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Gold River Messenger

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*****ECRWSS*****

Local
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CRPD's Laura Taylor is Honored at Statewide Conference



Cordova Recreation & Park District's (CRPD) Park Planning and Development Manager, Laura Taylor. Photo CRPD

**By Cady Nagy-Chow,
Cordova Recreation & Park District**

ANAHEIM, CA (MPG) - Last week, Cordova Recreation & Park District's (CRPD) Park Planning and Development Manager Laura Taylor received the Staff Person of the Year award from the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) during the association's Annual Conference and Exhibitor Showcase, September 25-28, 2019.

Since Laura's hiring in 2013, she has been praised by community

members, colleagues and professional associations alike. General Manager Patrick Larkin, who oversees District operations, felt they "hit the jackpot," with Laura, a certified landscape architect in three states with a vision for future improvements. Not only was she vital in the Nexus Study, Capital Improvement Plan and County-Wide Fee Initiative for CRPD, Laura took the time to make a difference in tasks that seemed minor, like changing the record-keeping system into a digital filing system. She is a mentor and

a leader who inspires her team to be their best. She currently manages all Park Planning and Development projects, including construction of new parks or acceptance of turn-key parks and Measure J renovation projects.

"I am so grateful for my coworkers who nominated me, that in itself is a deep honor," Laura said in her acceptance speech. She spent her few minutes acknowledging the team she works with and how they contribute to the District's impeccable work. Watch the full award video on our Facebook page!

Congratulations, Laura! ★

Local Soroptimist Club Seeks Award Applicants

**By Sheryl Longworth,
Soroptimist Intl. of
Rancho Cordova
and Gold River**

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova & Gold River is now accepting applications for the Live Your Dream Award (formerly known as the Women's Opportunity Award). Application forms are available at <http://www.soroptimist-ranchocordova.org/awardapplications/live-your-dream-award/>.

Applications must be submitted at the website above no later than November 15th, 2019.

The Live Your Dream Award provides women, who serve as the primary wage earners for their families, with the financial resources to offset costs associated with their efforts to attain higher education or additional skills and training. This cash award can be used for tuition, books, childcare, transportation, food, electricity bills, or any other education-related expense. This program, which begins on the club level, was created in 1972 to help women improve their ability to provide for their families.

Applicants for this award need not reside within Rancho Cordova or Gold River city limits. However, applicants can submit an application to only one club. Please email Sheryl Longworth at siranchocordova@soroptimist.net or call (916) 833-1218 for more information.

Soroptimist is an international 501(c)3 non-profit organization who seeks to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. The name, Soroptimist, means "best for women," and that's what the organization strives to achieve. Soroptimists are people at their best, working to help other women to be their best. Please email siranchocordova@soroptimist.net to receive more information about Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova & Gold River, how to become a member, or just learn how you can volunteer with our club members, or visit <http://www.soroptimist-ranchocordova.org/>. ★

Look Who's Talking

**Photos and Story
by Margaret Snider**

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)

- John McGinness focused his talk at the October Rancho Cordova Luncheon on the need to vote responsibly. After assuring the attendees that they were an exception to the uninformed state of many voters, he said, "Folks in this room, you have to accept yourself, you're different than the masses because you know who's on your City Council, you probably know who represents you in the Assembly and the State Senate, you probably read the ballot measures." Then came the kicker. "If you don't read them, that's okay, but please don't vote (on them). Please don't vote!"

McGinness served for more than 31 years with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department. He especially enjoyed the Sheriff's motorcycle detail



From left to right are Wallace Morgan and his wife Sirgute Morgan; former Sacramento County Sheriff John McGinness; West Coast Events caterer David Maestas; and Tammy Sullivan of the Rancho Cordova Chamber. "McGinness seems to be very fair, and doesn't have any agenda of his own," Sirgute Morgan said. "That's 100 percent true." Sirgute is originally from Ethiopia and she and her husband have lived 35 years in Rancho Cordova.

where he was training officer and team leader. He said the worst thing about his career was seeing the human suffering, especially involving children. After being promoted through the ranks he became under-sheriff in 2001 until being

elected sheriff in 2006. He is an adjunct professor of criminal justice and other subjects at California State University, and hosts his own show on NewsRadio KFBK.

McGinness pointed out that the passage of

Proposition 47 in 2014, titled the Safe Neighborhoods and Safe Schools Act, was the result of official, intentional deceptive information in the title and the information booklet sent out to voters.

To illustrate, McGinness

Continued on page 3

SMUD Helps Sponsor the Hubble Space Telescope Exhibit

By Lindsay VanLaningham, SMUD

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Among a crowd of Sacramento leaders, SMUD announced a partnership with the Aerospace Museum of California and a \$50,000 sponsorship to host NASA's Hubble Space Telescope Exhibit for local students to experience a once-in-a-lifetime STEM education experience.

