



Joey Shaw

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RENO BUDGET

City cuts could close 3 fire stations

Council postpones decision on fire layoffs

BY SUSAN VOYLES
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Three fire stations — at Somerset, Skyline and Upper Stead — could be closed starting July 1 if the Reno Fire Department is required to lay off 16 more firefighters amid Reno's budget crisis.

The 16 firefighters would be in

addition to layoffs last week of 12 firefighters, two fire inspectors and two clerical staff in the face of a \$6 million revenue shortfall for the year that ends June 30.

Cutting 5 percent, as required for all other departments, would mean closing three fire stations rather than the one anticipated with 16 layoffs.

The Reno City Council, during a Wednesday retreat at the National Bowling Stadium, told the fire chief to prepare a budget with the full 5 percent cut and postponed a decision on fire staffing until Jan. 27 when it has firmer revenue numbers for 2009-10.

SEE CUTS ON 3A

Reno budget cuts: departments at risk

■ Up to three Reno fire stations, each with an engine, could be closed if the department is required to lay off 32 employees and leave 50 other jobs vacant.

■ Reno Redevelopment Agency staffing would be reduced to two employees and a part-time administrator. While the Freight House and bus depot projects beside the baseball stadium will continue, the Virginia Street facade program and the purchase of the downtown post office have been canceled.

■ The police department has 49 vacancies. Patrols remain the top priority but the traffic division would be smaller.

■ The parks department has proposed 14 cuts in programs or services including closing Traner Pool. But the council intends to find other savings to keep pools open in the summer. After-school programs in Verdi and Pleasant Valley would be cut and youth camps consolidated. Fewer trees would be planted and the downtown flower baskets would be eliminated.

TODAY'S QUICK READ

SANDOVAL PLAN CUTS TEACHER, WORKER PAY

Republican gubernatorial candidate Brian Sandoval proposed \$500 million in cuts, including teacher and state worker salaries and eliminating health benefits for workers retiring after July 1.

LOCAL & REGION, 2A

U.S. OBESITY RATE HIGH BUT NOT RISING

Government data for 2007-08 shows the national obesity rate has held steady for about five years, still with more than two-thirds of adults and almost a third of kids overweight, with no sign of improvement.

NATION & WORLD, 1B

MALE GENE EVOLVES FASTER THAN OTHERS

Researchers say that just because the Y chromosome, which determines gender, is evolving at a speedy rate, it doesn't necessarily mean men are more evolved.

SCIENCE, 2B

ROCK ART EXHIBIT WILL BE FREE ON JAN. 21

The admission fee will be waived Jan. 21 when the Nevada State Museum hosts an opening reception for the new exhibit, "Rock Art Perspectives: Pictographs and Petroglyphs," from 5

GOOD NEWS!
A DAILY DOSE

to 7:30 p.m. The exhibit includes images and text by artists and archaeologists specializing in rock art of the Southwest, Great Basin and California Jan. 21, with sketches, paintings, photos and sculpture on the subject of rock art, including rock art in popular culture. Call 775-687-4810 for details.

SEND YOUR GOOD NEWS TO goodnews@RGJ.com.

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 43°
Low 22°
Forecast, page 6B

INSIDE TODAY

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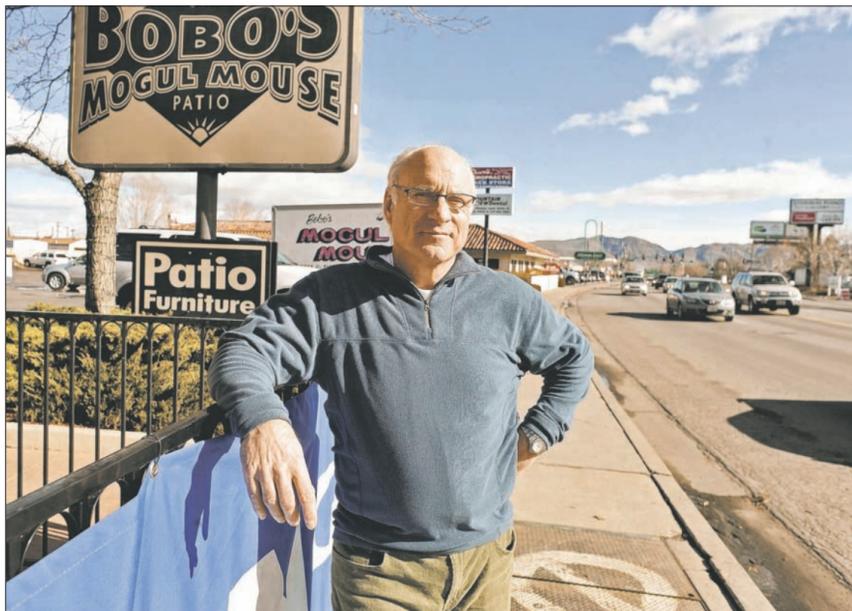
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TRANSPORTATION

Business owners to fight Moana Lane widening



DAVID B. PARKER/RGJ

Steve Sheehan stands in front of his store, Bobo's Mogul Mouse, on Moana Lane. Sheehan said he has concerns about the Regional Transportation Commission's plans to widen Moana between South Virginia Street and U.S. 395.

