

Bill would prevent sanctuary cities in Nevada

By Colton Lochhead, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Senate Minority Leader Michael Roberson wants to prevent any city or county in Nevada from becoming a sanctuary city for undocumented immigrants.

In response to recent comments from a Clark County commissioner, Roberson, R-Henderson, plans introduced a bill Monday aimed at blocking local municipalities from being declared as sanctuary cities and counties. The law would allow the state to withhold funding to jurisdictions that refuse to cooperate with federal immigration authorities.

Sanctuary jurisdictions typically refuse to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement by not detaining undocumented immigrants for federal agents when those agents don't have a warrant.

Read the whole story

Donner Lake level a concern for property owners

Truckee officials are warning Donner Lake property owners of potential flooding.

While there is currently no risk of infrastructure failure, lake levels rising above the high water mark could result in low level flooding of some properties around the lake front.

The Truckee River and streams remain swollen and the Donner Lake water level remains high as a result of the unprecedented amount of rain and snow.

Even though the lake level has stabilized and is dropping, that could change with the next set of storms that will be arriving this week.

Lake front residents are encouraged to survey their property and make adjustments as needed.

Burlesque show returning to The Loft

ElectroSwing Burlesque returns to The Loft in South Lake Tahoe on Feb. 22 and March 29, at 8 each night.

This original live production show features the smooth, strong, and jazzy vocals of Ashley Kepler, with a ever rotating cast. Famous jazz songs of the 1930's and 1940's are blended with electro-swing, world beats, and New Age sounds.

The show is recommended for ages 17 and older. **Reserved seats** are \$30, plus fees.

Katie Dobler – 1983-2017

El Dorado County Deputy District Attorney Katie Dobler died Feb. 13, 2017. She was 35.

Katie had an absolute love for justice, unwavering patriotism, and wholehearted faith and support of the men and women in the military and law enforcement communities.



Katie Dobler

Katie attended El Dorado High School. At UC Davis she earned her undergraduate and law degrees. She started working for the district attorney's office in 2011.

Katie enjoyed watching the Oakland Raiders, was a military brat who bled red white and blue, and loved this country and all that it stands for. Her love of country grew early in life seeing her dad in the Air Force, working on SR-71 Blackbirds at Beale Air Force Base.

District Attorney Vern Pierson noted, "Although her life was cut far too short, Katie had a significant impact on the victims she fought for and lives she touched. She will be missed. "

Services for Katie will be Feb. 21, 11am at the Green Valley Mortuary at 3004 Alexandrite Drive in Rescue. A private interment is planned.

U.S. dams aging; many don't have emergency plans

By Benjamin Spillman, Tracy Loew and Jill Castellano, USA Today

As the nation's 84,000 dams continue to age, a growing number of people downstream of these structures are at risk, according to experts and data of the nation's dams.

It's a problem highlighted this week as nearly 200,000 people evacuated the area near Oroville Dam, which suffered a potential failure of its emergency spillway.

The *USA Today* Network reviewed the latest data in the National Inventory of Dams, which is compiled by the Army Corps of Engineers and shows 15,498 dams across the United States are characterized as high hazard, meaning the loss of at least one human life is likely if the dam were to fail.

The average age of the 84,000 dams in the country is 52 years old, according to a 2013 report by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

[Read the whole story](#)

Opinion: Taxes are the wrong

answer for Calif.

By Ted Gaines

Regarding Senate Bill 1, a measure I voted against in the Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing, that creates permanent new taxes and fees to fund transportation infrastructure:

Is anyone shocked that the proposed solutions to a very real transportation infrastructure crisis are more taxes and fees? It's all Sacramento knows and it's a tired formula that punishes taxpayers for the sins of the politicians.



Ted Gaines

We already have some of the highest gas taxes and worst roads in the country, made even more apparent by the potholes and sinkholes from recent storms. High speed rail needs to be put out of its misery before families pay another penny in gas taxes. The California Department of Transportation is overstaffed by 1,500 people, wasting \$500 million every year. Cut that fat before forcing people to pay a new registration fee for their cars. California diverts a billion dollars in weight fees away from transportation infrastructure every single year. Let's put that money back into road building before shaking down commuters and businesses even more.

Californians are getting 33 cents on the dollar for their transportation spending and pay about three times the national average per mile of road maintenance. That begs for regulatory

reform so that meaningless red tape doesn't get in the way of delivering infrastructure at a cost that's fair to taxpayers. Why is it that California spends nearly \$50,000 in administration per state-controlled road mile while Texas only spends \$4,000? Should our bureaucracy really cost 12-times more than theirs?

The new Washington, D.C., is proposing a massive infrastructure investment, common-sense, money-saving regulatory reforms, and cutting taxes – all at the same time. California needs to follow Washington's lead instead of continuing to reach into hardworking taxpayers' pockets to deliver the same pathetic results.