The announcement came as dozens of area leaders, residents and children got a sneak peek of the exhibit as it opened its doors to the public for Fall 2019.

"This is an incredible opportunity to expose students to science, technology, engineering and math in a new and innovative way," said SMUD CEO and General Manager Arlen Orchard. "Our goal is to help the museum inspire and expose students from all over the region to the expansive possibilities in STEM education and STEM-related careers, so they truly can reach for the stars."

The exhibit features a scaled replica of NASA's Hubble Space Telescope and includes hands-on, interactive activities that allow students to explore the technology used in space to gaze at distant stars, planets and galaxies. They will also be able to learn about the new James Webb Space Telescope and how it will contribute



The tunnel leading into the Hubble telescope exhibit. Photo courtesy of SMUD

to our knowledge into the future.

The exhibit will be on display through December 2019 and is expected to draw thousands of visitors.

In partnership with the museum, SMUD's goal is to reach 15,000 students with this STEM education experience, particularly those in historically underserved communities. A large portion of the grant provides transportation funding for Title I schools,

as well as free participation in the program; teacher membership; and continuing education resources.

"We're excited to host this amazing exhibit in California for the very first time," stated Executive Director for the Aerospace Museum Tom Jones. "The Hubble Space Telescope exhibit is a perfect complement to our other artifacts that can help tell the story of aerospace

from the beginning to well into the future."

Funding for this project comes from SMUD's Sustainable Communities Initiative that seeks to leverage resources for community partners in order to provide increased access to employment, healthcare, STEM education and more. This is one of many projects that will enhance the Sacramento community. ★



Scaled replica of the Hubble Telescope surrounded by images it has provided. The hands-on display is interactive and allows students to interact with various places on the globe. Photo courtesy of SMUD

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Rancho Cordova/Gold River Soroptimist Club Turns 10 Years Old

By Sheryl Longworth, Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova & Gold River

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)

The Soroptimist Int'l of Rancho Cordova & Gold River club was chartered in August, 2009. On August 10, 2019 it celebrated its 10th birthday. Approximately 35 guests attended the celebration including several former club members, Soroptimist district and regional leaders, County Supervisor Don Nottoli, City Councilmember Garrett Gatewood and a representative from Assemblyman Ken Cooley's office. Assemblyman Cooley's representative presented club president, Sheryl Longworth with a Certificate of Recognition from the California State Assembly.

Since the club's inception ten years ago, it has made tremendous, measurable impact on Rancho Cordova and the world. Here are some of those statistics:

Almost 250 homeless teen girls in the Folsom Cordova school district, are now passing their P.E. classes because they are no longer ashamed to change into their P.E. uniforms, allowing their peers to see their beautiful new undergarments and are doing better in school in general, because of their higher self-esteem and confidence, due to the new bras and panties the club bought for them, over the last 8 years;

Homeless San Juan USD students are getting some of their needs met through the club's \$500 Walmart gift card donation to the San Juan USD McKinney-Vento



Assemblyman Cooley's representative presented club president, Sheryl Longworth with a Certificate of Recognition from the California State Assembly. Photo courtesy of Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova & Gold River

Community Liaison;

Over 1225 domestic violence survivors, over the last 9 years, feel more normal and loved because they received one of our Comfort Kits;

Over 325 children of domestic violence survivors, over the last 5 years, also "felt the love" and are also able to restart their young lives with their very own Comfort Kid kit;

Approximately 100 girls per year, since 2014, stayed in school, because 15-30 minutes of using a heating pad, that we provided to the school nurses at both Cordova and Kinney High schools, relieved their menstrual pain enough so they could return to class, rather than be sent home for the day. That's 500 girls!

Raised enough money to buy 40 Solar Cookers for families fleeing the genocide in the Sudan;

Over 750 girls won't be a target of traffickers due to the hundreds of Dress a Girl Around the World dresses that we helped make between 2015 and 2016.

We would love you to be a part of our club's success; to continue existing programs, like the ones described above, as well as offer even more programs. We need your help! Please email siranchocordova@soroptimist.net or call club president, Sheryl Longworth at 916-833-1218.

Soroptimist is an international 501(c) 3 non-profit organization that seeks to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment. The name, Soroptimist, means "best for women" and that's what the organization strives to achieve. Soroptimists are people at their best, working to help other women to be their best. Please send an email to siranchocordova@soroptimist.net to receive more information about Soroptimist International of Rancho Cordova & Gold River, how to become a member, or just learn how you can volunteer with our club members or visit <http://www.soroptimistranhocordova.org/>. ★

Look Who's Talking

Continued from page 1
asked how many in the room thought it was a good idea to reduce the criminal consequences for possession of the date rape drug, possession of methamphetamines, theft of a firearm valued at \$950 or less, from a felony to a misdemeanor. No one raised a hand. "How many people voted for the Safe Neighborhoods and Safe Schools Act?" McGinness asked, and said most people raise their hands on this question at his speaking engagements. "If you voted for the Safe Neighborhoods and Safe Schools Act, also known as Proposition 47, you voted for all those things," McGinness said. "And you voted against imposing consequences against people for engaging in certain kinds of offensive behavior." Those included, McGinness said, injecting drugs in public, discarding those hypodermic needles on playgrounds, on streets, on sidewalks, defecating and urinating in public. "And I think the consequences of that, coupled with the horrible opioid crisis, frankly are coming home to roost."

