Calif. threatens Weedmaps over promotion of illegal shops

By Brooke Staggs, Orange County Register

California’s cannabis czar issued a cease and desist order to Weedmaps, directing the Irvine internet company that maps marijuana dispensaries to immediately stop promoting businesses that don’t have state licenses.

“You are aiding and abetting in violation of state cannabis laws,” states the letter from Lori Ajax, chief of the Bureau of Cannabis Control.

If the company doesn’t immediately drop advertisements for unlicensed businesses, Ajax said Weedmaps could face criminal and civil penalties, including civil fines for each illegal ad.

Read the whole story

Threats land STMS student in juvi on felony charge

A South Tahoe Middle School student is in custody after allegedly making threats that he would be bringing a gun to Friday night’s dance.

The 12-year-old sent text messages to other students who in turn reported it to school staff, who then called the police

on March 9.

“He said he was going to bring a gun. He referenced Columbine in some of his texts and said ‘if you don’t want to die, don’t come to this school dance’,” Lt. Shannon Laney told *Lake Tahoe News.*

What provoked the child is not known.

Officers located the youth at his home. The house was searched and no firearms were located.

The youth was booked into the El Dorado County Juvenile Treatment Center on criminal threats, which is a felony.

The Friday night dance is going on as scheduled.

Lake Tahoe Unified School District sent out an email to parents letting them know about the situation. In part it said, “The tistrict wants to assure all parents that there is no threat to the safety of students on campus or at tonight’s special event. The threat has been thoroughly investigated by law enforcement and school administration and has been determined to be without merit. Further, the student who made the threat is not permitted on school property at this time.”

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

Reward offered in stolen vehicle caper



Detectives would like to question this couple. Photo/Provided

Douglas County Secret Witness is offering a reward for information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of the suspects involved in a stolen vehicle recovered at a Stateline casino.

On Feb. 20, a stolen vehicle was recovered at MontBleu. A male and female were seen near the vehicle and possibly drove the vehicle to MontBleu.

Anyone with information regarding this case is urged Secret Witness at 775.782.7463 to remain anonymous.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

It’s the U.S. vs. Calif. –

who’s got the winning case?

By Stephen Magagnini and Anita Chabria, Sacramento Bee

In the case of the United States versus California, who will win?

The fight over how undocumented immigrants in California are treated is now a matter for federal courts to decide after the Trump administration this week sued the state to invalidate a trio of “sanctuary” laws.

The state argues it can’t be forced to act as a federal immigration enforcer and that its laws are necessary to protect its estimated 2.6 million undocumented residents, maintain community trust and shield its economy.

Read the whole story

Missing snowboarder found safe at Sugar Bowl

By KTVN-TV

The Placer County Sheriff’s Office says a snowboarder was found alive and well after she was reported overdue near the Disney run near Sugar Bowl Resort early Thursday afternoon.

She was found early Friday morning.

Read the whole story

Tahoe-Truckee region tilts toward 100% clean energy

By Sage Sauerbrey, Moonshine Ink

Commitments to 100 percent clean and renewable electricity are a growing trend across the country, and with good reason. The prices of many renewable resources are dropping to or below those of natural gas and weaning ourselves off the fossil fuel teat has become a matter of global resilience and necessity. The wonderful thing is, today it's an achievable goal; many different approaches can be taken to reach it based on the state of the market, technological advances, and political definitions.

With the help of hydropower (not technically renewable under California code), Aspen, Colo., went 100 percent in 2015. In Truckee/North Lake Tahoe, roughly one-quarter to more than one-half of local providers' power mixes are already renewable sources such as wind and solar. To reach 100 percent clean energy, private entities are looking to a solar/battery storage combo to make the jump, while Truckee's public utility district sees nuclear as a potential means to achieve a carbon-free grid. Residents may also be given the chance to get some skin in the game with an optional "renewable rate," which is hoped to further increase demand for clean energy. The potential is there, and with smart action the region is in position to make state and country-wide progress timelines for renewable energy look like gross overestimations.

Read the whole story

Epic pass buoys Vail Resorts despite dips in visitation

By Jason Blevins, Denver Post

Weak snow across the West this year is impacting the ski resort industry in many ways, but the largest ski area operator in the country is hardly limping, thanks in part to President Trump's tax overhaul.

Vail Resorts on Thursday reported a net income bump of $64.6 million for the three months through early March thanks to a one-time tax benefit from the U.S. Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The recently enacted legislation fueled a 58 percent bump in net income for the company's fiscal second quarter – the meat of the ski season for the owner of 11 destination ski areas in Colorado, California, British Columbia, Vermont and Australia.

