



County Streamlines COVID-19 Contact Tracing

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AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

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Serving Fair Oaks, Orangevale & Sacramento County

NOVEMBER 6, 2020

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ON-CAMPUS FUN



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Your Vote Really Counts



The Best of Fair Oaks will be awarding local businesses in a wide variety of categories starting on November 12. Photo: Best of Fair Oaks

By Thomas J. Sullivan

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - It's time to get ready, set, and vote. There's much to celebrate in the community of Fair Oaks, pandemic or no pandemic, said Kimberley Pitillo, voluntary chairman of the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce, as the chamber gets ready to kick off its fifth annual celebration recognizing the "Best of Fair Oaks."

"We know the event may look a little different this year, but we're going ahead with our celebration," she said. Pitillo said nominations will open November 12 in some 55 categories celebrating the best businesses and public events which the eclectic community calls home.

"We're working to launch our website, www.thebestoffairoaks.com, and should have that up and running soon. A listing of categories and past nominees can be viewed at

www.thebestoffairoaks.com

"The voting process is all online and begins on Nov 12th to Dec 24th. Anyone can vote for their favorite places and events in our community," she said.

"Last year we had a record-breaking number of votes, voters and participants. We are hoping to beat that record this year," she said.

"We know this is a different year of course with the pandemic, but we decided to spark some fun and have something to look forward to, so we are moving forward with the voting process online and hopefully we will be able to have an in-person event in January 2021, but if not, we will host a virtual event to announce the winners. Last year's "Best of Fair Oaks" awards celebration was held at Northridge Country Club in Fair Oaks.

"Contenders MUST be a member

of the Fair Oaks Chamber or a business in the 95628 zip code. Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce (FOCC) members may have a business outside of Fair Oaks and can qualify, so long as they are in good standing in their membership," she said.

Anyone can vote for their favorite places and/or events. Pitillo said she hopes all businesses small and large can join in on the "Best of Fair Oaks", as a great way to get their business recognized.

Winners from last year included: Best Restaurant - The Wild Rooster Bistro; Best Pub/Bar - The Fair Oaks Brew Pub; Best Pizza - Del's Family Pizza; Best Event - Fair Oaks Chicken Festival; and Best Entertainment - Fair Oaks Concerts in the Park. The event is co-sponsored by the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce and American River Messenger.

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No Turkey for You!



By Mat Staver, Founder and Chairman Liberty Council

It wasn't enough for CA Gov. Gavin Newsom to ban ALL WORSHIP in churches and private homes for much of California. Now he's dictating how people will be allowed to celebrate Thanksgiving - the one day each year we set aside to give special thanks to God for our freedom, family and nation.

Now Gov. Newsom wants Californians to keep a "list" of all Thanksgiving celebration attendees' names, addresses and contact information, to be surrendered to the government upon demand.

It is becoming increasingly clear that Gov. Newsom wants to eradicate both faith and freedom. Newsom's unconstitutional lock downs have nothing to do with COVID and everything to do with CONTROL.

CA's Outrageous Thanksgiving Restrictions

In addition to Gov. Newsom's unconstitutional orders that discriminate against churches and places of worship, he has now released onerous government restrictions on Thanksgiving gatherings.

The mandatory restrictions for Thanksgiving gatherings include:

- No more than three households, including hosts and guests.
- The names and contact information of guests must be recorded so they can be "contact traced."
- Must be held outside.
- No more than two hours.
- Guests may use restrooms only if they are sanitized between use.
- Six-foot distancing in all directions.
- Everyone should frequently wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer which must, of course, be done outside.
- Food and drink must be in single-serve disposable containers.
- No food or drink on the table other than your plate and cup.
- Masks must be worn and removed only briefly to eat or drink.
- Masks can also be removed for urgent medical needs (an asthma

Continued on page 4

SAFE Dedicates a Week to Building CommYOUUnity

By Carole Ferguson, SAFE Credit Union

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The challenge: to encourage SAFE Credit Union employees to volunteer to help the Greater Sacramento region during a time of social distancing.

The solution: the credit union's inaugural Building CommYOUUnity Week that provided a mix of in-person and virtual volunteer opportunities.

"As a nonprofit financial cooperative, SAFE understands the importance of supporting the well-being of the communities we serve," said Amanda Merz, SAFE Credit Union community and advocacy engagement manager and creator of Building CommYOUUnity Week. "SAFE puts a high priority on philanthropy and volunteerism as part of the credit union mission of people helping people. We donate more than \$400,000 a



Lincoln branch SAFE CU employees volunteer in a community cleanup. Photo: Safe Credit Union

year to local organizations working to lift our region and to students through scholarships to help them reach for their dreams. And every staff member at SAFE receives 16 hours of paid time each year to volunteer for the causes they care about."

More than 170 SAFE

employees selected from the many socially distanced and remote volunteer opportunities SAFE scheduled to support 11 local nonprofits that align with SAFE's philanthropic pillars of health, education, and current and former military personnel. Activities included making non-sew

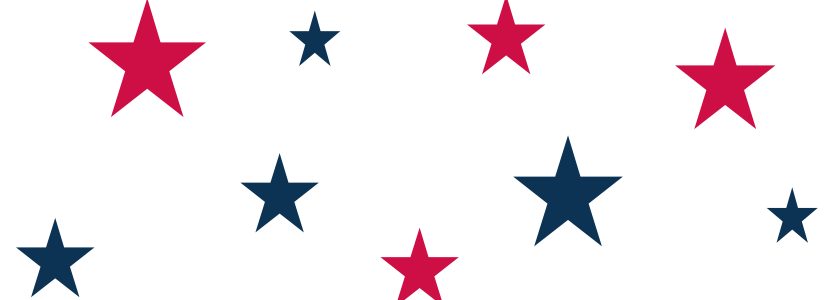
blankets for Hands4Hope; writing words of encouragement and journal prompts for City Year; stocking shelves for Placer Food Bank and Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services; writing letters to Snowline Hospice clients; creating Welcome Home

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ELECTION RESULTS 2020 VOTE

Not all results are final. Numbers reflect available data at press time. Source: Sacramento County Election website, State of California Election website.

