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VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 20

Serving Fair Oaks, Orangevale & Sacramento County

OCTOBER 23, **2020**

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direct link to our online edition!



Super Women Offer Wisdom 311 Connect



Super women. Susan Peters (right) will soon bow out of County government after 16 years as Supervisor for District 3. Her predecessors are Muriel Johnson, (left) and Sandy Smoley

Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

Because women have led Sacramento's District 3 for almost 50 years, its three living Supervisors laughingly call their board position the 'girl's seat.' Susan Peters' archal dynasty. A guy – either Rich always be with us." Desmond or Gregg Fishman – will

Johnson and Susan Peters recently convened, conversation was not so much memory lane as memorable potholes. Endless roadworks, they agreed, would be an inherited challenge for the election winner.

Sandy Smoley made history in arts; its support of women's health; its 1972 as the first woman elected to

When Sandy Smoley, Muriel County government. "I struggled for an identity because no female served before me," she recalls. "I guess I became a role model for the women who followed." The former nurse is gratified her efforts for advanced firefighter training saved "Something different comes up for a many lives. Thanks to Smoley's push, Supervisor every day," notes Susan all Sacramento fire trucks now carry 2021 retirement will end that matri- Peters. "But road deterioration will qualified paramedics. She also lobbied for County sponsorship of the

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New Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Opens

By Yessenia Anderson, Dignity Health

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) -Dignity Health announced the completion of construction of the new 'Robert S. and Star Pepper Neonatal Intensive Care Unit' at Mercy San Juan Medical Center. The NICU spans 17,889 square feet and is a huge increase over the previous 1,200-square-foot space originally built it 1989. Mercy San Juan's original NICU was among the first of its kind in Northern California. Over the past three decades, the practice of neonatology has progressed significantly and the Sacramento region has grown exponentially and therefore so have the community's needs for the NICU. Since its inception, the hospital has always grown with its community, and the development of the new NICU further demonstrates Dignity Health's continued commitment to carry out its mission of improving the health of the people we serve, especially those who

On average, 400 babies annually receive life-saving

are most vulnerable.



Left to right: Dr. Robert Kahle, Neonatologist; Dr. Carolyn Getman, Neonatologist; Star Pepper (lead donor); Cecilia Sandoval, Director of Human Resources; Robert S. Pepper (lead donor).

care at the NICU, with many transferred from other Northern California hospitals that are unable to provide the high-level care they require. The NICU has cared for some of the most critically ill babies who are born as early as 23 weeks and weigh as little as 400 grams. The new Level III NICU will now be able to accommodate 40 infants in 16 private rooms and eight three-bed pods. The private rooms are available for

multiple birth family sets, isolation for infants whose circumstances require it, and a private place for families to say a loving goodbye to NICU babies who, the bedside of their baby at all times.

"For over 30 years, Mercy San Juan Medical Center's NICU has been a life-saving resource for families

throughout the Sacramento region," said Mercy San Juan Medical Center president, Michael Korpiel. "The new unit will house the remarkable neonatologists despite every effort, will be and nurses who have made unable to survive. The new the NICU what it is today space also offers parents and continue to offer this the opportunity to stay at urgently needed, excellent care to our region's most vulnerable babies.'

Despite caring for many of the sickest and most-fragile infants in the Sacramento

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New and **Improved** Links to **Services**

By Andrea Sandoval, Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - In 2013, Sacramento County launched 311 to handle all municipal County service requests. By now, everyone knows to call 311 to report an abandoned vehicle or a broken streetlight in unincorporated Sacramento County. Sacramento County 311 handles these and hundreds of other questions covering a variety of County services every day, seven days a week and 24 hours a day.

What you may not know is that the County has been working hard to improve the 311 service and in February 2020 completed a project that integrates all County municipal service departments with 311 for seamless transfer of service request directly to the department that will handle the request. 311 encouraged public user and internal department participation in each phase of the project. They included citizen and departmental suggestions throughout the project and the new system features many elements provided by user feedback.

311 is delighted to announce the following new self-service customer features:

Request Services Online by completing virtual interviews that route your request to the appropriate department for handling (a) Interview questions were specifically developed by the responsible departments (b) Interview answers enable departments to quickly resolve the request;

Instantly receive a case number with an estimated time of completion; Use the Interactive Map to pinpoint the exact location for your request; View Nearby Requests of reported issues in your area; Track and update your Service Requests Online; Quickly access information online for County services using our newly created self-service Knowledge Base; Search the Public Knowledgebase to learn about countywide services and find answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs); Submit requests online or by use of a mobile device; Provide feedback, letting 311 know if the information was helpful or not, our dedicated team will review and revise as necessary.

