

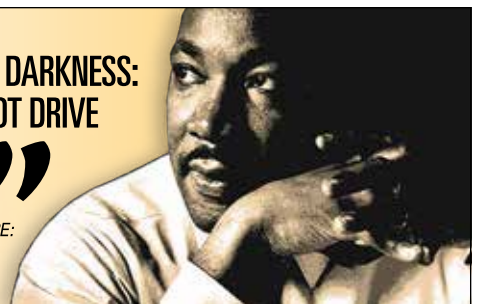


## Firefighting is Lifesaving

PAGE 4

“DARKNESS CANNOT DRIVE OUT DARKNESS: ONLY LIGHT CAN DO THAT. HATE CANNOT DRIVE OUT HATE: ONLY LOVE CAN DO THAT.”

— MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., A TESTAMENT OF HOPE: THE ESSENTIAL WRITINGS AND SPEECHES



# AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

VOLUME 17 • ISSUE 1

Serving Fair Oaks, Orangevale & Sacramento County

JANUARY 14, 2022

SEE INSIDE

DAR FUNDS SERVICE DOGS FOR VETERANS



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BRING A SMILE TO A SENIOR



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2022 AND YOU



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## Poachers are Preying



Above: Jousting for mating dominance, bucks are a lure for Parkway poachers. Right: Signs at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center alert visitors to poaching activity.

Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - In league with Fish and Wildlife Department officers, nature activists have launched a campaign against poaching American River Parkway deer. Although all wildlife is protected and weapons are forbidden in the 26-mile sanctuary, the winter deer breeding season is game-on for illegal hunters.

Deer thrive in concentration in preserves; males live longer and become trophy specimens. When breeding urges divert them, bucks with big racks are unwary targets. The rutting season is now in full swing and though it's hard to prove illegal hunting is increasing, nature-lovers are appalled that it happens at all. Note: The parkway's large homeless

population is not held to blame. Villains carry high-tech weapons and cruise quietly into deer territory by night.

"Poachers are opportunists," explains California Department Fish and Wildlife Department Lieutenant Alan Gregory. "Our Parkway provides opportunity. It's accessible from so many points by foot and vehicle. Some hunters kill for the antlers—that's an ego thing—some want meat. Either way, poaching is unacceptable."

The Game Warden assists an action group spearheaded by Sacramento nature lover Tim McGinn. A retired builder, McGinn has organized



volunteers to post signs, distribute fliers and alert trail users to watch for illegal activity. Hearing gunshots; seeing wounded animals—all should be reported, says McGinn. Daylight  
Continued on page 3

## Vaccine Ambassador Program Launched

Sacramento County Public Health Press Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, (MPG) - Sacramento County Public Health, in partnership with Sierra Health Foundation and Community Based Organization partners (also known as Sac Collab) has launched a community Vaccine Ambassador Program to help communities increase vaccine confidence and increase vaccination rates.

The Vaccine Ambassador Program seeks to address the conditions that affect the health, well-being, and quality of life of under-resourced communities for an equitable and healthier Sacramento. As trusted messengers in their communities, the Ambassadors provide culturally relevant COVID-19 vaccine outreach, communication, information, and community events to support these efforts. Ambassadors are people who live in the communities that they serve and who provide peer support and can share real-world experience and personal reasons for getting the vaccine to inform others.

First formed in June 2020 as a countywide initiative, the Sac Collab supports neighborhoods that data indicates are experiencing the most devastating consequences of COVID-19. The Sac Collab created an infrastructure designed to invest in localized capacity building by training and hiring community members through our partnerships with community-based organizations. Through Sac Collab, we have provided Community Case Investigators, Contract Tracers, Resource Coordinators, Business Navigators, and most recently, Vaccine Ambassadors to support Sacramento County residents. Each partnering organization has a unique historical and cultural knowledge of the community it serves, allowing them to meaningfully connect with and provide support to fellow residents impacted by COVID-19.

Community Based Organizations, Faith-Based Organizations and other agencies can request Vaccine Ambassadors for events and activities such as vaccine clinics, health fairs, family events, holiday events, food distribution, etc..

To request Ambassador support for an event visit Sac Collab Vaccine Ambassador Program Request Form Survey (surveymonkey.com) and fill out the support request survey. ★

## Fair Oaks, Orangevale HART Begins Outreach

By Usha Mutschler

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Carmichael and Fair Oaks/Orangevale (FO/OV) HARTs are nonprofit organizations currently engaged in providing programs for our local homeless citizens. FO/OV HART is the newest team in the county. They are currently trying to identify their homeless population and then plan on doing an outreach program for them. Carmichael HART was organized five years ago. They have a fourfold program including a student program, two transitional houses, a weekly lunch and shower outreach and a winter respite.