VOTES	PERCENT	VOTES	PERCENT	VOTES	PERCENT	VOTES	PERCENT
President of the United States							
Donald J Trump (REP)	67,438,495	214					
Joe Biden (DEM)	70,244,872	238					
Too close to call. Declared winners are all the lawyers.							
U S Representative District 7							
Ami Bera (DEM)	116,437	61.0					
Buzz Patterson (REP)	74,436	39.0					
U S Representative District 3							
John Garamendi (DEM)	123,527	58.1					
Tamika Hamilton (REP)	89,220	41.9					
U S Representative District 6							
Doris Matsui (DEM)	107,316	75.9					
Chris Bish (REP)	34,150	24.1					
U S Representative District 9							
Jerry McNerney (DEM)	95,720	61.6					
Antonio C. "Tony" Amador (REP)	59,599	38.4					
State Senator District 1							
Brian Dahle (REP)	207,954	56.9					
Pamela Swartz (DEM)	157,719	43.1					
State Assembly District 6							
Kevin Kiley (REP)	105,675	54.2					
Jackie Smith (DEM)	89,186	45.8					
State Assembly District 8							
Ken Cooley (DEM)	66,028	59.7					
Cathy Cook (REP)	44,604	40.3					
State Assembly District 9							
Jim Cooper (DEM)	72,560	68.2					
Eric Rigard (REP)	33,811	31.8					
Board Of Supervisors District							
Rich Desmond	30,254	48.89					
Gregg Fishman	31,647	51.11					
SMUD Director, Ward 5							
Rob Kerth	20,278	55.51					
Fatima Malik	16,252	44.49					
San Juan Water District Director (2)							
Pam Tobin	15,448	32.04					
Kenneth Miller	13,594	28.20					
Michael McRae	12,122	25.14					
Mitch Dion	4,824	10.01					
Mark Onufer	2,226	4.62					
San Juan Unified School Dist Gov Brd (3)							
Pam Costa	35,791	21.79					
Paula Villescaz	30,779	18.74					
Saul Hernandez	28,679	17.46					
Melinda Avey	23,103	14.06					
Andrew Blan	16,867	10.27					
Garrett Brewer	15,900	9.68					
Riah Skrinnik	13,152	8.01					
Los Rios Comm College TA-7							
Tami Nelson	32,205	64.17					
Scott Schmidt	17,980	35.83					
City of Citrus Heights Council Dist 1							
Bret Daniels	2,180	63.46					
Nicole Caster	1,255	36.54					
City of Citrus Heights Council Dist 3							
Tim Schaefer	2,136	62.69					
Thomas Goetz	1,271	37.31					
City of Rancho Cordova Council (3)							
David Sander	6,842	21.32					
Donald Terry	6,455	20.11					
Siri Pulipati	6,307	19.65					
Robert McGarvey	5,246	16.34					
Jack Zwald	4,630	14.42					
Donald Chris	2,618	8.16					
Folsom Cord Unified Gov Brd-Area 3							
Christopher Clark	2,912	62.0					
Larry Leroy Ladd	1,785	38.0					
State Prop 14 - Bonds for Stem Cell Research							
Yes	5,819,217	51.1					
No	5,577,459	48.9					
State Prop 15 - Taxes on Commercial Property							
Yes	5,592,154	48.3					
No	5,991,994	51.7					
State Prop 16 - Allow Affirmative Action in Govt Decisions							
Yes	5,020,657	43.9					
No	6,409,405	56.1					
State Prop 17 - Voting Rights for People on Parole							
Yes	6,815,887	59.0					
No	4,732,949	41.0					
State Prop 18 - Voting Rights for 17-year Olds							
Yes	5,192,183	41.9					
No	6,380,915	55.1					
State Prop 19 - Changes Property Tax Rules							
Yes	5,848,922	51.5					
No	5,499,454	48.5					
State Prop 20 - Restricts Parole, Authorizes Felony Sentences							
Yes	4,259,578	37.7					
No	7,045,167	62.3					
State Prop 21 - More Govt on Rent Control							
Yes	4,592,383	40.2					
No	6,840,341	59.8					
State Prop 22 - Exempts Rideshare and Delivery Drivers							
Yes	6,718,739	56.4					
No	4,770,073	41.6					
State Prop 23 - Kidney Dialysis State Requirements							
Yes	4,110,191	36.0					
No	7,314,447	64.0					
State Prop 24 - Amends Consumer Privacy							
Yes	6,346,607	56.1					
No	4,968,969	43.9					
State Prop 25 - Overturns 2018 Law on Bail System							
Yes	5,020,810	44.6					
No	6,241,048	55.4					



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69¢	1.29	3.49	4lbs \$1	3lbs \$1

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EUROPEAN GROCERY

\$8.99	\$1.69	\$2.49	\$3.49	\$3.29
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KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY

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On-Campus Fun Building CommYOUity

By Thomas J. Sullivan

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - A new Charter school, American River Collegiate Academy at 7755 Hazel Avenue in Orangevale, which serves the Citrus Heights surrounding area, welcomed its first Kindergarten and first grade students to on-campus classes last week.

"We're delighted to be open to the public, and to tell parents of kindergarten and first grade students what our school has to offer," said school principal Trisha Smith.

Parents of kindergarten and first grade-age students can apply for admission and schedule a campus tour through the school website. The charter school offers staggered drop off and pick up times for its students and a subsidized nutrition program, she said.

The American River Collegiate Academy is part of the Rocklin Academy of Charter Schools. Smith, its first principal, said her school has a staff of seven, which includes three teachers and two classroom support staff.

She wanted to reassure parents that American River Collegiate Academy is continually taking all possible steps to protect the health and safety of its students.

"We listened closely to what Sacramento County required of us to open, and we put in place very thorough health and cleanliness protocols in all our classrooms in our overall site plan," she said. "Everyone chips in to sanitize and clean our campus three times a day."

American River Collegiate Academy, which is authorized by the Sacramento County Office of Education, has its eyes on future growth and intends to add an academic grade each year in the future until it reaches physical capacity, Smith said.

On campus instruction is held Monday through Thursday and a morning Zoom session for core knowledge learning support is offered on Fridays.

The school's three-hour daily learning structure offers its young students a choice of a three-hour morning or an afternoon instruction session. When not in the classroom,



First grade teacher Jennipher Baker leads instruction and has been teaching 13 years for Rocklin Academy Family of Schools. Photo: ARCA

students are given homework for at-home learning with parental support.

"There's an hour between when the morning session is dismissed, and the afternoon session arrives." The morning session receives a grab-and-go lunch.

"It's an absolutely fantastic feeling to see their young faces," she said. "They're excited to be coming to school."

"We worked on the school site plan early [on]," she said. "Our students and staff are encouraged to wear masks and we've had success with that." Teachers wear full protective personal protective equipment (PPE) in the classroom. Students are required to socially distance themselves in the classroom and seating is spaced six feet apart.

"They've adapted very well to what we've asked of them," Smith said. "In addition, plexiglass barriers are in place between student workspaces and adequate classroom ventilation is maintained."

"We've worked closely with the families who've enrolled their children on all these requirements as we keep them safe."

Students are provided a nutritional and recreational break during each daily session at school. While the academy doesn't have a grade K-1 specific play structure, it does provide individual sports equipment which is cleaned thoroughly after each class use. All staff model hand washing and proper personal hygiene habits throughout the day.

Parents may view the school's specific 2020-21 Comprehensive School Safety plan which is published on the school website. Information includes additional health and safety measures in place for the entry and exit of students, teachers, and visitors, and

additional requirements for all people when on the school campus.

American River Collegiate Academy (K-1) learning program is based around a core knowledge curriculum, Smith said.

"Our first-grade students are starting to learn about ancient Egypt and are involved in individual music and arts projects," she said.

Emphasis is placed on math, reading and language arts, science and history, character education, social emotional learning and music, art, and the performing arts.

