The word vagina has caused trouble for a lot of women this year, from Michigan state Rep. Lisa Brown to Naomi Wolf. And now, perhaps, for a prominent evangelical writer who refused to remove the word from her new book about women and the Bible.

Rachel Held Evans' upcoming book "A Year of Biblical Womanhood" tracks her yearlong attempt to follow all of the Bible's instructions for women, from making her own clothes to "submitting" to her husband. (I wrote about the project last year for Slate.) Now one of the biggest Christian bookstore chains in the country, LifeWay, has opted not to carry the book, and Evans is speaking out about the "chokehold" that the Southern Baptist-owned business wields over Christian writers.

The story begins in March, when Evans mentioned on her blog that her editor had suggested she remove the word vagina from the book's manuscript to appease strict Christian bookstore content standards. "If Christian bookstores stuck to their own ridiculous standards, they wouldn't be able carry the freaking Bible," she wrote, adding that, despite her annoyance, she had acquiesced to the request because, hey, no author wants to risk losing sales. Her publisher told her they expected 40 percent of her book's total sales to come from Christian bookstores; LifeWay is one of the biggest sellers, with 160 stores in 26 states and a robust online business, and its standards are considered the strictest.

Her readers were outraged. Someone started a petition on Amazon called "Put the word 'vagina' back into Rachel's book!" Another fan made "Team Vagina" T-shirts. Other Christian authors came forward with their own stories of having had to purge books of mentions of champagne, and scandalous phrases like "darn it." Readers cheekily dubbed the debacle "Vaginagate," a name Evans quickly embraced.

With such a public outpouring, the Tennessee-based writer ultimately decided to leave the word vagina in her book and

face the consequences.Though Evans makes many conservatives unhappy when she writes things like “I learned to be a feminist from Jesus,” or when she challenges popular church leaders and theologians, she considers herself a member of the group, not an outsider, and is an increasingly prominent voice in the evangelical community. And so she felt that she could probably afford to take such a risk. In October, *Christianity Today* named her one of its “50 Women to Watch,” an honor she shares with the likes of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Marilynne Robinson and former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Her book has already received plenty of attention, and between 80,000 and 100,000 readers visit her blog monthly.

What’s oddest about this whole dustup is how uncontroversial Evans’ book is. For most readers, “A Year of Biblical Womanhood” won’t prompt any pearl-clutching. Its author is a devout Christian, the large Christian publisher Thomas Nelson is publishing it, and Evans calls its content “super-PG”—no bad words, and “not even that aggressively egalitarian or feminist.” There are actually two vaginas in the book: One is an anatomical reference to a woman raped in the Congo, which no one in the publishing process had a problem with. The troublesome instance is from a passage about a 16-year-old Evans signing an abstinence pledge card at a youth rally at church, where, she writes, she signed “my promise to God and my vagina.” That kind of cheeky reference stuck out to editors trying to conform to LifeWay’s unwritten standards. (Evans goes out of her way to say that her editors are not the problem here; they’re trying to sell books, she says, and none of them delights in the bowdlerizing that comes with the job.)

About a month ago, Evans met with her team at Thomas Nelson and received the bad news: LifeWay had opted not to carry the book in its 160 stores, despite the fact that it had sold her 2010 memoir, “Evolving in Monkey Town” (in which she reaffirms her faith after wrestling with the fundamentalism of her youth), and that every other major Christian bookstore will

carry the new book. She says she was told privately by someone in leadership at LifeWay that “vagina” was not the main issue, but he declined to tell her more.

“I don’t know if they were more offended by my vagina or my brain,” she says with a laugh. “The only thing I know is that my editor said, if you leave this word in, there’s a good chance LifeWay won’t carry it.”

It’s possible, in fact, that this is about her brain – or at least what makes it from her brain to her mouth. Evans proudly identifies as evangelical, but not everyone will allow her that label. Last week, well-known pastor John Piper’s website hosted a harsh review of “Womanhood”, accusing the book of “question[ing] the validity of the Bible.” And author and theologian Denny Burk devoted a detailed blog post to why Evans doesn’t qualify as an evangelical. Her offenses include insufficient deference to the concept of Biblical inerrancy – the notion that the Bible is completely free of error – and her willingness to serve communion to gay churchgoers.

