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Students Can Still Soar



For many the love of aircraft begins at a young age. Photo: CCA

California Capital Airshow Press Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The annual California Capital Airshow (CCA), presented by Sacramento County in partnership with the City of Rancho Cordova, would normally be setting up this week with jets, pilots and crew arriving from across North America to deliver a weekend of entertainment at Mather Airport. But there's much more to this nonprofit organization than what fans see overhead. Sacramento's popular Airshow is actually a fundraiser for its annual scholarship program, serving students from across the six-county region who dream of accomplishing great things and simply need a little help.

Thanks to the support of sponsors and ticket holders each year, CCA's deep commitment to inspiring young

people has produced great results. The Airshow team's efforts, in the air, on the ground and throughout the year has delivered \$262,000 in awards to 156 remarkable future leaders to attend 36 different education institutions across 14 states. These students plan to change the world in a variety of ways, from using artificial intelligence to end climate change to building filtration systems in third-world countries.

"My love of airplanes began at a young age and is likely attributable to attendance at the California Capital Airshow where I first saw the B-29 fly," said John Kroeger, recent CCA scholarship recipient. "An aerospace engineering degree will open up a world of possibilities for me. I plan to work on the next generation of machinery that will drive humanity into the future - designing safer, more advanced, and more efficient airplanes."

"Although we are all experiencing an unprecedented year, students still need our help in making their dreams come true and the public can help," said Darcy Brewer, executive director, CCA.

Fans are encouraged to **help CCA raise \$50,000 from September 28-October 4** to support other stellar high school seniors pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, aviation and aerospace go to college.

It's simple to donate at CaliforniaCapitalAirshow.com and support the next generation of innovators. No amount is too small and every dollar makes a difference, but individuals who donate \$50 or more will receive one FREE general admission ticket (good for one adult and up to six youth) for the 2021 Airshow, featuring the United States Air Force Thunderbirds jet demonstration team, on September 25-26. ★

Sac Zoo Celebrates Birth of New Baby Giraffe



Momma and Baby Giraffe. Photo: Sac Zoo

By Lesley Kirrene, Sacramento Zoo

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sac Zoo is thrilled to announce that Shani, a 10-year-old Masai giraffe, gave birth to a female calf during the evening on September 20. Mother and calf are spending time bonding in the zoo's giraffe barn and may have access to the public side yard periodically over the next few days to weeks.

The zoo's veterinarians performed a routine neonatal health check on the calf including a brief physical exam. Zookeepers had been monitoring Shani around the clock prior to the birth and will continue to closely watch the mother and her calf.

The Sacramento Zoo is now home to five giraffes: one post-reproductive female reticulated giraffe, one male Masai giraffe, two female Masai giraffe including Shani, and now the new calf. This is the 20th calf born at the Sacramento Zoo going back to 1964 when the species was first housed at the zoo.

This birth coincides with the launch of the Sac Zoo's online Auction 2020, running today through noon on September 29. Due to the pandemic, the nonprofit Sac Zoo is unable to hold its largest fundraisers of the year and thus created the online Auction 2020 as a way to raise much-needed funds to care for the baby giraffe and the hundreds of other rare, endangered and native animals that call the zoo home.

Zoo supporters are able to bid on an opportunity to name the zoo's new baby giraffe or have the chance to be one of the first to meet the baby and her mother up-close and personal. Other auction items include original art created by a troop of orangutans, the chance to spend a private holiday celebration at the zoo, or even the opportunity to have Breakfast

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Love of the Game

River Cats Broadcaster Writes Haikus on Baseball and Life

Story by Shauna Boyd

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Johnny Duskow, the well-known TV and radio broadcaster for the Sacramento River Cats, recently immortalized his love of the game in a book of haiku focusing on his experiences in both baseball and in life.

Duskow was "raised with the game" and always knew he wanted to call baseball. "I've been fortunate to fulfill my dream," he said. His career began in 1991 calling local sports in Iowa. Two years later he started his first job in professional baseball with the Cedar Rapids Kernels. From there, he moved to California, where he worked with both the High Desert Mavericks and the Fresno Grizzlies before becoming the voice of the Sacramento River Cats in 2001. He also broadcast for the major leagues for



Sacramento River Cats broadcaster Johnny Duskow releases a book of haikus titled *Goodnight Em*. Readers will relate to the poems, which focus on love of the game, love of family, and love of life. Photo provided by Johnny Duskow.

34 games in 2012 with the Oakland A's.

This past March, with the baseball season forced into hiatus by the coronavirus pandemic, Duskow had

no games to call. During his first summer off in 28 years, he started writing. Originally, he didn't have plans for a book; he was just writing haikus

about life and moments he wanted to remember. It was his wife Deb who suggested he write about his life's passion: baseball. Before he knew it, he had more than enough poems to fill a book. "It just happened organically," he said.

Duskow has been fascinated by haikus ever since his older brother introduced him to the format as a kid. "I've always written them," Duskow said - even writing them in the margins of in-flight magazines as he traveled during the baseball season. "I never kept any of them," he said.

Duskow likes the rhythm of haikus (written in a syllable pattern of five, seven, five) and enjoys the challenge of "trying to tell a story in 17 syllables. It's not easy to do." Telling a story in such a small space offers the potential for both simplicity and depth. In "Patience,"

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The Capitol Annex Project Debate

Story by Shauna Boyd

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - California's State Capitol Complex is comprised of the historic West Wing, with its iconic dome, and the adjoined Annex building, which houses the offices of the Governor and most of California's lawmakers. The Capitol also hosts millions of visitors each year. But the existing Annex has many health and safety deficiencies such as inefficient heating/cooling systems, failing plumbing, outdated electrical systems, and lack of fire sprinklers. Stairways, elevators, and exit doors are also oversized, and the building is frequently overcrowded—which has become an even greater concern during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Capitol Annex Project – overseen by the Joint Rules Committee (JRC) – plans to demolish the current Annex and replace it with a modern energy-efficient and ADA-compliant building. The project also includes an underground parking structure and an underground visitors center. The vision of the project, which is spearheaded by JRC Chair Assemblyman Ken Cooley, is to create a Capitol that is welcoming, engaging, and inspiring.

But Public Accountability for Our Capitol (PAC) – a group of preservationists, environmentalists, and fiscal responsibility advocates – believes the project is too expensive, lacks transparency, and will cause significant damage to Capitol Park's historic trees.

PAC members Richard Cowan and Paula Peper each resigned from their seats on the Historic State Capitol Commission (HSCC) in protest over the Capitol Annex Project. The HSCC is responsible for reviewing any development or improvement of the historic State Capitol and advising the Legislature on such projects. Both Cowan and Peper have stated that the HSCC was denied information about the project, which Cowan characterized as "shrouded in secrecy."

The members of PAC don't dispute the need for improvements to the Annex, but they believe that it is possible and more cost-effective to repair and improve the existing building. Cowan said, "We think the project could be re-planned to avoid damaging Capitol Park and its trees, avoid the destruction of a historically recognized building, satisfy all the valid health and safety concerns, and save hundreds of millions of dollars that are needed to address climate change and economic recovery."

Instead of an open public engagement process, Cowan said that stakeholders invited to participate in JRC meetings about this project



The design plans for the Capitol Annex Project aim to highlight views of the iconic dome of the State Capitol's historic west wing. Photo provided by Assemblyman Ken Cooley

had to sign non-disclosure agreements (NDAs). "So much for transparency," said Cowan.

When asked about the NDAs, Assemblyman Cooley said that such agreements are standard in the post-911 world when discussing security issues in closed sessions. He also disputed the idea that the project has eschewed public input, stating that aside from those few closed sessions concerning security briefings, all the JRC meetings are open to the public. When he became JRC Chair in 2017, he moved quickly to launch a comprehensive website to share information about the project with the public. "We've been very public about the whole process," he said.

PAC's concern about the project's impact on Capitol Park trees was based on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), released in September 2019 and updated in January 2020, which outlined the project footprint. Based on that footprint, PAC estimated that over 100 rare and historic trees could be at risk. At a JRC meeting on September 9, 2020, Assemblyman Cooley revealed a detailed design plan with three potential styles for the Annex building (square, circular, or double-T). Cowan noted that the recently released plans deviated significantly from the EIR, with the parking garage location moving from the east lawn to the south between L and N streets. Cowan acknowledged that the new location would disrupt fewer trees, but he feared it could still endanger the trees in the Civil War Grove, "which is sacrosanct."

When asked about the potential loss of 100 trees, Assemblyman Cooley said, "I

couldn't bear that." He described the historic and memorial trees as "irreplaceable" and explained that safeguarding the trees is one of the primary goals of the design process.