The Orangevale Charter school encourages participating parents to become part of its Parent School Partnership (PSP) and volunteer a minimum of 30 hours per family per school year.

"We are committed to moving the school into Citrus Heights as soon as we can," said Jillayne Anton, director of growth and community engagement for the Rocklin Academy Family of Schools.

"We're working with a development company to build a campus on a piece of land in Citrus Heights, and with the city's Planning Department as we go through the entitlements process."

"We want to get the word out there that we're here for the children of Orangevale and Citrus Heights," she said. "We're here for the kids."

For now, the American River Collegiate Academy, authorized by the Sacramento County Office of Education is temporarily located at 7755 Hazel Avenue in Orangevale. To schedule a campus tour call 916-672-3550. Visit American River Collegiate Academy on the web at: <https://americanriveracademy.org/> ★



SAFE Credit Union employees volunteer at St. John's Program for Real Change. Photo: Safe Credit Union

Continued from page 1

kits for Sacramento Self Help Housing; and other projects supporting St. John's Program for Real Change, Wellsprings Women's Center, St. Vincent de Paul, and HOPE Counseling.

The Building CommYOUity week, held in September, is part of SAFE's expanded service to the community to help meet challenges posed by the pandemic. SAFE donated \$60,000 in emergency grants to four local organizations to assist them with financial losses and additional need for their services due to COVID-19. SAFE also distributed thousands of protective face coverings to

area nonprofits to help them safely assist local residents.

SAFE also extended emergency financial services to its members including no- to low-cost loans and payment deferral options on certain loans and credit cards to help them cope with lost wages during the pandemic.

"SAFE truly cares about our members, their neighbors, and all the communities we serve," Merz said. "I'm pleased that SAFE launched what I expect will become an annual week dedicated to helping our region thrive."

To learn more about SAFE's grant program, please email grants@safecu.org ★

\$3,000 Worth of Books Donated to Trajan Elementary School



Community partners will help keep the bookshelf updated. Photo: SJUSD

San Juan Unified School District

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - Students at Trajan Elementary school had a special surprise Oct. 2, during their weekly virtual story time.

The school librarian, along with district staff and community partners, Christ the King Lutheran Church and Thrivent, unveiled \$3,000 worth of new diverse and bilingual books for the school's library.

The Family and Community Engagement

department says Christ the King and Thrivent members wanted to make a donation that had an impact on our students, and they felt with the current emphasis on diversity and inclusion they wanted to update the school's library to reflect the district's efforts.

Christ the King and Thrivent chose Trajan due to close proximity to their locations and thus decided to continue the partnership and will now have their own bookshelf at the school that they will keep updated. ★



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 SENIOR LIVING

No Turkey for You!

Continued from page 1

- Singing, chanting and shouting are strongly discouraged, but if they occur, a face covering must be worn. And the singing should be quiet.
- Instrumental music is allowed but no wind instruments.

For some families, Thanksgiving will not include grandma and the children or siblings due to the three-family limitation. Imagine family members traveling for hours only to be restricted to a two-hour outdoor gathering without physical contact! What if it's hot or rains? Under these rules, the host must bear the weight of the entire meal because family cannot be inside to help.

For Gov. Newsom to think he has authority to micromanage a private family Thanksgiving dinner is the height of hubris. These restrictions are ludicrous.

Liberty Counsel is suing Gov. Newsom, who has banned ALL WORSHIP in much of California, on behalf of over 165 client churches. Our case is pending at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. We have asked for the entire panel of judges to hear the case.

The court has now ordered Newsom to respond.

Pastor Ché Ahn, Harvest Rock Church, the staff and parishioners face daily criminal threats and huge fines every time they enter the church. Each criminal charge carries up to one year in prison. It is shocking to read the letter from the Pasadena Criminal Prosecutor to Pastor Ahn.

That pastors and Christians would face prison and fines for attending church sounds like something from North Korea. Yet, discrimination has now crossed over to persecution right here in America!

I frequently pray for our brothers and sisters who face criminal threats and fines for attending church, and even conducting Bible studies and worship in their private homes. California is not the only state in which this outrageous assault on the church and freedom to worship is occurring.

The fight for religious liberty is reaching new extremes. California's absurd worship and Thanksgiving restrictions are an example of how extreme the illegal, unconstitutional edicts from power-mad governors have become.

For more information see LC.org ★

Social Security Matters

Will My Social Security Benefits Ever Stop?



By Russell Gloor,
AMAC Certified Social
Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: Has someone who paid into Social Security for most of their life ever lost their benefits later in life? For example, if they start collecting benefits at age 62 and live to be 85 or longer, could they suddenly lose their benefits? Can Social Security ever come along later and say "Sorry, you've used up all your benefits?" I know there are many people, including me, who have no other income or savings, so if their SS suddenly stopped they would need assistance to survive. I started my benefits at age 62 because I had to. I've always been in reasonably good health, so I wonder - what if I live to be 85, 90 or 95 - will I still have enough in the system to get my Social Security check? Signed: **Living on SS**

Dear Living: Please put your fears about losing your Social Security aside - you will never stop receiving your benefits even if you live to be 110 years old. The system isn't designed to compare what you've collected to how much you've contributed. If you meet the basic eligibility requirements, there is no danger of your payments ever stopping because you've "used up all your benefits."

Here's how the Social Security system works: Everyone who works pays a Social Security payroll tax (currently 6.2%; matched by their employer) up to the



annual payroll tax cap. All those payroll taxes collected are used to pay benefits to all those who are already collecting Social Security - the payroll taxes you paid weren't put into a separate account for you. Essentially, the system is "pay as you go," where everyone who works and earns pays for those already receiving benefits. So, the benefits you are now receiving are not being deducted from a personal account in your name. Everyone currently working and contributing to Social Security helps pay for your benefits, as well as benefits for everyone else already collecting. Any money left over after all benefits are paid are invested in special issue government bonds, which are held in the Social Security Trust Funds, earning interest which accrues into the Trust Funds. Money from income taxes on Social Security also contributes to SS revenue to pay for benefits. As of the end of 2019, the Social Security Trust Funds held about \$2.9 trillion in assets, reserved to cover any shortage of SS income received vs. benefits paid out.

You may have read about Social Security facing future financial difficulties. That is primarily a result of the declining ratio of workers to beneficiaries and increasing life expectancy (average longevity for SS recipients today is mid-80s). Starting this year, the reserves in the Trust Funds will be used to cover any income shortfall. The last official report from the Trustees of Social Security predicted that the SS Trust

Funds assets are sufficient to pay full benefits until about 2035 (the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic will surely worsen that prediction). But even if Congress fails to act to resolve the issue and the Trust Funds run dry in the future, your benefits will still continue. If the Trust Funds run dry, however, your benefit would be reduced (not eliminated).

