

# Proposed Tahoe City hotel faces another lawsuit

By Melissa Siig, Moonshine Ink

The \$60 million planned boutique hotel that would be Tahoe City's first major hotel in more than 60 years is facing a second lawsuit. Five months after settling the first one, Kila Properties, developer of the Tahoe City Lodge, was sued again, literally days before the rundown Henrikson building was set to be demolished; this time by the family that owns the neighboring Bechdolt building.

At the heart of the lawsuit is a 68-year old easement that the family claims the hotel does not have the right to use. But to community leaders, the lawsuit represents much more than one party's grievance against another; they worry that it threatens the core of Tahoe City's revival and could discourage developers from investing much-needed funds on the North Shore for decades to come.

**Read the whole story**

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## Motorcyclist dies from injuries sustained in Stateline

A Gardnerville man who was involved in a motorcycle accident July 8 on Kingsbury Grade has died from his injuries.

Dana Edward Orgill, 69, was headed toward the Carson Valley at

about 2:45pm that day when he “failed to negotiate a left curve and drove off the highway onto the gravel shoulder area,” according to the Nevada Highway Patrol. This occurred near Tramway Drive

Orgill was airlifted to Renown Medical Center in Reno. He died there two days later.

Witnesses to the crash are asked to call NHP at 775.687.9649.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

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## **Parking dispute ends in stabbing in SLT**

A Bay Area man was stabbed Thursday in a South Lake Tahoe parking lot all over a dispute about a parking space, according to police officers.

The incident occurred in front of CVS in the Bijou Center at about 10:30am July 12.

Officers said they found Scott Nevin, 51, of San Jose bleeding from the stab wound.

Witnesses identified Paul Ivanovsky, 71, of Sparks at the suspect. Nevin’s 13-year-old son was one of the witnesses.

Both were transported to Barton Memorial Hospital. No arrests had been made as of Thursday evening.

“It was determined that this incident started over a road rage incident over a parking spot,” officers said in a press release.

From words it went to the use of pepper spray then fists and finally the knife, according to police.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

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# Nevada postpones execution using fentanyl

By Merrit Kennedy, NPR

Convicted murderer Scott Dozier has clearly and repeatedly stated that he wants to be executed.



Scott Dozier

The planned execution, using a three-drug cocktail, had been set for Wednesday evening at Ely State Prison in Nevada. Experts say it would be the first time the opioid fentanyl was used in a U.S. execution.

However, a pharmaceutical company filed a lawsuit Tuesday against the Nevada State Department of Corrections over plans to use one of its drugs, midazolam, in the execution. And on Wednesday, Clark County District Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez “disallowed the use of the drug,” effectively putting the execution on hold, The Associated Press reported.

Read the whole story

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# Bass buys TWC building; legal issues continue

By Kathryn Reed

After much legal wrangling, Cody Bass is the official owner of the center that houses his Tahoe Wellness Cooperative in South Lake Tahoe.

The paperwork was recorded July 9.



Still to be determined is who will own the house that was once the home of pioneer family Neal and Patty Olson. Patty Olson moved from the residence near Timber Cove a few years ago, with the family trust still retaining title.

Bass and Bob Hassett are battling over that parcel in court. Hassett has long operated the nearby marina operations and owns an apartment complex in the vicinity.

“As much as I would like to comment, due to ongoing litigation, I cannot,” Bob Hassett told *Lake Tahoe News*.

Bass said Hassett “colluded” with Olson’s son in a deal to get the residence. Patrick Olson has at various times been in charge of his mother’s estate, with many of the belief this was to her detriment. Bass believes he will prevail because he had an option to purchase the residential property eight months prior to Hassett’s offer.

Olson had long owned the property where TWC is located. It ended up in bankruptcy a few years ago, which kept it from being foreclosed on. Bass had wanted the property in order to have more control over the future of his medical marijuana business and to be able to expand.

“Such a sale would not impact Cody’s lawsuit against the city. The lawsuit challenges the decision of the City Council to uphold the prior city manager’s determination not to renew his dispensary permit. In making its decision, the court will only consider evidence that was before the council at the time the council made its decision,” interim South Lake Tahoe City Attorney Nira Doherty told *Lake Tahoe News*. “Therefore, if escrow indeed closed ... that evidence would not be something the court would consider when deciding whether or not the City Council and prior city manager abused their discretion.”

Bass said he sued the city after being denied a permit to operate his collective. The city says he didn’t have a signature from Olson, the landlord, to be there. He said he did. The court has allowed him to continue to operate as the proceedings keep going.

Doherty said the last hearing was two weeks ago and that she expects a ruling within two to six weeks. Bass said there is a status conference scheduled for this Friday, and said it could be quite a while before there is resolution within the courts.

Bass said he would like to settle with the city, but prior to doing so wants a final count from El Dorado County regarding the initiative he is trying to get on the November ballot. He is hoping for final numbers on Friday. He also said keeping the lawsuit active would be beneficial to his legal issues with the residential property.

If the city were to allow TWC to operate at its present location and to have the licenses for adult use marijuana that are equivalent to what it is doing with medicinal pot, Bass

said the lawsuit and initiative would disappear.

Bass has been in business going on 10 years. The present council wants him to go through the same application process as all potential recreational marijuana businesses instead of letting him have permits to coincide with his medical operation. Most cities in California grandfathered in existing pot shops. South Lake Tahoe officials say the Bijou location doesn't meet zoning regulations for cultivation and extraction, even though TWC has been allowed to perform these deeds for nearly a decade.

Bass has plans to improve the building he just closed on, including putting on a second floor for his operation. In 18 to 24 months he'd like a second level where cultivation and extraction would be located. The bottom floor would be expanded to handle recreation sales.



