

**FOOD & DRINK**

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\$1.50

Partly cloudy  
51°/37° See 12B

# The Fresno Bee



## Newsom says Trump seeks 'retribution' in bid to halt rail funds

BY DALE KASLER AND TONY BIZJAK  
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The Trump administration, stepping up its fight with California over the state's struggling high-speed rail project, said Tuesday it plans to rescind a \$928 million federal grant. The action could imperil the first phase of the project, connecting the major cities of the San Joaquin Valley, which is dependent on federal funding.

The Federal Railroad Administration, in a letter to the California High-Speed Rail Authority, said it intends to terminate the grant effective March 5, saying state officials had failed to comply with the terms of the funding. Congress appropriated the money in 2010.

Among other things, the federal agency said Gov. Gavin Newsom's plans to downsize the project represent "a significant retreat from the state's initial vision and commitment and frustrates the purpose for which federal funding was awarded." Newsom, in a prepared statement, said "it's no coincidence that the administration's threat

comes 24 hours after California led 16 states in challenging the president's farcical 'national emergency (seeking funding for a border wall).' The president even tied the two issues together in a tweet this morning. This is clear political retribution by President Trump, and we won't sit idly by. This is California's money, and we are going to fight for it." The move came a week after Newsom, in his State of the State address, said he wants to scale back the rail project, which is billions of dollars over budget, and focus on completing a stretch between Merced and Bakersfield. However, the Democratic governor insisted he isn't killing the rest of the project altogether and said the state will explore ways of fi-

SEE RAIL, 5A

## Saint Agnes settles suit over lewd act

BY LEWIS GRISWOLD  
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A female patient who sued Saint Agnes Medical Center after a male nurse allegedly rubbed himself against her for sexual gratification has settled out of court for an undisclosed amount. The settlement was reached Tuesday morning moments before a civil trial in Fresno County Superior Court was about to start.

Fresno attorney Nicholas J.P. Wagner, who represented the patient, said the settlement puts Saint Agnes on notice it must do a better job of screening employees. "It's a matter of public safety," he said. "If they see it comes with a monetary penalty, it might get people to do something more than lip service."

In a statement, the hospital said there was no way of knowing the nurse had the potential to act in such a manner.

"We believe that settling the case was the right thing to do for the patient, and while we can't take back what happened, we are grateful to have resolved this matter," the hospital said.

In late December 2015, Bertha Solorio, now 38, of Fresno County had gall bladder surgery.

She went home after the surgery, but returned for an endoscopy in which a viewing instrument was placed down her esophagus.

As she was in the recovery room, the nurse had her straighten out her leg, according to court papers. The nurse then guided her feet onto his penis through his hospital scrubs. He then moved to her left side and placed her hand on his penis, court papers state.

Solorio was "horrified" by what the nurse did, but had a tube down her throat and could not cry out for help, said attorney Laura Brown, who worked with Wagner on the case.

### 6-MONTH JAIL SENTENCE

After the incident was reported, registered nurse Brent Jensen of Fresno was investigated by Fresno police and charges were filed against

SEE NURSE, 5A



CRAIG KOHLRUSS [ckohlruess@fresnobee.com](mailto:ckohlruess@fresnobee.com)

Ice and snow cover the dock near Shaver Lake Point as at least one person walks out on the ice Tuesday. Recent storms brought cold temperatures and snow. Some snow and rain are forecast for this week but temperatures are expected to remain in the 50s in the Valley.

## After sunny day, expect more rain to fall in Valley

BY WILLIAM RAMIREZ  
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Tuesday's sunny skies won't last long. More wet weather is expected Wednesday in the Central Valley, following two weeks of freezing temperatures and snow in the foothills and rain in the Valley.

Carlos Molina, meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said the rain and snow should start falling around sunset. Areas in the San Joaquin Valley like Fresno, Madera and

Merced should see between a quarter to a half an inch of precipitation Wednesday night and Thursday morning.

Temperature highs for much of the San Joaquin Valley are expected to remain in the 50s throughout the week.

Snow levels in the foothills are expected to be around 2,500 feet. Oakhurst and Bass Lake are expecting a quarter to a third of an inch of snowfall.

Molina said snowfall is expected to be the heaviest at elevations above 4,000 feet, such as Fish Camp and Yosemite Valley, which are both

### VIDEO

Video footage captured an overhead view of iced-in docks and frozen cabins at Shaver Lake and Bass Lake. To view both videos, visit [www.fresnobee.com/local](http://www.fresnobee.com/local)

expecting between 3 to 6 inches of snowfall.

Temperatures highs in the foothills are expected to remain between 39 to 49 degrees with lows between 24 to 34 degrees, according to the National Weather Service.

Bass Lake flirted with spillage levels over the weekend at Crane Valley Dam, though wa-

ters began receding. Denny Boyles, PG&E spokesperson, said the lake was 3 inches over the spill crest.

"Based on some of the data, it won't be too hard for (Bass Lake) to deal with this additional precipitation," Molina said.

Central Valley skies are expected to clear up again on Friday but Molina warned of another storm forming in the Pacific Ocean that could pass through the area over the weekend.

Wednesday's storm will be the latest round of what already has been a cold, wet winter in Central California.

This past weekend, more than 3 feet of snow fell in the Bass Lake area. Photos on social media showed parts of the lake frozen over.

Shaver Lake in Fresno County

SEE RAIN, 5A

**BUSINESS**

### PETERS AWARD LUNCHEON TODAY

Matty Matoian, right, will receive the Leon S. Peters Award for his work as owner of OK Produce, the business started by his parents in 1950. 6B

**LOCAL**

### VALLEY CHILDREN'S FOUNDER DIES

Carolyn Peck, right, the last of the "founding mothers" of Valley Children's Hospital in Fresno, died Monday at the age of 91, the hospital announced. 2A

**LOCAL**

### FEDS SETTLE SUIT ALLEGING ASSAULT

A woman settles a lawsuit brought by the ACLU alleging she was sexually assaulted when she was stopped by the Border Patrol as a teenager. 3A

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