The Capitol Annex Project has been in the works since Arnold Schwarzenegger was Governor, and initially the Department of General Services planned to create two new buildings in Capitol Park. But when Assemblyman Cooley took over as JRC Chair in 2017, he fought against that plan, because the design would have destroyed many historic trees, including the Civil War Grove. Assemblyman Cooley said he is committed to safeguarding the trees and vistas of the park. He explained that the construction footprint outlined in the plans is just a rough estimate of the area and not a specific blueprint: "We're not going to disturb all that ground." Protecting the historic trees is such a high priority that Cooley said the new parking garage design even has a "notch" designed to safeguard a tulip tree.

The Legislature originally approved \$755 million from the general fund for the Capitol Annex Project. Assemblyman Cooley suggested additional authority be given to the JRC to authorize lease revenue bonds in case the government ended up needing those funds, "if the economy stumbles." That stumble came this year. Due to the recent economic crisis caused by the pandemic, the Governor's office has asked that those funds be returned to the general fund – and that the JRC pause the plans for the visitors center. As the project moves forward, the plan is to pursue the authorized

lease revenue bonds to fund the Annex and parking garage.

PAC has voiced concern that the interest on the lease revenue bonds will increase the overall cost of the project by approximately 30%, money they believe is better spent on investing in the economic recovery. Cowan also said that the JRC decided to demolish and rebuild the Annex without conducting a study to determine the cost of restoration.

But Assemblyman Cooley views the project as a way to stimulate economic recovery by creating a variety of jobs in the area over the life of the project: "It would put people to work." And for Cooley, the reasons to move forward with a rebuild over restoration have been clear since the planning study was completed almost three years ago. The study found that the existing structural system of the Annex "limits the ability to provide new large hearing rooms or auditoriums with column-free view paths and appropriate ceiling heights." The study also found that a consistent floor plan that is easy to navigate for both visitors and staff is impeded by the "current building footprint and column bay spacing."

Cowan said he is "absolutely not persuaded" by those arguments against restoration. Further, for a project based on a need for more space, PAC was surprised to see that each of the three potential Annex designs feature large open-air galleries with skylights looking up to the Capitol dome. While Cowan acknowledges that the designs are beautiful, he still argues that a new building is not necessary.

PAC also believes it is shortsighted to build a large underground parking garage at a time when transportation is changing rapidly. As concerns about climate change increase, Cowan said California should be looking to the future. The idea of an underground parking garage "is not who we are. It's not how we lead," he said.

But for Assemblyman Cooley, the improved energy-efficient Capitol Complex will be a symbol of California's "positive, hope-filled outlook." The Capitol Annex Project started before Cooley's tenure as JRC Chair and will conclude after his term ends, so he said the project isn't about what he wants. As Chair, he reports to the JRC. He said it's his job to bring all the information and all the options to the members so they can make the best decision for the people and the future of "The People's House."

To find out more about the project or submit a comment, visit <https://annex.assembly.ca.gov/>. ★

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Fuji Apples 69¢, Raw Peanut with Shell 1.19, Japanese Yam 1.19, King Oyster Mushrooms 1.99, Ginger Root 1.99

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Love of the Game

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Doskow writes, “dark cloudy morning/sun squeezing through noon darkness/3 p.m. blue sky.” Such poems ask readers to put themselves into that moment. Doskow hopes that readers can find something to relate to in these poems, something that connects these stories to their own experiences.

In “Scoring,” he writes, “keeping score at game/a religion for some folks/baseball love affair.” For true fans, the book will be like a reading a love letter to the game. Doskow called the writing process “a walk down memory lane,” and the book brings readers on that journey as well. Many of the haikus evoke memories of significant baseball moments – both triumphant and heartbreaking.

In “Sign Off,” Doskow explains the title of the book, *Goodnight Em*: “ever

since her birth/in my broadcast conclusion/my words, ‘goodnight em.’” He started that signature sign-off during the 2006 season when his daughter Emily was just an infant. Long nights at the ballpark and frequent time away from home for away games meant he was often missing his young daughter. The signoff was a way to signify his love and connection to her. When trying to come up with a title for the book, Doskow’s wife Deb suggested *Goodnight Em*, and he knew instantly that it was perfect.

Goodnight Em honors everything Doskow loves most in this world. The book can be purchased online at www.johnnydoskow.com. It can also be purchased locally at Face In A Book bookstore in El Dorado Hills or at either of the Sacramento locations of Patchamama Coffee (Doskow’s favorite coffee in the world). ★

Wine for Wildlife Care this October!

Rick Reed
Public Relations

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Pour a glass for wildlife rehab with a special edition of the virtual wine tasting kits from the innovative Sacramento vintner Kevin Luther. His special blends will raise funds for the volunteers at the non-profit Wildlife Care Association this October. Order a wine tasting kit to be delivered directly to your door and join WCA volunteers and Ambassador Animals in a special Facebook Live & YouTube video event on Saturday, October 24th at 5pm.

Order your kit at www.voluptuarywine.com/virtual-tasting and \$5.00 from every order goes directly to save wildlife at Wildlife Care Association. Order Now!

Wines include “Pollination” Chenin Blanc, “Urban Flora” Rose, “The Source” Pinot Noir/Grenache blend, “Da Vinci’s Wings” Zinfandel and “Wanderlust” Dark Red. Delivered to your door 1-2 weeks prior to the live event. You may also make a



Virtual tasting event will feature Voluptuary and Lucid Wines from owner and winemaker Kevin Luther. Photo provided by Rick Reed Public Relations

direct donation to support volunteers who take in more than 6000 injured, orphan or displaced birds and small animals every year at WCA at www.voluptuarywine.com/new-products/wca

Double the donation as Voluptuary Wines will match every additional

dollar donated! Then join the fun as WCA volunteers showcase their work with the Animal Ambassadors, discuss vineyard owls and environmentally friendly, organic pest control and taste wines led by Vintner Kevin Luther, owner and winemaker at Voluptuary and Lucid Wines on Facebook and YouTube video.

For more than 45 years the Sacramento Wildlife Care Association volunteer, non-profit wildlife rehabilitation group has helped balance the environment and maintain regional quality of life by giving thousands of birds and small animals a second chance to live!

Visit www.wildlifecareassociation.com to learn more. Become a volunteer when you email volunteer@wildlifecareassociation.com ★



The selection will include wines: “Pollination” Chenin Blanc, “Urban Flora” Rose, “The Source” Pinot Noir/Grenache blend, “Da Vinci’s Wings” Zinfandel and “Wanderlust” Dark Red. Photo provided by Rick Reed Public Relations

Sac Zoo Celebrates Birth of New Baby Giraffe

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with Butternut the prehensile-tailed porcupine.

These are just a few of the nearly 20 unique, once-in-a-lifetime auction items up for bid at the Sac Zoo’s online Auction 2020. Did you know that it costs the Sacramento Zoo more than \$460,000 every 30 days to operate...even during a pandemic? Visit www.saczoo.org/auction2020 through noon on September 29 to bid on once-in-a-lifetime zoo experiences and much more. Or donate to the Feed Your Zoo Campaign and help the zoo care for nearly 500 animals. You won’t want to miss this one-of-a-kind auction! All proceeds raised will benefit the nonprofit zoo and the animals in its care.

And make sure to reserve your tickets for a visit to the Sac Zoo...you never know if you might get a sneak peek at momma and baby giraffe on one of their first



Get a Sneak Peek at Momma and Baby Giraffe. Photo: Sac Zoo

adventures outside! There’s always something happening at YOUR Sacramento Zoo!

Open since 1927, the Sacramento Zoo is home to nearly 500 native, rare and endangered animals and is one of more than 200 accredited institutions of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The

Sacramento Zoo, managed by the nonprofit Sacramento Zoological Society, inspires conservation awareness and action through education and recreation. Currently, all tickets must be reserved and purchased online at www.saczoo.org. For information, call 916-808-5888 or visit saczoo.org ★

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Free COVID Testing



Sacramento County Public Health wants to remind the public that COVID-19 testing is free and more appointments are available. MPG file photo

Sacramento County Public Information Office

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County Public Health wants to remind the public that COVID-19 testing is free and more appointments are available at 11 locations in Sacramento County.

Starting Sept. 14, these locations are now open longer to schedule testing appointments for anyone (2 years old and older) in the County. The public is encouraged to get tested regularly, especially in the event that physical distancing measures could not be maintained.

"If you have spent time with people outside of your household and you weren't able to physically distance, you should consider getting tested because you may have been exposed unknowingly to the COVID virus," said, Sacramento County Health Officer, Dr. Olivia Kasirye. "It is also important to remember that if you test negative once, that does

not mean you will not get sick with COVID-19. The test result only means that you did not have COVID-19 at the time you were tested."