The student program is partnered with a McKinney Vento program in the San Juan Unified School



St Michael's Episcopal Church's Clare Payne and Elizabeth Kordahl greet homeless participants at the Winter Respite. Photo provided by Usha Mutschler

District. McKinney Vento assisting students and in transition. This can be a national program their families who are  
Continued on page 3

# Sacramento Chapter DAR Funds Service Dogs for Veterans



Back row from left to right: Shell Williams, Sacramento Chapter DAR member; Sandy March, Sacramento Chapter DAR member; Janet Fulton, Sacramento Chapter DAR Regent; Terry Sandhoff, 4Paws2Freedom Director with service dog trainee Bountiful Grace ("Bounty"); Linda Kilborn, Sacramento Chapter DAR member; Vicki Klein, Sacramento Chapter Registrar; Cinde Cummings, Sacramento Chapter DAR Recording Secretary. Front Row: Terry Sandhoff, U.S. Army Veteran, with service dog Bear. Photo: DAR

## DAR Press Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - On December 21, 2021, the Sacramento Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), presented 4Paws2Freedom with a donation to acquire shelter and rescue dogs to train as service dogs for Sacramento area veterans experiencing PTSD. This gift is the second of three to the Sacramento region, celebrating the Chapter's centennial anniversary. The first gift funded two Sacramento City College nursing scholarships.

Sacramento-area veterans disabled by PTSD are eligible to apply to participate in 4Paws2Freedom's program which, if accepted, includes free training with a matched dog.

"The Sacramento Chapter is delighted to help local veterans achieve greater independence and healing through being matched and trained with a service dog. Service to Veterans is a significant component of how DAR expresses Patriotism -- for us a non-political action word and one DAR's three, overarching pillars," said Janet Fulton, Sacramento Chapter DAR Regent. "Most of us have immediate family members who served and some of us are ourselves veterans."

If you are interested in learning more about DAR membership, visit <https://sacto.californiadar.org/> or contact [corresponding@sacto.californiadar.org](mailto:corresponding@sacto.californiadar.org). If you would like more information about 4Paws2Freedom, visit

<https://4paws2freedom.org/>.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a women's service organization whose members can trace their lineage to an individual who contributed to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War. Today's DAR is dynamic and diverse, with over 185,000 members in 3,000 chapters in the United States and abroad. DAR members annually provide millions of hours of volunteer service to their local communities across the country and world. DAR chapters participate in projects to promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism. Over one million members have joined the organization since its founding in 1890. ★

# CHP Valley Division Cracks Down on Highway Violence

## California Highway Patrol Press Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The California Highway Patrol's (CHP) Valley Division Investigative Services Unit (ISU) has made seven arrests related to eight incidents occurring from November 2, 2021, to December 5, 2021. These incidents have involved road rage, as well as other criminal activity within Sacramento and San Joaquin counties.

These incidents resulted in five gunshot victims, one of which was paralyzed, and another tragically lost their life. Investigators do not believe any of the shootings are related and have determined three of the shootings to be the result of road rage incidents and two incidents were related to criminal drug activity. The remaining shootings are currently under investigation.

The CHP is asking the public to refrain

from engaging in road rage type incidents, which includes verbal, visual, and/or physical confrontations. Never get involved or engage with an aggressive driver, and if you feel you are a victim of highway violence, or observe someone being actively aggressive on the road, immediately call 9-1-1 and provide as much information as possible.

Members of our communities often witness incidents of highway violence, and CHP investigators are asking witnesses to report any unsafe or unusual behaviors they observe. Investigators have determined that even in broad daylight on freeways, uninvolved civilians may witness a crime in progress and may be able to provide valuable information to help with the investigation.

Anyone with information regarding any of these incidents is asked to please contact the CHP Valley Division Investigative Services Unit at (916) 731-6400. ★

# SacTax President W. Bruce Lee Wins a Third Term

## Sacramento Taxpayers Association Press Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - At their December meeting, the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Taxpayers Association (SacTax) unanimously voted to elect W. Bruce Lee as President for a third term. Last year Bruce valiantly led SacTax to defeat measures to increase taxes that would have contributed to the taxpayers' burden as California faces some of the highest taxes in the nation. Sacramento County's Measure A -- a half cent, 40-year sales tax increase; the City of Citrus Height's Measure M -- the one-cent sales tax increase with no sunset provision; state Proposition 15 -- the split roll property tax; and Sacramento County's COVID-19 health ordinance which would have fined businesses up to \$10,000 per incident were all defeated or withdrawn, marking huge wins for SacTax.

Also, earlier this year, Bruce received the prestigious Howard Jarvis 2020 Tax Fighter of the Year award, which honors an individual or group that demonstrates a dedication to protecting California taxpayers. "Bruce is leading by example and helping taxpayers realize their voices and participation can make a difference and I'm so proud to be partnered with him," said SacTax Executive Director, Jack Frost.