And Evans has taken on LifeWay directly in the recent past. When the chain abruptly removed DVDs of the 2009 movie “The Blind Side” from its stores this past summer because of “street language and racial slurs,” she wrote a fiery post about the power that LifeWay wields over every step in the publishing process: Christian publishers need to place their books there to reach their audience, so editors pressure writers to meet the LifeWay standard. Evangelical biographer Eric Metaxas told Religion Dispatches this summer that his editor asked him to remove the phrase “a total crapshoot” in deference to bookstores that would object to the gambling term.

“Writers adjust our content to fit this very sanitized, very strict conservative mold, which means we’re not producing the best writing or the best books we can produce,” Evans says. “Everyone bends over backward to meet these demands.”

But no one knows precisely what those demands are. And Evans sees a difference between the leeway afforded to male and female authors. She rattles off several recent books written by men that include less-than-clinical usages of boobs and testicles. LifeWay carries powerful pastor Mark Driscoll's recent advice book Real Marriage, which includes approving descriptions of anal sex, role playing, and sex toys within a conservative theological framework. (Driscoll wrote the book with his wife, Grace.)

"We select resource that are consistent with the expectations of our customers based on several issues, including things like alignment with evangelical beliefs, LifeWay's values and vision, and past sales by an author," Martin King, LifeWay's director of communications, told me. He declined to define "values and vision," but said LifeWay is guided by the Southern Baptist statement of faith.

King dismissed the notion that LifeWay intends to act as a moral guide for the publishing industry. "I would expect authors to write what they feel led to write, and then see if there's an audience," he said. "As Ms. Evans pointed out [online], there are a lot of places to sell books, and LifeWay is not the only outlet." King also added that Evans' first book did not sell well for the chain in 2010, though her profile has risen considerably since then.

Evans says she hoped for a different ending to this story: She imagined triumphing over LifeWay's constraints and empowering other authors to write freely. Instead, she finds herself alienated, again, from a community she loves and writes for. "I often hear from evangelical leaders, 'Oh we're really eager to have more female leaders,' " she says. "I want to say, 'This is my voice. This is what it sounds like.'"

Lecture to focus on things falling from the sky

The minivan-sized meteorite that broke up over the Sierra on April 22 was not just any old space rock. It was one of the rarest types of meteorites to fall to Earth – a carbonaceous chondrite, the earliest solid material to form in the solar system more than 4.5 billion years ago, before the planets, including the Earth, formed.

This meteorite could turn out to be one of the most important observed fall since the late 1960s, says UC Davis geology Professor Qing-Zhu Yin.

These primitive meteorites provide a glimpse into the first few millions of years of the Solar System's history.

Yin will give a talk Nov. 1 at Tahoe Center for Environmental, followed by a brief question-and-answer session.

The no-host bar opens at 5:30pm. The presentation begins at 6pm.

The center is at 291 Country Club Drive, Incline Village.

Letter: Proposition 30 is good for LTUSD and LTCC

To the community,

As a community college instructor and local school board member, I would like to share my thoughts with the community about what will happen if Proposition 30 doesn't pass.

Over the past several years funding for educating our K-12 children has already dropped dramatically. The district has been using its reserves to cover this shortfall in order to maintain essential educational programs. There have also been drastic cuts to teachers, instructional assistants, administration, and other vital support services. With the reserves dangerously low, any additional decline in revenue will involve cutting the number of school days.



Larry
Green

If Proposition 30 does not pass, the district will realize $455 less per pupil. The budget adopted by the board includes cutting 12 days off the school year if this funding cut occurs. That means there will be 12 fewer days for learning to take place in school. Parents will have to find and pay for childcare for 12 additional days. Many teens will be without adult supervision for 12 additional days with the potential to cause public safety issues in South Lake Tahoe.

The community has already shown its support of our children by passing Measure G, which has funded a total transformation of

the school facilities. The Lake Tahoe Unified School District schools now have state of the art programs that will help our children grow up with the skills that they need in this changing society. It does not make any sense to leave these facilities empty for twelve additional days.

In addition, vital programs such as AVID, class size reduction, music, and athletics could be cut.