The number of new COVID-19 cases in Sacramento County is steadily reducing on the Dashboard. However, the public needs to continue to not gather, follow physical distancing measures, wear face coverings in public, wash our hands and get tested regularly in order to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

View the new schedule with extended hours to make your appointment today for free COVID-19 testing.

The Sacramento County COVID-19 website also has information for what to do for those who test positive for COVID-19.

The Sacramento County Department of Health Services has partnered with UC Davis Health, StemExpress and local community agencies to provide Community-Based Testing Sites for

free COVID-19 testing by appointment for Sacramento County residents.

These testing sites are NOT for: travel clearance; surgery clearance (Contact your health care provider); people with severe fever, cough, or other symptoms. (Contact your health care provider); or, people that have tested positive for COVID-19 within 10 days of the testing date.

Testing appointments are available regardless of U.S. citizenship or legal residency status for anyone 2 years and older (minors must be accompanied by a parent/guardian). For your scheduled appointment, bring any form of identification with your date of birth to check-in. Face masks/coverings must be worn at all testing sites, some masks will be available. Maintain physical distancing while in testing sites. Results will be available within three days of testing. You will receive notification of results from StemExpress via text or e-mail. ★

SacRT's Fare-Free Transit for Youth Continues



For those who do not have a student ID or RydeFreeRT card, they can visit SacRT's Customer Service and Sales Center located at 1225 R Street, Sacramento. Photo: SacRT

By Jessica Gonzalez, Sacramento Regional Transit District

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) announced that the fare-free transit program, called RydeFreeRT, is being extended for a second year. The successful ridership program was set to expire on Wednesday, September 30, 2020. However, thanks to additional funding from program partner City of Sacramento, RydeFreeRT has been extended through Thursday, September 30, 2021.

RydeFreeRT waives student/youth fares on bus, light rail, and SmarT Ride microtransit service across SacRT's service area, which includes the cities of Sacramento, Folsom, Citrus Heights, and Rancho Cordova and parts of Sacramento County. Approximately 220,000 students in grades TK through 12, home-schooled students, and foster and homeless youth are all eligible. The program began on October 1, 2019, and SacRT experienced a 127% increase in student ridership pre-COVID-19. Even during the "Shelter-in-Place" order, young people continue to rely on SacRT to meet their essential transportation needs.

Initial findings from an evaluation supported by Sutter Health reveal the positive impact the program has already had on SacRT's youngest riders. Here is a snapshot at some of the early results:

There was a statistically significant increase in the share of students reporting using SacRT to get to and from school as well as a significant decrease in the number of students reporting automobile use.

Youth who used SacRT reported they can more easily access important non-school destinations because of the RydeFreeRT program.

Many students who do not use SacRT to and from school say they still do use SacRT to get to after-school and non-school activities.

New transit users appear to have been drawn from students who used to get a car ride to school.

The full results of the Sutter Health study should be completed in the next month.

"We are excited to continue to offer access to transit all day, every day for all Sacramento area youth that live in or attend school in our service area," said Henry Li, SacRT General Manager/CEO. "We recognized the essential need for fare-free transit within the first few months the program launched, and we will continue to grow our future transit riders with the youth in the region."

"RydeFreeRT has clearly had a huge positive impact on our youth and on our City as

a whole. The City's continued investment in this partnership with SacRT will have significant payoffs well into the future with our youngest residents being the primary beneficiaries," said SacRT Board Director and Sacramento City Councilmember Jay Schenirer. "This program demonstrates another way that the City and SacRT is committed to creating lifelong transit users and supporting youth, particularly those who are in greatest need."

"Fare free transit removes a financial barrier for young people going to school, working at a job or internship, or participating in an enriching extracurricular opportunity. By making our kids mobile, we are opening doors to their future," said Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg. "It is part of our City's commitment to investing in our communities, particularly those that have historically been underserved."

"RydeFreeRT has provided significant benefits to the students in our region, and SacRT and the City are continuing to help reduce barriers to not only help kids get to school when they reopen, but to have reliable and accessible transportation to anywhere they need to go," said SacRT Board Chair and City Councilmember Steve Hansen. "The program is critical to reducing residential isolation, especially in disadvantaged neighborhoods."

How RydeFreeRT Works for Year Two
Due to distribution challenges related to COVID-19, students and youth won't need a RydeFreeRT sticker or card to ride transit, they simply show a student ID or a RydeFreeRT card. Youth who are experiencing homelessness or taking part in foster programs are also eligible to participate in the program, regardless of current residence or school address.

For students and youth who need a replacement card or who do not have a student ID or RydeFreeRT card, they can visit SacRT's Customer Service and Sales Center located at 1225 R Street (adjacent to the 13th Street Station) to pick up a RydeFreeRT card. Once schools re-open, stickers and cards will also be available at most school locations.

For more information about SacRT's fare-free youth program, visit rydefreert.com.

SacRT is the 2019 national TSA Gold Standard Security Award recipient for the highest standard of excellence. We operate approximately 81 bus routes (fixed-route, dial-a-ride and microtransit), 43 miles of light rail and 52 stations, and ADA paratransit services all within a 400-square mile service area throughout Sacramento County, which includes service in the cities of Sacramento, Citrus Heights, Folsom, Rancho Cordova and Elk Grove. ★

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VOTE EARLY! AVOID LINES

November 3, 2020 Presidential General Election

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 - Ballots will be mailed to voters the week of October 5th
- **You can return your ballot starting October 5th**
 - By mail, no postage necessary
 - At a Ballot Drop Box
 - At a Vote Center (starting October 24th)

You can find a full list of Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations in your County Voter Information Guide, in your mail ballot packet, on the SacVote App, or at www.elections.saccounty.net

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- **Planning on voting in person?**
 - Voters should anticipate long lines
 - Social distancing will be enforced at all Vote Centers (6 feet of clear space)
 - Gloves, hand sanitizer, masks, and one-time use only pens will be made available to voters
 - The Ballot Marking Devices will be sanitized after every voter
 - If you have a disability or need assistance, please let the Vote Center staff know

No voter should have to choose between their health and participating in the November 3, 2020 Presidential General Election

Visit www.elections.saccounty.net or call Toll Free (800) 762-8019

PREPARING FOR A PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF

Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) is a statewide effort to prevent wildfires by proactively turning off power to communities when severe winds and dry weather conditions are forecast. While turning off the power helps prevent wildfires, we also know it will disrupt lives and cause hardship for our customers. That's why PG&E does not make this decision lightly and will only call a PSPS to help keep customers and communities safe.

HERE ARE 5 WAYS TO PREPARE FOR A PSPS:



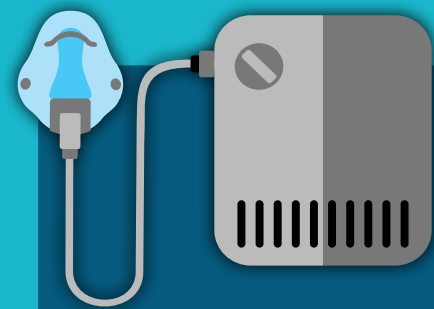
Make sure PG&E can reach you before a PSPS by updating your contact information at pge.com/mywildfirealerts.

1



Pack or restock your family's emergency kit including food, water, batteries, masks, radio and a first aid kit.

2



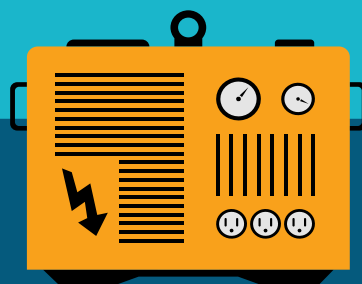
Make preparations for anyone in your family who depends on electricity for medical needs.

3



Practice manually opening your garage door (if you have a garage).

4



Ensure any backup power sources are ready and safe to operate.

5



For translated support in over 200 languages, please contact PG&E at 866-743-6589.



To learn more ways to prepare for a PSPS and any emergency, visit safetyactioncenter.pge.com

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Secured Property Tax Bills Mailed This Month

Sacramento County Secured Tax Unit

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County will mail about 467,813 secured property tax bills which are payable beginning Nov. 1, 2020. These tax bills are mailed only once a year, however, property owners may pay their bills in two installment payments:

(1) The first installment payment is due on **Nov. 1, 2020**. Payments will be accepted without penalty until 5 p.m. on Dec. 10, 2020; (2) The second installment payment is due on **Feb. 1, 2021**. Payments will be accepted without penalty until 5 p.m. on April 12, 2021; (3) Both installments may be paid when the first installment is due. A reminder notice will not be mailed for the second installment.

Taxpayers may sign up for online e-mail notifications for annual secured property tax bills and reminders before delinquent dates. Choose "e-Subscribe for property tax payment notifications" to receive these notifications.