During his career, Bruce has twice held elected office as Mayor of Loomis, California and has served as a fiscal advisor at the local, state, and federal levels of government. He currently authors bi-weekly articles titled "We the Government" which is locally syndicated by the Messenger Publishing Group. Bruce is an international speaker and educator on good government, and through his involvement with SacTax, Bruce continuously strives to promote fair and efficient governance. ★

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## Bring a Smile to Senior Citizens for Valentine's Day



Last year, Helping Hands OV collected over 4,200 homemade valentines for Senior citizens. Photo provided by Helping Hands OV

By **Sydnie Anderson,**  
Helping Hands OV

**ORANGEVALE/FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG)** - Get out your paper, glue, glitter, markers and paints! The second annual Valentine's Drive for Seniors is here and ready for you to show off your artistic skills. Touch the hearts of our local senior citizens with your donation of homemade Valentine's Day cards. This is a perfect activity to do with all of your friends and family. Deliver your creations between now and February 3rd at any of the 19 participating business drop off locations including Luz Johnson LPL Financial, Grocery Outlet Orangevale, Badfish Coffee, The Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank, Rebel Rhythm Cycle, The Paisley Café, Palm Tree Brewing, Katie Yount

State Farm Agent, Shangri-la, The Moth Hole, Bloomingdeals and La Placita; just to name a few. Just look for the big decorated box!

Last year, Helping Hands OV collected over 4,200 homemade valentines and this year have the ambitious goal of collecting 4,500! With the partnership between Helping Hands OV and Rose Senior Placement, these cards again will be distributed in preparation for the holiday to care homes and assisted living facilities in Orangevale, Fair Oaks and outlying areas.

Grab your craft supplies, drop off at any of the participating locations and support that local business while you are there!

For more information visit Helping Hands OV on social media at facebook.com/HelpingHandsOV or Instagram@helpinghands\_ov

## Poachers are Preying

Continued from page 1

stalkers—especially off-trail—might not be nature fans. Some return after dark with night-vision goggles, guns or silent cross bows. “Don’t confront suspicious people,” McGinn warns. “Get license plates, get descriptions. Report what you see.”

Lieutenant Alan Gregory watches for slow-moving vehicles on park roads at night. Poachers sometimes shine flashlights into brush from cars. A stunned deer enables an easy kill.

Carcasses are usually hauled off to remove evidence. “I’ve come across sites with blood and signs of dragging,” says Tim McGinn. “I’ve also found crossbow bolts (arrows) on the ground.”

Fair Oaks-based rescuer Ben Nuckolls runs a volunteer operation saving injured wildlife. Recent rescues include a buck, a doe and a turkey—all found wounded by pistol crossbow darts. Rancho Cordova walker Diane Hill discovered the first casualty. “He was one of a deer family I know from my walks,” she says. “I’ve watched him grow up. I called my husband in tears. To me, people who hurt animals have a special place in hell.”

Notes Ben Nuckolls: “Pistol crossbows are small and easily concealed. A poacher was obviously at work.” He applauds efforts of Tim McGinn’s volunteers. “Public awareness is important,” he says. “Park rangers can’t be everywhere. Citizens can help protect wildlife.”

For people like McGinn, the loss of herd leaders is an ongoing tragedy. “Poachers are killing off a fantastic gene pool,” he predicts. “I notice bucks are getting smaller. That’s another reason I’m desperate to stop the hunting. I looked for a favorite male several years ago. He was a monster, with multiple antler points. I smelled his musky scent in a brushy area—so strong I knew something was wrong. Bucks emit their scent in distress. I found pools of blood, deer hair and boot tracks all around. My heart sunk; I knew I’d never see him again. I’ll never forget my lonely feeling.”

“That guy was aware of his power but, he was noble and gentle. He had no interest in hurting anyone. I get to know the big males and they know me. I realize when they’re gone. I notice fewer mature bucks this season. Yes, old guys can get edged out of herds; they also die naturally. But how come it’s always those with trophy class racks that disappear? When they come together in the rut, they’re sitting ducks.”

McGinn hopes his awareness campaign will result in arrests. “A poacher has a criminal mind,” he says. “On our Parkway, animals have no idea what hunting is. And they’re up against criminals who’ll go to any extent to kill them. It’s not a fair contest.”

*The public is warned against confronting poachers. To report suspicious activity, call (888) 334-2258.* ★



## Fair Oaks, Orangevale HART Begins Outreach

Continued from page 1

include living with family members, couch surfing, living in a shelter or living on the streets. Carmichael HART has participated in backpack drives for McKinney Vento and in a student buddy/mentor program. The team also has two transitional houses, one for women and a new one for men, which will open soon. These homes provide

an opportunity for people experiencing homelessness to be housed at no cost while they find housing.