311 is excited to provide this new and improved service for the

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Super Women Offer Wisdom

Continued from page 1 ongoing program to involve community volunteers in government. The lone female endured disproportionate workplace scrutiny: she survived breast cancer and other health issues in a fishbowl; even her divorce was public property. "The Sacramento Bee ran a hesaid-she-said report of the court proceedings," she winces. "They wouldn't have done that to a man. That's why at 84, nothing can get to me. I've heard it all."

After 20 years, leaving the Board was not a retirement. Governor Pete Wilson grabbed Smoley for State and Consumer Services Secretary; she later became his Secretary of Health and Human Services. "I went to bigger arenas with greater influence," she says. "But County government was always my favorite. I saw results for every decision I made on the Board. I can still drive down streets and see bike lanes I put in, or a day care center I started." She relished Board members' diversity of service: "One day, I had to change my outfit five times. I started in the morning in jeans, riding on a buckboard for a parade. I ended up in evening dress, at a Crocker Art Museum gala."

Community activist and fundraiser Muriel Johnson won the District in 1993. She pushed to begin costly revamps for Fulton Avenue and for the widening of the Watt Avenue bridge. "We added bike lanes, benches and art," she enthuses. "We gave Watt Avenue the bestlooking bridge in town." During 1990s efforts to save

Beef New York

Steak - Boneless



Muriel Johnson (left) and Susan Peters joined Sacramento Library Director Annmarie Gold to reopen Carmichael Library in 2006.

met President Bill Clinton in Sacramento and later sat beside him for Washington DC negotiations. "He was charming and easy to talk to," she recalls. "He let us down gently. He understood what McClellan meant to the community but he was straight with us. We gave it our all, but we just couldn't save the base.'

Smoley was her chief mentor. "She appointed me to the Arts Commission and other committees," recalls Johnson. "She persuaded me I could run for District 3. You only had to watch Sandy's energy in office, and seeing was believing." Cracking the whip for 12 years at Johnson's side was Chief of Staff Mary Anne

Dann. "If I got off track, Mary Anne quickly got me back," approves her boss. "In 1986, my husband and I went to New York for a vacation. After two days, Mary Anne called me and commanded: get back - your District's flooding! I came straight back to work on saving the levies." Evening meetings sentenced the Supervisor and her husband (ENT surgeon Ernie Johnson) to years of takeout food. "He never complained," says his spouse. "One night I found him peeling potatoes. He'd decided to teach himself to cook."

Before retiring, she recruited banker Susan Peters to run for her seat. "In Susan, I felt I'd found the golden ring," says Johnson. "She's been so capable and wonderful for the District. After I stepped down, I immediately the cat's pajamas – I loved everywhere. "

Susan Peters will complete 16 years of service during a hot mess of civic cancelations - her own farewell party included. Achievements will nevertheless dominate her memories. "We built three new parks using innovative ways to fund them." she considers. "We've established two new PBIDs that lion budget that must be put business in the hands of balanced." Another bouquet

businesses." To the relief of countless motorists, Hazel Avenue (Fair Oaks) has been widened. Peters' cooperation with the Sheriff missed the job's involve- and DA has endowed ment. Being Supervisor was District 3 with hands-on policing (POP and HOT knowing what was going on teams) and a community prosecutor to indict local The COVID crisis means miscreants. Via this process, a recent slum landlord plea deal assisted Carmichael Park Foundation to the tune of \$15,000.

Peters names her late husband, business entrepreneur Peter McCuen, as mentor. "He taught me so much," she says. "Running the county is like running a business, with a \$6.5 bil-

goes to Chief of Staff Howard Schmidt. "He's been on my team the whole 16 years," she says. "We think so much alike. He understands my direction and helps me get the job done."

Glittering moments include a 2015 homecoming for three Sacramento men who saved a French train from terrorist attack. "We worked hard to put that parade together so quickly," she recalls. "The huge crowds that came out to celebrate heroism made it worthwhile." During a Foothill Farms open day, Peters volunteered to help a police canine's attack demonstration. "Even with protective padding, my arm was numb for days," she attests. "I advise anyone involved in a canine chase to just give up."

Her January farewell to arms promises nostalgia. "I'll miss so many people," she considers. "But I'll sleep better. Years of waking up - worrying about the parkway's flooding or another deputy's been injured on the job - it all takes its toll."

Veterans Smoley, Johnson and Peters agree their successor will agonize for the County's homeless problem and the economic recovery from COVID 19. But they each have buoying advice:

Suggests pioneer Sandy Smoley: "Enjoy your service. It's a tough job, but it's rewarding."

Offers Muriel Johnson: "Don't sit downtown. Get out to the District and listen to people."

