

Dietary supplements send thousands to ER each year

By Mary Brophy Marcus, CBS News

Bad reactions to dietary supplements are sending tens of thousands of Americans to the ER every year, a study shows.

More than 23,000 visits to emergency rooms occur annually due to complications from taking dietary supplements such as herbal or complementary nutritional products, vitamins, and minerals, according to scientists from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration who coauthored the study. About 2,154 of the visits resulted in hospitalizations, the scientists reported.

The research, published in The New England Journal of Medicine, used surveillance data collected from 63 emergency departments across the country between 2004 and 2013.

Read the whole story

Skill-based games altering casinos' strategies

By J.D. Morris, Las Vegas Sun

Arcade-style gambling machines with video game controllers attached to them.

Casino games that play like "Pac-Man" or a first-person shooter, in which a player's performance can materially

influence the outcome.

A hotel with space devoted to competitive video gaming, and a casino floor that highlights technology geared toward similar customers.

These are some of the ways the Nevada casino industry's recent focus on arcade and video game-like technology is beginning to play out in practice.

Read the whole story

Many colleges fail to prepare students for work

By Jeffrey J. Selingo, New York Times

It's the middle of October, and many college campuses nationwide are observing their traditional fall break with a few days off from classes. Even as the 21st Century economy demands more from college graduates and the price of a higher education skyrockets, today's college students are spending less of their time on academic pursuits.

Various surveys of students show that they dedicate just a fraction of their time in college studying and going to classes. One study of UC undergraduates found that students spend 13 hours a week studying, some three times fewer hours than they devoted to socializing with friends, watching television, and exercising.

By the time students graduate from college, their brains are hard-wired to the cadence of the daily life laid out by the nine-month academic calendar. They tend to think about their

work in terms of 50-minute classes and five courses during 15-week semesters, with plenty of lengthy breaks in between.

But the working world is unstructured, with competing priorities and decisions that need to be made on the fly. College is very task-based: take an exam, finish a paper, attend a club meeting, go to practice. The workplace is more of a mash-up of activities with no scheduled end.

Read the whole story

Nev. firms rake in venture capital money

By Daniel Rothberg, Las Vegas Sun

Venture-backed companies headquartered in Nevada raised more than \$18 million in five financing deals during the first three quarters of 2015, according to a Dow Jones VentureSource analysis released Thursday.

The amount falls about \$4 million short of investment at this point last year and is low in comparison to other startup-heavy states, such as California, New York and Massachusetts. Companies raised more than \$5 billion in each of those states in the first three quarters of 2015.

Because of confidentiality agreements, VentureSource could not release the names of all the Nevada firms that received venture capital. But a spokesperson was able to confirm the names of two companies.

Read the whole story

Conner: 'There is absolutely no proof to anything I have been accused of'



South Lake Tahoe City Councilwoman JoAnn Conner on Oct. 16 says she is the one being bullied, not the other way around. Photo/Jessie Marchesseau

By Jessie Marchesseau

The South Tahoe Chamber of Commerce met Friday evening to allow JoAnn Conner, former chamber president and South Lake Tahoe city councilwoman, to tell her side of the story.

Conner was **banned last month** from having interaction with city staff as a result of a list of allegations including verbal attacks on city employees and the city manager, being disrespectful to other councilmembers, and being hostile and demeaning to people during public meetings.

"There is absolutely no proof to anything I have been accused of," she told the chamber group Oct. 16. "I would like to categorically state I have never, ever sworn, yelled at or threatened or done anything to intimidate a city employee including the city manager."

However, *Lake Tahoe News* has been told proof will be forthcoming in the form of verbal testimony and emails from Conner during Monday's special council meeting.

Conner said she is a passionate and straightforward person and realizes that there have been times when people felt she was too harsh. "And for that I apologize," she said.

Conner went on to point out that none of her colleagues is without fault and they have all done things that were rude or inappropriate. She said she doesn't know why they are focusing these accusations on her.

"I believe we have some issues with our employees, yes. But I don't believe I am the cause of that. I think it is coming from another source, and have encouraged my fellow councilmembers to talk to our employees," Conner continued.

She then addressed each of the seven allegations listed on the resolution which state that she has been:

1. On numerous occasions been disrespectful to councilmembers during public meetings;

Conner's response: "I think that's a matter of perspective. I think some of the other councilmembers have also been rude."

2. Verbally attacked employees, including the city manager, resulting in a pattern of behavior that may constitute a potential hostile work environment;

Conner's response: "Not true. Absolutely not true. No proof has been presented."