In April, Carmichael HART began an ongoing outreach program. This program includes lunch delivery on Thursdays and showers on Saturdays. Forty lunches are delivered each week. Sixteen showers are offered each Saturday. Carmichael

Presbyterian Church food locker provides food for the lunches. Hygiene items, hats, socks, underwear and other various supplies are donated by generous supporters. Carmichael Presbyterian Church also hosts the showers on Saturdays. Volunteers make lunches, deliver lunches and supervise the showers.

This January and February

2022, Carmichael HART will provide a winter respite three mornings a week. The respite will offer hot breakfasts, sack lunches, phone charging, showers, rest from the elements, haircuts, nursing assistance, socks, hats, and some clothing. The respite will be at Carmichael Presbyterian Church on 5645 Marconi Ave. Hosting churches include Crossroads Church, St

John the Evangelist Catholic Church, St Michael’s Episcopal Church and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The respite will be from 9:00am to 1:00pm every Saturday, Monday and Wednesday. For more information see the website: [carmichaelhart.org](http://carmichaelhart.org). Information about all the HARTS in the county can be found on [hartstogether.org](http://hartstogether.org). ★

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# Firefighting is Lifesaving

## Sac Region's Fire Trove Harkens Back to 1850s

By Michele Townsend

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento Regional Fire Museum has been in West Sacramento for the last three years. Located at 3650 Industrial Blvd., the items in this museum hold firefighting history from the Sacramento Valley—from Fairfield, Dixon, Davis, Yuba City, Citrus Heights, Sacramento, Auburn and other parts of the valley. Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder Society was established in 1990 with the intent of building this museum in honor of the Mutual Hook and Ladder Company, which was the first organized Sacramento Fire Company and was formed in 1850.

Their Mission Statements reads, "The Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder Society/Sacramento Regional Fire Museum is dedicated to the preservation of fire service history in the Sacramento Region by collecting, restoring significant artifacts, documents, equipment and other pieces for preservation and display, and providing education to the public on fire safety and the fire service in general, by conducting educational programs of its own or partnering with other fire service organizations."

The fire museum contains a hand pulled hose reel and hose cart from the late 1800s. In addition, it holds a 1912 horse drawn ladder unit that was used for service in Sacramento. If you like old cars and trucks, you will love this museum. Not only do they have the vehicles, they have the history of that vehicle.

In 1909 Fairfield purchased a gasoline powered 350 gallon per minute pumper. The actual vehicle was horse drawn, but it had a very rare gasoline powered pump that pumped the water with a Waterous rotary gear pump. Waterous still manufactures fire pumps to this day. This was Fairfield's primary piece of fire equipment and its service area was Dixon.

Just a few of the vehicles go on to include a 1914 Tractor unit from Dixon, a 1915 vehicle from Winters, a 1921



Retired Dixon Fire Chief and Sacramento Regional Fire Museum Director, Ric Dorris. Photo by Michele Townsend

pumper and a 1924 pumper that was Sacramento's former Chemical Engine #2. They have West Sacramento's original fire engine from 1946. The vehicles alone are an amazing collection. Further, it includes vehicles from the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. It holds Hook and Ladder Trucks, Pumpers and Chemical Wagons. There is even a 1953 Ambulance. The only place I've seen an ambulance that looks like the one in the museum was cartoons, so I found it interesting.

I have only named a few of the vehicles that are included on the site and though the shiny red vehicles are what strikes you when you first walk into the museum, vehicles are not the only items. A wide range of equipment is also included in the museum, like identification, signaling lanterns. In the 1830's these lanterns were Kerosene powered. Each colored light had a different meaning.

Some other equipment includes trumpets that were used for the Fire Chief to

shout orders on the ground at the scene of a fire. There are leather buckets that were used to carry water by hand. There are old metal buckets that eventually replaced the leather ones. There is also the evolution of fire extinguishers.

Originally for fire extinguishers, there were Carbon Tetrachloride Grenades for putting out small fires. These were a small, colored, glass ball or bulb, about the size of a large orange, that were filled with a non-flammable Carbon Tet. They were generally resting in a wire hoop and attached to the wall, near the door. When a fire broke out, the grenade was thrown at the base of the fire, the glass would break, and the Carbon Tet would evaporate very quickly and extinguish the fire. These were eventually found to have toxic vapors and have been banned since the 1940's.

There are many types of extinguishers, hydrants, nozzles, hoses, lights, hooks, tools, cables, gas masks, horns, hats, badges, and bells. It's really quite

amazing... and impressive that they have been able to collect these items. They even have a "Life Net". A Life Net is that big round device that fire fighters would hold so that people could jump out of high-rise fires. It was invented by a civil war veteran, named Thomas F. Bowder. Originally he called it "Bowder Life Saving Machine". The life net became obsolete in the 1980s.