Though the Act was billed as "supported by law enforcement" McGinness said that, in fact, it was opposed almost unanimously by State district attorneys, sheriffs, and municipal police chiefs, numbering in the hundreds. "Could they say, honestly, that there was some law enforcement support?" McGinness asked. "Yes, approximately two or three people, and by the way, the labor groups all opposed it also."

"Now, a person could walk into a retail store, 365 days a year, every



John McGinness visits with an attendee at the Rancho Cordova Luncheon at the end of the event. "There are some things that are plaguing communities to extraordinary degrees," McGinness said in his presentation.

single day of the year," McGinness said, "and steal \$949 worth of merchandise, and they're never going to see a minute in custody. "Don't believe what you read in the summary and title. Please, please, please read the ballot data."

McGinness informed the group that typhus, which was eradicated in the 1800s, has now resurfaced in Los Angeles County and added that the water at the confluence of the Sacramento and American Rivers exceeds the acceptable levels of E. coli by a substantial margin and is not safe. "Groundskeepers working at the State Capitol have been assaulted and battered on numerous occasions," McGinness said. "There are homeless people that are doing it, but they're not people who lost their lease because of the increased cost of living... That's something else entirely."

In summary, McGinness said, "Please, know what it is for which you're

voting." Caterer for the luncheon was West Coast Events, with co-owners David Maestas and Jan Parker. Maestas has lived in Rancho Cordova for 12 years, and his father was sheriff of Los Angeles County at one time. "(McGinness) always has some words of wisdom to share, and he definitely has experience, so you know he's got a lot of validity in what he says," Maestas said.

McGinness is a graduate of Sacramento's Christian Brothers High School where he played football. He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice, and a Master of Science Degree at California State University, Long Beach, and graduated from West Point Leadership Institute. He travels extensively throughout California for his consulting work in McGinness Solutions Inc., and has been to Europe and Asia. Catalina Island is one of his favorite places. ★

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GRM

Spend Twenty Minutes With Me

By Sal Arrigo, Jr.

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Attending the 14th Annual California Capital Airshow at Mather Airport on October 5-6, 2019, was a thrilling experience!

My original intent was to focus and write about the 75th anniversary of the D-Day invasion which was one of the highlights of the show. As it turned out, I was distracted by a documentary that was being filmed about the WASP organization. As I eavesdropped, I became more and more interested in the Women's Airforce Service Pilots who were very instrumental in adding to the success of the United States Air Force.

I have never heard of this military group, but by show's end, I became quite a fan. The WASP organization was formed in 1942 with 23 women making up the first graduate group of Service Pilots. Their job was to ferry and test aircraft and to train other personnel in their use.

While this group became part of history by being the first women to fly military aircraft for the United States, their organizational mission was just beginning. The title of this article is attributed to Kimberly Johnson, one of the keepers of the official archives of the WASP organization located at Texas Women's University in Denton, Texas. Kimberly told me a fascinating story about Colonel Paul Tibbets, the pilot of the Enola Gay and the B-29 Superfortress, (the plane that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan during World War II). "The B-29 was a scary

plane to fly and the male pilots were finding excuses not to fly it," said Kimberly. Colonel Tibbets had to find a way to convince his pilots to start training and becoming familiar with the aircraft. He turned to the WASP's and found that Dorothea Moorman and Dora Daugherty were willing to fly the B-29 and encouraged the male pilots by telling them it was safe to fly. "Imagine the look on the male pilots' faces when two ladies stepped off the plane!" she concluded.

I had the privilege of learning so much more about the WASP's and came to realize that more than 25,000 women signed up to join the first class! The WASP's were official members of the United States Air Force, but it took more than 60 years before Congress bestowed upon the group the Congressional Gold Medal for contributions made during World War II.

One of the WASP display highlights was a B-25 Mitchell medium bomber available for visitors to climb aboard and visit the cockpit. This is where I found pilot and Boeing engineer Vera Martinovich. She flew the B-25 from its base in Madras, Oregon to Mather Airport and was experiencing her first airshow. The plane is part of the Erickson Aircraft Collection, an organization with "a wide variety of WW II Aircraft," which began in the 1970s.