3. Caused employees to seek advice and assistance from the city attorney and/or city manager arising out of confrontations or interactions with Councilmember Conner;

Conner's response: "Where is the proof? When I asked the city attorney, 'Where is the proof?' the only instance he gave me was related to parking enforcement over two years ago"

4. Potentially subjected the city to litigation for the alleged behavior;

Conner's response: "Not true."

5. As a representative of the city and City Council, has acted in a manner that has caused the agency partners to decline to or be reluctant to work with Councilmember Conner;

Conner's response: "Again, where is the proof of that?" She said she could think of one instance concerning the senior subcommittee when she had a bit of a disagreement with El Dorado County Supervisor Sue Novasel.

6. Been hostile and demeaning to persons who have provided testimony or opinions in public meetings;

Conner's response: "I don't think so, but that's possible. I think that's a matter of perspective. And certainly there are people who could testify that just about every council member up there has done the same thing at some time."

7. Has acted in a manner during public meetings that has been alleged in an **editorial in local media** to be bullying, ridiculing and scolding, which impacts the respect the public has for the city and the City Council.

Conner's response: "Seriously? 'Alleged in a local publication.' None of that was true. The he-said, she-said, somebody-said is ridiculous. The comment about my having a CCW [carry concealed weapon] and the employees feeling

threatened because I bring a loaded gun to government property: Mr. (Kenny) Curtzwiler investigated that. It was very simple to prove I have never applied for, much less have I ever received a CCW. And I would like to know who has seen me carry a gun, because I have never carried a gun loaded or unloaded onto any government property.”

However, prior to it being published that Conner had a concealed weapon permit she told councilmembers, department heads and others she had one. Because there is no statewide registry for concealed weapon permits and the fact they expire it is not known if she was telling the truth when she previously boasted of having one or now when she denies having one.

Conner said when she requested information from City Attorney Tom Watson on specific instances of the alleged behavior, she was told employee complaints are confidential and he did not have exact dates or documentation of the behavior in question.

When attorney and former Councilman Bruce Grego asked Conner how she was supposed to defend herself against the allegations when the city won't release the confidential information they are based on, Conner said she didn't know. She went on to say she has been approached by several employees away from work who told her they don't feel threatened by her. She claims she is the one being bullied, not the other way around.

Conner said she believes this all came to a head when she challenged City Manager Nancy Kerry on what Conner believed were erroneous charges on some temporary activity permits and also had a disagreement with Kerry concerning the lease for the senior center.

Councilman Tom Davis was also in attendance Friday as a member of the chamber, but declined to join the discussion beyond saying: “There's two sides to every story, and you're going to hear both sides on Monday. So that's the time to come and

listen, and whatever evidence there is will be presented to both sides.”

A special meeting concerning the possible **censuring of Conner** is scheduled for Oct. 19 at 3pm at Lake Tahoe Airport.

Hwy. 50 head-on crash kills 1, injures 4

One person died and four people were injured in a head-on collision Friday night near Kyburz.

A woman was driving west on Highway 50 about two mile east of the 76 Station when she drifted across the center line into oncoming traffic.

California Highway Patrol Sgt. Chris Sahagun said the accident is under investigation and the cause is under investigation.

He didn't know if the road was wet at the time of the 5:45pm Oct. 16 collision, but said it was when he arrived on scene an hour later.

The identities of the five people have not been released. All were wearing seat belts.

The male driver of the other vehicle, who is from San Pablo, was air lifted to UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento with moderate injuries. His three passengers – two men and a woman – complained of pain and were taken by ambulance to area hospitals.

Mechanical fire empties Stateline casino floor



Smoke from a mechanical fire forced MontBleu to be evacuated Oct. 16. Photo Copyright 2015 Carolyn E. Wright

Hundreds of people were evacuated from MontBleu casino's main floor Friday night when a fire started after an air handling unit burned out.

Many of the evacuees were all dressed up for the annual Soroptimist wine tasting fundraiser on Oct. 16.

"It was very calm and orderly. The party is continuing," Brenda Knox, president of Soroptimist International of South Lake Tahoe, told *Lake Tahoe News* from the event.

The casino floor and convention center were cleared out for

about 30 minutes.

“There were no injuries and no substantial damage to the property other than the unit,” Eric Guevin, Tahoe Douglas fire marshal, told *Lake Tahoe News*. “Quick response kept it to the unit of origin.”

Mechanical failure was determined to be the cause of the fire.

South Lake Tahoe firefighters also responded to the Stateline property.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

Nev. bans unlicensed daily fantasy sports sites

By J.D. Morris, Las Vegas Sun

Nevada regulators on Oct. 15 banned providers of daily fantasy sports, a booming but controversial industry that many argue is akin to gambling, from operating in the state until and unless they are licensed to do so.