Project would add lanes in 2011

BY JEFF DELONG
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Transportation officials want to widen part of Moana Lane, with some business owners along the commercial strip worried the changes could cost them dearly.

Widening Moana from four to six lanes between South Virginia Street and U.S. 395 is necessary to accommodate traffic overloads in the years ahead, Washoe County Regional Transportation Commission officials said.

Major expansions of the intersections of Moana with South Virginia and Ki-

etke Lane also are planned.

Funded largely through the motor vehicle fuel tax increase approved by voters in November 2008, construction of the \$23 million project could commence in 2011 and take about a year to complete.

"This is one of our major project undertakings," RTC Executive Director Lee Gibson said.

It's also one that comes with major complications. The stretch of road is bracketed on both sides by businesses, with 22 properties affected in some way.

SEE MOANA ON 4A

Moana meeting

WHAT: RTC informational meeting
WHEN: 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. today

WHERE: Atlantis Casino Convention Center, Paradise ballroom

Moana traffic

KIETZKE TO U.S. 395: Current: 32,000 vehicles per day; In 10 years: 61,000; In 20 years: 68,000

S. VIRGINIA TO KIETZKE: Current: 28,000 vehicles per day; In 10 years: 40,000; In 20 years: 51,000

Source: RTC

HAITIAN QUAKE

Reno family gets good news from earthquake zone

BY LENITA POWERS
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Amid the horror and grief emerging after the earthquake in Haiti, one Reno family has received some good news.

Art and Eileen Lyon were told Wednesday that Art's uncle, who works at a church orphanage in Port-au-Prince near the epicenter of the 7.0 quake, is safe.

"His pastor called my grandma and said everybody was fine," Eileen Lyon said. "There was only one injury. A child with a broken arm, but all the missionaries are fine. We're just happy they're all OK."

The Lyons' uncle, Jim Duggan of Lake Forest, Calif., arrived in Haiti on Friday and was scheduled to be there for 10 days at the Child Hope International's Maison de Lumiere, she said.

SEE HAITI ON 4A



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

A woman cries Wednesday after a loved one died in the earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

HOW TO DONATE

SALVATION ARMY: www.salvationarmyusa.org; 800-SAL-ARMY; Salvation Army World Service Office, International Disaster Relief Fund, P.O. Box 630728, Baltimore, MD 21263-0728; designate "Haiti Earthquake"

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES: www.crs.org/haiti; 800-736-3467; Catholic Relief Services, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21203-7090

AMERICAN RED CROSS: www.redcross.org; 1-800-RED-CROSS; American Red Cross, P.O. 37243, Washington, D.C., 20013; specify that the donation is for Haiti earthquake victims; or text "Haiti" to 90999 to send a \$10 donation

INSIDE

Tens of thousands are feared dead in Haiti. **1B**

ON RGJ.COM/HAITI

Photos, latest stories and how to help.

REAL ESTATE

Nevada remains leader in home loss

STAFF REPORT

Nevada had the nation's highest foreclosure rate for the third straight year in 2009.

One in 10 housing units in Nevada received either a notice of default, notice of trustee sale or a foreclosure notice last year, nearly three times the national average.

The Silver State filings were up 44 percent from 2008.

Washoe County's rate was one in 16 housing units but had a 62 percent increase in filings from 2008.

Ken Amundson, president of the Reno-Sparks Association of Realtors, said he expects Nevada to maintain a high number of distressed properties this year.

A positive trend was that actual foreclosures in Washoe peaked in July and generally went down since, said Brian Kaiser, a housing and real estate analyst with the Center for Regional Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno.

"With the potential for the five-year (adjustable rate mortgage) resets along with continued pressure on defaults due to unemployment, notices of default will continue to see an increase or at least maintain a high level," Amundson said.

Amundson, however, cautioned that notice-of-default numbers might be inflated since several notices could be filed on the same house. This is especially an issue for homes purchased during the boom, which could have more than one mortgage on them, along with homeowners' association filings.

See full story on page 5A.

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