Cody Bass, owner of Tahoe Wellnes Cooperative

For now, he'd like to fill the former bank slot with an office supply store or some white collar business. Then in three years or so he wants to put in a market/deli along the lines of the West Shore Market.

Bass also intends to create a hallway from TWC to the bank vault.

“As we get to a higher volume we need the vault to comply with regulations,” Bass told *Lake Tahoe News*.

He envisions a restaurant replacing the former music store and coffee shop.

On top of all the legal issues and becoming a landlord, Bass has also been dealing with changes to state law that has affected supplies of medicine. This has been a conundrum for all dispensaries in California. Rules changed July 1 affecting labeling, which affected distribution.

TWC on July 1 had seven products; normal is 287. As of July 11 there were 38, with the hope of having more than 100 by Friday, and then for the issue to fully correct itself.

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# Scientists predicted impacts of climate change

By Jason Samenow, *Washington Post*

Temperatures shot up over 110 degrees in Southern California on Friday, obliterating all kinds of long-standing heat records, and the lights went out for tens of thousands of customers. Californians were powerless, without air conditioning, in the hottest weather many had ever experienced.

Climate scientists have known this was coming, and it may only be the beginning.

“We studied this a long time ago . . . now our projections are becoming reality,” tweeted Katharine Hayhoe, a climate scientist at Texas Tech University.

In 2006, Hayhoe and colleagues published the study “Climate, Extreme Heat, and Electricity Demand in California” in the Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology.

**Read the whole story**

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# Consequences of repealing Calif. gas tax

**By Caitlin Chen, Sacramento Bee**

A November ballot measure to repeal California’s recent gas tax increase threatens road improvement and maintenance projects that receive funding through the tax.

The initiative, which requires voter approval for any new gas tax increase, is retroactive to the beginning of 2017, effectively stopping the new fees created when lawmakers passed Senate Bill 1 last year. State and local infrastructure projects would not receive funding beyond the current fiscal year.

The California Department of Transportation and local agencies say they would try to finish all active projects, but projects that haven’t started construction would have to be canceled, downsized or delayed indefinitely.

**Read the whole story**

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# State sanctuary battle rages on in Placer County

By Emily Cadei, Sacramento Bee

Placer County residents crammed a Board of Supervisors' meeting in Auburn on July 10 to air their opinions on Senate Bill 54, the state law that limits the ability of state and local law enforcement to help federal agents enforce immigration law.

Local officials estimated more than 150 people turned out for the 1m meeting, filling the auditorium and two overflow rooms, to provide feedback on a resolution opposing SB54. Public testimony went on for hours. A handful of officers from the Placer County sheriff's office patrolled the gathering, which was occasionally testy but never violent.

The meeting came just 24 hours after U.S. District Judge John A. Mendez approved California's motion to throw out the Trump administration's lawsuit challenging the sanctuary state law.

**Read the whole story**

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## Drug company's lawsuit could derail Nev. execution

By Associated Press

A Nevada inmate slated to die by a three-drug lethal injection combination never before used in the U.S. has said repeatedly he wants his sentence carried out and he doesn't care if it's

painful.

But a last-minute lawsuit filed by a drug company that doesn't want its product used in "botched" executions could derail Scott Raymond Dozier's scheduled Wednesday execution.

New Jersey-based Alvogen filed court documents Tuesday saying Nevada prison officials illegally obtained the sedative midazolam and demanding it be returned and not used in Dozier's execution.

**Read the whole story**

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## Bees, yellow jackets creating a buzz



Toogee Sielsch with El Dorado County Vector Control looks at bees that

drowned in a hot tub in South Lake  
Tahoe. Photo/Susan Wood

**By Kathryn Reed**

The overriding reason to be in a hot tub is to relax. Just the opposite happens when bees buzz around just inches from your face and then want to make the body of water their continual drinking fountain.

Then there are the yellow jackets that have such good sniffers they know where the barbecue is – or any protein that is outside – within a quarter of a mile.

Those bumblebees and honeybees, well, they are just spreading love as they pollinate.

Now is the season for the worker bees and yellow jackets to proliferate. While they are more in abundance now, the prediction is it won't be a bad year for them.

Toogee Sielsch with the El Dorado County Vector Control while on a stroll through Cove East this week talked all about these winged critters.

Because there were a couple hard freezes in the spring he does not anticipate the yellow jacket season being bad, especially compared to a couple summers ago when it seemed like there was a constant hum in the basin. That was when eating outside was near impossible without sharing your meal with the little buggers, all under the threat of being stung.



Honey bees are getting under a hot tub cover and then drowning.  
Photo/LTN

There are five species of yellow jackets in the basin. They are part of the wasp family and aren't actually bees. In nature they are primarily feeding on aphids. They are also a low level pollinator.

The biggest problem is so many people are allergic to their sting. This can become a public health issue and why vector control gets involved.

"We use a powder they crawl through. They spread it to their friends," Sielsch said of how his department gets rid of yellow jacket nests. Even then, the crew is cognizant of proximity to water and other environmental concerns. He said 600 nests would be a rough estimate of how many were treated during the prolific summer.

"We would never treat primary pollinators," Sielsch added.

Honey bees and bumblebees aren't usually going to sting someone. They would have to get pretty aggravated to do so. The problem with yellow jackets is they don't lose their stingers and can keep after a person. It's only honey bees that drop their stinger. And it's only the females that sting.

The good things about the traps that are sold at stores is that they are specific to attracting and then killing yellow jackets so there is no threat of killing off the good bees.

As for the bees showing up in a hot tub, there is probably a nest nearby and that big tub looks like an inviting source of hydration. They just want to share.