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SPORTS, 1B



The Desert Sun

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Budget deal: \$79M for CSUSB Palm Desert

Local leaders tout it as a step toward stand-alone campus

Tom Coulter

Palm Springs Desert Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

State lawmakers and Gov. Gavin Newsom have reached a budget agreement that includes funding for a student center at the Cal State University San Bernardino satellite campus in Palm Desert — a move that local officials

believe could be a turning point in their efforts to get a standalone campus in the Coachella Valley.

The framework agreement, announced late Sunday by the governor and legislative leaders, earmarks a total of \$79 million — the full amount that had been requested — for construction of the student center at the Palm Desert campus. A final vote on the \$300 billion

budget is expected in the coming days.

The funding came after two of the region's elected lawmakers — Assemblymembers Chad Mayes, I-Rancho Mirage, and Eduardo Garcia, D-Coachella — pushed aggressively for the funding, with the backing of many Coachella Valley officials.

Mayes, whose office has pushed to get state money to the Palm Desert cam-

pus in the past, said the funding marks "a defining moment" in the efforts to get an independent, four-year campus in the Coachella Valley.

"It's the first time you've seen a real, significant investment by the state of California in building that campus out," Mayes told The Desert Sun.

Mayes, who is in his last year in the Assembly after deciding to not seek re-election, acknowledged the funding

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Tentative deal reached for inflation relief in California

Alexei Koseff

CALMATTERS

Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislative leaders have reached a tentative agreement to provide as much as \$1,050 to millions of California families to help with rising gas prices and inflation, according to emails sent last week to Democratic members of the state Senate and Assembly.

The three-tier program would benefit an estimated 17.4 million California taxpayers, including individual filers making as much as \$250,000 and joint filers making as much as \$500,000, according to the outline obtained by CalMatters, with low- and middle-income households set to receive incrementally more money.

The plan is part of a broader \$300 billion budget deal that state leaders continue to negotiate ahead of the July 1 start of the fiscal year.

Though the email to Democratic senators and their chiefs of staff called the rebate proposal an "agreement," a spokesperson for Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins, a San Diego Democrat, cautioned today in a statement that "any tentative agreement can unravel."

Anthony York, a spokesperson for Newsom, reiterated that point, denying there was a deal because details could still change until a final budget compromise is publicly announced.

"We're not taking any issue off the table until the entire budget's done," he said.

Under the plan, households making as much as \$75,000 for individuals or \$150,000 for joint filers would receive \$350 per taxpayer, plus an additional \$350 if they have at least one dependent. So a single parent would receive \$700 and two-parent families would receive \$1,050.

The amount would decrease to \$250 per taxpayer for households making as much as \$125,000 for individuals or \$250,000 for joint filers, and to \$200 per taxpayer for households making as much as \$250,000 for individuals or \$500,000 for joint filers. In both of these tiers, parents would

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Giving young children a place to run, learn



Jade Lua, 3, slides down a slide at The Kids Clubhouse in La Quinta on June 17. JAY CALDERON/THE DESERT SUN

Kids Clubhouse in La Quinta is a dream realized

Sherry Barkas Palm Springs Desert Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

Three-year-old Jade Lua came through the front doors of The Kids Clubhouse in La Quinta with her mom and younger sister, made a quick right turn and ran as fast as her little legs would take her to the playroom where she kicked off her shoes and headed for the slides. • Within her first 10 minutes at The Kids Clubhouse, Jade had gone down slides, including one that spirals and drops riders into a ball pit, climbed on various platforms, rode a self-propelled Thomas the Tank Engine mini-coaster, jumped up and down on a mini-trampoline, and still had energy to burn. • The Kids Clubhouse is the creation of Aileen Lin, who found the Coachella Valley lacking in indoor play areas for small children when she was raising her two children, now 17 and 16.

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Airlines aim to shift blame

As the July 4 holiday weekend approaches, airlines are stepping up their criticism of federal officials amid flight delays and cancellations.

CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP FILE

USA TODAY

Vaccines: What's next?

U.S. health authorities are facing a critical decision: whether to offer new COVID-19 booster shots this fall that are modified to better match recent changes of the shape-shifting coronavirus. Moderna and Pfizer have tested updated shots against the super-contagious omicron variant. 15A

Abortion ruling sets off new court battles

The fall of Roe v. Wade shifted the battleground over abortion to courthouses around the country Monday, as one side sought quickly to enact statewide bans and the other tried to block or at least delay such measures. The U.S. Supreme Court's decision Friday to end constitutional protection for abortion opened the gates for a wave of litigation from all sides. 7A

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Numbers	1, 7, 11, 25, 56
Meganumber	14
Jackpot	\$328 million
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SuperLotto Plus/Saturday	
Numbers	3, 27, 39, 43, 44
Meganumber	1
Jackpot	\$23 million
Wednesday's jackpot estimate (drawing: 7:57 p.m.)	\$23 million
Powerball/Monday	
Monday's draw occurred past press time. Look for Monday's numbers in the Wednesday paper.	
Lottery information: Riverside offices: (800) 568-8379 On the Web: www.calottery.com.	