Proposition 30 will also protect Lake Tahoe Community College from receiving drastic budget cuts. If Proposition 30 does not pass, then the college will be forced to turn away 135 full-time equivalent college students due to reducing its course offerings. Services such as the library and tutoring will be sharply cut. The best way to improve hiring prospects for our unemployed is to acquire job skills at the community college. Our students have already had to bear a recent doubling of college tuition and the college has already had to deal with a $300 cut in funding per student while the cost of living has steadily increased.

The cost to fund Proposition 30 is a one-quarter percent increase in sales tax and an increase in income taxes for those making over $250,000 per year. This will mean a one penny donation to the school system every time you spend $4 on non-food items. When you go to the polls or fill out your absentee ballot, you can decide whether it is worth spending this penny in order to support our school children and our community college.

Sincerely,

Larry Green, LTUSD board member and LTCC mathematics faculty member

Harvest Fest in S. Tahoe a-go; parade canceled

There will be a Harvest Festival at the South Tahoe Recreation Complex on Oct. 27 from 10am to 5pm.

Vendors, a cake walk, costume contest, make-up artist, glitter tattoos, and food, including a chili cook off, is designed for all ages.

The Pumpkin Parade was canceled due to low interest.

For more information, call JoAnn at (530) 544.7412.

The rec center is at 1180 Rufus Allen Blvd.

It’s breast cancer awareness month. How has any cancer changed your life?

Economic topics dominate

South Tahoe council meeting

By Kathryn Reed

South Lake Tahoe's economic vitality is what Tuesday's City Council meeting was all about.

A variety of agenda items, while separate and not even lumped together, all focused on the city's future.

Carl Ribaudo with Strategic Marketing Group started the morning off Oct. 16 with a presentation about the economic impact of the South Shore Vision Plan.

Lauren Thomaselli with the city spoke mostly about the success of special events during the summer, but also some of the issues with putting them on.

How to proceed with area plans – which could be an economic stimulus – was resolved.

The last item of the day had to do with partnering with El Dorado County when it comes to developing a recreation plan for the area.

While not all the items required action, it was obvious recreation and entertainment are what the city wants to focus on. This council wants to be instrumental in crafting policy that would ideally be a stimulus for the area.

The five agree the state line cannot be a barrier, especially when tourists cross it without knowing what county or state they are in. But the electeds also are cognizant of wanting to do what's right by the people who put them in office.

Even Ribaudo said, “Why not call it the California Core?”

So often the Stateline area is referred to as the “casino corridor” when the reality is most of the changes that are proposed are in South Lake Tahoe. This is where Heavenly Village and the gondola for Heavenly Mountain Resort are, and where one-day a project will be built across the street.

Ribaudo’s presentation in large part focused on lodging.

“We are out of sync with our competitors who have a smaller lodging inventory,” Ribaudo told the council.

Much has been said about how the South Shore, South Lake in particular, has more hotel rooms than it will ever fill. And many of those rooms come with a small price, which in turn drives the average daily room rate down. This dominoes into fewer tax dollars, mostly via transient occupancy tax.

When it comes to figuring out what to do on this side of the state line and at the Y, the council wants to simultaneously develop area plans. That’s the name of the new document the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency will require once the Regional Plan update is adopted.

The city and TRPA will share the costs of a planner to make this work. It’s still likely a consultant will need to be hired to do some of the more technical work.

That position is estimated to cost about $100,000. The money will come out of unassigned reserves.

It’s also possible that person could help the city as it develops a recreation master plan.

To that end, the city is contemplating jumping on El Dorado County’s coattails. The county has put up $10,000 for RO Anderson to assess the inventory of the county’s recreation components – public and private assets.

Coleen Shade, with the consulting firm, told the council her firm is also looking at the sphere of influence in regards to inventory, so places like Kahle are part of the equation.

The inventory tally should be done some time in November, if not sooner.

The city's rec subcommittee of Councilmembers Hal Cole and Angela Swanson will be conferring with City Manager Nancy Kerry and possibly county folks to discuss further what the city could get out of partnering with the county in going forward with finding someone to come up with a recreation master plan.

In other action:

• A report on the rebar and concrete at the never-built convention center site shows it is structurally sound.