As I climbed into the cockpit area, I asked Vera if she experiences "any visitors" when she is flying the B-25? "I think about those 20-year old WASP's talking together," she said. She



Present at this year's 14th Annual California Capital Airshow at Mather Airport are Delane Buttacavoli, left, and Kaitlan Comm, two members of the WASP National Soar Tour. Photo by Sal Arrigo Jr.

joined as a pilot to fly the B-25 "to keep them flying" to honor the history of the WASP pilots. As we spoke, Vera mentioned the people who were attend-



In the cockpit is B-25 pilot Vera Martinovich. The B-25 Mitchell was a medium bomber introduced in 1941. Photo by Sal Arrigo Jr.

ing the airshow, hoping that they "could truly grasp and realize what the WASP pilots accomplished." I had to agree it is an important

piece of our nation's military history, and one that needs to be told on a more frequent basis. The Women Airforce Service Pilots crosses many generations

I also met two other pilots who emphasized the importance for the general public to know about the WASP's. Delane Buttacavoli and Kaitlan Comm are part of the WASP National Soar Tour. They both told me that they "love the WASP's" and they wanted to take the WASP story to other airshows across the United States. It was easy to understand these women's passion for doing so. I watched them enthusiastically greet show spectators and then assist them to climb onboard the B-25.

As with any group throughout history who want to make a positive difference to those around them, I can say the Women Airforce Service Pilots did just that. Kimberly Johnson said she felt the women "persevered and really had something

to contribute to the war effort." As it is stated "the mission of the WASP Archive is to honor the first female military pilots, tell their story of service, bravery, and heroism to their country, and celebrate the place women in aviation occupy today, tomorrow, and yesterday inspiring future generations."

If you find yourself asking such questions as - "who was the person who approved the program to train the women?", or "how many of the women died in service to their country while WASP members?" - visit the WASP website at: <https://wasp-museum.org/> for answers to these questions and more.

"We live in the wind and sand...and our eyes on the stars." - Motto of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) ★

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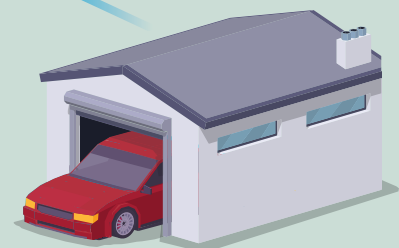


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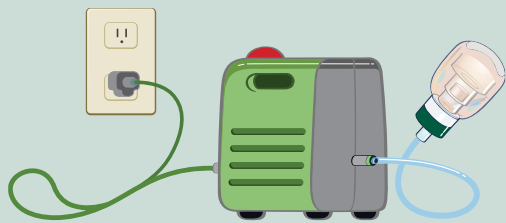
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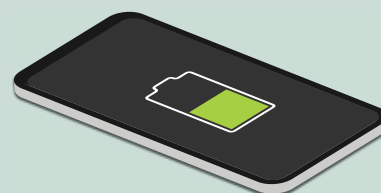
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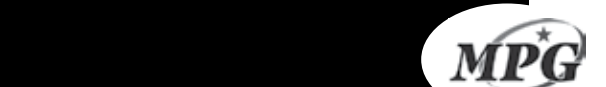
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Volunteers Needed to Help Kids Read



Teaching children to read opens them to the vast world of learning and stimulates their curiosity. United Way Experience Corps Photo.

By Kristin Thébaud, Kristin Thébaud Communications

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Local residents age 50 and up are needed this fall to help kids in kindergarten through third grade improve their reading through AARP Experience Corps, managed locally by United Way California Capital Region. To learn more and sign up to volunteer, visit YourLocalUnitedWay.org/Experience-Corps-Literacy-Program.

“Kids who are not reading at grade level by fourth grade are more likely to fall behind in all subjects, including math and science, making them less likely to graduate from high school,” said Stephanie Bray, president and CEO, United Way California Capital Region. “This corps of volunteers is essential to ensuring our community’s kids are successful.”

Volunteers serve at local schools approximately two days per week for two to three hours a day throughout the school year, tutoring and tracking progress for groups

of two to three students for the year. Volunteers meet monthly to share best practices and receive literacy and classroom management experience. They receive training to become mentors and role models and to hone their skills to help students reach their reading goals.

Last year, United Way’s AARP Experience Corps helped 415 students with reading – 62 percent of those who were reading below grade level improved their reading and literary performance. In 2018, program participant Robla School District reported more students meeting and exceeding standards in English Language Arts compared to 2017 – the rate of annual increase was three times higher than state and county averages.

“The results are encouraging and worth the work,” said Experience Corps volunteer Mary Ann Rider. “I never felt like I was cut out to be a teacher, but I felt prepared by the curriculum I had learned in our training. Plus getting to know the kids is fun. If you’re looking for volunteer work, what’s more important than

helping a child learn to read?”

United Way California Capital Region is one of only seven nonprofits across the country helping to grow Experience Corps, the evidence-based AARP Foundation literacy program that improves the reading skills of children, enriches the lives of volunteer tutors and strengthens schools in local communities.