Due to an improving real estate market, many parcels in Sacramento County will see an increase in their 2020-2021 assessed value:

Some parcels that were previously in Prop 8 Decline-In-Market-Value status will see increases that exceed 2% but are still below their factored (inflation-adjusted) Prop 13 level; Others will see their Prop 13 values restored.

The Assessor's Office annually appraises parcels until their market value equals, or exceeds, the factored Prop 13 value. Property tax law requires that parcels be assessed at their factored Prop 13 value, or their fair market value (as of the Jan. 1, 2020 property tax lien date), whichever is less.

A rising real estate market can cause higher than expected increases in a parcel's annual tax bill if that parcel was in Prop 8 status last year. However, the

assessed value of any parcel cannot increase beyond that parcel's factored Prop 13 level. The 2% inflation cap applies only to Prop 13 assessments. It does not apply to Prop 8 assessments, which by law must track the property's market value until it reaches the Prop 13 factored value.

Find assessed values on the Assessor's Website under "Assessed Value Lookup," including this year's value and the factored Prop 13 value for comparison. If a taxpayer has evidence that their assessed value as of Jan. 1, 2020, was less than that shown on this year's (2020-2021) tax bill, they should:

Visit the Assessor's Website; Call the Assessor's Office at (916) 875-0700; Email the Assessor's Office at Assessor@SacCounty.net; Or go to the Assessor's Office at 3701 Power Inn Road, Suite 3000.

Taxpayers may obtain current year tax bill information, direct levy information and delinquent prior-year tax information and amounts due online through the Sacramento County Online Property Tax Bill Information System, searching by APN or address. Find a QR Code on your tax bill payment stub for use with smartphones to connect to our website.

Payments can be made online via credit card or electronic check. Taxpayers may print tax bill installment payment stubs to mail in with their payments. Taxpayers may also pay by credit card or electronic check over the telephone at (844) 430-2823.

Sacramento County also has a 24-hour/7-day-a-week Automated Property Tax Information Line that provides information on tax subjects and access to detailed billing and payment information. Tax specialists are available 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Reach the system and tax specialists by calling (916) 874-6622.

Make payments in person at the Sacramento County Tax Collector's Office at 700 H Street, Room 1710, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or mail to P.O. Box 508, Sacramento, CA 95812-0508. In person payments can be paid via cash, check, credit card, debit card or money order. Debit and credit cards cannot be accepted to start redemption payment plans. When paying by check, the County is authorized to use information from the check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from the account or to process the payment as a check transaction. Mail your payment early enough to ensure a timely United States Postal Service postmark and avoid penalties.

If you own property and do not receive a tax bill by Nov. 15, 2020, obtain tax bill information and payment stubs (coupons) at the Tax Collector's website or by contacting the Tax Collector's Office at (916) 874-6622.

Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the property owner of the liability to pay taxes in a timely manner or give the Tax Collector reason to cancel penalties imposed for late payment.

Even if your tax bill is being paid by a lending institution (mortgage company), state law requires that a copy of the tax bill be sent to the property owner; all property owners should receive either the original tax bill or an "Owner's Information Copy." **It is the responsibility of the property owner to keep their mailing address current with the Assessor's Office.** To update your mailing address, please contact the Assessor's Office in writing at 3701 Power Inn Rd., Suite 3000, Sacramento, CA 95826-4329 or via email at Assessor@sacounty.net. Please make sure you include a parcel number and phone number with all correspondence. ★

Is Newsom Serious about Banning Gas-Powered Cars?



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

Gov. Gavin Newsom flatly declared Wednesday that "In the next 15 years we will eliminate in the state of California the sales of internal combustion engines."

It was the latest example of Newsom's fondness for headline-grabbing pronouncements of "big hairy, audacious goals."

The classic example was his flat campaign declaration that he would solve California's chronic housing shortage by building 3.5 million new homes.

That was impossible, as anyone familiar with housing issues could attest, and after his election, Newsom backed off, calling it an "aspirational" goal. Actually, housing production has declined during his governorship.

The governor's declaration that by 2035 new car buyers in California must buy only "zero emission vehicles" (ZEVs) seems to be in the mold of his housing promise. In fact, his executive order does not command that it happen, but rather says "it shall be a goal of the state that 100 percent of in-state sales of new passenger cars and trucks will be zero-emission by 2035" and directs the Air Resources Board to figure out how to

do it "consistently with technological feasibility and cost-effectiveness."

Even if he's serious about it – and one is never certain that he is – there are immense hurdles to overcome, not the least being Californians' obvious reluctance to embrace battery-powered ZEVs as their primary motor vehicles due to their cost, relatively small size and limited range.

While California accounts for about half of the ZEVs on American roads, they are still fewer than 2% of the nearly 30 million cars and light trucks in California. And despite state and federal subsidies, they are a fraction of the state's current goal of having 1.5 million in use by 2025.

Newsom's declaration, and a request to the Legislature to phase out fracking to produce oil and natural gas, cheered environmental advocates who want California to be bolder in reducing its emissions of greenhouse gases. He blamed global warming for the destructive wildfires that have swept through the state this year.

However, business leaders, particularly those in the affected industries, warn about the pitfalls of trying to wean California's economy off hydrocarbons. California is one of the nation's leading producers of oil and gas, particularly since fracking regenerated older fields, and the state consumes immense amounts of both fuels to not only directly power transportation but to generate the electricity that ZEVs must have.

During recent hot spells,

as California's air conditioners drove electric power consumption to levels requiring blackouts, natural gas-fired power plants supplied more than half of the juice.

"Unless California, along with other states and countries, supports a market for ZEVs that ensures vehicle performance, range, safety, functionality, price, and choice for automobile consumers, then California residents alone will be left with higher energy and transportation costs without a material effect on global (greenhouse gas) emissions," the California Chamber of Commerce said. "Forcing this transition through a mandate will burden the consumers least able to afford it, either by pricing them out of the new vehicle market or increasing the cost to maintain and fuel a used vehicle with a combustion engine.

Predictably critical as that statement may be, it makes valid points about the practical and socioeconomic challenges of doing what Newsom insists will be done.

Finally, there's the political/legal question of whether California can do it. It would require the federal government to continue California's "waiver" from federal air pollution rules and that would probably hinge on whether Republican President Donald Trump is re-elected or is defeated by Democrat Joe Biden.

Dan Walters has been a journalist for nearly 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers ★

Signs on Utility Poles Pose Serious Safety Hazard

SMUD News Media

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Utility poles covered with signs and notices for political candidates, lost animals, yard sales and events present serious hazards for utility workers. This is a particular problem during election season.

Nails, staples, tacks, and screws used to post signs can cause serious injury to line workers who climb the wooden utility power poles every day. These items are especially hazardous when the poles are climbed during bad weather

to restore power during storms and at night.

When the signs fall off or are removed, the fasteners often remain in the pole, causing line workers to get cut or injured. Nails and staples can obstruct climbing gear, which can cause workers to slip or fall as they climb. Even the tiniest puncture in line workers' rubber gloves can expose them to severe shock from power lines.

When advertising for a political candidate, lost pet, garage sale or other event, please do not post signs on utility poles. ★

County Voter Information Guide Mailed to Registered Voters

Sacramento County Election Update

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Voter Registration and Elections (VRE) Office has begun mailing the County Voter Information Guide (CVIG) for the November 3, 2020, Presidential General Election to Sacramento County registered voters. The VRE Office printed more than 800,000 Guides in English, Spanish and Chinese.

Registered voters can expect the CVIG to arrive in their mailboxes the last week of September. It will include Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations, local candidate statements, measures on the voter's ballot, and important dates and information. Voters that have 'opted out' of receiving a paper version of the CVIG may view it on the VRE website beginning October 5, 2020.

For more information about the General Election and voting in Sacramento County, visit the VRE website at www.elections.sacounty.net, contact VRE at (916) 875-6451, email voterinfo@sacounty.net, or call the toll-free voter assistance hotline at (800) 762-8019. The hotline has the ability to connect voters with disabilities with TTY (Text Telephone).

Key Election Dates

Monday, October 5 - Mailing of ballots to all registered voters begins

Monday, October 5 - Voted ballots may be returned in any of the Ballot Drop Boxes located throughout the County

Monday, October 19 - Close of voter registration for the November 3, 2020 Presidential General Election. Voter registration forms must be postmarked by this date or delivered to the VRE Office at 7000 65th Street, Suite A, Sacramento 95823 by 5:00 p.m. Online voter registration must be completed before midnight on this date at www.registertovote.ca.gov

Tuesday, October 20 - Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) begins

Saturday, October 24 - 11 Day Vote Centers open

Tuesday, October 27 - Last day a Vote by Mail (VBM) ballot can be mailed to you. After this date, VBM ballots are only available at the VRE Office or Vote Centers

Saturday, October 31 - All Vote Centers open throughout the County

Tuesday, November 3 - Election Day
We proudly conduct elections with accuracy, integrity and dignity.

