

As firework laws are relaxed, injuries increase

By Janissa Delzo, CNN

Fireworks are synonymous with Fourth of July celebrations. But as entertaining as sparklers, bottle rockets and other consumer items can be, they're also responsible for many injuries, which can sometimes result in death.

These injuries, particularly burns requiring hospital stays, are especially high among people 20 and younger, according to new research.

As states have relaxed laws related to fireworks sales over the past decade, emergency doctors saw an increase in the number and severity of fireworks-related injuries among young people, the data show.

They determined that the number of patients under age 21 treated and released by emergency departments between 2006 and 2012 rose modestly: from 4.28 per 100,000 people in 2006 to 5.12 in 2012. Significantly larger increases were seen in injuries requiring inpatient hospital admission, which skyrocketed from 29 percent of cases in 2006 to 50 percent in 2012.

[Read the whole story](#)

Judge rejects bid to block

posting Nev. sex offender names

By Associated Press

A Nevada judge didn't put a last-minute stop on a state plan to begin posting the names of thousands of convicted sex offenders whose cases had previously been deemed low-risk.

Clark County District Court Judge Douglas Smith rejected an emergency request on Thursday from attorneys for 17 unnamed plaintiffs who argued that publishing the names will do significant irreparable harm to Tier 1 offenders.

The judge says there was plenty of time to challenge the measure, and an appeal for a delay should have been filed sooner.

But he did schedule a July 12 hearing on a challenge of the constitutionality of the law.

The postings due to start Friday were approved by the state Legislature in 2007 to comply with the federal Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act.

Placer County wants voters to raise sales tax

Placer County voters in November are expected to be asked to raise the sales tax by one-half cent, bringing it to 8 percent.

The money would be used to address existing and future traffic and congestion issues, as well as improve public transportation. Three percent of the tax revenues would be earmarked for improvements in the Lake Tahoe area; including for bike and pedestrian trails.

Late last month the Placer County Board of Supervisors and the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency board voted to unanimously to support the plan. The supervisors need to take one more vote to make it a reality.

PCTPA estimates that over the next three decades, \$3.5 billion will be needed to fund priority transportation projects. Existing funding mechanisms will covert \$1.4 billion of those costs. The proposed tax increase would generate another \$1.6 billion over 30 years.

Over the next 30 years, PCTPA projects 70,000 new homes, 180,000 additional residents and 32 million additional square feet of commercial and office space in Placer County.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Report: Nev. struggles with teacher absenteeism

By Ian Whitaker, Las Vegas Sun

Nevada's long-running battle against student truancy is well known, but should we also be concerned about teachers missing class?

According to research by the Education Week Research Center, Nevada has one of the highest rates of teacher absences in the

country.

As much as 49 percent of teachers in the Silver State miss 10 or more days during the school year, the second highest number of absences of any state. Hawaii comes in first, with 75 percent of its teachers taking 10 or more days off. The national average is around 25 percent.

Read the whole story

AG: Violent crime in Calif. up 10% in 2015

By Bettina Boxall, Los Angeles Times

After two years of decline, the number of violent crimes in California rose by 10 percent in 2015, although the overall crime rate remained among the lowest in decades.

The numbers were up in all major categories of violent crime compared with those of 2014, according to reports released Friday by the state attorney general's office.

Homicides increased 9.7 percent, and robbery and aggravated assault climbed by more than 8 percent.

Read the whole story

Firefighters make headway on Trailhead Fire

Updated 9:40pm:

The Trailhead Fire has blackened 3,387 acres and remains at 12 percent containment. It grew by less than 200 acres on Saturday.

Placer County residents have been allowed to return home. There are still 2,600 structures in El Dorado County that are threatened. Mandatory evacuations are in place in EDC, with several roads closed as well.

“The fire was most active on the southeast side, near Quartz Canyon and Little Bald Mountain, and on the northeast side near Volcanoville. It is not active on the north side,” according to CalFire. “Tonight crews will finish burnout operations started by the day shift. Other priorities for firefighters tonight are to patrol, hold, and improve existing containment lines; secure fire lines around structures; and prepare areas for crews to conduct burnout operations tomorrow.”