For nearly 100 years, United Way California Capital Region has brought local people together to make community change happen. Today, the nonprofit is bringing people together across Amador, El Dorado, Sacramento, Placer and Yolo counties for its Square One Project, a 20-year promise to significantly increase the number of students in our region who graduate from high school ready for success in college and beyond. United Way believes ending poverty starts in school and is working to ensure kids meet important milestones and their families receive support and resources. To learn more and make a donation: YourLocalUnitedWay.org. ★



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'Fool's Gold' A Tale of Two State Fairs

(Second of two parts)

By David Dickstein,
Gold River Resident

GOLD RIVER, CA (MPG)

- Choosing to write a first-hand comparison of the meh California State Fair with the world-famous Iowa State Fair, both visited last summer, I figured only a few readers had ever been to the one state fair on most folks' bucket list. What I didn't realize is how many of you have never gone to our own state fair right in our own backyard.

"I have yet to go to the Cal State Fair in my 10 years in Sacramento ... for many reasons you mention in your article," one reader from Enterprise

living factor. Sacramento is 45.6 percent more expensive than Des Moines, according to Best Places. Maybe that's why a BBQ pulled pork sandwich at Cal Expo sells for \$10.75 a la carte and one at the Iowa State Fair costs only \$9. Even comes with baked beans, applesauce and potato chips.

Other comparisons, fair or not:

- **Headline acts – CA:** Cover bands performing on six of 17 nights is embarrassing for the state fair representing the world's music industry mecca. The 11 other acts have loyal followings, I'm sure, but would be cast off as has-beens if

judges eaten just another couple of mouthfuls, they probably would have done what my wife and I did and throw the rest away in a classic example of accelerated diminishing returns. Just those few bites had us feeling as if we ate a pair of oven mitts. Came this close to going on the Gravitron to purge myself, but that would have been \$10 wasted on the dessert and another \$5 for the ride. IA: The \$4 Cookies and Cream Wonder Bar, winner of the fair's "Best New Deal," was heaven on a stick.

- **Violent crime – CA:** Over the past decade, hardly a



Great views of the Iowa State Fairgrounds come with riding on the Sky Glider. Photo by David Dickstein

The donated 10 letters now grace the Cal Expo entrance along Exposition Boulevard, but lack the gravitas worthy of an event with roots dating back to 1854. IA: Founded the same year, the Iowa State Fair has the beloved butter cow. A stable since 1911 when J.K. Daniels sculpted the first high-fat heifer, the most photographed symbol of the fair draws long lines every year in the Agricultural Building. Tradition comes in the form of 600 pounds of low moisture, pure cream Iowa butter.

California tops Iowa in terms of population, agribusiness and tax revenue, but when comparing our state fair with theirs, there's

really no comparison. Is the California State Fair a dog with fleas? Not at all. The Sacramento fair and food festival has its merits, and kudos to Cal Expo's board of governors for putting on as good a show as it does on a shoestring budget. Perhaps if Gov. Gavin Newsom would redirect some dollars away from supporting the non-taxpaying citizens and non-citizens of California, our outdated and dilapidated fairgrounds could get the extreme makeover it needs.

Of course, even if our fair was adequately funded, there's no guarantee of restored success. I'm afraid we Californians are too conditioned to be cool, not corny, and in the state fair business, corn beats cool. Moreover, as a population, we here don't have the

goods to match the home-grown heart and tradition that's in every Iowan's DNA. Maybe someday.

So, for now, let's look forward to July 12-28, 2020 when we can again risk embarrassment and our lives to celebrate the land of plenty that is California. Then, if you want to see how a state fair should be done, check your coolness at the airport and head 2,400 miles east to corny Des Moines from Aug. 13-23. Look for me – I'll be the guy wearing Tommy Bahama while wolfing down one of their famous pork chops on a stick. Actually, at just \$7 a pop, make that two.

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



California State Fair's "Best Dessert" of 2019 proves you can have too much of a good thing. Photo by David Dickstein

Village wrote in. Several submitted similar sentiments, citing, as I did in last month's part one column, the grungy grounds, gouging grub and gangs that seem to plague Cal Expo year after year. How sad is that? The Golden State leads the nation in agriculture production, yet doesn't produce a showcase celebrating our God-given bounty that's good enough, cheap enough and safe enough to woo many of this upper-middle-class neighborhood.

Zooming out on the state map, less than 2 percent of Californians visited this year's fair in July. Half a country away, 36 percent of Iowans made the pilgrimage to Des Moines in August, and over only 11 days; ours runs 17. Converting to turnstile clicks, that's 601,761 fairgoers in Sacramento and 1,170,375 at the other state capital.

Yeah, yeah – blue ribbon-winning apples to oranges some of you might be scoffing at these comparisons. That's fair (he wrote, pun intended). Unlike Des Moines, which is smack dab in the center of a smaller state, Sacramento is a schlep to get to for most Californians. And even the proudest Iowan would agree that the Hawkeye State isn't exactly oozing with amusement options like the Golden State, so it's a big deal when the fair comes around.

