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**SPORTS | C1**

Saturday, April 20, 2019

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The fuselage of a 1989 Nanchang CJ-6 sits upside down and damaged after a braking system failure sent the plane over the end of the runway at the Nevada County Airport Friday afternoon. The two occupants of the plane sustained minor injuries and were able to walk away from the crash.

## Two walk away from plane crash

By Elias Funez  
Multimedia Reporter

A plane with a faulty braking system sent an airplane and its two occupants over the end of the runway at the Nevada County Airport Friday afternoon.

Both the pilot and the passenger were conscious and able to walk away from the wreckage with minor injuries and were taken by ambulance as a precaution.

Reports of a plane that had gone off of the end of the runway came in at 1:33 p.m., according to Nevada County Sheriff's Sergeant Rusty Green.

The aircraft had taken off earlier in the day from the Nevada County Airport and was returning to the runway when the incident occurred.

The plane — a 1989 Nanchang CJ-6 — is a Chinese-built aircraft that was introduced in 1958 and was used primarily as a trainer.

Due to the plane's relatively low price and sturdy construction it is a popular aircraft among hobbyists.



One of the plane's occupants signals that he is missing his hearing aids before attempting to locate them in the wreckage of the Nanchang CJ-6.

The plane's braking system is powered by pneumatics, which may have failed during Friday's crash.

The Federal Aviation Administration was notified of the crash and must first give its clearance before the wreckage can be extracted, potentially with the help of a crane.

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The Nanchang CJ-6 and its occupants went over the end of the runway at the Nevada County Airport after landing and being unable to bring the plane to a stop.

## Groups accuse NID of trying to circumvent law

By Liz Kellar  
Staff Writer

Local river protection groups and a state regulatory board are protesting what they characterize as an attempt by Nevada Irrigation District to circumvent the federal law.

At issue is the relicensing process for NID's Yuba Bear hydroelectric project — which includes French, Faucherie, Sawmill and Bowman lakes and Rollins Reservoir, as well as four powerhouses (Bowman, Dutch Flat, Chicago Park and Rollins).

The legal wrangling all stems from a recent federal court ruling having to do with the Klamath River, and the regulatory authority of California and Oregon over the water projects on that river. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeal ruled in favor of the Hoopa Valley Indian Tribe, which reportedly had grown weary of the

endless delays in decommissioning a series of dams on the Klamath.

The federal court ruled that a common practice of state water boards to allow water agencies to continually withdraw and re-submit their applications to get around a one-year time clock was not valid and meant they had lost their regulatory authority over the project.

Whether that legal decision in that specific case has anything to do with other water projects and water districts is up in the air — and that ambiguity is being challenged on a number of different fronts.

Arguably at the forefront of the battle is Nevada Irrigation District. The local water district is the first California water agency to ask whether that decision means that California no longer has

NID, A6

## New facts change fatal crash case

By Alan Riquelmy  
Staff Writer

A felony vehicular manslaughter case has been reduced to a misdemeanor after Nevada County prosecutors say they received more information about the fatal wreck.

Prosecutors opted for a lesser vehicular manslaughter charge against Joaquin Lopez Pinto, 28, of Honduras, after learning speed wasn't the cause of the March 21 crash, Assistant District Attorney Chris Walsh said.

"Our main theory for the gross negligence was the high speed," Walsh added.

Authorities initially believed that speed led to the collision that killed a 38-year-old woman. An investigation by the California Highway Patrol revealed it wasn't, Walsh said.

Pinto can't face a felony without gross negligence — in this case, high speed — leading Walsh last week to reduce the charge.

Pinto, who also faces a

misdemeanor charge of failing to have a driver's license, faces up to a year in jail if convicted of vehicular manslaughter.

Deputy Public Defender Micah Pierce, who represents Pinto, couldn't be reached for comment.

Authorities arrested Pinto after the 9 p.m. March 21 wreck on Highway 49, near Alta Sierra Drive.

According to reports, Pinto was driving a 2006 silver Honda Civic north when he skidded off the road and struck a tree. His passenger, who wasn't wearing a seat belt, died. Suffering minor injuries, Pinto was treated at the hospital and then charged. He's since made bond.

Pinto is in the country without legal permission, Walsh said. The immigration status played a role when determining his bond, but likely won't affect his case.

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### WEATHER

H: 61°  
L: 45°

See full forecast, Page A9

Scattered T-Storms



### OBITUARIES

Judith Cartoscelli  
Fay Wales

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### Teen swept to sea while boogie boarding

SAN FRANCISCO — Rescuers Friday ended a two-day search for an 18-year-old who was swept out to sea while boogie boarding with friends at a beach south of San Francisco.

Friends and family identified the teen as high school senior Naphthali Moimoi, a football player from Hayward, California,

who was on a trip to Half Moon Bay with friends during spring break, KRON-TV reported.

Moimoi's friends called 911 Thursday afternoon after seeing the teen's boogie board pop out of the water and then spotting him face down and unresponsive in the water, San Mateo County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Rosemary Blankswade said.

— Associated Press

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