

Dynamic shoulder key to touchdown passes

By Kevin Schultz, San Francisco Chronicle

About 2 million years ago, humankind's ancient ancestors developed a shoulder structure that allowed them to throw spears and rocks to hunt prey, scientists say.

That adaption moved modern humans away from shoulders built for climbing and swinging from branches and today gives them the ability to throw, say, a football, UCSF experts said.

"The same physical and mental abilities that evolved to allow us to thrive as a species allowed us to play football," said Nathan Young, a UCSF evolutionary biologist and orthopedic surgeon who has studied the human shoulder and its evolutionary past for years.

[Read the whole story](#)

Super Bowl reflects rift between legal, illegal sports gambling

By Howard Stutz, Las Vegas Review-Journal

The Carolina Panthers didn't exist and Peyton Manning was in high school when Congress halted expansion of legal sports wagering in the U.S. in 1992.

The Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act allowed Nevada's sports book industry to continue along with small stakes sports wagering in Oregon, Delaware and Montana.

As for stopping illegal sports betting, the 24-year-old law has been an abysmal failure. Unregulated sports gambling has grown, expanded and thrived.

The American Gaming Association estimates U.S. citizens illegally wagered \$149 billion on sports last year through off-shore betting websites and illegal bookmakers.

Read the whole story

Opinion: LTCC spending Measure F dollars

By Diane Lewis

With the support of South Lake Tahoe's voters, Lake Tahoe Community College successfully passed a \$55 million bond measure in November 2014. Called Measure F, the bond will make it possible for the college to upgrade and modernize its technology, make necessary repairs to aging facilities and systems, and improve educational programs and students' learning environment.

The first set of bonds was sold in July 2015 for \$19 million, or 35 percent of the \$55 million voters approved. With that funding in place, LTCC was able to complete several projects in the second half of 2015, and began planning projects slated for 2016 and beyond.

In January, the college's network and wireless system was

upgraded to make Internet service more effective throughout campus. Students are also feeling the benefits from three new boilers installed in fall 2015, which are bringing clean and efficient heat to LTCC's main building. Another major project completed last summer that is improving students' experience is the One Stop office in the main building. This space brings together a wide array of services into one convenient location, making it easier for students to apply, register, make payments, get transcripts, meet with academic counselors, and perform other basic college functions.

"We intentionally chose this as our first bond-funded project," said Sue Gochis, LTCC's executive dean of Student and Academic Support Services. "The experience students have when they first start college can have a huge impact on their chances of success. The easier it is for them to apply, meet with a counselor, and get registered, the more likely they are to stick with their academic plans and see them through."

Enrollment and Student Support Coordinator Danny Masellones, who works one-on-one with students in the One Stop office, said, "This space and the way it runs creates a much better first impression. Now you get personalized service from a single staff member. It makes starting college a lot less daunting, which is really important for new students and older adults who are returning to college after a long break. It eases them in."

Upgrades are under way in LTCC's physical education building as well, where several projects that began in Summer 2015 will be completed at the end of this coming summer. New climate system controls were installed, which are delivering more consistent and controllable heat to the building. New bleachers and a new gym floor are all coming prior to the start of the fall quarter. There may be some inconvenience to gym users during this work, but the result will be a much nicer facility.

Another major project that will begin in 2016 involves the main parking lot on the south side of campus, which will be completely renovated. Construction on the lot itself begins in early May and is expected to be completed in October. In addition to resurfacing the entire lot, heated walkways will be constructed and a new path that will run through the entire lot will be added, providing quicker and safer building access during winter months. An outdoor plaza will also be constructed in front of the Roberta Mason Library, along with a new bicycle path that will eventually connect to other campus-dedicated bike trails and to South Lake Tahoe's future bicycle trail expansion.

LTCC Vice President of Administrative Services Jeff DeFranco said, "We are creating new entry points on campus that are inviting to both students and the community, to encourage interactions in an outdoor setting and improve student life. The plaza will provide outside learning space, allowing for learning to happen organically outside of the classroom."

This project will impact parking access on campus. Students and visitors should watch for signs pointing to alternate parking, and should consider using public transportation or pedal power to visit campus during this time.

The college's soccer field will also get a major overhaul. Work begins in May and will be completed in fall. The old synthetic field will be replaced, and a new scoreboard, bleachers, and pathways will be added, providing easier access to the field year-round. These improvements will not only benefit LTCC's collegiate soccer program and physical educational offerings, but will also be a boon to the many club and youth soccer teams that use the field.

"We researched a number of Division I schools and some of the bigger community college athletic programs in the state to see what the best colleges were incorporating into their playfields," said DeFranco. "The result will be a world-class

soccer pitch that meets the needs of our athletic and educational programs, as well as community users.”

The first in a series of annual reports outlining all of the college’s bond-funded projects and associated financial information is being produced by the college and will be available soon. Information about the Measure F bond and the Citizens’ Oversight Committee (COC) charged with overseeing its expenditures can be found **online**. The COC is an accountability requirement for schools and colleges with bonds governed by California Prop 39. LTCC is currently seeking a volunteer for the COC who is an active member in a bona fide taxpayers’ organization. For more information or to apply for this position, send an email to shaferl@ltcc.edu.