Letter: South Shore restaurants deserve thanks

To the community,

On our one-year anniversary, Tahoe Girlfriend's Cafe would like to thank the following restaurants for their hospitality, exemplary service, excellent food and wonderful memories over the past 12 months.

We look forward to revisiting and enjoying our good times with you again in the future.

TGC is a group of local women who meet once a month to share friendship, laughter and good times.

The restaurants are: Blue Angel, Swiss Chalet, Mirabelle, McDuffs, Kalani's, Sul Lago, Ristorante, Orchids, Apres Wine Co., The YUM Truck at Valhalla, Scusa, Harrah's Forrest Buffet, Fresh Ketch, Lakeside Beach Grill and LewMarNel's.

Debbie Goodyear, South Lake Tahoe

BlueGo name for South Shore bus service going away

By Kathryn Reed

When the South Shore bus service known as BlueGo was launched in 2003 it was supposed to be a state-of-the-art system with high-tech computer terminals at kiosks and a name that would tie into what was known as the Blue World ad campaign.

It cost $4 million for the software and equipment for the kiosks that no longer exist. In fact, it only took a matter of months for people to figure out they were a boondoggle.

The ad campaign is long gone and now we are walking on the wild side.



BlueGo has been a questionable name since the get-go. Photo/LTN file

The last piece to disappear is the name BlueGo. After all, no one knows what a BlueGo is. But it's still not known if a bus symbol might actually be placed on signs so people would know to stand there for public transit.

South Lake Tahoe City Councilwoman Angela Swanson, who is on the board that oversees BlueGo, announced at the Oct. 16 council meeting that a contest will take place to name the bus system.

She directed follow-up questions to Tahoe Transportation District staff.

"We are interested and contemplating changing the name to better fit the service and the future, but we have not worked out the details to answer your questions or give you a time line," TTD Executive Director Carl Hasty told *Lake Tahoe News* in an email.

LTN wanted details on the contest, when it starts, and the cost involved to change the name – like painting buses, signs and other things the BlueGo name might be on.

The other things Swanson revealed is that the system has been

making money for the past two years and ridership is stable.

TTD officials are slated to be at the Dec. 11 City Council meeting to talk about what a free bus service would entail, the success of the East Shore Express, and ferry service on Lake Tahoe.

K's Kitchen: Discovering my Danish roots over a hot stove

By Kathryn Reed

Sometimes it's better no one is in the kitchen when I'm cooking – especially when it's the first time I've made a particular dish.

This was true Sunday morning. Aebelskivers were about to be made.



It was messy. (It doesn't have to be.) It was smoky. (Doesn't have to be.) It wasn't pretty. (Doesn't have to be.) But finally, it was tasty and they even looked good. It's a good thing the batter made a few dozen so my mistakes didn't have to reach the table.

Aebelskivers are a Danish doughnut – sort of. While they look like the size of a doughnut hole, they taste more like a pancake.

I remember my mom making them when I was growing up. (I have Danish in me from both sides of the family.)

When I was in Solvang last month I introduced them to Sue. She had never heard of them, let alone had one, or two, or three. It seemed like every restaurant in this Danish-town in the middle of California served them with powdered sugar and raspberry jelly.

Mom remembers eating them with butter and powdered sugar.

And what I remembered about mom's were they were much lighter (and tastier) than the ones we had in Solvang.

Until I talked to mom about aebelskivers I didn't realize it takes a special pan to make them. She had one to loan me, though it's not the one her mom used. But the recipe she shared is from my grandma.

I used canola oil. And you need to keep filling up the portals. It's a delicate balance between making sure the pan is hot enough and not too hot. I'm not sure I found the balance, but somewhere in the process I made several that were just right.

Living with a New Englander meant we skipped the jam topping and went right to pure Vermont maple syrup.

Grandma Frances' Aebelskivers

3 eggs, separated

2 T sugar

1 tsp baking powder

1 tsp baking soda

½ tsp salt

2 C flour

2 C buttermilk

Beat egg yolks, add sugar, salt and buttermilk. Combine flour, soda, baking powder and add to liquid. Beat egg whites until stiff and fold into batter. Heat pan. Place small amount oil in each well and fill two-thirds full. Cook until bubbly. Turn with fork and cook until done.

Can be served dusted with powder sugar, jam, syrup or eat straight from the skillet.