Two firefighters have been injured. One was treated for a heat illness and the other for a laceration.

The only campground on the Eldorado National Forest directly affected by this fire is Dru Barner, which is within the closure area. There might be some smoke in the Crystal Basin and Lake Tahoe areas.

No cause has been determined in the fire that started June 28 in the middle fork of the American River canyon south of Todd Valley.

The forecast is for hot and dry weather to persist throughout

the weekend.

There will be a public meeting July 3 at 7pm at the Golden Sierra High School in Garden Valley.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

SLTPD looking for armed man

Updated 10:27pm:

South Lake Tahoe police officers are looking for a man who they thought led them to a trailer in the parking lot of Motel 6 in South Lake Tahoe on Saturday night.

When officers entered the trailer after 10pm the suspect was not there.

While the man is armed, officers are withholding his name and a description at this time. They don't believe he is a threat to the public, but instead is probably more interested in getting out of town.

The initial call was that the man had threatened someone with a gun.

The man is a felon, but what gave him that status is unknown.

The hotel desk clerk told *Lake Tahoe News* she is not allowed to say anything. The hotel was never evacuated.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Calif. voters face full plate of initiatives Nov. 8.

By David Siders and Jim Miller, Sacramento Bee

California voters will confront a smorgasbord of policy questions on the November ballot, with initiatives ranging from marijuana legalization and the death penalty to gun control and taxes qualifying by the Thursday deadline.

The Nov. 8 ballot includes the largest number of measures – 17 – since 2000, when 20 measures qualified, according to the California secretary of state's office. The most all time was in November 1914, when 48 measures appeared.

Only the Legislature can add more measures to the ballot now, and it will have little time to do so after returning from its summer recess in August.

Read the whole story

California's tough gun laws getting stricter

By Jonathan J. Cooper, AP

SACRAMENTO – California's gun laws, already some of the strictest in the nation, will get even more stringent next year.

Gov. Jerry Brown signed onto much of the gun-control agenda advocated by legislative Democrats, who are clamoring to crack

down in the wake of high-profile mass shootings including last year's terrorist attack in San Bernardino.

The Democratic governor signed six bills Friday requiring gun owners to give up magazines holding more than 10 rounds and to undergo a background check before they can purchase ammunition, among other measures.

While he vetoed five bills – including a one-gun-per-month purchase limit – he endorsed the most ambitious pieces of the Legislature's gun control push over the roar of gun-rights advocates frustrated by the increasing weight of restrictions.

"Independence and freedom and liberty in California has been chopped down at the knees and kicked between the legs," said Sam Paredes, executive director of the advocacy group Gun Owners of California.

Brown's actions are consistent with his mixed record on gun control. Some of the enacted bills duplicate provisions of a November ballot measure by Democratic Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom. Some of the vetoed measures also appear in Newsom's initiative, giving voters a chance to overturn Brown's veto and protecting the initiative from becoming moot.

"My goal in signing these bills is to enhance public safety by tightening our existing laws in a responsible and focused manner, while protecting the rights of law-abiding gun owners," Brown wrote in a one-sentence message to lawmakers.

The state's move to tighten laws further comes amid years of gridlock at the federal level, which spawned a tense clash in Washington last week as Democrats camped out on the floor of the U.S. House and shouted down Republicans.

"Strong gun laws work. ... What we're doing in California is a better job of keeping guns out of dangerous hands," said Amanda Wilcox, a spokeswoman for the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, whose daughter was killed by a shooter using a

high-capacity magazine.

Brown's action will require people who own magazines that hold more than 10 rounds to give them up. It extends a 1999 law that made it illegal to buy a high-capacity magazine or to bring one into the state but allowed people who already owned them to keep them.