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Ask Toni

Did Changes to Plan F Cause My Medicare Supplement Premiums to Rise!

2 Weeks until Thursday, October 15 Medicare Annual Enrollment



Toni King

Toni,

We have received a 20% increase in our Plan F Medicare Supplement. I am a 70-year-old female in decent health, but my husband is undergoing cancer treatment at MD Anderson. Also, his cardiologist has advised him that he may need a pacemaker.

I've understand told that Medicare Annual Enrollment is our time to change our Medicare Supplement plans. I'm concerned that with the Medicare Supplement increase that we may not be able to afford the premiums with future increases. Would a Medicare Advantage plan be a good option to change to with Fred's cancer issues? What we should do?

~ Cathy from Little Rock

In 2015 Congress passed legislation called "Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015" (MACRA) to help the medical industry by correcting the "Doc Fix" proposal.

MACRA also made changes to Medicare Supplement's plans F and C which began on January 1, 2020.

Many are wondering can I make a change, or do I have to wait until October 15 th when Medicare Annual Enrollment begins.

I have good news for you and the Toni Says® Medicare article readers because you do not have to wait until Medicare Annual Enrollment to make a Medicare Supplement change because you can change your Medicare Supplement any time during the year. Medicare Annual Enrollment is a time to change your Medicare Advantage plan or Medicare Part D Prescription Drug plan.

You are not alone with receiving a Medicare Supplement increase because it seems that many of the Medicare Supplement insurance companies are giving renewal increases with many Medicare Supplement plans and not just with Plan F.

Those who want to change their current Medicare Supplement plan and have had their Medicare Part B longer than 6 months must now answer underwriting questions regarding

their health as you and your husband will have to do.

Cathy, you have an option to change from Plan F to other Medicare Supplement plans such as plan G or N, but you must qualify medically. If you cannot qualify because of a health issue, then there is a Medicare Advantage plan which puts you in control of your healthcare called a Medicare Savings Account (MSA).

Difference between a Medicare Supplement and a Medicare Advantage MSA Plan:

- **Medicare Supplement Plan G:** offers lower rates and the same Medicare benefits as Plan F except the Medicare Part B deductible is not covered and will be paid for by the enrolled Medicare beneficiary. Part B deductible for 2020 is \$198. The 2021 Original Medicare costs and deductibles have not been released yet.
- **Medicare Supplement Plan N:** generally, has lower premiums than Plan G with generally more out of pocket. There is a \$20 co pay for a doctor visit with \$50 co pay for emergency room. Part B deductible is not covered, and Part B excess charges are not paid for by the insurance company which Plan G includes.
- **Medicare Advantage MSA (Medicare Savings Account):** high deductible Medicare Advantage health plan plus a special savings account for medical expenses. No network ... see any Medicare provider or facility that will bill the MSA plan. Can only enroll in MSA during Medicare Annual Enrollment Period from October 15th to December 7th.

Caution: You can change your Medicare Supplement policy at any time. Do not cancel your existing policy until you have been approved by your new insurance company.

• **Toni Says Medicare Annual Open Enrollment Online Zoom Webinar** begins Thursday, October 15th at 4:00pm. Online reservation link is available at www.tonisays.com.

Toni King, author of the Medicare Survival Guide® is giving a \$5 discount on the Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced book to the Toni Says Medicare column readers at www.tonisays.com. ★

Rep. Ami Bera's (HERO) Act Bill Assists First Responders



Congressman Ami Bera, M.D. in 2018 with Sacramento Police Chief Dan Hahn, Sacramento Metro Assistant Chief Maurice Johnson, and first responders for the unveiling of the HERO Act. Photo: Office of Congressman Ami Bera

Office of Congressman Ami Bera

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Our firefighters, law enforcement, and EMTs put themselves in harm's way every day to keep our communities safe and healthy. We have an obligation to be there for them in their time of need.

With the passage of the HERO Act, we are getting critical resources to our first responders who have given so much for our communities.

I'm proud to report the House of Representatives passed this week my bill, the Helping Emergency Responders Overcome Act (HERO) Act, which will provide critical mental health resources to our nation's

police officers, firefighters, and EMTs.

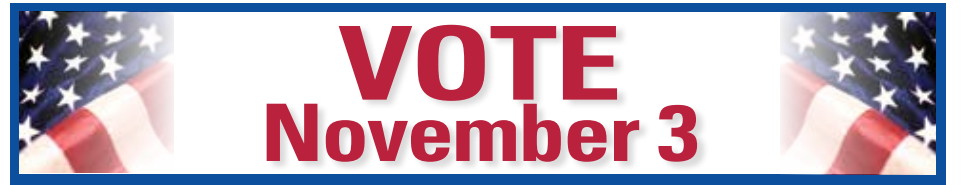
In 2018, I met with Sacramento-area fire chiefs who told me that firefighters face high and increasing rates of suicide. They shared that their own colleagues had died by suicide, and that the first responder community lacked the resources to tackle this crisis. After our meeting, I also discovered that the United States doesn't track how many firefighters and EMTs that die by suicide each year.

After hearing these stories, I went to work with local and national first responder groups to draft the HERO Act to provide meaningful solutions to these problems.

The HERO Act creates

a monitoring system that collects data on suicide incidences among first responders, while also identifying risk factors and possible interventions. It also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to develop and distribute best practices on the prevention and treatment of posttraumatic stress among first responders.

My bill is especially important during COVID-19, as the pandemic is only increasing stresses for our police officers, firefighters, and EMT. Our first responders are now bearing the additional mental burdens that daily exposure to the virus brings, especially in light of insufficient personal protective equipment. ★



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Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

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Attorney at Law, LEED AP, SRES®, ePRO®, SFR®, PSA

Real Estate Broker Associate at Nick Sadek Sotheby's International Realty

I am here to help you with your real estate needs during these interesting times. I can help you locate a new property or sell your current home and I will do all of the work for you. We can do everything through virtual transaction tools or we can go and view properties in person—it's up to you. My job is to get things done!

In addition to being an Attorney, I have earned advanced designations and certifications from the National Association of Realtors as a Seniors Real Estate Specialist, e-PRO, Pricing Strategy Advisor, and Short Sales and Foreclosure Resource. I am also a Green Building certified Accredited Professional in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

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Social Security Matters

Can I Get Social Security with My Municipal Pension?



By **Russell Gloor**,
AMAC Certified Social
Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I retired from a municipal Fire Department seven years ago at the age of 54. It is a private pension, and I was exempt from Social Security while I was working. I receive about \$50,000 per year in pension benefits. I recently got a letter from Social Security saying I needed 8 more credits of work to qualify for Social Security benefits. I was wondering if I worked two more years, paying into Social Security, would I qualify for benefits, since I am on a municipal pension?
Signed: Retired Fireman

Dear Retired Fireman: Although your municipal Fire Department pension would reduce your Social Security benefit, it will not eliminate it. So, if you work and earn those additional eight credits you will be entitled to a Social Security benefit.



Because of your non-covered municipal pension your Social Security benefit will be affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), which affects anyone who has a pension from an employer which did not participate in Social Security (neither the employee nor the employer paid into Social Security). WEP uses a special benefit computation formula which will result in you getting a smaller benefit, but you will, nevertheless, get some benefit amount if you have accumulated at least 40 quarters of Social Security credit. Note that your SS benefit amount will be further reduced if you claim it at age 62, or any age prior to your full retirement age.

You earn Social Security credits by working in a job where you pay FICA payroll taxes on your earnings, and you can earn a maximum of four SS credits per year. For 2020, you'll earn one credit for each \$1410 of

earnings, up to a maximum of four credits for the year, but you don't need to work the entire year to get the credits. For example, if you work yet in 2020 and earn \$5640 (4 times \$1410) you'll earn the maximum four credits for this year.

You need a total of 40 quarter credits to become eligible for Social Security, and those credits never expire, so even old credits earned before your Fire Department career still count. And, even if small, this would be a benefit you have earned by contributing to Social Security, so there's little reason not to pursue it by gaining the needed additional credits.

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Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

When You Feel Worn Out



Everyone experiences adverse situations which wear you out, causing you to feel mentally and physically exhausted. Your enthusiasm vanishes. Your productivity level plummets. It's an awful experience which can't end fast enough.

Let's identify some of the causes, recognize the symptoms, and look at the numerous solutions which will help restore your energy. Dealing with persistent problems wears you out. Having a array of workable solutions greatly enhances your quality of life.

Significant changes in life such as divorce, job loss, or switching jobs are wearing. Any radical alteration to your comfort zone is wearing. You are thrust into unfamiliar territory with no recognized path. A large or persistent problem wears you down, along with seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

Other factors which are wearing include being a caregiver, financial stress, raising children, juggling too many things at once (ex. work, family, school), chronic medical conditions, a high-pressure work environment, and working long hours.