There's also a cost of

not for the cotton candy circuit. Still a fan of the Plain White T's, though. IA: An impressive 2019 lineup included country chart-toppers Luke Bryan, Dan + Shay, Zac Brown and Toby Keith, plus Foreigner, Pentatonix, the Chainsmokers and homegrown metal band Slipknot, which played before a sold-out crowd

season has gone by without dozens of arrests for fighting, shootings, battery against an officer and other unsavory acts, rioting included. IA: Des Moines is no Mayberry or Pleasantville, but as an Iowa state trooper told me, any rioting on the fairgrounds means that someone left the cattle gate open.



Iowa State Fair's must-see Butter Cow is one heckuva high-fat heifer. Photo by David Dickstein

of 17,032. Yes, those grandstand concerts cost extra, but even Iowa's entrance-including second stage has some bigger names than Cal Expo's main stage – '90s #1-charting Nelson, for instance.

- **Award-winning foods – CA:** Judges named Moyer's Pizza by the Slice's Edible Cookie Dough Sundae as this year's "Best Dessert." Based on one bite, I can understand why. Super yummy. But had the

- **Ironic symbols – CA:** With 165 years of history, how sad that the most iconic symbol of the California State Fair has only been around for seven years. Even more pathetic, it's a hand-me-down not even inside the fairground gates. We're talking the giant "CALIFORNIA" letters the Disneyland Resort didn't want at the entrance of California Adventure when the park expanded in 2012.



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Thawing turkeys must be kept at a safe temperature in the refrigerator. The "danger zone" is between 41 and 135°F – this is the temperature range where foodborne bacteria multiply rapidly.

#2 PREPARATION

After working with raw poultry, always wash utensils and work surfaces, as well as your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds before touching other foods.

#3 STUFFING

For optimal safety, cook the stuffing outside the turkey in a casserole dish. However, if you place stuffing inside the turkey, do so just before cooking, and use a food thermometer. Make sure the center of the stuffing reaches a safe minimum internal temperature of 165°F.

#4 COOKING

Always thaw turkeys completely in the refrigerator. Set the oven temperature no lower than 325°F. Place turkey breast-side up on a wire rack in a shallow roasting pan. Check the internal temperature using a food thermometer – the center of the stuffing and meaty portion of the breast, thigh and wing joint must reach 165°F at a minimum.

#5 LEFTOVERS

Perishable foods should not be left out of the refrigerator for more than 2 hours. To reheat turkey, cut the meat into smaller pieces and keep legs and wings whole – before serving the turkey. Be sure to reheat all your leftovers to a minimum of 165°F.

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Reporting from the World Summit of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates

**Exclusive MPG Report
by David Dickstein**

MERIDA, MEXICO (MPG) - They held a World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates last month in Mexico and a softball game broke out.

If the above phrasing sounds familiar, Rodney Dangerfield liked to joke, "I went to a fight the other night, and a hockey game broke out." After attending what was billed as a forum to "address global issues with a view to encourage and support peace and human well-being in the world," only to walk away disappointed, I knew that by borrowing from the late comedian, I'd have the perfect, albeit sad introductory line.

The batters of my metaphorical softball game were the Nobel Peace Prize winners whose three days in the Yucatan Peninsula included sit-downs with the press. The credentialed journalists were the pitchers, and by throwing mainly softball questions, the mostly Mexico-based contingent squandered the rare opportunity of asking tough and/or insightful questions to the distinguished do-gooders. In all, 30 Nobel Peace Prize laureates attended the event, representing themselves or

so much stuff that, um, that one can say," King said. "He's talked about sh*thole nations, the way he's spoken about Mexicans - there's a host of things I see that come across as if he does not like certain groups of people."

So far I hadn't heard a specific example of Trump being a racist, and as King continued with her response, she seemed to go further astray.

"Anyone who does not agree with him or stands up to him almost becomes enemy No. 1," she said. "He just attacks, and it's not always driven by race - it's driven by Trump. That's the bottom line. He's a different kind of person than what you'd call your typical racist because ... look at the way he spoke about Senator [John] McCain. Who does that? The army vet, the reporter, it's on and on and on and on."

King is a delightful woman who I had the pleasure of sitting next to on the plane to Mexico City. And what an honor and thrill it was when my offer of my blanket was warmly accepted when she felt a chill halfway there. All that aside, I would be remiss as a journalist if I didn't say that my question didn't con-



Nobel Peace Prize laureate and former Colombian president Juan Manuel Santos makes opening remarks in the Yucatan.
Photo by David Dickstein

when she said, "Racism is just a word that's being banded and thrown about and thrown at the president, in my opinion, unjustly. President Trump is not a racist."

After a good laugh over a question her PR person said had never been asked before, Bernice King gave a thorough, thoughtful response:

I don't like that is a part of your ideological system I shut you all the way down. I discount that there may be something in your makeup that is very beautiful, very powerful and has truth to it. But we don't allow ourselves to open up to people unless they think mostly like us. And if we continue to do that then we're going to have friction and tension and conflict."