That's good news for shareholders. The company on Thursday said it would be sharing the tax-cut windfall with investors, announcing a 40 percent increase in its quarterly cash dividend to $1.47 per share.

Read the whole story

Public records case before

Nevada Supreme Court

By James DeHaven, Reno Gazette-Journal

What’s in a public record?

That’s one of several familiar questions raised Wednesday at the Nevada Supreme Court, where justices heard the latest arguments in a long-running legal battle over what information the state has to disclose about retired public employees.

At issue: A three-year-old public records request from the Nevada Policy Research Institute, a conservative think tank, seeking, among other things, the names of more than 57,000 people receiving payments from the state-run Public Employees’ Retirement System of Nevada, or PERS.

Read the whole story

Caesars: 4th-quarter revenue hurt by LV shooting

By Todd Prince, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Caesars Entertainment Corp. said Wednesday that its Las Vegas revenue fell in the fourth quarter after the Oct. 1 massacre, but the company gave an upbeat outlook for 2018.

Las Vegas same-store net revenue, including its off-Strip property Rio, declined 3.9 percent to $873 million for the quarter, the company reported Wednesday after the market closed.

Caesars is the parent company of Harrah's Lake Tahoe and Harveys.

Read the whole story

SnowGlobe promises to suppress noise

By Kathryn Reed

Chad Donnelly is committed to South Lake Tahoe even if some residents wish he would take SnowGlobe, his three-day music festival, elsewhere.

"I really believe in what we do," Donnelly told *Lake Tahoe News.*

Since 2011 he has brought the electronic music festival to the ball fields on Al Tahoe Boulevard. It's grown in that time – in terms of the number of attendees, the ability to attract Grammy-winning artists, the amount of money in his pocket, donations to nonprofits, and overall impact to the local economy.



Chad Donnelly, SnowGlobe

producer, listens to deliberations on March 6. Photo/LTN

It’s also grown in the number of complaints, or least the effort to have the venue changed or concerts banned is more cohesive. A petition with 175 signatures supporting modifying or canceling SnowGlobe has been given to city officials.

Asked why he stays when there is a backlash against him – at least by a small vocal group – Donnelly gets a bit melancholy. SnowGlobe is his baby. He loves the mountains. And for the most part, the South Shore has welcomed him no matter the noise. He’s built something he is proud of.

Noise and the condition of the fields are sticking points for many people, even electeds. Those issues were brought up again March 6 at the City Council meeting during a presentation about SnowGlobe.

Of the 34 people who spoke, the majority were in favor of the festival – saying it’s good for the economy – especially in lean snow years, that it is putting South Lake Tahoe on the map in a positive way, it is upping the number of lodging nights, and it is diffusing the chaos at Stateline.

The contract goes through 2018. What Donnelly wants is a long-term agreement. The council isn’t ready to say yes or no to that request just yet. And there is no set date when that will be back before the council.

At the end of the lengthy discussion on Tuesday it was decided that city staff would meet with Donnelly and those who have concerns. The goal is to have a resolution in the next couple of weeks.

Part of the urgency to get things resolved quickly is that the producers are already signing contracts and the NoGlobe people want the hours curtailed. If the times change, it means fewer

acts to book.

Donnelly and his reps have promised to do more to control the sound – starting this year. This in part includes covering the entire field. Technology via computer modeling will be implemented on every speaker, the subwoofers will be lifted off the ground, and delay towers will be used.

Snow is a natural absorber of sound. But Mother Nature has not always come through. *Lake Tahoe News* asked Donnelly if blowing snow would be an option. Possibly, he said; he needs to know the costs, logistics and figure out the depth that would be required to make a difference.

Even so, Mother Nature would still be a variable. The overnight temperature has to be at a certain level for consecutive days for snowmaking to be viable.

The ball field after the 2017 event was in sad shape. Donnelly is paying up to $250,000 for the field to be replaced.

He paid $50,000 to rent the field.

The Community Playfield Consortium, made up of the city and Lake Tahoe Community College, manage the fields. The city this week received two bids to fix the damaged field. Work will begin as soon as possible, though the normal date to be able to move dirt in the basin is May 1.

The council is worried that the public who paid for that field is being denied access because it won’t be ready for use until mid-June most likely. On the one hand that isn’t a huge issue because the field has never been in the rotation for use because the sod was just laid last fall. Still, fields are in short supply – which was the reason to build it, and means a delay is getting people to use them for their intended purpose.