

# NEVADA APPEAL

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NEVADA APPEAL FILE PHOTO

The view from top the of the Galena Creek bridge in summer 2009.

## \$900,000 tab seen to fix freeway bridge

*Officials: Cracks up to 30 feet long pose no safety threat*

RENO (AP) — The state could end up paying nearly \$1 million in repairs to fix cracks on a bridge being built as part of a major highway expansion between Reno and Carson City.

Officials for the Nevada Department of Transportation said the safety of the Galena Creek bridge is in no way jeopardized and that construction should be completed by fall of next year.

The cracks are up to 30 feet long and about the width of a dime at the widest point. They were found earlier this month in four areas during testing of metal pipes that help provide internal support for the

bridge that spans 1,700 feet long some 300 feet above Galena Creek south of Reno.

It's the latest setback in a series of contract disputes and other delays for the 8-mile-long highway bypass project that began in 2003 and originally was supposed to be finished last year. When completed, the bridge will be the largest of its kind

See **Bridge**, Page **A4**

## Schools to seek lower bond rate

*Taxpayers won't see decrease in bills; city would absorb difference*

BY **TERI VANCE**  
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Voters will be asked to approve a 10-year rollover bond in this year's election that would improve nearly all school sites, pay for a variety of programs and increase technology. School board trustees voted Tuesday to pursue a bond issue at 43 cents per \$100 of a home's assessed value. It would fund about \$45 million worth of projects during the next 10 years.

The current rate is 47 cents. However, the 4-cent difference would be absorbed by city taxing entities, likely the city itself, which could add about \$600,000 a year to the city's budget.

"The fact is, the taxpayer's bill will not go down," said Mike Mitchell, who directed the master plan process. "It's just that the revenue will go somewhere else. Even if the bond is defeated in November, (the taxpayer) will still pay the same."

Mitchell, former operations director for the school district, presented the recommendations from the master plan committee to board members during Tuesday's meeting.

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## Heller urges Nevada AG to sue over health reform

BY **SANDRA CHEREB**  
Associated Press Writer

Rep. Dean Heller, R-Nev., joined Gov. Jim Gibbons on Tuesday in urging the state attorney general to sue the federal government over health reform, while one GOP U.S. Senate hopeful announced an effort to fight the law with a ballot initiative.

In a letter to Attorney General

Catherine Cortez Masto, Heller echoed concerns that the bill will create unfunded mandates and questioned the constitutionality of requiring everyone to obtain health insurance.

"A law is not simply justified by its intentions. Congress must honor states'



Dean Heller

rights and the equality of each citizen," Heller wrote.

Immediately after the president signed the bill Tuesday, attorneys general of at least 13 states filed suit to block its implementation.

Gibbons on Monday renewed his call for Masto, who is a Democrat, to sue the federal government, and said his administration would act on its own if she declines.

### RELATED STORIES

**Obama signs health care bill, see Page A11**

Masto said her office is conducting a legal analysis of the law. "It is one thing to simply say, 'let's sue'; it is another

See **Health**, Page **A4**

**Rib Palooza+**

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