Attending his ninth World Summit was **Frederik Willem de Klerk**, former president of South Africa and a 1993 Nobel Peace Prize winner with Nelson Mandela for their role in ending Apartheid. The political prisoner he freed and would later succeed him as the country's leader. De Klerk's response to a question on migration was refreshing in that he was the only laureate to say that nations cannot open the floodgates for immigrants.

"Migration is not only a problem between the USA and Mexico," de Klerk said. "Look at the hundreds of people crossing Africa into Europe to escape from dangerous situations, from hunger and joblessness, and the problems the European countries have in assimilating these migrants. Migration is a problem around the world and it's going to become a bigger problem. In the case of Europe, the population is shrinking, and just to keep the economy at the level

1992 for her work championing rights of indigenous peoples and reconciliation between ethnic groups. The morning of her so-called press conference, during which she and her guest panelists gobbled up all but the last few minutes for questions, Tum was on a different panel on migration. She believes that no one flees their country unless they're desperate, and their sole objective is to live where they are safe. Assuming that's true, I asked Tum why the caravans originating in Honduras and El Salvador make the long and dangerous journey to the United States instead of seeking asylum in the first safe country they reach, which so happens to be her homeland of Guatemala? "How open are the arms of your country, or is your nation happy when the refugees continue on to Mexico to ultimately be handled by the USA?" Her response, through an interpreter, was so off the mark, I may as well have asked if she likes meatloaf on Tuesdays. Even her panelist friend told me she completely dodged the question. Clearly, Tum is riding the Peace Prize train without practicing what she preaches. Hypocrisy reared its ugly head several times during her abbreviated Q&A; at the start she urged the media to ask tough questions.

A fixture at these near-annual events is Lech

time because the collapse of communism throughout Europe happened faster than anyone predicted.

"My strategy was Poland first, but then East and West Germany reunified and there was a snowball effect in other countries of the [Eastern] Bloc," Walesa said. "The speed actually surprised President Reagan and myself, too."

Asked about Trump's chances to win a Peace Prize this December, the Polish activist danced the polka around the question, responding through an interpreter that while the world leader diagnoses situations in a correct way, the solutions he applies are wrong.

"He wants to move in a different direction than the whole world is heading," said the man who won his Nobel Prize by doing just that. Walesa used Trump's policy on protecting the nation's southern border with Mexico as an example. "He says there are too many people coming into the United States. There should not be a wall, but money invested in Mexico to create jobs. And once this is done, this will level the disproportion between the countries."

Trump's mistake, Walesa said, is "forgetting that people behave like interconnected containers of water." He elaborated. "There is a great disproportion in development in the world. It's not Mexico's fault of this disproportion. It's the United States' fault. We need to move the water from one container to another. We need to level the disproportion."

Walesa didn't sound like he'd put money on Trump winning a Peace Prize this year or any year. Despite efforts to keep the peace, namely making historic inroads with North Korea and in the Middle East, all without war breaking out, Trump seems to be on the same tireless path as some past Republican presidents. Reagan engineered the end of the Cold War, and Richard Nixon, by normalizing relations between the U.S. and China, forced the Soviet Union to yield to pressure for detente with the United States.

The last GOP president to win the Peace Prize was Theodore Roosevelt in 1906. Since then, Woodrow Wilson, Jimmy Carter and Barack Obama have been so honored in addition to Vice President Al Gore - all Democrats. This from an organization that as late as last month's World Summit of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates said the selection committee has no political bias. ★



F.W. de Klerk (left) takes questions from the media at a summit of Nobel Peace Prize winners in Mexico. David Dickstein at right, with camera. Photo by Sara Sanchez

winning organizations. The softball field, just to close out the sports-related figure of speech, was next to the working press room inside a world-class convention center in Merida, capital of the state of Yucatan.

Poor organization and logistics made covering the event a living hell, but of greater importance to you readers is how the Nobel Peace Prize winners responded to the questions that didn't kowtow to the people of honor, few and far between as they were. Most journalists asked pandering softball questions like this one to **Dr. Bernice King**, the youngest child of revered Dr. Martin Luther King: "As a privileged white woman who can't relate to the struggles of people of color, what can those like me do to help?" Knowing the organization, that eye-roller will probably get that woman a permanent invitation to all future World Summits. That would be a travesty with the white journalist already feeling so privileged and all.

Then a real question from the press was asked. My first of two called on MLK's daughter to substantiate claims she made earlier at the World Summit about the leader of the Free World: "You have repeatedly called President Trump a racist. Can you give one example of something racist he has said or done?" King fumbled with her response, often looking to her handlers for help.

"Um, I mean there's

seemed to trip King up. She seemed to ramble and contradict herself.

