

Sandoval signs prevailing wage bill

By Associated Press

A bill that will suspend Nevada's prevailing wage rules on school construction projects was signed into law by Gov. Brian Sandoval on Friday.

Senate Bill 119 will extend school construction bonds beyond the term approved by voters as a way to ease overcrowding, but also ends rules that are essentially a minimum wage for contractors.

It was opposed by Democrats who said it would harm middle-class contractors. Some conservatives opposed the bill because they see the bond rollover as a tax increase.

The governor issued the following statement after signing SB119, companion legislation to SB207, Schools for the New Nevada, Building for our Future: "Children across Nevada need more schools now, and our education system has limited resources to build them. This narrowly tailored, extraordinary measure will allow school districts to stretch these limited resources as far as possible to meet an immediate need."

LTCC students join march on Capitol



College students on March 5
protest in Sacramento.
Photo/Jessica Nicole

By Ben Deci, Fox-40

Higher education students, including those from Lake Tahoe Community College, and staff marched on the Capitol Building Thursday to express their frustrations with Gov. Jerry Brown and UC President Janet Napolitano.

Brown is threatening to cut \$120 million in funding to the University of California system if there are tuition increases and more out-of-state students admitted, but Napolitano promises to do both of those things unless the state can come up with a \$219 million bump to those schools.

As the UC and CSUS systems are deciding how to serve students, who gets in and who's left out next fall, Brown and Napolitano have formed a committee of two – a closed door negotiation to hammer out a deal for next year.

Read the whole story

Calif. bill would protect civilians recording police

By Patrick McGreevy, Los Angeles Times

From the LAPD beating of Rodney King 24 years ago to last year's death of Eric Garner after a scuffle with New York police officers, bystanders who recorded the incidents on video have allowed the public to see at least some of what happened.

One California state senator wants to protect citizens who properly record the actions of officers in public from arrest or interference by the police. State Sen. Ricardo Lara, D-Bell Gardens, has introduced legislation that would clarify that a civilian who makes an audio or video recording of a police officer, while the officer is in a public place, is not violating the law.

[Read the whole story](#)

El Nino too little, too late to help drought

By Associated Press

A long anticipated El Nino has finally arrived. But for drought-struck California, it's too little, too late, meteorologists say.

The National Weather Service on Thursday proclaimed the phenomenon is now in place. It's a warming of a certain patch

of the central Pacific that changes weather patterns worldwide, associated with flooding in some places, droughts elsewhere, a generally warmer globe, and fewer Atlantic hurricanes. El Ninos are usually so important that economists even track them because of how they affect commodities.

But this is a weak, weird and late version of El Nino, so don't expect too many places to feel its effects, said Mike Halpert, deputy director of the weather service's Climate Prediction Center. He said there may be a slight decrease in the number of Atlantic hurricanes this summer, but he also points out that 1992's devastating Hurricane Andrew occurred during an El Nino summer, so coastal residents shouldn't let their guard down.

Ever since March 2014, the weather service has been saying an El Nino was just around the corner. But it didn't quite show up until now. Meteorologists said the key patch of the Pacific was warming but they didn't see the second technical part of its definition – certain changes in the atmosphere. Halpert said he didn't know why this El Nino didn't form as forecast, saying "something just didn't click this year."

"What we've learned from this event is that our definition is very confusing and we need to work on it," Halpert said.

Last year, some experts were hoping that El Nino would help the southwestern droughts because moderate-to-strong events bring more winter rain and snow to California – even flooding and mudslides during 1998's strong El Nino. But this El Nino arrives at the end of California's rainy season and is quite weak, Halpert said.

"This is not the answer for California," Halpert said.

The U.S. Southeast may see some above average rainfall, which is typical for an El Nino, Halpert said.

This is the first El Nino since spring of 2010.

Allan Clarke, a physical oceanography professor at Florida State University, said as far he's concerned, El Nino has been around awhile and the weather service didn't acknowledge it. But he agrees that this doesn't look like a strong one.

That fits with the pattern the last 10 years, when El Nino's flip side, a cooling of the central Pacific called La Nina, has been more common. From 2005 to 2014, there have been twice as many months with a La Nina than with El Nino, weather records show. More than half of the time, the world has been in neither.

UC plans to limit resident enrollment

By Alexei Koseff, Sacramento Bee

The standoff between state officials and the University of California over its finances and admissions policy grew tense Tuesday as the university threatened to limit enrollment of California students next year unless it receives more money from the state.

UC President Janet Napolitano told an Assembly budget subcommittee that the university will cap in-state enrollment at current levels while continuing to increase the number of nonresident students, pending the outcome of budget negotiations with Gov. Jerry Brown.

"We will not not be admitting students that we don't know that we actually have funding for," Napolitano said.

Democratic Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins slammed the plan,

expressing frustration over “UC’s latest attempt to use students as bargaining chips.”

Read the whole story

Nev. OKs school bonds without voter approval

By Trevon Milliard, Reno Gazette-Journal

Nevada school districts now have the authority to issue 10-year bonds without voter approval, according to an emergency bill passed by the Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Brian Sandoval on Wednesday.

The law change will provide an estimated \$20 million a year to Washoe County School District to build new schools and renovate existing campuses over the next decade, not to mention also providing a multimillion-dollar funding source to districts around the state for the same cause.

The emergency bill, Senate Bill 207, was a quick replacement Tuesday for Senate Bill 119, which was stalled in the Assembly because of another provision that would have dropped the requirement that workers be paid prevailing wages for school construction projects.