There are various symptoms linked to being worn out. Mood swings, anger, irritability, and anxiety, are possible. You may experience a lack of motivation and pessimism. There can be confusion, a lack of concentration, and forgetfulness. Feeling tired and drained most of the time is common.

Being worn out increases your stress level which suppresses your immune system making you more susceptible to illnesses. Changes in

appetite and sleeping habits occur. There can also be an overall sense of failure.

In order to mitigate a situation where you feel worn out, first identify the exact cause of your predicament. It's imperative to address the cause rather than mitigating symptoms. Eliminating, or reducing the root cause starts turning the situation around.

Engaging in any type of substance abuse (food, alcohol, or drugs) or self-destructive behavior, is guaranteed to make any circumstances significantly more dire. These are negative strategies, not solutions. The last thing you want to do is become trapped in a deeper hole.

In a situation where answers are elusive, taking a break from fixating on your circumstances allows you to recharge. A break also provides a fresh perspective, which enables you to see things more clearly.

Whenever possible, remove stressors from your life, or remove yourself from the stressors. Constantly watching or reading negative news, or associating with negative problem-oriented people, are examples of stressors which can be reduced or eliminated.

Change your thought patterns. When dealing with a wearing situation, project positive outcomes. Think about positive solutions. Tell yourself all of the proactive steps you can, and will take.

Have some fun. Engage in enjoyable activities. Leave space in your schedule for breaks. Connect with upbeat, positive people. Use humor as a stress release. These simple strategies help

prevent you from becoming worn out.

Focus on the present. It's the action you take today that matters. Determine what steps you need to take now to move forward. Cut free from past mistakes. Whatever you could have done, would have done, or should have done is irrelevant. The past can't be changed.

Don't live in crisis mode. Panic impedes clear thinking. Adjust your priorities so you have time to devote to the most important issues. Eliminate activities which accomplish little or nothing. You want to be productive, not just busy.

Set boundaries. Say no to discretionary activities which drain your energy. It is prudent to take care of yourself and your needs. Seeking to placate others, without any benefit to yourself, is extremely wearing.

Create a healthy work/life balance. Make adjustments as needed. Extremes wear you down. Devote enough time to your quality of life. Pay attention to family and friends. Be thankful for all of the blessings in your life.

When you feel worn out, take positive corrective measures. You don't need to suffer. Be an advocate for your well-being. Life is meant to be enjoyed.

NOW AVAILABLE: "Dare to Live Without Limits," the book. Visit www.BryanGolden.com or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at bryan@colummist.com or write him c/o this paper. © 2020 Bryan Golden

 ★
 

Poppoff!

With Mary Jane Popp

Stress Kills, Joy Heals

This is one interview I loved doing on my POPPOFF Radio Show. Why? Because it gave ME such a boost. These are very stressful times. There is a virulent killer out there called Covid 19. There is job loss, protests, looting, and don't forget isolation and depression taking over our lives. So what do we have to be joyful about anyway? I had the opportunity to ask the Ambassador of Joy **Barry Shore**. I know you are probably thinking...another one of those do-gooders who has lots of money and time on their hands to write a book about finding joy when they have the good life. Not so with **Barry Shore**. He was a successful entrepreneur who, in 2004, became a quadriplegic from a rare disease, and it happened overnight. Would send most people into a tailspin and give up on life. I mean, how can you have joy when you can't move anymore? But **Barry** did find joy. He is the founder of **THE JOY of LIVING INSTITUTE**. He has shared his enthusiasm for life on all the major networks over the years, and he has a book coming out soon called "Stress Kills, Joy Heals." He admitted to me that the world has taken a toll on everyone.

STRESS is everywhere and causes sleeplessness, irritability, gastro issues, anxiety, and high blood pressure to mention just a few. Can you reduce those issues, even eliminate this secret killer? His answer was find joy. How?

It's as easy as 1,2,3. So here goes.

1. He recommends **SKIPPING**. No

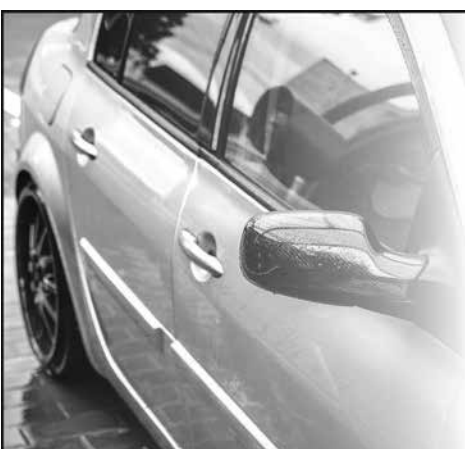
kidding. It's good old fashioned skipping. He says it's best when holding hands with someone you love but even alone skipping can get your heart pumping, your body moving, and puts a smile on your face. Hopefully that someone you love is family or very close to it.

2. The next one is really simple even when the pandemic is over. **SMILE**. As often as you can, let that smile shine. Look for reasons to smile. You see the sun...smile. You hear a joke... smile. You smell a rose...smile. And don't give me that stuff about why smile with a mask on. Your eyes can tell folks if you are smiling. It's the twinkle in your eyes that give it away.

3. **Barry** told me this one is really important. You have to learn to **LAUGH**. He recommends a deep belly laugh that goes for at least ten seconds. This is one case when more is better. Laugh until it hurts, and you'll find that **JOY** will enter your mind.

And that's where it all begins...in your mind. When you are thinking good thoughts you become a good looking person, a person always looking for the good.

That's all...skip, smile, laugh! He says it'll make a difference. Check out www.barryshore.com and email **Barry** at Barry@BarryShore.com, mention POPPOFF and Barry will send you a FREE \$50.00 gift of videos for strategies of joy and making a difference in your life. That should put a smile on your face!!!

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Canceling Culture in Gold River

By Gold River Resident
David Dickstein

My tongue was firmly in cheek when I wrote in my August column that I'm waiting for someone to demand that Bret Harte, Carson Creek, Crocker Grove, Huntington, Marshall, Stanford Court and Sutter villages get new names based solely on the fact that they commemorate men of the Gold Rush era who, being white and privileged, are clearly vehement racists.

Seeing how far the "cancel culture" movement has gone already, I'll bet some of you thought I was completely serious. Just two months later, events have occurred in this nation that now have me retracting that tongue in my cheek. I'm now believing that valid or not, the effort to rewrite or remove potentially offensive historical references won't end until every single thing on God's green earth faces scrutiny. As sure as I just offended some readers with that God reference, the day will come when there's pressure to examine the appellations of every Gold River village.

Instead of waiting for the woke to start looking in our direction, let's be a step ahead of the rabble-rousers and perform our own political correctness check on every Gold River subdivision. And in keeping with the accepted level of fairness happening around the nation, we'll aim low.

Argonaut Village – Named for those who braved the tough and arduous journey west to California as they sought prosperity during the Gold Rush. Judgement: Highly offensive to people with the inability to be brave or prosperous, and to those who don't know what "argonaut" means. Ruling: Change name to the less-offensive Cute Bunny Village.

Comstock Village – Named for a silver discovery site in Nevada that, itself, is named for an American miner. Judgement: Highly offensive to wearers of gold jewelry and all non-mining people of the United States, citizens or otherwise. Ruling: Change name to The People's Village.

Discovery Village – Named for the act or process of discovering. Judgement: Highly offensive to anyone who hasn't made a significant discovery and households that don't have a cable package that includes the Discovery Channel. Ruling: Change name to Gumdrops and Rainbows Village.

Empire Village – Named after the term for a sovereign state functioning as an aggregate of lands and peoples that are ruled over by an emperor-like monarch or oligarchy. Judgement: Highly offensive to viewers of the Fox TV drama "Empire." Ruling: Change name to Happy Happy Joy Joy Village.

Empire Oaks Village – Named after the trees on the land of where an emperor-like monarch or oligarchy rules supreme. Ruling: Merge with Happy Happy Joy Joy Village.

Enterprise Village – Named after a project or undertaking, typically one that is difficult or requires effort. Judgement: Highly offensive to lazy people, "Star Wars" fans and those who don't rent cars from Enterprise. Ruling: Change name to Pizza Village because everyone likes pizza.

Eureka Village – Named after the official state motto of California. Judgement: Highly offensive to non-Californians and people who use a different expression for sudden triumphant discovery. Ruling: Change name to Tom Hanks Village.

Gold Spike Village – Named after the ceremonial final spike that joined the

rails of the first transcontinental railroad across the USA. Judgement: Highly offensive to ancestors of Chinese emigrants who built most of the Central Railroad only to have glory hog Leland "Look at Me! Look at Me!" Stanford drive the final golden spike for all the cameras. Ruling: Change name to All-Inclusion Village.