Within the museum there are areas that are set up to look like the typical firefighter's dorm as well as the command center. Do you remember when there used to be those red and white "Fire boxes" around town that would activate a fire alarm, dispatching the Fire Department? Well, this museum not only includes those fire boxes, but it includes Sacramento's emergency system... in working order.

This actual system was used until the 1990s. It is amazing, and not at all what I would expect. Though I don't know what I would have expected, I can promise you that it wasn't this! Each section has bells at the top and each section was from a specific area of town. When a handle was pulled in a fire box an alarm would go off in that section of the emergency system, which would send a message on a tickertape. They would take that information and go to a giant "Rolodex" where they would look up the address of the alarm location. The alarm system is the only one that they know of on the West Coast.

The museum costs \$10 for adults with discounts for Seniors and \$5 for kids 12 and under. You can also rent the museum to hold a party or other gathering. It was recently rented for a Memorial with about 300 people that attended. They have memberships of different levels and accept donations to support the cost of maintaining the museum. For more information on museum hours, booking special tours, or holding special events visit [www.sacfiremuseum.org/](http://www.sacfiremuseum.org/) or call 916-859-4181. Leave a message, including a call back number. ★

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By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

## A Perfect Date With God!

Years ago I wrote an article in my book "Senior Gleanings" with a similar title and as I viewed that book today, I just have to use it again! *Have you ever enjoyed a special date event in your life? A loving Heavenly Father God has been waiting for you to have that special time with Him to know and believe Him.*

He has loved every single one of us He created in our mother's womb. He knows everything about you; your name, your personality, your hurts and desires, wants and needs your appearance and your hopes and dreams for your life. Nothing is a surprise to him, He even knows every bad thing we all have ever done in our life. And He still is waiting to

enjoy a date with you. So, dear one - When you are sincerely ready, His Spirit will teach and reach out to you in several ways and through several different people.

The time will be right and you will be ready to hear the words about Him that you need to know and respect. The God of the Holy Bible has them written for you to read someday. At first someone will touch your life with a story and truth that will speak to a deep need to be loved that was put in you by God - the very day you were born. *Our Creator wants you to know and love Him too! He desires a "personal intimate relationship" with you that will develop, deliver, heal, transform, as you accept and honor all the truth about who He Is as the great I AM.*

Learning about the magnificent love of God takes a lifetime and we have a

lot to learn.

God alone has capabilities and earth shaking powers when He created heaven and earth and all that exists. *He has a divine plan for every life and "when we accept that special date with Him, we will be ready to accept His Only Begotten Son, Jesus as our personal Savior and Lord of our life. We will ask forgiveness for the bad things we have done, receive forgiveness by His mercy and then follow in obedience His Holy Word and have our name scribed in the "Lambs Book of Life" with God's promise to never leave or forsake us, ever!*

Marlys Johnsen Norris  
Christian Author  
of 7 Books  
ARM Columnist since  
2006 Stephen's Minister  
Marlysjn@gmail.com  
PO Box 114,  
Orangevale, CA 95662 ★

## Happy New Year, Fair Oaks!!



By Dot Boyd, Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce

**FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG)** - A fun time was had by all who attended Christmas in Fair Oaks in December. Thanks to FO Rec & Park staff and FOCC for setting the stage for this festive community event! Our next event, the Best of Fair Oaks Gala (The BoFOs) has been postponed. Stay tuned for updates at [www.bestoffairoaks.com](http://www.bestoffairoaks.com) and on social media.

Last month, FOCC held its annual holiday luncheon, hosted by Smokey Oaks Tavern, the perfect place for comfort food on that chilly day. The 2022-2023 FOCC Board of Directors was sworn in by Sacramento County Supervisor Rich Desmond as follows: President: Jim

Cralle, CAPS Insurance; Vice-President: Mary Howard, Resident Member; Secretary/Treasurer: Mysti Shaw, Teach doTerra; Karyn BarthMoore, Love Your Skin; John Oldham, Resident Member; Chrysti Tovani, Tovani Design & Photography/Tovani Real Estate; Ryan Griffith, Voterfly/Averik; Doug Proctor, Proctor Engineering; David Spencer, SacBusiness; and Derek Clark, Owner/Brewer Palm Tree Brewing. Here's what Supervisor Desmond posted on Facebook: "Today I had the privilege of swearing in the new Board of Directors for the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber does a wonderful job supporting the vibrant small business community in Fair Oaks. Best of luck in 2022!" Thank you, Rich!