Diane Lewis works for Lake Tahoe Community College.

NV Energy looking to replace line affecting Tahoe

Comments are being taken on NV Energy’s proposal to replace the electrical transmission line that runs from Foothill Road in the Carson Valley to Tramway Drive near Heavenly Mountain Resort.

The draft environmental assessment analyzes the proposed replacement of the transmission line that serves the Kingsbury substation, which provides electricity to Heavenly Mountain Resort and the surrounding Kingsbury Grade area.

The existing transmission line was constructed in 1956 and has experienced multiple outages due to aging equipment, vegetation and weather related events. The proposed

improvements would reduce the likelihood of power outages associated with high winds, downed trees, wildfires and snow loading and would provide a reliable transmission line that meets current state and federal electricity regulations and safety standards.

Project work could begin this year.

The draft EA is available **online**. Comments are due March 4.

Sandoval signs emergency regulation for teacher shortage

By Trevon Milliard, Reno Gazette-Journal

Gov. Brian Sandoval approved an emergency regulation on Friday easing Nevada's teacher licensing requirements so that public schools – facing about 1,000 open positions this year – will have an easier time at hiring.

The regulation change, recently permitted under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, allows the state to grant temporary one-year licenses to out-of-state teachers while they meet Nevada-specific standards.

These teachers may also be recent graduates with teaching degrees, but also need time to meet state requirements.

Read the whole story

Lawmakers: Calif. should help pay for earthquake early warnings

By Rosanna Xia and Rong-Gong Lin II, Los Angeles Times

Hours after a magnitude 6.4 earthquake destroyed buildings and took lives in Taiwan, four state lawmakers said they want California to help fund an earthquake early warning system that has been stalled by a lack of money.

“There’s no valid reason not to make this relatively small investment in an early warning system that has the potential to save the lives of Californians,” state Sen. Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo) said in a statement. “I urge my colleagues and the governor to join us in fulfilling our primary responsibility of protecting the public.”

The voices of support that emerged for the warning system Friday mark a change in tone at the state Capitol, where outspoken backers of the system have been few in recent years. On Tuesday, H.D. Palmer, deputy director for the Department of Finance, said that California’s policy is to not use money from the general fund for the early warning system.

Read the whole story

Cops to be out in force on Super Bowl

The Super Bowl is America's most watched national sporting event. That's why the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the California Office of Traffic Safety and law enforcement officials statewide are urging football fans to call the play now: drinking or driving.

The Avoid the 6-El Dorado County DUI Task Force will be deploying roving DUI saturations patrols during and following Sunday's Super Bowl matchup.

NHTSA's Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk campaign encourages people to make plans ahead of time that will prevent them from getting behind the wheel of a vehicle after drinking. Driving impaired could result in injury or death for you or others on the road.

According to 2014 data, 9,967 people were killed in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes in the United States

- 31 percent of all vehicle crash fatalities in the nation, with crashes spiking on the weekends. California's 2014 data reveals that 882 individuals were killed in DUI crashes.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



- Marjorie Springmeyer's memorial service will be Feb. 27 at 11am at the CVIC Hall, 1602 Esmeralda Ave., Minden.

- • Here is the Sierra roadwork schedule from Caltrans for the upcoming week.
- • The Society of Professional Journalists awarded Jason Paladino, Sierra Nevada College grad and Truckee native, the NorCal 2016 James Madison Freedom of Information Student Award for his investigation into the Navy's Sea Dragon program
- Tahoe Institute for Natural Science recorded 24 eagles during the count in January.
- The El Dorado County annual business survey is available **online**.

Mt. Rose has appealing factors for potential buyers

By Benjamin Spillman, Reno Gazette-Journal

If you ever wanted to own a ski resort overlooking Lake Tahoe now is your chance.

At least if you have some way to get your hands on tens of millions of dollars to pay for it.

That's likely the kind of cash it's going to take acquire Mt. Rose Ski Tahoe from the longtime owner Fritz Buser, 95, who last month announced plans to sell the resort of which he's

been majority owner since 1971.

Conversations with ski industry experts and a look at previous resort sales in the Lake Tahoe-area and elsewhere give some insight as how potential buyers might view Mt. Rose.

Read the whole story

Legislators call for overhaul of Calif.'s utility regulator

By Melanie Mason and Jeff McDonald, Los Angeles Times

State legislators are calling for a major overhaul of California's utilities regulator by striking it from the state Constitution and reassigning its sprawling portfolio in the wake of a series of controversies, including the natural gas leak in Aliso Canyon.

Assemblyman Mike Gatto, D-Los Angeles, said his measure would decentralize the California Public Utilities Commission's oversight of myriad utilities, including electricity, railroad safety and ride-sharing companies such as Uber and Lyft.

"After hearing about how the clear warnings of the impending Aliso Canyon gas leak were lost in the shuffle, I concluded that we need to rethink the way we regulate utilities in the state," Gatto said at a news conference Wednesday in Sacramento. "It's the opposite of too big to fail. Our concern is that the CPUC is too big to succeed."

Read the whole story