Hesperian Village – Named after the geologic system and time period on the planet Mars characterized by widespread volcanic activity and catastrophic flooding that carved immense outflow channels across the surface. Judgement: Not offensive. Ruling: Change name to BLM Village just because.

Maidu Village – Named after the American Indian people of Northern California who resided in the watershed area of the Feather and American rivers. Judgement: Highly offensive to the original inhabitants of this area, of which not a single one lives in the village named after them. Ruling: Keep the name, but offer housing to a person of Maidu descent.

Manor Homes Villages – Named after a term for a large country house. Judgement: Highly offensive to people who don't consider a midsize home as large or that Gold River is in the country. Ruling: Change name to MINO villages, as in "Manor in Name Only."

Miners' Village – Named either after the people who worked in the mines during the Gold Rush or the developer made a typo and it's supposed to be Minors' Village. Judgement: Highly offensive to those whose dream of becoming a miner was thwarted or anyone under the age of 18. Ruling: Change name to M Village.

Mother Lode Village – Named after the long alignment of hard-rock

gold deposits in the Sierra Nevada that were discovered in the early 1850s. Judgement: Highly offensive due to the sexist nature of the name. Ruling: Change name to the gender-neutral Parent Lode Village.

Parke Place – Named after a place with a park. Judgement: Highly offensive due to the fact that the village has no park and that adding a fancy-schmancy "e" to "park" won't be accepted in a class war. Ruling: Demolish one house for a park and remove all offensive "e's." New village name: Park Plac.

Pioneer Village – Named after the first settlers of California. Judgement: Highly offensive to the second settlers of California. Ruling: Change name to Human Being Village.

Promontory Point – Named after the place in Utah where the Transcontinental Railroad was completed. Judgement: Highly offensive to residents of Gold River villages that don't have their own clubhouse or railroad. Ruling: Keep the name, but make AOC happy by opening the village's clubhouse to everyone.

Prospect Village – Named for the act of searching for mineral deposits in a place. Judgement: Highly offensive to someone somewhere. Ruling: Change name to Someone Somewhere Village.

As for the villages named for misters Harte, Carson, Crocker, Huntington, Marshall, Stanford and Sutter, the ruling is that each must become an autonomous zone where government has zero control and anarchy reigns. Hey, look on the bright side ... no association dues!

David Dickstein is a Gold River resident. He can be reached at daviddickstein1@gmail.com ★

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Meals Getting to Seniors During COVID in Sacramento County



"This program has allowed our seniors to quarantine at home while receiving nutritional meals and has also provided economic stimulation to at least a few of our many local restaurants." Photo by Norma Mortenson from Pexels

By Brenda Bongiorno, Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County established a new program during COVID-19 to bring meals to seniors who are facing food scarcity. Dine At Home Sacramento, a partnership between Sacramento County, local restaurants and the Area 4 Agency on Aging (A4AA), is proud to announce that as of Sep. 11, 15 participating restaurants have served 62,911 meals to 819 seniors across Sacramento County.

"All involved in Dine At Home Sacramento have worked incredibly hard and have been creative and adaptive in meeting challenges along the way," said Michelle Callejas, Sacramento County Director of Child, Family and Adult Services. "This program has allowed our seniors to quarantine at home while receiving nutritional meals and has also provided economic stimulation to at least a few of our many local restaurants."

Sacramento County Adult Protective Services offers access to programs such as Meals on Wheels, CalFresh, and the Brown Bag Food Program where eligible seniors are provided hot meals, canned foods, fresh vegetables and bread. However, earlier this year when calls increased related to food needs from seniors in our community, A4AA began coordinating with a restaurant to fulfill orders to seniors who were in process for receiving Meals on Wheels. A4AA has expertise in operationalizing

meal delivery programs and the agency utilizes a dietician to work with restaurants to establish nutritional menus for seniors.

The approach led to the new program of getting food to more seniors faster and boosting the restaurant industry. Sacramento County Child, Family and Adult Services is proud to have implemented this innovative new program with A4AA. Dine At Home Sacramento partners with restaurants in unincorporated areas and the cities of Galt, Folsom and Isleton that expressed interest in a meals program partnership. Through the partnership, the restaurants have received more than \$1,572,775 of revenue (\$25 a meal for preparation and delivery).

Using restaurants in these locations allows Sacramento County to reach more seniors in need of food while helping restaurants hire back employees and generate revenue.

Currently, this program has reached capacity. If the program is able to accept new applicants in the future, Sacramento County will share an update on how to apply.

"There are several benefits to our program, which is why we chose to pursue it," said Michelle Callejas, Sacramento County Director of Child, Family and Adult Services. "The county was able to be more flexible with eligibility criteria, so we can serve more seniors facing food insecurity who might not be eligible for the state's new delivery program or our other programs. Through our partnership with A4AA, the goal is to expand the number and types of local restaurants participating to serve more meals by the end of the year."

"The program used roughly \$3.5 million of CARES Act funding the county received to serve seniors," said Ruth MacKenzie, Senior and Adult Services Division Manager for the Department of Child, Family and Adult Services. "Sacramento County, Child Family and Adult Services went to the Board of Supervisors on September 22 requesting authority to expand the contract with A4AA by \$3.4 million, this will allow us to increase the number of recipients and continue providing meals to our seniors through the holidays."

Visit the County's Senior and Adult Services webpage to learn more about their programs, provider services, volunteer opportunities and resources. ★

For Workers' Sake, Keep the Pressure on America's Trading Partners

Commentary Rick Dearborn

In his marathon testimony before Congress earlier this summer, United States Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer detailed the trade-policy achievements of President Trump's first term. It's a list that should make the administration proud.

From the Phase One agreement with China to strong enforcement across the globe, the barriers to international commerce are far lower today than when the president took office – and American workers are better off as a result.

But there is plenty of work left in the months and years ahead. And given the economic challenges we face as a result of COVID-19, finishing that work has never been more critical. By redoubling his efforts to break down barriers to international trade, President Trump can continue to make our economy great again.

It's difficult to overstate the importance of global trade. One in five U.S. jobs – nearly 39 million positions altogether – relies on it. And since 1992, growth in trade-dependent jobs has been four-times faster than in jobs unrelated to trade.

As vibrant as America's trade economy may be, it is far from perfect.

For instance, Brazil has long been a hotbed for everything from digital piracy to product counterfeiting, with the government often turning a blind eye. In places like Canada, Japan, and South Korea, government price controls on state-of-the-art U.S. pharmaceuticals prevent American innovators from selling their creations at a fair market price. In India, it's common practice to violate U.S. copyrights.

These aren't the only ways trade barriers box out American firms. Local content requirements in countries like India, Brazil, and Indonesia force companies to

source a certain share of goods and services domestically, providing an unfair advantage to local firms. South Africa requires that 80 percent of the content broadcast on television be domestically-produced. Online piracy is also rampant in South Africa and regularly devalues the creative works of American producers, filmmakers, and recording artists.

Policies and trade violations such as these represent a direct threat to American businesses. Global IP theft alone costs the U.S. economy as much as \$600 billion a year.

Such astounding losses were unacceptable during good economic times. Holding countries that disregard IP protections for American firms or impose arbitrary price controls on America's most innovative products accountable would help our economy rebound from the coronavirus.

In many cases, achieving this goal is simply a matter of enforcing trade pacts already on the books.

Of course, it's just as important that federal officials imbue new trade agreements – many of which already are in the negotiating stages – with stricter enforcement mechanisms.

As Ambassador Lighthizer explained in his testimony, the Trump administration has its sights on new trade pacts with the United Kingdom, Japan, Kenya, and other countries in the months ahead. It's critical that these efforts not lose momentum as the November elections grow closer.

By strictly enforcing trade agreements – and working towards new, more open trading relationships – the administration can stave off the worst consequences of this downturn and continue to give American workers the fair shake that they deserve.

Rick Dearborn is a Senior Fellow for the Bipartisan Policy Center and former Deputy Chief of Staff to President Trump. ★



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By County Supervisor Sue Frost

GOLD RIVER COMMUNITY UPDATE

Sacramento County Budget

Through the generosity of the Gold River Messenger, this column serves to provide an update about matters affecting the unincorporated community of Gold River.

This year has been one filled with extraordinary circumstances, forcing us to adapt in the way we do even the most routine of things. The budget process for Sacramento County is no exception. For those who may not have been following the County's budget process this year, here is a quick refresher.

Ordinarily, we adopt our budget for the upcoming fiscal year in June. This year, the circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic created too much uncertainty for the County's revenue streams. To adjust, the board of Supervisors adopted a temporary budget that extended the level of funding for each department from the '19-'20 budget. On September 9th, we started budget hearings for the new fiscal year with the up to date requests from each department. I want to take this opportunity to provide you some of the major takeaways from the adopted budget.