If the Trust Funds are fully depleted, Social Security can only pay out as much as the income received, which would mean a benefit reduction of about 21%, according to current predictions. Sadly, Congress already knows how to fix Social Security's financial issues - what's lacking is the bipartisan cooperation needed to accomplish it. Personally, I do not believe that Congress will ever allow the Trust Funds to run dry, requiring a cut in benefits (it would be political suicide to do so). Given the vitriol permeating Congress today we'll probably need to wait a while for a solution, but one will eventually come. In any case, please rest assured that your Social Security benefits will never stop, no matter how old you get. You can't "use up all your benefits."

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★

Requirements for Students to Enter IB Middle Years Diplomat Program



The IB Middle Years Program begins in 6th grade at Winston Churchill Middle School and continues at Mira Loma High School. Photo: SJUSD

San Juan Unified School District

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The San Juan Unified School District is home to the region's premier International Baccalaureate (IB) programs, offering rigorous instruction to help students become knowledgeable, inquiring and caring citizens ready to make a difference in the world around them.

The District offers three International Baccalaureate programs: the Primary Years Program, the Middle Years - Diplomat Program, and the Diploma Program.

Placement pathways for the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Diplomat Program - known as IBMYP-Diplomat - for 6th and 7th graders has changed for

the 2021-22 school year. All interested 5th and 6th grade students will need to apply in order to be tested for possible qualification, according to the Office of Advanced and Accelerated Programs.

Please note that all applicants must meet stage 1 eligibility requirements to be tested. For more information on placement timelines and placement pathways, please visit www.sanjuan.edu/ib. The application will be available on-line starting Oct. 1 and will close on Nov. 15. The application will be available at www.sanjuan.edu/ibapp.

For any further questions, you may contact the Office of Advanced and Accelerated Programs at accelerated@sanjuan.edu or call 916-979-8518. ★

Dispose of Furniture, Appliances and Bulky Waste



Once per calendar year, residential curbside customers are provided a bulky waste pick up at no additional cost. Image by Michael Gaida from Pixabay

By Laurie Slothower, Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Do you have big stuff at home that you need to get rid of? Old furniture, a worn-out mattress, a washer, dryer, tree branches or just junk?

Residential customers who receive curbside garbage and recycling service from Sacramento County's Department of Waste Management and Recycling have many options:

Schedule a Bulky Waste Pick Up. Once per calendar year, residential curbside customers are provided a bulky waste pick up at no additional cost. On the day before your pick up, put acceptable items at the curb. Pile size is limited to 8' x 4' x 4', or about as much as the cab of a pickup truck piled to the top. To schedule this service, call 311, download the free SacGreenTeam app, or complete the online form; Already had your

annual Bulky Waste Pick Up? Additional pickups are only \$25 each!

Donate gently used furniture, appliances and other household items to a used household goods store, churches, Salvation Army or Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento;

Take large appliances like refrigerators, washers, dryers, stoves, ovens and dishwashers to the North Area Recovery Station or Kiefer Landfill. County residents may drop off up to two large appliances per day for no charge;

Hire a county licensed rubbish hauler to dispose of old furniture, appliances, etc. It's important to use a licensed rubbish hauler so that your junk doesn't end up dumped illegally. If anything in the pile points back to you, you could be financially responsible for cleanup costs! If in doubt of a business license, contact the Business License Unit at 916-874-6644 or send us an email. ★

Your Vote Really Counts

Continued from page 1

Proceeds from the "Best of Fair Oaks" which is presented by the Fair Oaks Youth Outreach (FOYO) group of teens from ages 12 - 19 benefits the group's scholarship program for local youth.

The Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce closed its physical office and shifted to virtual on-line operations in September, Pitillo said.

"We lost some 55 major Chamber events this year in Fair Oaks, including the Fair Oaks Fiesta and all our summer concerts. We're not sure whether we'll be able to host our annual Christmas celebration," she said. According to Pitillo, the Chamber took close to a \$75K loss due to the pandemic.

Now working from home and within the community, Pitillo said she's focused on updating the chamber's website to provide useful marketing information to its members and doing her best carrying out its

mission statement to serve, represent and enhance business growth and success in the Fair Oaks community.

Businesses can promote the "Best of Fair Oaks" vote at their stores, through social media and other means to get people to cast their votes to win," she said.

All award winners are voted on by Chamber members, Fair Oaks citizens and readers of the American River Messenger newspaper. All the votes cast are tabulated by a third party to verify authenticity.

"It's important to support all our local small businesses, not only our restaurants, but our bars, specialty shops, salons, banks, home businesses, grocery, senior care, real estate, financial advisors, local dentists and doctors, schools, churches, gyms, recreation and parks, our small clubs and non-profit organizations, and so many more," she wrote on the Chamber's web site. "We need these businesses to thrive, so that we can all thrive." ★



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How PG&E is improving Public Safety Power Shutoffs in 2020.



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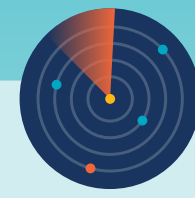
PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF (PSPS) is a statewide effort to prevent wildfires by proactively turning off power to communities when severe weather is forecast. As California battles historic wildfires, a Public Safety Power Shutoff is just one of many tools that PG&E uses to help keep customers and communities safe.

PG&E is working to make PSPS events smaller, shorter and smarter, by:



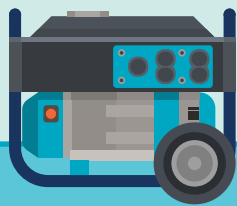
Installing over 600 devices that redirect power to limit the size of outages

1



Using more than 765 advanced weather stations to pinpoint where severe weather is most likely to occur

2



Adding backup generation in some high fire-threat communities to keep the lights on

3



Nearly doubling our helicopter fleet from 35 to 65 and adding more field crews to cut restoration time in half compared to 2019

4



Upgrading our Community Resource Centers (while following COVID-19 health guidelines such as the use of masks and social distancing) by providing water, snacks, and other resources

5

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To learn more ways to prepare for a Public Safety Power Shutoff, visit safetyactioncenter.pge.com



By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

Baptism Of The Holy Spirit Of God

and remained the very best of friends all these years. Now over 40 years and living hundreds of miles apart we still keep in touch.

Then, God did a sovereign work in both of us as we came under conviction to what the Holy Word of God was saying to us. I knelt in prayer and completely surrendered myself to God (just as this Scripture states in Romans 12:1-2) I accepted His perfect will for my life to do what-ever God desired to happen. When I prayed and sensed His presence like I had never felt before.

While sitting quietly in prayer, all of a sudden strange words flowed from my belly and flowed through my mouth as though bypassing my brain. It was so surprising to me! I was so amazed I purposely cut off the flow. I really wasn't sure what had happened!

A few days later, Questioning if it was real, I sought counsel from a young minister who I knew understood! After prayer with him, he told me it certainly was the Baptism of the Holy Spirit! He counseled me! He said "just let it happen when I was in my personal prayer closet." God will reveal more to me as I am obedient to follow His instructions.

All after these years and appreciating this gift I believe the Lord now desires me to share about His gift given to me and how the gift of a prayer

tongue has blessed our lives. Even as special and meaningful this gift from God has been for me I have been very careful to only reveal it to a very few people. I only used His gift in my private personal prayer time with the Lord even though I know He often uses this gift in Pentecostal churches. In a church, there must be an interpreter.