In an attempt to slow gun users from rapidly reloading, the governor signed a bill outlawing new weapons that have a device known as a bullet button. Gun makers developed bullet buttons to get around California's assault weapons ban, which prohibited new rifles with magazines that can be detached without the aid of tools. A bullet button allows a shooter to quickly dislodge the magazine using the tip of a bullet or other small tool.

People will be allowed to keep weapons they already own with bullet buttons, which are often referred to as "California compliant," but they'll be required to register them.

Brown also endorsed a bill requiring ammunition sellers to be licensed, buyers to undergo background checks and transactions to be recorded. It's the Legislature's second attempt to regulate ammunition sales after a judge struck down a 2009 law as too vague.

He also opted to require a background check before a gun can be loaned to someone who isn't a family member.

The governor vetoed an effort to expand a 6-month-old program that allows courts to temporarily restrict gun ownership rights for people suspected of being dangerous. He decided against restricting all firearm purchases to one per month, a limitation that already applies to handguns.

For the third time since 2012, he vetoed a bill requiring gun owners to report a lost or stolen firearm to authorities within five days.

"I continue to believe that responsible people report the loss or theft of a firearm and irresponsible people do not; it is not likely that this bill would change that," he wrote in a veto message.

California is one of six states to get the highest grade from the pro-gun control Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

Associated Press writer Don Thompson contributed to this report.

SnowGlobe promoter wants \$3M 10-year deal

By Kathryn Reed

SnowGlobe promoter Chad Donnelly wants South Lake Tahoe to pay him \$3 million over 10 years to keep bringing the three-day music festival to town.

For about a year he has been talking to staff about a long-term contract. The current three-year agreement ends after this year's event in December. Just prior to the June 21 council meeting he let staff know the particulars he'd like in the contract.

City Manager Nancy Kerry revealed some of the specifics at the meeting. It was councilmembers Tom Davis and JoAnn Conner who gave the OK to have the item placed on a future agenda. They are two of the more fiscally conservative members.

"I want to review the contract. Not sure I want to sign a contract for 10 years. I want to see the details. Also would like to know the economic impact on our community. I still

support SnowGlobe, but need additional information,” Davis told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Conner told *LTN*, “SnowGlobe has a huge impact on our community. I believe the constituents should have an opportunity to give input; the council should not make this decision on its own.”



SnowGlobe promoters want to secure a long-term contract with South Lake Tahoe. Photo Copyright 2016 Carolyn E. Wright

Some of what Donnelly wants:

- 10-year contract
- 3 additional events, presumably in the summer
- \$30,000 in cash – just for SnowGlobe
- \$45,000 in in-kind contributions are that hard costs like transportation, garbage and security
- \$90,000 a year contribution to his management company.

The total comes to about \$300,000 a year, according to city staff – or nearly \$3 million over the course of a 10-year contract.

Under the current contract Donnelly receives \$25,000 in cash and about another \$25,000 in services.

Donnelly did not return multiple calls.

An issue for the city to consider is after this year the concerts will be on a brand new grass field. Construction of that field is under way near the current community ball field at Lake Tahoe Community College. It will be dirt for this year's SnowGlobe – or snow on dirt. Grass will be planted next spring.

"That is why I would not recommend a 10-year contract. We would want to wait until after the first year or even second to see how the field responds to such large impacts of people and equipment," City Manager Nancy Kerry told *Lake Tahoe News*. "We will likely require a larger deposit on the real grass. If they get a contract extension, they will be responsible to restore the grass to the same condition. We will be able to tell if there are divots or any real depressions."

Big trucks would not be allowed on the turf. Platforms are put down on the synthetic field and would be on the grass, too, to prevent wear and tear from smaller vehicles.

The event brings about 15,000 people to town, many who attend all three nights. Donnelly in the past has said SnowGlobe brings between \$6 million and \$10 million to the local economy. That includes both sides of the state line.

What the council will have to decide is if the return on investment is worth it. And then the electeds must also decide if they want to rely on Donnelly's numbers to make that decision or if they would find another source.