Let's start with the bad news. Anyone who has followed since I was first elected to the Board of Supervisors knows that I have been a constant advocate for building up our budget reserves. Sacramento County has consistently been operating with budget reserves significantly smaller than any county of similar size. Specifically, less than 1% of our operating budget. Facing a significant decline in revenues in a pandemic induced economic downturn, we were forced to dip, yet again, into our reserves, leaving only \$12.7 million. For

perspective, the County's total adopted budget is \$6.41 billion, with \$3.08 billion coming from the general fund. That means our reserves are less than one half of 1% of the general fund. With the newly adopted budget precariously balanced on one-time funding and revenue projections looking bleak, I fear for what this means for the budgets to follow as we may begin to look at cutting costs.

It is not all bad news, though, and some parts of the budget merit some praise. We have spent \$8 million on economic recovery, and we are continuing to explore how we can continue to provide assistance to businesses. We are continuing to operate our "Dine at Home" program that contracts local restaurants to provide meals to seniors during the pandemic. Also related to COVID-19, we were able to direct \$71.1 million to health services and \$26.1 million for contact tracing and business navigators to guide businesses on the process of reopening safely. The expenditures related to the pandemic are necessary both to protect health and safety, as well as to get the County back to a position where the State will allow our businesses to reopen. The same is true of the \$11.1 million allocated for Project Room Key and other homeless services. Even cities like Citrus Heights cannot resume operating their businesses until the entire County has met the State's standards, making it more critical that we all pull together in advancing COVID-19 solution efforts.

Still with me? I know most of my readers have eagerly been following the ongoing debate around the law enforcement in the County. While many called for reduction or elimination of funding for the Sheriff's Department, I can honestly say that

office received lean heavily toward providing the Sheriff with a necessary level of funding. As such, I am pleased to report that the adopted budget provides the Sheriff with the level of funding that was requested. Additionally, in a move that I believe most agree is long overdue, we approved \$2 million to begin the process of providing body cameras to all sheriffs, starting with patrol deputies as well as special unit deputies, park rangers, and probation. I am glad that we were finally able to provide this tool to law enforcement that promotes transparency and accountability.

I would not say this is the perfect budget. The reality is that the County had already begun reducing spending with the previous year's budget. While we knew we were heading into lean times, no one knew that we would be dealing with something on the level of a pandemic. Still, we were able to achieve some good. We continue to make sure health services have the resources they need to address COVID-19. We are continuing to explore opportunities to further aid businesses. We expanded the human assistance budget to create new positions necessary for an impending increase in CalWORKS claims. As the problems in the County continue to linger or grow and resources dwindle, I will continue to advocate for a budget that puts funding where it is needed, where it is effective, and whenever possible, builds a stronger reserve, so we are better prepared for economic downturns.

Sue Frost represents the 4th District, which includes all or part of the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, Rio Linda, Elverta, Gold River, Rancho Murietta, North Highlands, Carmichael, Foothill Farms and Fair Oaks. ★

President Protects Children Who Survive Abortions

Liberty Counsel Press Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG) - President Donald Trump announced he will be signing a Born-Alive Executive Order "to ensure that all precious babies born alive, no matter their circumstances, receive the medical care that they deserve." The executive order, once signed, will legally protect babies born alive after a failed abortion.

The full text of the order has not been released but it is expected to be similar to the Born-Alive Infant Protection Act that would provide for criminal penalties for abortionists who fail to provide proper medical care for babies who survive abortions. Democrats in Congress refused to pass this legislation more than 80 times, allowing abortionists to essentially get away with infanticide. Through petition signatures and fax campaigns, Liberty Counsel has delivered over 14,500 names to House and Senate members urging them to support the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

Speaking at the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast, President Trump called this "our sacrosanct moral duty."

President Trump said, "We believe in the joy of family, the blessing of freedom and the dignity of work and the eternal truth that every child born and unborn is made in the holy image of God. I will always protect the vital role of religion and prayer in American society, and I will always defend the sacred right to life."

The president also stated that his administration is increasing federal funding for neonatal research "to ensure that every child has the very best chance to thrive and to grow."

Abortion survivors are not "hypothetical." Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control, as well as the personal testimonies of nurses and abortion survivors themselves, provide evidence that babies survive abortions. According to the CDC, at least 143 babies were born alive

after botched abortions between 2003 and 2014 in the U.S., though there likely are more. The CDC also notes that this number is likely underestimated because of unclear terminology and a lack of understanding about spontaneous abortions.

In addition to the CDC's findings, several states report that babies are born alive after botched abortions. In 2017, Florida reported that 11 infants were born alive following an abortion, and six were born alive in 2018. Arizona reported that 10 fetuses or embryos were born alive after an abortion in 2017 and Minnesota reported that three babies were born alive following an abortion in 2017.

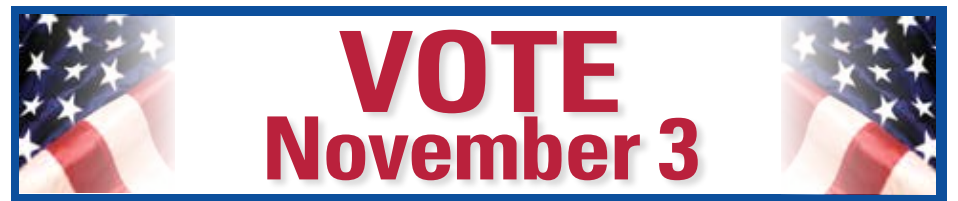
In addition, during the preliminary criminal hearing for Liberty Counsel's client Sandra Merritt, the undercover journalist who exposed Planned Parenthood's trade in baby body parts, an expert in stem cell research testified that various studies involving baby human hearts had to have been conducted while the hearts were still beating when cut out. In other words, the babies had to have been born alive.

Liberty Counsel Founder and Chairman Mat Staver said, "We applaud President Trump for once again protecting the lives of precious babies that have survived an abortion and are fighting for life. If this protection is not implemented, the abortionist simply backs away from the table and leaves the baby to suffer and die. We must continue the fight to make the womb a safe place once again in America."

Founded in 1989, Liberty Counsel is a 501(c)(3) non-profit litigation, education, and policy organization that advances religious freedom, the sanctity of human life, and the family.

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Now Available: IRS Form 1040-X Electronic Filing

By David A. Tucker II, Internal Revenue Service

WASHINGTON, DC (MPG) - Marking a major milestone in tax administration, the Internal Revenue Service announced that taxpayers can now submit Form 1040-X electronically with commercial tax-filing software.

As IRS e-filing has grown during the past 30 years, the 1040-X, Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, has been one of the last major individual tax forms that needed to be paper filed. The announcement follows years of effort by the IRS, and the enhancement allows taxpayers to quickly electronically correct previously filed tax returns while minimizing errors.

"The ability to file the Form 1040-X electronically has been an important long-term goal of the IRS e-file initiative for many years," said Sunita Lough, IRS Deputy Commissioner for Services and Enforcement. "Given the details needed on the form, there have been numerous challenges to add this form to the e-file family. Our IT and business operation teams worked hard with the nation's tax industry to make this change possible. This is another success for IRS modernization efforts. The addition helps taxpayers have a quicker, easier way to file amended returns, and it streamlines work for the IRS and the entire tax community."

Making the 1040-X an electronically filed form has been a goal for the tax software and tax professional industry for years. It's been a continuing recommendation from the Internal Revenue Service Advisory Council (IRSAC)

and Electronic Tax Administration Advisory Committee (ETAAC).

Currently, taxpayers must mail a completed Form 1040-X to the IRS for processing. The new electronic option allows the IRS to receive amended returns faster while minimizing errors normally associated with manually completing the form.

Since the tax-filing software allows users to input their data in a question-answer format, it simplifies the process for them. It also makes it easier for IRS employees to answer taxpayer questions since the data is entered electronically and submitted to the agency almost simultaneously.

"Adding the 1040-X to the e-filing portfolio provides a better experience for the taxpayer, all around. It makes submitting an amended return easier and it allows our employees to process it in a more efficient way," said Ken Corbin, the IRS Wage and Investment commissioner and head of the division responsible for processing these returns.

For the initial phase, only tax year 2019 Forms 1040 and 1040-SR returns can be amended electronically. Additional improvements are planned for the future.

About 3 million Forms 1040-X are filed by taxpayers each year.

Taxpayers still have the option to submit a paper version of the Form 1040-X and should follow the instructions for preparing and submitting the paper form. Those filing their Form 1040-X electronically and on paper can use the "Where's My Amended Return?" online tool to check the status of their amended return. ★