One last thing...I started writing this column in March of 2017, as an extension of my ambassador role with FOCC. After about fifty columns, the time has come for me to pass my "pen" over to a new writer to cover our activities. It has been an

honor to bring news to you each month. Thank you to ARM Publisher Paul V. Scholl for opening this space up to us and for his Editor Patrick Larenas for keeping me on deadline. Most of the time, anyway! I'm not going anywhere, so you can reach me at [dot@dotforseniorsafety.com](mailto:dot@dotforseniorsafety.com) to say hello. I'm delighted to introduce Judy Andrews, a long-time local resident with a deep appreciation for this community and its neighborly feel. She enjoys walking and exploring neighborhood parks and river trails with her camera and Great Pyrenees rescue dog often in tow. "I'm thrilled at the opportunity to represent and support the Fair Oaks Chamber any way I can," she said. "I'm also looking forward to returning to my writing and communication roots, and hopefully make The Chamber and this community proud." Judy, I know you will!!

As always, thank you for your continued support of our local businesses and community partners. You can find us at [www.fairoakschamber.com](http://www.fairoakschamber.com). ★

## Should State Provide Health Care to Everyone?



By Dan Walters CALMatters

On paper, having one state agency as the exclusive purveyor of health care for 40 million Californians would seem to make sense, replacing dozens of federal, state and private systems and their often bewildering financial and managerial peculiarities.

Centralized health care seems to work fairly well in other developed countries, such as Canada and the United Kingdom, with per capita costs somewhat lower than those in the United States.

The notion has been kicking around in California political circles for years and at one point, the state Senate passed a single-payer bill, although it stalled in the Assembly for lack of a financing mechanism.

The idea resurfaced last week with the introduction of two measures. One to create the framework for such a system in California, the other to ask voters to levy tens of billions of dollars in new taxes, mostly on affluent taxpayers and businesses, to pay for it.

"There are countless studies that tell us a single-payer healthcare system is the fiscally sound thing to do, the smarter healthcare policy to

follow, and a moral imperative if we care about human life," the proposal's chief author, Assemblyman Ash Kalra, said.

"What we're trying to do is get rid of these dozens of buckets of funding - whether it's private insurance, whether it's employer, whether it's Medi-Cal - put it into one bucket," the San Jose Democrat added.

Kalra has obtained support from a fairly large group of his legislative colleagues and apparently has conceptual backing from Gov. Gavin Newsom, who pledged to work for a single-payer system during his 2018 campaign.

"Doing nothing is not inaction," Kalra said of promises not kept. "It is, in fact, the cruelest of actions while millions suffer under our watch."

The constitutional amendment needing voter support would impose a new excise tax on businesses equal to 2.3% of any annual gross receipts in excess of \$2 million, plus a payroll tax of 1.25% of total annual wages on employers with 50 or more workers, another payroll tax on employers tied to workers earning more than \$49,900 a year, and graduated increases in personal income taxes on affluent taxpayers.

Estimates of revenues from the new taxes vary but would, it's assumed, top \$150 billion a year. Sponsors say the taxes would be offset by eliminating what employers and individuals now pay out of pocket for health care.

Even with overwhelming Democratic majorities in both legislative houses,

it may be difficult to advance the two companion measures, since they will face very stiff opposition from private employer groups such as the California Chamber of Commerce and much, if not most, of the current health care industry.

There are, moreover, some serious practical hurdles. The federal government now pays about half of the state's medical care tab, which approaches a half-trillion dollars a year, through Medicare, Medi-Cal, Obamacare and systems serving federal employees, and civil service and military retirees. The proposal assumes that the feds would, in effect, turn over all of that money, well over \$200 billion a year, to the state.

It also assumes that unions, including those of government workers, would also be willing to throw their health care money into the pot, meaning their often lavish benefits would be equalized with the rest of the state's residents.

The biggest hurdle, however, may be convincing Californians that a state government riddled with managerial messes such as the Employment Development Department, the Department of Motor Vehicles, the bullet train project and countless failed technology initiatives should be trusted with something as important as medical care.