Read the whole story

Ag officials find insect posing serious threat to winegrowers

By KTVU

A destructive insect that could have serious adverse impacts for wineries and agricultural water use was discovered in Marin County last week, county officials said Wednesday.

An official with the Marin County Department of Agriculture found a glassy-winged sharpshooter last Thursday while inspecting a shipment from a nursery in Ventura County, according to county officials.

That shipment has since been returned, but the name of the nursery that sent it is being withheld to prevent unwanted attention, according to the Department of Agriculture.

The glassy-winged sharpshooter is known to feed on more than 300 plants, including grapevines and almond trees, many of which are found in Northern California. Apples, blackberries and eucalyptus trees are also among the affected species of plants.

Once attached to a host plant, the glassy-winged sharpshooter can drain 200 to 300 times its own body weight in water every day. A tree that has been heavily infested can lose 10 to 15 gallons of fluid each day, requiring farmers to significantly increase irrigation, according to the Department of Agriculture.

Read the whole story

\$10 mil. donation to create Barton wellness, orthopedic center in South Lake Tahoe



The Maloff medical facility could open in 2017.
Rendering/Provided

If people didn't know the Maloff name, they will now.

The second significant building in South Lake Tahoe is going to have their name on it. Next up is the Robert Maloff Center of Excellence.

The Barton Foundation was given \$10 million to build a health and sports performance center just behind Barton Memorial

Hospital near the emergency room. Talks have been under way since last summer to bring this donation to fruition.

This is part of Barton Health's overall master plan that will delve into what the healthcare organization wants to be in the future. In the last several years it has bought various medical practices and has started to have the bulk of its facilities be near the hospital. This also will tie into what the city is doing with the Tahoe Valley Area Plan. In that plan is a separate medical niche.

The other significant donation by Lisa Maloff came last fall when she gave Lake Tahoe Community College nearly \$6 million to build the university center that will bear the Maloff name.

Maloff's late husband, Bob, co-owned and operated Lake Tahoe Inn and Timber Cove Lodge in South Lake Tahoe. Plus, he had other significant real estate dealings. He died in 2011 at the age of 90.

Lisa Maloff, who still resides in South Lake Tahoe, was a founding member of the Barton Hospital Auxiliary. Promoting wellness, activity, and fitness in the community have long been goals of the Maloffs. Building this center will carry those beliefs further.

The donation will fund what is likely to be a two-story 25,000-square-foot orthopedic, sports performance and wellness center. Medical experts will have state-of-the-art equipment to use on patients in a coordinated, team-based approach to medical care in one location. It will also offer physical therapy, sports medicine and sports performance, and diagnosis-specific fitness and nutrition programs.

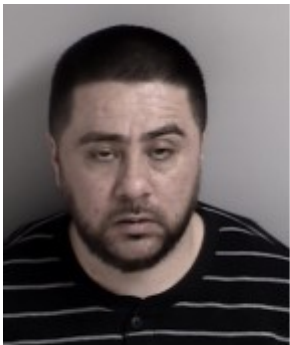
It is expected to break ground this summer and open in 2017.

A bit of irony is that South Lake Tahoe could have had a similar facility 25 years ago, but Barton said no to orthopedist Richard Steadman when he wanted to create a state-

of-the-art orthopedic facility in South Lake Tahoe. He ended up doing so in 1990 in Vail, and now it is a world-renowned clinic.

– *Lake Tahoe News staff report*

2 accused of using stolen IDs to buy art in SLT



Marcus Gamez



Chad Galvan

Two South Lake Tahoe men are accused of stealing the identities of five people in order to illegally purchase art.

Chad Galvan, 31, and Marcus Gamez, 31, were arrested last week on burglary and identity theft related charges.

“On Feb. 25, they went to the Marcus Ashley Gallery in South Lake Tahoe. While there they attempted to purchase a piece of art using a credit line they had opened in a victim’s identity. They also went to the gallery several days prior and successfully purchased artwork with stolen identities,” Detective Doug Sentell told *Lake Tahoe News*.

They used information from the identities to create several

fraudulent Pennsylvania driver's licenses that contained the victims' names, home addresses, and dates of birth, according to Sentell. Authorities don't know how the identities were stolen.

Businesses, including hotels, believing the men may have been at their establishment are asked to call Sentell at 530.542.6138.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report

3 accused of burglarizing S. Tahoe businesses

Three Bay Area men were arrested early Wednesday morning in South Lake Tahoe on burglary charges.

An alarm went off at Tahoe Keys Liquor about 1am March 4. Two people were inside the store when a police officer arrived. The glass on the front door had been smashed.

An El Dorado County sheriff's deputy stopped a third suspect who was trying to leave in a vehicle. Detectives are still determining what if anything was stolen.

Arrested were Lorenzo Jackson, 20, of Antioch; Shayan Taghi, 20, from San Ramon; and Ryan Mello, 21, of San Lorenzo. All three were arrested on burglary and conspiracy charges. Taghi was also charged with vehicle theft because because the vehicle he was in had been reported stolen.

Officers are also investigating a second burglary that

occurred at American Gas on Emerald Bay Road before the Tahoe Keys Liquor burglary. A general description of the American Gas suspects is similar to the suspects arrested in the Tahoe Keys Liquor burglary, officers said.

These incidents are not related to the rash of burglaries in late October at the Y, according to officers.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report