

Mysterious light in sky was test missile

By CBS-San Francisco

Social media lit up Saturday evening as people reported seeing strange lights in the skies over California and Nevada.

It began shortly before 6 p.m. Newsrooms in California report being flooded with calls.

Some speculated it was a meteor, others thought it was a UFO sighting.

Navy officials told the San Diego Union-Tribune it was an unarmed Trident II (D5) missile fired from a missile submarine. The test flight was visible across California, in Nevada and Arizona.

Read the whole story

Ed board takes no action regarding superintendent

No action was taken Saturday by the El Dorado County board of education during a special meeting.



Jeremy Meyers

The meeting was called to discuss Superintendent Jeremy Meyers who on Nov. 5 was arrested on four misdemeanor charges related to driving under the influence. His blood alcohol level was 0.19, according to the California Highway Patrol.

Shortly before Meyers crashed his truck in Placerville he had been at the county office of education working.

This is the second DUI arrest in about a five-month period for the elected official. He pleaded no contest in the first case. That incident was also in the middle of a workday.

The board of education expects to discuss the situation further at a December closed session meeting. As elected official Meyers does not fall under traditional employee rules.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Unintended consequence of Prop. 47 – more crime

By Cindy Chang, Marisa Gerber and Ben Poston, Los Angeles Times

Semisi Sina has kept sheriff's deputies busy in the last year.

The 30-year-old has stolen bicycles from his Hacienda Heights neighborhood. He has skipped out on drug treatment and kept up his meth habit.

He has racked up 16 arrests, earning himself a place near the top of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's list of repeat offenders picked up for theft or drug use. And he says a new law has made it easier for him to commit crimes.

"Now, you can get away with it because of Proposition 47," Sina said recently in an interview at his parents' home.

One year after voters approved the landmark ballot measure, Proposition 47 has dramatically altered California's criminal justice landscape.

Read the whole story

Lake Tahoe Hard Rock on path to stabilization

By Kathryn Reed

STATELINE – Correct the problems and identify opportunities. Those are the oversimplified tasks the consultants for Lake Tahoe Hard Rock have agreed to tackle.

"Right now we are working to stabilize the operation," Jim Roets told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Roets and Rick Stevens, two veterans in the Northern Nevada casino industry, have a 90-day contract that began in mid-October that calls for assembling an executive team and assessing the operation to undo the damage of Warner

Hospitality. Even after a more permanent management team is in place the plan is the duo will stay on board as advisors as needed.

The Park brothers, owners of the property, **fired Las Vegas-based Warner** last month. The Parks have since sued Warner.

The dysfunction since the Jan. 28 opening was documented in an exclusive *Lake Tahoe News* **story in August**.

Roets and Corinna Osborne, director of non-gaming operations, sat down with *Lake Tahoe News* this week to discuss the future of the property.

“Hard Rock is a good brand in itself. Our goal is to deliver, if not over deliver, on those expectations,” Roets said.

Marketing the property, getting a sales team together and creating a good casino player strategy are some of the immediate goals.



Lake Tahoe Hard Rock consultants are trying to fix problems the previous management firm created.
Photo/LTN

“It’s unacceptable the property opened in January and people in the community don’t know we have a steakhouse,” Roets said. Better messaging is part of the immediate plans.

He and Osborne have already noticed improved customer service, which they attribute to workers being happier.

Some employees who lost their job under the old regime are coming back. This includes front line staff and managers like the former director of sales. (The property has 14,000-square-feet of meeting space near the Fire Break restaurant.) There are about 360 employees, with 75 front line positions available. The two big positions yet to be filled are general manager and human resources director.

"It will not be a third party big name that has cooperate offices somewhere else that is at the helm," Roets said. "The team will have a clear understanding of the market, the work force, and flow of the seasonality; and be involved in the community."

Last week the employees came together for what was called a town hall. It gave them an opportunity to ask the interim head honchos questions, to learn what can be expected in the coming months and feel appreciated. More of those will occur when appropriate.

Roets said he and Stevens are listening to staff suggestions and complaints, then explaining why or how things may or may not change. Just being heard is a new concept for these employees.

He said the staff is qualified and just need to be encouraged to do the job they know how to do.