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

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  - Andean people's chew
  - "White Wedding" singer
  - Like a haunted mansion
  - South American tuber, pl.
  - Type of cotton fiber
  - Desired forecast?
  - "The Underground Railroad" author
  - Like West Wing office
  - Not silently
  - "When We Were Kings" subject
  - Hand over (2 words)
  - Barbecued
  - The Jackson 5 1970 hit
  - Repressed
  - "Alice Doesn't \_\_\_ Here Anymore"
  - State of dishonor
  - Three, to Caesar
  - Brightest star in Cygnus
  - Performer's time to shine
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  - African migrator
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  - Poor man's caviar
  - Analyze
  - Canter or gallop
  - "A Farewell to Arms" author
  - Latin dance
  - Club on the links
  - Kind or courteous
  - Los \_\_\_, CA
  - Round feed storage
  - Not odd
  - Colonial times laborer
  - Band performance
  - Theodores, to friends
- DOWN**
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  - Scottish lake
  - Antioxidants-rich berry
  - Popular primo dish in Italian restaurant, pl.
  - Bye, to Edith Piaf
  - Wanderer
  - Garbed
  - "Moby Dick" author
  - Length times width
  - Call someone, in the olden days
  - Poetic "ever"
  - Apple invention
  - Food contaminant
  - Run off to wed
  - Jean of Dadaism
  - Out of style
  - Find repugnant
  - Burn with coffee, e.g.
  - "Ursula K. Le \_\_\_"
  - Jargon
  - It happens at a certain time and place
  - First novel, e.g.
  - Near in space or time
  - Not a win nor a loss
  - "Song of Solomon" author
  - "Chronicles" author and songwriter
  - "NY Times bestselling author Atkins or playing card
  - Gambling venue
  - Smidgins
  - Young swan
  - Eagle's nest
  - Young salmon
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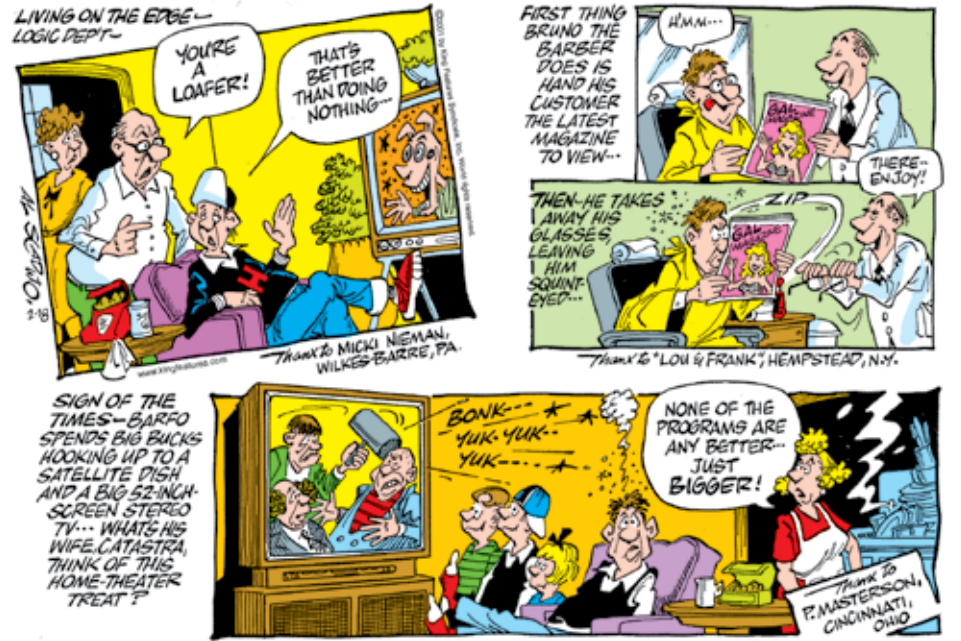
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# 2022 AND YOU

With the New Year, it's always a kick to look ahead, so I invited two well-known friends to take a look...a Psychic and an Astrologer.

**Mary T. Browne** is an international psychic who works with politicians and celebrities around the world. She is lauded for her accuracy and honesty. Her books alter lives from "Life After Death" to "The 5 Rules of Thought." Here's what 2022 will bring psychically. Check out [www.marytbrowne.com](http://www.marytbrowne.com) for more.

1. Inflation will continue to be a huge problem throughout 2022. This will cause many people to feel overwhelmed and unnerved. Many will feel that no matter how hard they work, they are not better off.
2. The covid and all its variants will be plaguing us the first part of the year, but will be controlled by late Spring into early summer. A more powerful vaccine that should be available by April will play an oversized role in stopping the spread of this horrible virus.
3. Republicans will retake Congress and the Senate. The political tone in the country will remain negative, but there will begin to be a change because people will begin to listen to each other a bit more. They will be forced to do this in order to understand why the elections turned out the way they did.
4. One good thing I see on the horizon is a return to a more Spiritual way of thinking. The covid pandemic gave many people a chance to spend more time thinking because they were not burdened with rushing off to a job or to pick up a child at the school bus stop. People started to focus on priorities

and took many steps to change things in their lives that caused disharmony. Many people had spent time meditating, contemplating and praying each day. These spiritual exercises have a very positive effect, resulting in greater balance in all aspects of life.

**Constance Stellas** is a renowned Astrologer and author. She has a new book coming out December 2022...a series of Guided Journals for each Astrological sign. You can keep up with her at [www.constancestellas.com](http://www.constancestellas.com). Let's see what's in the stars.