Today, I believe and understand because God blessed me with this gift, I was able to pray in the Spirit over many things that needed power to be changed in my life. They were happenings that needed changes and were extremely important and yet painfully disturbing to me! Praying in the Spirit God gave my prayers power to get through troubles in my early Christian life. God answered so many of my prayers, healed, transformed, delivered, gifted and changed those problems.

My life is an open-book! I am a grateful child of His – every single day of my life. His Name is Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty King, Savior and Lord of my life. To God Be the Glory!

Marlys Johnsen Norris
Award Winning Christian
Author of 7 Books,
Stephen's Minister
Columnist, Teacher, Speaker
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PO Box 114,
Orangevale, Ca 95662 ★

The Alleged Warrant For My Arrest

By Rev. James L. Snyder

This past week was one of the best weeks I've had in a long time. I got everything completed, as well as some overdue projects.

There's no feeling quite like the feeling of having accomplished your goals for the week. As far as I was concerned, this called for an Apple fritter celebration. Just keep this between us and don't let you-know-who hear.

When I walked into the house, I was met by the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, and I noticed a rather serious look on her face. I thought maybe she had a bad day, and I was not going to let her bad day influence my good day.

So I said, "Hello, my dear. How has your day been?"

"What have you been up to?" She said as serious as I've ever heard her.

"Listen to this phone message."

She picked up the phone, pressed the button and I heard the message.

"This is a Social Security Officer letting you know that a warrant for your arrest has been established. They will be at your home tomorrow around 4 o'clock to facilitate the warrant unless you call this number."

I was speechless, which is not unusual for me. Then my wife said, "Do you want to tell me what this is all about?"

It's not enough that I'm in trouble with a Social Security Officer, but I'm also in trouble with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. To be truthful about this, I'd rather be in trouble with a Social Security Officer. But I have to take my trouble one step at a time.

I did not know what to say to my wife. I never heard of a Social Security Officer or what they do. Why would the Social Security come after me? I'm certainly not going to call that number.

"Are you keeping something from me?" My wife queried.

I did not know how to answer because I have never found how to keep anything from her as long as I have been married. She knows what I'm doing three weeks before I'm actually doing it. How could I keep anything from her?

We sat in the living room and tried to figure out what kind of trouble would necessitate an arrest warrant. We couldn't come up with anything. And believe me, if my wife can't come up with the definition of trouble, it just doesn't exist.

Believe me, the next

afternoon, we were very nervous, not knowing what to do. But the afternoon led into the evening, and then we went to bed.

That was four weeks ago. I have not received any more phone calls. No Social Security Officer has shown up at my door with a warrant for my arrest.

As it turns out, those four weeks of nervous anticipation were a complete waste. As far as we can understand, it must've been a scam to rattle our cage. We were careful for nothing at all.

The other night as I was thinking of this, a verse of Scripture came to mind. "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love" (1 John 4:18).

I have a choice that I can surrender my fear for love. That love that only God can give.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-216-3025 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com. ★

My now 50 years walking with the Lord Jesus as my personal Savior I have observed the many views of various denominations concerning God's Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Whenever there is something that divides people of God in various Christian churches it has been a "deep concern" to me. In my heart I know and believe it never should happen!

I admit that when this first became my concern to me, I began to study the Scriptures more closely. I decided that what-ever God spoke to me through His Word spoke to me, I would believe and ask God's Spirit to help me to understand.

When I first learned about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, a Sister in Christ and I would talk on the telephone. We discussed about the stand some people in the church evidently held. Also, we shared our questions and understanding about what we witnessed regarding this teaching and what the Words of God clearly stated in the Bible.

We both decided that whatever God's Word stated was TRUTH and those words would be our final authority! We ceased to talk about it anymore

Sacramento State Sets Enrollment Record Amid Ongoing Pandemic, Virtual Learning

By Anita Fitzhugh, California State University

SACRAMENTO, CA. (MPG) - WHAT: Sacramento State has reached another year of record enrollment with 31,510 students registered for classes in Fall 2020, a 1% increase over last year.

In addition, the University retained an impressive 84% of first-year students and more than 90% of transfer students who are committed to continuing their education.

"These gains clearly demonstrate that an increasing number of Sac State students are steadily engaging in their studies and advancing toward a timely graduation," said James Dragna, executive director for University Initiatives and Student Success.

Sac State is among a select number of universities successfully going against enrollment trends. A National Student Clearinghouse Research Center study calculates national undergraduate enrollments are

down 2.5% from last year.

Dragna said Sac State's figures point to a commitment by Sacramento State faculty, staff and administration to continue to serve students in new and creative ways despite the difficulties posed by COVID-19.

The progress supports the California State University's Graduation Initiative 2025, including Sacramento State's "Finish in Four" and "Through in Two" campaigns.

WHO: James Dragna, executive director for University Initiatives and Student Success; Ed Mills, vice president of Student Affairs; Sacramento State students, faculty and staff.

Related: Sac State fall enrollment surges to record level

B-roll: Downloadable video of students and faculty engaging in safe practices for in-person learning, including maintaining at least six feet of distance, outdoor classes, washing hands and equipment, and wearing face coverings at all times. ★



Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

A Sense of Wonder



Do you find yourself in a rut? Has life become humdrum? Are you bored with unexciting, indistinguishable, routine days? Are you searching for a more satisfying path? Are you jealous of those who seem to lead more interesting lives?

It's easy to take all of the wonderful aspects of life for granted. We lose the sense of wonder we had as children. As we age, we are no longer amazed at the world around us. Reconnecting with your sense of wonder gives life an amazing spark.

Watch kids explore their world. Be inspired by their sense of wonder. You can reconnect with the sense of wonder you had as a kid. Start by observing all of nature's miracles. How do all plants of the same species produce flowers at the same time? How do birds learn how to fly? How do bees navigate over long distances to find nectar? Everywhere you look there are so many amazing aspects to behold.

Be observant. Always ask yourself how and why does that happen. You don't have to know the answers. The questions alone provide a sense of wonder. Whenever you are outside, be filled with a sense of awe. You are surrounded by miracles.

Your own body is another example of incredible wonder. Every aspect of your physical and mental being is a miracle. You must appreciate everything

you are capable of. You can think, reason, remember, move, eat, breathe, hear, and see.

As you start to revert to a childlike sense of wonder, your entire perspective changes. Mundane problems or challenges fade into relative insignificance. In light of the awesome miracles surrounding you, there are no challenges you can't overcome.

Often, people claim they are too busy to pay attention to the small, yet significant details of life. If this is the case with you, slow down enough to observe the wonder around you. The resulting impact is so positive that your efforts will be significantly more effective.

When you walk down a road you have always driven on, you'll notice so many details which you never saw while in your car. Take the stairs at work instead of the elevator. Park in a different section of the parking lot. Anything you do to break patterns provides a different view of your world.