Under the old guard employees were not encouraged to be engaged in the community. Just the opposite is occurring now.

As for the pool, it's a bigger item that probably won't fall under the purview of the consultants. Solutions are being sought for the leaks that forced the pool to be drained and closed last summer. It remains an empty vessel.

“The previous management tried things out there that didn’t sell in this market,” Roets said of the Splash pool parties that had a Vegas-esque quality to them. “We aren’t going to continue to do things that don’t work and don’t make sense.”

Osborne said the summer music festivals in the parking lot are not likely to be resurrected.

The focus is doing things at the property that make sense and are profitable.

Vinyl, the small music house, will continue to bring in entertainment. The goal is develop it into a venue with a brand people can count on.

When it was announced in July 2014 that the Horizon was being rebranded as a Hard Rock, Heavenly Mountain Resort was going to be an integral partner. In fact, the launch was at the midway station of the ski resort. When asked if that pairing was still going forward, Roets said, “Any and all partnerships are being looked at.”

Within the next year Roets expects the Hard Rock to be bringing in a sizable piece of the market.

The Stateline casinos collectively bring in about \$200 million a year in gaming. Roets would not speak to what share is the Hard Rock’s or how much it should be. He only said the goal is to attract its fair share of locals and tourists.

Roets also didn’t want to talk about the debt brothers Jon and David Park have incurred. About \$62 million has been spent to remodel what was the tired and dilapidated Horizon. Another \$12 million is said to be needed to finish the upgrades – this includes guest rooms and the large showroom where the likes of Elvis Presley once played when the property opened as the Sahara.

The long-range plans – those are not for Roets and Stevens to

figure out, but instead for the Parks to worry about. The consultants are striving to make the Hard Rock employees deliver a product locals and tourists want to experience over and over again.

Safety or danger of e-cigs as cloudy as their vapor

By Lois M. Collins, Deseret News

The small clouds are more noticeable than the people enveloped in the white smoke, visible on city streets and college campuses across America. They are caused by “vaping,” the use of liquid nicotine from one of various types of so-called electronic cigarettes.

The users – or “vapers” – include the roughly 13 percent of high school students who admitted using e-cigarettes last year, a threefold increase to close to 2 million adolescents, according to the 2014 National Youth Tobacco Survey. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that’s the first survey to show more e-cigarette use than any tobacco product in that age group.

That trend has caught the attention of pediatricians and apparently the general public. The American Academy of Pediatrics this week called for a minimum age of 21 to buy products containing nicotine, including e-cigarettes. A recently released NPR-Truven Health Analytics Health Poll found 57 percent of American adults think e-cigarettes should be regulated like cigarettes by the Food and Drug Administration.

Health experts say parents should discourage use of vaping products because the safety or danger of e-cigarettes is as cloudy as the vapor they produce.

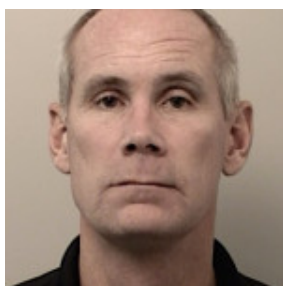
Read the whole story

County ed board to discuss supe's arrest

By Kathryn Reed

The El Dorado County board of education has called for a special closed session meeting on Saturday to discuss the second driving under the influence arrest of Superintendent Jeremy Meyers.

While the agenda for the Nov. 7 10am meeting does not specifically say that, it is what will be discussed. The agenda item is listed as "anticipated litigation".



Jeremy Meyers

Because Meyers is an elected official the board does not have the legal right to suspend or fire him just because he was arrested. However, state law does allow the board some leeway if it is deemed Meyers is mentally or physically unable to do his job.

Meyers was arrested the afternoon of Nov. 5 after crashing his personal truck into a utility box on Green Valley Road in Placerville.

He faces four misdemeanor charges: driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood alcohol content of at least 0.08 percent, diving with a blood alcohol content of at least 0.15 percent, and violation of probation. Had even one of the charges been a felony the school board would have recourse to remove Meyers.

The California Highway Patrol has not released Meyers' exact blood alcohol level, but said it was close to double the legal limit.