Gaming Control Board Chairman A.G. Burnett wrote in a public notice that he and his staff have concluded that daily fantasy sports constitutes gambling under state law. Operators must possess a sportsbook license in order to legally offer daily fantasy sports in Nevada, Burnett wrote, because the industry requires its customers to wager on how well individuals collectively perform in sporting events.

In response to the gaming board’s notice, FanDuel and DraftKings, the two leading daily fantasy sports providers,

announced Thursday night that they are ceasing operations in Nevada while they consider their options moving forward.

Read the whole story

Hyatt hotels banning on-demand porn movies

By Beth J. Harpaz, AP

Hyatt Hotels will no longer offer on-demand pornographic movies in its rooms, the company said Wednesday.

“This content will not be introduced to any new Hyatt hotels, and it will be discontinued or phased out at all hotels,” the company said in a statement.

Hyatt is just the latest hotel company to ban on-demand adult entertainment from its rooms. Decreasing revenue from movie rentals in hotels has driven the trend, with movie rental revenue per available hotel room dropping from \$339 a year to \$107 a year between 2000 and 2014, according to a report from PKF Hospitality Research. Hotel guests are renting fewer in-room movies because they can watch them on smartphones or laptops instead.

Marriott hotels ended the practice of offering adult video on demand several years ago. The company’s chairman, Bill Marriott, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, told The Associated Press in 2012 that not only was the church “very, very opposed to pornography,” but that demand for the movies had “gone way down” because “if they want that stuff, they can get on the computer.”

Hyatt, a U.S.-based company, owns 618 properties in 51 countries.

The National Center on Sexual Exploitation in Washington applauded the change. "With this step, Hyatt is proving itself to be a leader among corporations that value a positive and safe environment for their consumers," the organization's president, Patrick Trueman, said in a statement.

EDC gathering input on strategic plan



Few people turned out Oct. 15 to hear Laree Kiely from the Kiely Group talk about El Dorado County's future. Photo/Jessie Marchesseau

By Jessie Marchesseau

El Dorado County Supervisor Sue Novasel hosted a community meeting at South Lake Tahoe council chambers at the airport on Thursday evening as part of the process to develop a three-year strategic plan for El Dorado County. The focus of the

meeting was to inform citizens about the planning process and to encourage participation in the countywide citizen engagement survey.

Excluding county employees and media, community attendance Oct. 15 amounted to less than a dozen.

Novasel explained to those present that the Board of Supervisors, along with county department heads, created a draft of the strategic plan outlining what they deemed to be important topics. Now they want to know what the community thinks is important. This is where the survey comes in.

"This survey is going to do a lot for me to try to understand what those top issues are," said Novasel.

The county has hired the Kiely Group to conduct the citizen engagement survey, which will be available to the public until Nov. 2. It asks questions like, "Do you use county government services?" and "Which county services have the most impact on your quality of life and why?" It also asks for suggestions about each of the five areas of focus the county has identified for the plan: economic development, public safety, infrastructure, healthy community, and good county governance.

Laree Kiely of the Kiely Group reported that so far they have received about a thousand surveys, paper and online. While she did not reveal the results of the surveys, she did offer some demographic information about who has taken it thus far:

- 32 towns are represented
- 64 people from Lake Tahoe
- Majority of respondents are in the 50-65 age group
- 66 percent are women
- 29 percent are government employees (the survey was sent out to them first)

- 26 percent are retired
- 50 percent said they do not use county services.

Kiely said that last statistic confirms what she suspected is going in: a lot of people don't even know what county government does. She pointed out that if they are simply driving on the roads, they are using county services.

"The really positive outcome, kind of the unintended consequence of this survey, is if they even read the questions of the survey, they will be more educated about what county government does, and that is a win all around," she said.

At one point, attendees were asked to voice what their main concerns for the county are. Responses included the environment, public safety, Tahoe Paradise Park, happy and healthy residents, open space, adequate services for tourists, public transit, and maintaining the status quo. A sign-up sheet was also passed around for anyone wanting to be in a future focus group.

Sherman Fox, training and organizational development specialist for El Dorado County, explained the process moving forward: once the surveys are completed and results are in, the data will be analyzed and focus groups formed to delve deeper into the most popular topics. The information will then be given to the goal-setting team who will determine if the county's original objectives need to be altered to coordinate with public concern. The intention, he said, is to have all this done and for the board to have a new three-year El Dorado County strategic plan ready by Christmas.

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Note:

- To participate in the survey, go **online**.