Change your routines. Shake things up. Do something you've never done before. Travel down new roads. Visit different places. Say hello to people you don't know. Eat foods you have never tried. Watch a movie which falls outside the categories you normally view.

View common situations from different angles. Just as happens when viewing optical illusions, when

you look at your circumstances from a different perspective, what you see is totally different. This is another example of an amazing phenomenon. This approach enables you to find success strategies you have been missing.

Observe positive, successful people. See how they view their world. Ask what keeps them motivated. You will invariably learn that for them, each day is exciting. They are not bored. Their lives are never in a rut.

Expand your horizons by reading different subjects by various authors. Explore new topics you knew nothing about. Expanding your knowledge base enables you to discover even more wonder. There is always more to learn.

Maintaining and cultivating your sense of wonder brightens every aspect of your world. You'll be happier, more positive, and open to new ideas. You will be more adept at problems solving. You won't be as susceptible to negative influences. Every aspect of your life will be enriched.

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@columnist.com or write him c/o this paper. © 2020 Bryan Golden ★

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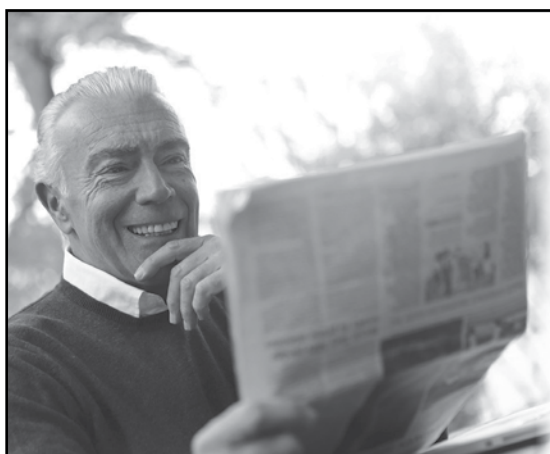
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Sacramento County Streamlines COVID-19 Contact Tracing

Sacramento County Public Information Office

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County Public Health is making the COVID-19 case investigation process more efficient by launching a new solution to streamline its COVID-19 contact tracing. The new program powered by Qualtrics allows the department to contact individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 and anonymously notify those they have been in contact with about exposure to the virus.

Those who have tested positive for COVID-19 can confidentially share information about individuals they have had contact with and locations they have visited through the new and easy to use platform.

Data collected is then used to automate the process to notify impacted individuals by email or text that they may have been exposed and the next steps to take to maintain safety while also maintaining individual confidentiality. All data from the health assessment and contact tracing process are compliant with Federal, State and local privacy laws. The solution does not employ automatic location tracking technology.

Sacramento County Health Officer Dr. Olivia Kasirye said, "We are excited to start implementing this new platform, the quicker confirmed cases can begin isolating, the better we will be at preventing outbreaks in Sacramento County."

Personal health information from positive cases will not be shared with contacts



Sacramento County Public Health is making the COVID-19 case investigation process more efficient. Photo by Eugene Chystiakov, Unsplash.

at any time, and the tracing portion of the online program is opt-in, however, those who do not respond will still receive a phone call from a contact tracing investigator.

Below is an example of the contact tracing email Sacramento County Public Health will send:

Please answer this health assessment from the Sacramento County Health Department. You are receiving this assessment because you may have either tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus) or may have potentially been exposed to COVID-19. This assessment should only take 5-10 minutes to complete. The information you provide the County Health Department in this assessment will help to flatten the curve and stop the spread of COVID-19. All information that you provide is confidential and will be protected to keep your personal information private.

If you have any questions about providing this information or wish to confirm the validity of this e-mail, please contact our team at COVID19@saccounty.net or

visit the Sacramento County COVID-19 webpage.

The questionnaire will be sent as an email or text and the COVID-19 case investigators and contact tracers will have the option to contact individuals directly when appropriate, such as cases involving congregate facilities or for specific follow-up to certain responses provided in the automated questionnaire.

The custom-built solution and three years of support services will cost \$1.6 M and is anticipated to save money over time with the reduction in the number of investigators/tracers positions that would be needed. Sacramento County is also exploring possible add-ons of creating a portal for schools and businesses to submit contacts into the system and an automated system for referring some respondents to wrap-around services.

Find more about the County's response to COVID-19, by visiting Sacramento County's COVID-19 webpage. www.saccounty.net/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx ★

Orangevale's Sentry Storage Has a Great Combination

By MaryAnne Povey

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - When it comes to storage there are lots of places to consider around town, but one place stands out among the rest – Sentry Storage, located at 9344 Greenback Lane in Orangevale. Their pride of ownership and stellar service is no doubt why they've been voted "Best of Orangevale" for three years in a row!

Sentry Storage, a long-time, family-owned business has been around for nearly 40 years with multiple locations. The Orangevale location is managed by husband and wife duo, Gary and Sherri Blackwell, who've been in the storage facility business since 1999. Their years of experience and understanding of image, security, and cleanliness, make them a dream team when it comes to running a top-rated storage facility. In 2015, when the then 86 year old manager of the Orangevale Sentry location decided to retire, the Blackwells jumped at the opportunity to take the reins and get back to the community they hold near and dear to their hearts.

"We work well together," Sherri laughed explaining the success of their working relationship, "We're both Pisces! I handle the office/administrative side and Gary handles maintenance and security. It's a great combo!"

It's that combination and expertise along with caring and pride in their work that makes them a great team. The first step they took when taking over the



Gary and Sherri Blackwell have been in the storage business for over 20 years and hold Orangevale near and dear to their hearts. Photo by MaryAnne Povey

storage facility was taking a hard look at how to improve the image since they know and understand the importance of a first impression.

"The owners of Sentry Storage care deeply about customer service and regularly re-invest in the property," said Gary enthusiastically, "That makes our job a lot easier, when a place is clean and projects an image that it's well cared for, safe and family friendly – people notice."

That's probably why their online reviews are great and nearly all of the 900 units are filled. They currently have a waiting list to get in.

"We have the best clientele and many are repeat customers", Gary beamed, "We take great pride in giving the best customer service and people know I am here to protect their property," he added.

They have strict hours of operation, 7 am - 7 pm and have a zero tolerance policy for trouble coming on the property.

On occasion, there are a few clients who don't pay their bill or come back to get their property so those units go up for auction. I couldn't help but ask if it's anything like the reality show "Storage Wars".

"Let me put it like this, we've never found a Picasso or a pot of gold, unlike the "fake" reality show," Gary laughed, "More like Grandma's dusty knick-knacks and stuff like that."

Besides running the family friendly business, they also care about the wellness of the community and regularly donate to local fundraisers and support many non-profit organizations with their storage needs. They also love to participate in the Town Fair parade every year.

When asked about what they love most about Orangevale, they both chimed in saying, "It's the best small hometown community. We love it here."

To find out more about Sentry Storage, give them a call at 916.988.4466. ★

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Hidden Habits of Geniuses

Would you like to be a genius? Believe it or not, you don't have to be born one. That from **Professor Craig Wright**, the creator of Yale University's popular genius course where he shares stories of history's achievers and explores the fourteen key traits of genius in "The Hidden Traits of Genius" unlocking the secrets of genius. Here's a sample.