"Out of his mouth I have heard him denounce white supremacy. I've heard that," King said. "Whether or not he denounces it in a way that pushes away those who support him is another discussion. Those are the examples I have. It's hard for somebody to believe he's not racist. I can say that just because There are some things he's done policy-wise that's helped to uplift some of the black community. The First Step Act in terms of prison reform Racism is prejudice plus power. Racism is when you think an entire group of people is inferior to you or your peer group. I don't know if anyone has examined that. Does President Trump feel that all blacks or Mexicans are inferior as a group? That's a question we have to ask and determine."

My second question for King, a quasi-lighthearted one, made the civil rights activist laugh out loud, which, all professionalism aside, was pretty cool. I asked, "When the family sits down for Christmas dinner, what's the conversation like with Cousin Alveda at the table?" Alveda Celeste King, for those who don't watch Fox News, is a civil rights activist, former Georgia congresswoman and a vocal supporter of the President. The 68-year-old niece of MLK has defended Trump on many occasions, including on national TV

"Because our family has such strong unconditional love for each other we do not let those kinds of things tear us apart as a family," she said. "We have strong, vehement disagreements about how President Trump conducts himself. She is a Christian and she is also a minister, but at the end of the day she does what she does. I say what I need to say, she says what she needs to say."

King then spoke much like the minister she is and her father was: "One thing I've learned about different opinions and ideologies is if you sit down and listen long enough and shut down your right to be right and allow yourself to hear what a person is saying, you might discover a bit of truth. That's how my father developed his philosophy of non-violence. He was able to read and study a lot of different philosophers and theologians. Even those he didn't agree with. So, if we're going to create a more humane world, we have to learn to do that. Alveda has taught me because she's so strong in what she feels and believes. We had a discussion over Labor Day weekend, and I sat and really listened to some of the things she was saying, and as I thought about them holistically there was some truth in that, and I had to acknowledge that. We have a tendency with people we disagree with to disagree with them fully. If there's something specifically that



Dr. Bernice King leads a press conference at the World Summit of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates. Photo by David Dickstein

where it is they will have to take in migrants. But I have sympathy for any country that says, 'We can't take anybody who wants to come into the country. We have to have an immigration policy that also puts importance on the interests of our country. We need migrants with specific skills.' So, immigration policy should strike a balance between humaneness and protecting the interests of the country."

Participating in her sixth World Summit was **Rigoberta Menchu Tum**, a Guatemalan Indian who was awarded the Peace Prize in

Walesa, who won the Peace Prize in 1983 for founding Poland's anti-communist Solidarity movement that played a key role in the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe. My question for the former Polish president, a pro-capitalist, was whether he would have been more successful developing his country as "The America of the East," as he declared in 1991, with a businessman in the White House, Trump, than an actor-turned-politician, Ronald Reagan. Walesa said that it probably wouldn't have mattered who was the U.S. president at the

Educating Senior Citizens About Voting Options

By Janna Haynes, Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - With the March 2020 Presidential Primary right around the corner, the Sacramento County Department of Voter Registration and Elections (VRE) aims to register every eligible voter in the County, increase voter turnout and educate every voter on voting accessibility and options.

The VRE Outreach Team is visiting local senior living facilities and community centers to speak with the aging population about their voting options in 2020. These presentations consist of an overview of the changes to voting in Sacramento County due to the Voter's Choice Act, instruction on how and when to update their voter registration, as well as general information about their voting options for the upcoming 2020 election cycle. These presentations are intended to educate our senior population to prepare them to exercise their right to vote in 2020.

More about the Voter's Choice Act
Sacramento County is one of the original five counties in California that implemented the Voter's Choice Act in 2018, expanding voting opportunities for all residents. VRE saw positive results in the primary and general election in 2018 and looks forward to improved ease and access for voters as we enter the 2020



Election cycle.

As a reminder, here are the changes the VCA allows:

Choose how, when and where you want to vote.

By Mail: All registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail. Place the voted ballot inside the envelope provided, sign the envelope and return – your postage is paid!

Vote Center: With the passage of the California Voter's Choice Act, traditional polling places have been replaced with Vote Centers that are open for up to 11 days, including Election Day. This means voters can choose when, where and how they want to vote – at ANY Vote Center in the County. Avoid the lines, VRE saw positive results in the primary and general election in 2018 and looks forward to improved ease and access for voters as we enter the 2020

At the Vote Center you can drop off your completed ballot OR vote in person. There is even weekend voting!

Vote Centers open for 11 days.

Vote Centers open for four days.

Drop Boxes – Voted/signed ballots may be placed in any of the 57 secure Drop Box locations throughout Sacramento County.

Eligible residents can also register to vote, update their registration and cast their ballot at a Vote Center, even on the day of the election.

A complete list of locations can be found online and will be provided in the Sacramento County Voter Information Guide that will be mailed out prior to the election.

For more election and voter information, visit the Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections website.

To register to vote visit the California Online Voter Registration website. ★

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