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, June 28, the 179th day of 2022. There are 186 days left in the year. On this date in:

1838: Britain's Queen Victoria was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

1863: During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln appointed Maj. Gen. George G. Meade the new commander of the Army of the Potomac, following the resignation of Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker.

1914: Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife, Sophie, were shot to death in Sarajevo by Serb nationalist Gavrilo Princip – an act that sparked World War I.

1919: The Treaty of Versailles was signed in France, ending the First World War.

1939: Pan American Airways began regular trans-Atlantic air service with a flight that departed New York for Marseilles, France.

1940: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Alien Registration Act, also known as the Smith Act, which required adult foreigners residing in the U.S. to be registered and fingerprinted.

1950: North Korean forces captured Seoul, the capital of South Korea.

1978: The Supreme Court ordered the University of California-Davis Medical School to admit Allan Bakke, a white man who argued he'd been a victim of reverse racial discrimination.

1994: President Bill Clinton became the first chief executive in U.S. history to set up a personal legal defense fund and ask Americans to contribute to it.

2000: Seven months after he was cast adrift in the Florida Straits, Elian Gonzalez was returned to his native Cuba.

2010: The Supreme Court ruled, 5-4, that Americans had the right to own a gun for self-defense anywhere they lived.

2012: The Affordable Care Act narrowly survived, 5-4, an election-year battle at the U.S. Supreme Court with the improbable help of conservative Chief Justice John Roberts.

2013: The four plaintiffs in the U.S. Supreme Court case that overturned California's same-sex marriage ban tied the knot, just hours after a federal appeals court freed gay couples to obtain marriage licenses in the state for the first time in 4½ years.

2019: White supremacist James Alex Fields, who deliberately drove his car into a crowd of counter-protesters in Charlottesville, Virginia, killing a young woman and injuring dozens, apologized to his victims before being sentenced to life in prison on federal hate crime charges.



Architectural renderings are displayed during a press conference to announce a \$79 million state budget request to fund a student center building at the CSUSB Palm Desert campus in Palm Desert on April 22.

ANDY ABEYTA/THE DESERT SUN

Budget

Continued from Page 1A

is just one step in the process, but added it's a crucial one to start getting more students on campus in Palm Desert.

"Now, it's incumbent upon the next set of legislators that come after me, and frankly, even Eduardo," Mayes said. "We've got state investment. They got to continue to fight like hell to continue (and) keep getting more and more to make that independent campus a realization."

Cal State San Bernardino classes were first offered starting in 1986 in temporary classrooms on the College of the Desert campus. In 2002, it was moved to 168 acres of land donated to the state by the City of Palm Desert with the intention that a standalone CSU Palm Desert would one day be built.

To date just 18 acres of the site have been built out to include three academic buildings and a 300-seat theater, all constructed with local philanthropic dollars. The infrastructure is in place and environment impact report completed years ago, making the site build-ready for expansion.

A standalone CSU campus, which would need the approval of the CSU Board of Trustees, would mean full development of the site with more buildings and facilities, which typically brings additional programs and an ability to expand existing ones.

Mayes noted a standalone campus also would give students a "pride of place," similar to any four-year university in southern California.

"As the prestige of that campus grows, then it brings with it economic development, it brings with it larger course offerings, and ultimately, it increases the quality of life for the students that are there," Mayes said. "It's a huge economic development driver for the Coachella Valley."

Renderings have shown the two-story, 23,700-square-foot student center can hold up to 4,000 students, and will include a tutoring/mentoring center, career center, expanded campus library, group study space, cross cultural center, bookstore, food services, student health center and a recreation and wellness center. In fall 2021, the campus reported a student enrollment of 2,350.

The \$79 million in funding also reflects the full dollar amount that Mayes and Garcia were seeking, after lawmakers initially sent a proposal to the governor that allocated \$59 million for the campus instead. Garcia told The Desert Sun the full funding allocation for the campus "is a testament to our community's persistent advocacy."



Cal State University San Bernardino's Palm Desert campus is the only four-year university in the Coachella Valley. J. OMAR ORNELAS/THE DESERT SUN

"We did not give up — we put up a united front and kept making our case to prove that our students and our region deserve this investment," Garcia said in a statement.

"Our ultimate goal is to establish our own Coachella Valley California State University and securing funds to construct this student services building would expand campus service and infrastructure capacity, support enrollment growth, and help strengthen our region's overall position to be selected," he added. "This budget victory would demonstrate our community's ability to mobilize and that we are ready to take this next step."

Mayes said such an investment in one-time funds is usually "unheard of," but the state's record-breaking budget surplus, recently estimated at \$97 billion, changed the picture.

"(Garcia) should take an awful lot of credit for that, but also the community and their support, not just the City of Palm Desert, but all the cities (and) the students, all the emails that were that were sent in support of it," Mayes said. "At the end of the day, that helped win the argument."

Given the rising costs of construction, the final price tag for the center could still vary. But Palm Desert Mayor Jan Harnik, who was not immediately available to comment, recently said she will do all she can to aid the project.

"What it is to me is motivation, and it's a start," Harnik told The Desert Sun in early June.

Previous reporting from The Desert Sun reporter Sherry Barkas was used for this story.

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