- WORK ETHIC.** Why IQ scores and Ivy League educations are greatly overrated, and hard work is underrated. Natural talent versus hard work is not a binary opposition. Genius is both the product of both nature and nurture.
- RESILIENCE.** Women and minority geniuses have historically needed an extra dose of resilience for their achievements to be recognized. Wright unpacks why hidden cultural biases against women in particular are so difficult to discard, and how we can openly challenge these biases to defeat them.
- ORIGINLAITY.** No matter how "gifted" your children are, you do them no favors by treating them like prodigies, who tend not to fulfill expectations.
- CHILDLIKE IMAGINATION.** If we value creativity and openness to unexpected solutions, as geniuses do, the least helpful thing we can say to our children, or to ourselves, is "Grow up!"
- INSATIABLE CURIOSITY.** Beyond the obvious acts of reading and taking a class to stoke your lust for learning, try something less apparent like getting lost while wandering in a new city, or asking questions frequently and then actually listening to the answer.
- PASSION.** Passion is essential to happiness and human progress. You'll have a happier and probably longer life.

- CREATIVE MALADJUSTMENT.** There is a correlation between genius and mental disorder. Rather than stigmatizing or medicating neurological differences, let's learn to embrace them and leverage them to our advantage.
- REBELLIOUSNESS.** Without rebellion against the status quo, there is no genius. Want to raise a bold, original thinker? Permit your children to explore alone, take risks, and experience failure.
- CROSS-BORDER THINKING.** Geniuses teach us not to specialize too soon or too strictly, in school or on the job. Steve Jobs said, "It's technology married with liberal arts, married with humanities, that yields the results that make our hearts sing."
- CONTRARIAN ACTION.** The more a person can exploit the contradictions of life, the greater his or her potential for genius.
- PREPARATION.** Talent is important, but just as important are favorable circumstances, or luck. And luck favors the prepared. Legendary golfer Gary Player said, "The harder I practice, the luckier I get."
- OBSESSION.** Geniuses are obsessed with their personal quest to change the world, often to the detriment of others and many great minds turn out to be not-so-great human beings.
- RELAXATION.** The great way to have a brilliant insight is to engage in creative relaxation...go for a walk, take a shower, or get a good night's sleep with pen and paper by the bed.
- CONCENTRATION.** To be more productive, adopt a daily ritual for work. All geniuses do.

Check out www.craigwrightgenius-music.net. Who knows, you could be the next Einstein! ★

Does More Money Mean Better Schools?



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

It's by no means certain that California voters will pass Proposition 15, but if they do, it would be the largest tax increase in the state's history.

That said, it would provide a relatively small down payment on the long-standing desire of the state's educational establishment for a massive increase in spending that's needed, advocates say, to improve California's rather dismal K-12 educational outcomes.

Proposition 15, largely sponsored by the California Teachers Association and other public employee unions, would increase property taxes on some commercial real estate, such as office buildings and hotels, by requiring their taxable values to be upgraded more often. Estimates of its effects vary somewhat, but generally are in the \$10 billion to \$12 billion per year range, with schools getting about 40% of the proceeds.

Those are big numbers, but the few billion extra dollars that would flow to schools are a fraction of the \$25 billion to \$30 billion more per year that unions and other educational groups have been touting. The increase is needed, they say, to make a real difference in

academic test scores, high school graduation rates and other measures of academic attainment.

The number derives from a 2018 report from a multi-university team of academic researchers saying that California should spend 38% more, or about \$4,000 per pupil per year, to raise overall achievement and close the "achievement gap" that separates poor and/or English-learner students from their more advantaged peers.

The 2018 report and much other academic drumbeating for higher education spending comes from Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE), a consortium of the state's major university schools of education.

As the campaign over Proposition 15 – basically a duel between public worker unions and business interests – entered its final stages, PACE issued another report to reinforce its advocacy for a big increase in school financing.

Its core is a series of charts comparing education spending in California to that of other major states and tracing what it says is a relative decline in California's commitment to schools.

Citing the global size of California's economy, the report laments that "California school funding – even before COVID-19 – was insufficient to meet educational goals and address the needs of students, particularly given the state's high cost of living. How can that be true? Why is education funding so low in California, despite

its wealth and comparatively high tax revenues?"

The report's charts appear to be accurate as far as they go. But they don't go far enough because they are confined to financial comparisons on the questionable assumption, also reflected in the 2018 study, that money automatically equates to educational achievement.

If PACE and other advocates of big increases in school spending were intellectually honest, they would not only compare spending levels to other states, but also compare how well they are faring vis-à-vis California in national academic testing results and other measures of attainment.

New York, for instance, is spending at least 50% more per pupil than California but its scores on the last batch of National Assessment of Educational Progress tests were virtually identical to California's – both being subpar. Meanwhile, many states that spend much less than California routinely score higher.

Regardless of Proposition 15's outcome, the never-ending debate on California education will continue, but it should be a debate about more than money. Some of the academic resources being devoted to persuading Californians to raise taxes for schools should be spent on exploring why outcomes elsewhere bear little or no relationship to how much money other states are spending.

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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CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Bornean ape
 - Casino's pull
 - Elbow-wrist connection
 - Paralyzing disease
 - Pigeon sound
 - Teething drops
 - Mary's subjects (1542-1567)
 - Ostrich-like bird
 - September stone
 - *One responsible for someone else's welfare
 - *Both rodents and humans like to come up with these
 - Name fit for a king
 - Wedding cover
 - Like a dim star
 - Head vermin
 - *Like the schemes of a fool, biblically speaking
 - Thor's father
 - Cleopatra's necklace
 - Blood carrier
 - Ice on a window
 - Famous Teatro alla _____
 - Took to court
 - Prevent
 - Burden of proof
 - Leprechaun's land
 - Fit
 - Cabinet div.
 - Steadfast Soldier's material
 - Letter before kappa
 - European Economic Community
 - *It increases love and friendship
 - *It will cause additional harm
 - Raccoon relative
 - Short for the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC
 - Huey, Duey and Louie, e.g.
 - #41 Across location
 - Prior to, pref.
 - Organ swelling
 - Benevolent fellows
 - African tam-_____
 - English county

- DOWN**
- Roman goddess of plenty
 - *It's just as unpleasant as a hard place
 - Sunburn soother
 - Fertilizer ingredient
 - Luke's teaching, e.g.
 - Laptop manufacturer
 - Data storage acronym
 - *Cowards are sometimes compared to this
 - Encourage
 - Good earth
 - Sound on a scale
 - Saloon selections
 - Perennial garden flower
 - Signs for escape
 - Post-Soviet Union alliance, acr.
 - Covered porch
 - *Can't use these to break a skeleton
 - Farewell, to ami
 - Nimbus, pl.
 - Gabrielle Chanel's nickname
 - *Keep it clean to stay out of trouble
 - *It's tastier if one is not allowed to have it
 - First cradles

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13					14			15			
16					17			18			
19				20		21	22				
		23			24						
25	26	27		28	29		30	31	32	33	34
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Solutions on Page 8

Find Puzzles on Page 8

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 8

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New Patron for Comfort Critters



Octogenarian Nancy Fellers (right) recently passed the torch for her Comfort Critters mission to Donna Owens. The soft toys are repurposed to help Sheriff's Department outreach among children. Endorsing the benefactors' efforts is Deputy Robert Magee.