Ted Gaines, R-El Dorado, represents the 1st Senate District, which includes all or parts of Alpine, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra and Siskiyou counties.

NCAA's early seeds hold little sway at sports books

By Jesse Granger, Las Vegas Sun

On Saturday afternoon, for the first time ever, the NCAA men's basketball committee released its current top 16 teams more than a month before the official bracket is announced on March 12.

Las Vegas sports books paid no attention.

"We have our own power rankings and we base our odds on those rankings and the money that we have already received during

the course of the season,” said Jay Kornegay, vice president of the Westgate sports book. “These rankings are so early that it’s almost for entertainment purposes only. It’s not influencing any changes in the odds.”

Read the whole story

Help possible for damaged Truckee homes, businesses

Truckee residents or business owners who have substantial uninsured damage from the Jan. 7-12 or Feb. 6-11 storms may be able to get some relief.

Truckee declared a state of emergency for the January storm system and anticipates declaring a second state of emergency for the February storms. Based on damages to residences and businesses that occurred during these two emergency declaration periods, Nevada County may be eligible for a U.S. Small Business Administration emergency declaration. An emergency declaration by the SBA would enable individuals and businesses to apply for SBA’s low interest disaster loan program.

Truckee and Nevada County Office of Emergency Services are reaching out to potentially-impacted residents and businesses to determine if the county has enough impacted parties for SBA eligibility.

Substantial economic injury means the business is unable to meet its obligations and to pay its ordinary and necessary operating expenses.

For more information, contact the town by March 3 at 530.582.2914 or hhobbs@townoftruckee.com.

Hwy. 50 open in Nevada and California



Minor slides on Highway 50 didn't stop traffic early Feb. 10.
Photo Copyright 2017 Carolyn E. Wright

Update Feb. 15, 6:25am:

By Kathryn Reed

Highway 50 on the Nevada and California sides is open.

One lane of Highway 50 in each direction is open on the Nevada

side, allowing traffic to flow between the South Shore and Carson City.

The Nevada route had been closed since Feb. 8 because SUV-sized boulders had fallen onto the road and others were resting precariously on the hillside.

According to the Nevada Department of transportation, "Travel speeds are reduced to 35 mph. The traffic shifts are anticipated to be semi-permanent until a full-scale improvement project to stabilize and reinforce the roadside slope where the slides occurred is constructed."

Crews put two rows of concrete rail on the eastbound side in an attempt to be a barrier if more rocks come cascading down.

While this current road closure in California has been an inconvenience, it is nothing compared to 1982 and 1997. In 1982, Highway 50 was closed for 75 days and was off-limits for 27 days in 1997.

"We are working on the cleanup. Most areas are buttoned up," Bob Ericksen, Caltrans engineer, told *Lake Tahoe News* on Tuesday afternoon. The road opened late Tuesday night.

The highway had been closed since Friday when several sizable slides crossed all lanes of traffic. Most have been in the Whitehall, Kyburz areas. The most problematic one involves sand coming down from the hillside.

"It's basically a giant sand dune in the mountains," Ericksen said. It has been pushed back as far as possible and stabilized to the point crews believe it's safe for traffic to resume.

The sand kept coming down as crews were clearing the area. Ericksen said 14,000 cubic yards of debris have been hauled away in the last few days. In 1997, 80,000 cubic yards were removed.

“Mud has reached the river, but not enough to cause any blockage. The water is running with such force there is very little possibility of blockage without a massive slide like what happened in 1982 and 1997,” Ericksen said.

Sixty people had been working to clear the area, with work occurring 24/7. It has involved five large excavators, four loaders, 25 semi-trucks, one paver, one grinder and other support equipment.

Ericksen, though, is concerned that another storm is just hours away.

“More rain is going to be a challenge up here. We are staging equipment up and down 50 in case we have more problems,” Ericksen said.

NDOT is worried about the oncoming storm systems as well.

From the National Weather Service in Reno: “A series of weak to moderate storms is expected to impact the region beginning Thursday and potentially lasting through the middle of next week. Current projections don’t indicate any strong storms. However, with very wet antecedent conditions in lower elevations and exceptionally deep snowpack at higher elevations, even small amounts of precipitation could create renewed flooding concerns.”

The rain in the basin is supposed to start Wednesday night and turn to snow by Thursday night.

Road closures can happen at any time. It is important to check the respective state departments of transportation websites for current info, or click on the state icons on the home page of *Lake Tahoe News*, or call 511 in each state for road info.

Water level of Lake Tahoe continues to rise

As of Monday, Lake Tahoe is more than 3 feet above its natural rim of 6,223 feet.

The National Weather Service in Reno said on Feb. 13 the lake is at 6,226.37 feet at the Fanny Bridge in Tahoe City.

The lake is $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet higher now compared to Oct. 1. That equates to more than 138 billion gallons of water having come via rain, snow or runoff.

With more storms coming this week, it's likely to be even higher.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*