1. The stock market will be weak. No crash, but no great gains. Inflation and economic hardships (supply disruption) will remain due to covid disarray.
  2. Donald Trumps' chart is not strong for neither re-election nor running again. His legal past may catch up to him to his detriment.
  3. No all out war. Russia will continue provoking conflict.
  4. Urban crime will decline and more emphasis on social programs to help the homeless and mentally ill will gain strength.
  5. Gains in vaccinations and other medical treatments for covid. We are not out of the woods, but getting closer.
  6. Lastly, the polarization of different groups in this country will begin to reconcile as of February 22, 2022 when Pluto returns to its position in the "birth chart" of the U.S.
- And I leave you with these words from Alfred Lord Tennyson ...  
**"HOPE SMILES FROM THE THRESHOLD OF THE YEAR TO COME WHISPERING...IT WILL BE BETTER!"** ★



By Sal Arrigo, Jr.

"A sense of community is important to me" – Amy B.

In order to make any community service organization stand out for the work they do, you must have strong leaders. As many people who live in the service area of the Kiwanis Club of Orangevale-Fair Oaks know this club has its leaders and is the premier service club in the area.

How can I make such a statement? The facts are based on the projects this club has accomplished in 2 ½ years, and the simple fact that the club has attracted community leaders who have been involved in Orangevale and Fair Oaks for many years.

One Kiwanis leader, Terri M., said, "giving back to the community is a gift I give myself every time I feel the joy of others receiving."

The Kiwanis Club of Orangevale-Fair Oaks has 28 active members and share one ideal all Kiwanis members have: the desire to support their local community. For instance, one of our newest members, Shellee M., said to me, "I joined Kiwanis to become closer to my community, and service

## The Kiwanis Corner

By Sal Arrigo, Jr.

### Kiwanis Leaders

seemed the next step for me as my children are growing older." Shellee also mentioned she saw on social media the "amazing events" and wanted to become involved. She also mentioned the club has been "very welcoming."

Just to refresh your memory on what the Kiwanis Club of Orangevale-Fair Oaks is involved with, we do an annual pajama drive, we sponsor a food drive twice a year for the OVFO Food Bank (and support an annual Easter Basket program for needy children) and we do an annual Kiwanis Kids & Horses event at Shadow Glen Riding Stables in Fair Oaks.

It is apparent we are a very busy and productive club. Bradley M. reacted to all the club is doing by saying, "I see the difference our efforts make in the lives of children, not only in our community, but globally."

In addition, the friendships you can make over the years are also rewarding. Katie E. explained it this way, "I have built lifelong friendships with Kiwanis members near and far who care about me and what's happening in my life."

For those who are reading this and thinking, "I'd like to join, but don't have the time," think again!

MaryAnne P. summed it up beautifully when she told me, "I always wondered what Kiwanis was and was pleasantly surprised when I attended a scholarship award breakfast hosted by the Kiwanis Club. I thought to myself, "what a nice group of people!" All from diverse backgrounds, but all with a common characteristic-giving hearts to help improve the community "one kid at a time." I was impressed early on and this again confirmed the quality of the people and the cause. I was hooked without much hesitation which means a lot, since my commitment plate is overflowing! Happy to make room for Kiwanis, though!

Come and visit Kiwanis at the El Gallo Mexican Restaurant, located at 11773 Fair Oaks Blvd., on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Meetings begin at 6:30 pm. We also have social gatherings on the 4th Tuesday of every month and the location varies. Find us at [facebook.com/KiwanisclubofOFO](https://www.facebook.com/KiwanisclubofOFO) or email us for more information at [kiwanisclubofof@gmail.com](mailto:kiwanisclubofof@gmail.com).

Sal Arrigo, Jr. is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Orangevale – Fair Oaks. The Kiwanis Corner is published monthly. ★





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Amy Bahm • (916) 635-0444  
amy@oylerinsurance.com













(916) 956-0053. [KatSells@KathleenMassae.com](mailto:KatSells@KathleenMassae.com)

To contact the Kiwanis Club of Orangevale-Fair Oaks  
email us at: [kiwanisclubofOFO@gmail.com](mailto:kiwanisclubofOFO@gmail.com)

 [www.facebook.com/KiwanisClubofOFO](https://www.facebook.com/KiwanisClubofOFO)

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# You're Invited!

Tickets are expected to sell out fast.  
Don't miss your chance to attend the 6th annual "Best of Fair Oaks" event.

## **Date has been changed**

*This year's event will be held:*

- **Where:** North Ridge Country Club 7600 Madison Ave, Fair Oaks
- **When:** Thursday **February 3, 2022**
- **Cost:** Contact the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce for details
- **FairOaksChamber.com** or call **916-967-2903**

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