Story and photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Veteran toy-doctor Nancy Fellers (87) has bequeathed her mission aiding children and police officers to a successor. Fellow Carmichaelite Donna Owens is now rallying gently-used soft toys to continue the decades-old campaign.

For Sacramento Sheriff's officers, the ladies and their legions of fluffy teddies and puppies are important humanitarian allies. In crisis situations, cops are often challenged to win trust from traumatized kids. "Offering something cuddly softens our outreach," explains Sheriff's Toy Project Officer Robert Magee. "We can be at a domestic crime scene or at a fire, where a family might have lost everything. We see sad little faces light up when we bring out a toy. They're soothed by having something soft to cuddle."

With that in mind Nancy (whose daughter and son-in-law were law officers), began a Comfort Critter crusade 22 years ago. "Deputies used to pay for toys from their own pockets," says the former school teacher and travel agent. "I don't see why they should. Teddies can be part of necessary police equipment." Soft toys came her way via thrift shops and from Kiwanis Club member donations. Nancy laundered discarded duckies. She restuffed down-at-heel dinosaurs. Then she bagged each individually and took the

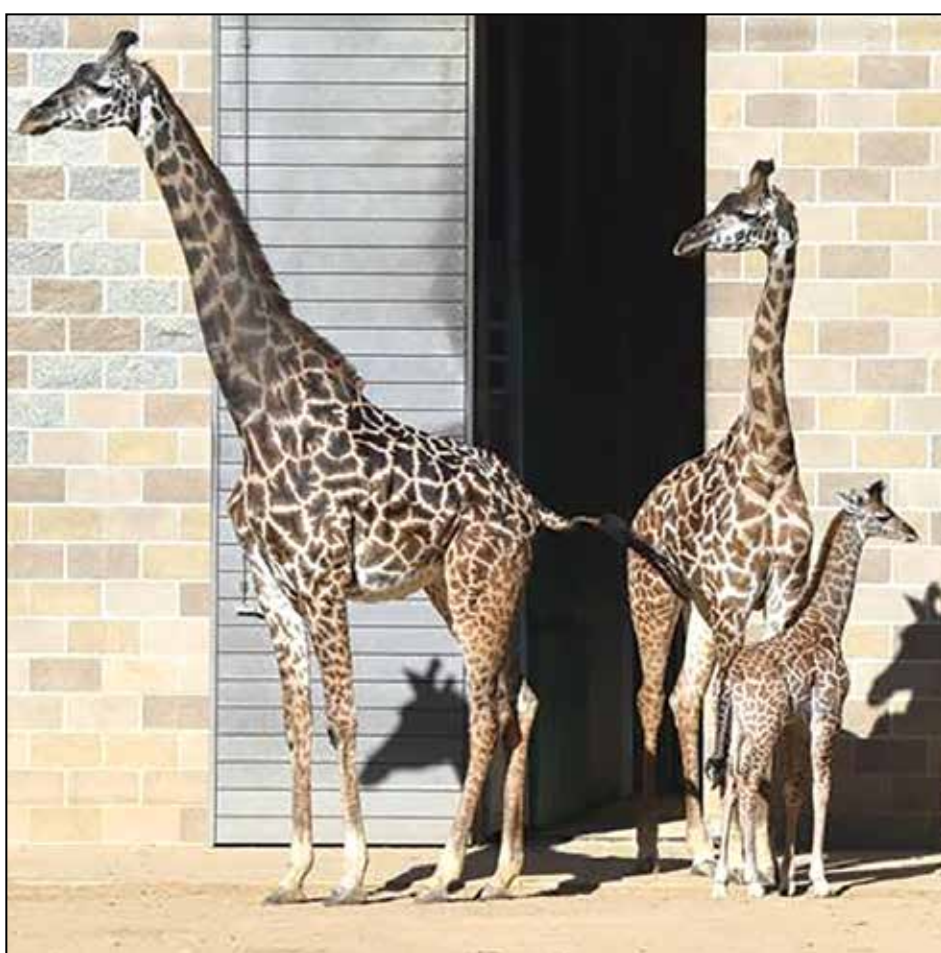
menage to the Sheriff's Toy Project in Rancho Cordova. "The deputies were always glad to see me," says Nancy. "I was delivering something that helped them with their work."

When Nancy and her husband Bill relocated to Carmichael's Atria El Camino Gardens last year, she sought a successor for the project. "It was getting harder for me to go out and find toys," she explains. "Then COVID brought restrictions for senior homes. I didn't want my project to end; I was delighted to find a fellow Kiwanian who wanted to carry it on."

A grandma and great-grandma herself, Donna Owens took little persuading. "What Nancy had started was a perfect fit for me," says the Retired Cal Transit engineer/technician. "Making children happy and helping the police seemed like a great goal." Donna scours thrift stores and puts stuffed animals through a meticulous wash-and-drying process. "Before I bag them, I tie on a fresh bow and trim the fuzz from around their eyes," she says. "A pair of clear, shining eyes seems so friendly to a child. I see these once-loved toys on store shelves and I want to take them all home — they can offer so much more love, and assist the police in their work. I feel good that with very little effort and expense, I can do something so worthwhile."

The Comfort Critters Project welcomes donations of gently-used soft toys. Contact Donna Owens at (530) 788 2085. ★

Glory, the Masai Giraffe Calf, Now on Exhibit at Sac Zoo!



It's Bright Out Here! What's Up?? Photo: Sac Zoo

By Lesley Kirrene, Sacramento Zoo

SACRAMENTO, CA. (MPG) - Glory, the Sac Zoo's three-week-old Masai giraffe calf, is making BIG strides! She and mom, Shani, will be given access to the zoo's giraffe yard daily between approximately 9am and 1pm. Please note, times may vary and the calf will have access to the giraffe barn at all times for much-needed calf naps.

Make sure to purchase tickets to the Sac Zoo in advance online! You might just see Glory exploring her new surroundings. Also be sure to check out the zoo's Wolf's guenon infant, new troop of squirrel monkeys, the new alligator exhibit and so much more. There's always something happening at the Sacramento Zoo!

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. Glory is the 20th calf born at the Sacramento Zoo going back to 1964 when the species was first housed at the 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.sac-zoo.org. For information, call 916-808-5888 or visit saczoo.org. ★



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\$1.19 CHM PLU 573

BONUS COUPON
BONNY CAT PREMIUM CAT LITTER
 20 Lb Bag Limit 1 Bag With Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon Effective 11/4/20 - 11/10/20

\$3.79 CHM PLU 362