He has posted the \$17,500 bail after being booked into the El Dorado County Jail in Placerville.

Meyers' other recent DUI was in June to which he pleaded no contest and was sentenced to five days of house arrest. That, too, was a midday, workday arrest where he had a 0.15 blood alcohol level.

The office of education's official response was this, "The El Dorado County Office of Education has learned that county Superintendent Jeremy M. Meyers was arrested (Thursday) afternoon for driving under the influence. While unfortunate, we will continue to work together and deliver high-quality support to our countywide programs, school districts and community."

Nevada gets more in federal land payout

By Associated Press

CARSON CITY — Nevada's getting more money than expected from a government program that pays counties based on the amount of federally managed land within their borders.

Gov. Brian Sandoval announced this week that Nevada would get \$25 million this year from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program.

The sum is about \$2 million more than Nevada expected, and Sandoval thanked Nevada's congressional representatives for their work securing the bonus.

The program compensates counties that can't collect property taxes on large swaths of land because it's managed by the federal government. Nevada especially benefits from the program because more than 80 percent of its land is federal.

Elko and Washoe counties are getting the biggest payouts, with \$3.4 million apiece.

Cost of ambulance ride may go up in EDC

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors this month will consider raising the ambulance billing rates on both sides of the county.

Through a joint powers agreement Lake Valley and South Lake Tahoe fire departments operate the ambulance service on the California side of the South Shore.

A consultant who looked at what the county charges insurance companies, Medi-Cal, Medicare and private payers is recommending an increase of about 28 percent.

El Dorado County last adjusted its rates in 2010.

“We are hopeful that if the county passes the increase, that some of the additional revenue it would generate would pass through to our two JPAs,” Gareth Harris, Lake Valley fire chief, told *Lake Tahoe News*.

The county is not obligated to make this an automatic pass through to the two JPAs because there are already established contracts in place.

“I was advised that the recommended rate by the consultant still puts El Dorado County below the median rate and below the threshold private insurance companies feel is reasonable for advanced life support ambulance transportation,” Harris said.

There will be a public hearing on the matter before the Board of Supervisors on Nov. 17 at 11am in Placerville.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Postal Service anticipates

big holiday season

The U.S. Postal Service expects to deliver approximately 15.5 billion cards, letters, flats, and packages this holiday season. In addition, they are projecting approximately 600 million packages will be delivered between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve, which is an increase of 10.5 percent from last year.

Following the success of the 2014 holiday season, the Postal Service will again deliver packages seven days a week in select major cities and high-volume areas beginning Nov. 29, for the four Sundays before Christmas. They expect to deliver on average approximately 5 million packages every Sunday during December.

The Postal Service predicts Dec. 14 will be the busiest mailing and shipping day. The busiest mailing day also is expected to be the Postal Service's busiest day online with more than 7 million customers predicted to visit usps.com.

Dec. 21 is expected to be the busiest delivery day for holiday packages, cards and letters. The Postal Service anticipates that more than 30 million packages will be delivered that day alone.

For delivery in anticipation of Christmas, the Postal Service recommends keeping the following mailing and shipping deadlines in mind:

Nov. 7 – APO/FPO/DPO Standard Post

Dec. 8 – Priority Mail Express International

Dec. 15 – Standard Post

Dec. 19 – First Class Mail
Dec. 19 – Global Express Guaranteed
Dec. 21 – Priority Mail
Dec. 23 – Priority Mail Express.

Exxon Mobil investigated for possible climate change lies

By Justin Gillis and Clifford Krauss, New York Times

The New York attorney general has begun an investigation of Exxon Mobil to determine whether the company lied to the public about the risks of climate change or to investors about how such risks might hurt the oil business.

According to people with knowledge of the investigation, Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman issued a subpoena Wednesday evening to Exxon Mobil, demanding extensive financial records, emails and other documents.

The investigation focuses on whether statements the company made to investors about climate risks as recently as this year were consistent with the company's own long-running scientific research.

The people said the inquiry would include a period of at least a decade during which Exxon Mobil funded outside groups that sought to undermine climate science, even as its in-house scientists were outlining the potential consequences – and uncertainties – to company executives.

Read the whole story