Adds Susan Peters: "Problems aren't solved quickly. The job's not a sprint. It's a marathon." ★

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Pork Neck Bones



Local Water Districts Mount Campaign Neonatal Care Unit Opens **Against New Map Proposal**

By Patrick Harbison, CHWD

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CALIF. (MPG) - The Citrus Heights Water District (CHWD) and Fair Oaks Water District (FOWD) have submitted a letter objecting to the San Juan Water District's (SJWD) plan for transitioning from "at large" to "by district" elections. Styled as a plan to respect the "urban-rural" divide within SJWD; a cursory review of the proposed map shows no rational basis for its boundaries other than protecting incumbents to the extent pos-sible. 4 of these 5 incumbents live in Granite Bay, and Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks and other communities have been historically underrepresented on the SJWD

The joint letter to SJWD, signed by CHWD President Ray Riehle and FOWD President Gary Page, urges SJWD to abandon its current map and consider a map that considers existing county, city and neighborhood boundaries. For context, the letter includes two overlays on the proposed map. The first overlay compares the proposed map to existing county, city, and neighborhood boundaries. It is obvious that the proposed map follows no existing com-munity lines and seems to intentionally disregard existing boundaries. This unnecessarily separates existing com-munities that form natural district boundaries.

The second overlay provides some potential justification for the proposed map. It adds the location of existing incumbents and shows that the maps are drawn to separate incumbents from each other to the extent possible. While SJWD has indicated that its map is based on respecting the "urban-rural" divide, SJWD fails to use population density or some other appropriate metric.

CHWD and FOWD recommend that SJWD abandon the current, flawed map, which protects Granite Bay's existing supermajority on the Board, and follow existing law(s) regarding the preparation of revised voting district maps in compliance with state and federal requirements.

CHWD and FOWD encourage all of their customers to follow the SJWD's Board representation transition process closely and voice their concerns, including attending an important public hearing on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 6:00 pm accessible through https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/663838652507163406.

CHP Grant Improves Motorcycle Safety

By Jaime Coffee, **CHP Information Officer**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG).

- The California Highway Patrol (CHP) is stepping up motorcycle safety awareness statewide as part of Get Educated and Ride Safe (GEARS) III, a yearlong,

federally funded program focused on educational and enforcement efforts. The primary goal of

GEARS III is to reduce the number of motorcycle-involved crashes and victims. In federal fiscal year (FFY) 2017-18, the number of motorcycle-involved crashes increased approximately 3 percent within CHP jurisdiction. However, provisional FFY 2018-19 data show a 10 percent decrease.

"The ultimate objective is to improve not just motorcycle safety, but highway safety overall," CHP Commissioner Warren Stanley said. "The additional education and enforcement funded by GEARS III helps our officers meet this objective."

During the grant period, the CHP will increase motorcycle safety activities in regions with a high number of motorcycle incidents and participate in traffic safety education campaigns such as "May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month." The campaigns will promote the use of U.S. Department of Transportation-compliant helmets for all riders and raise motorists' awareness of sharing the road with motorcyclists. The campaigns will also focus on the most dangerous traffic violations, including speeding, improper turning, and driving under the influence of alcohol and/ or drugs.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security.



The state-of-the-art space offers hope of a healthier start to life for hundreds of Greater Sacramento Area newborns. Photo: Dignity Health

Continued from page 1 region, Mercy San Juan Medical Center's NICU had a mortality rate of 1.1 percent in 2015 – among the lowest in the nation.

"Thanks to Bob and Star Bob Pepper. Pepper and numerous other donors and supporters of this project, the department now has the facilities and equipment it needs to continue carrying out its extraordinary life-saving work," said Kevin Duggan, President and CEO of Mercy Foundation. "It is through this thoughtful generosity of many that the NICU can continue to be a source of comfort, hope and advanced medical care community for generations to come."

With Dignity Health's commitment of \$35 million to make the new NICU a reality, Mercy Foundation led the efforts to raise community support and donations for the additional \$3,080,000 needed to expand and update the NICU at Mercy San Juan.

"The work they do there is just incredible. They've accomplished miracles in very tight quarters. You merely have to look at some of the little babies that can

fit in the palm of your hand and realize that they're able to save their lives so Star and I are very pleased to have had a role making this new unit possible," said

As most premature babies are in the NICU until they reach what would have been 36 to 40 weeks gestation, they may be in the care of NICU staff for months, with parents who are trying to balance work, caring for family at home, and being at the hospital for their new baby. Central to this initiative was the desire to offer families the opportunity to stay with their infants. Research has shown that for fragile infants in our these tiny patients have the best chance at survival when they are able to bond with their parents or guardians. The new NICU offers families a comfortable space with enough room in which to nurture their new babies and get to know them. An important element for people like Scott and Cary Boese, who know very well the difficult journey that can come with being parents to babies who need high-level

> "When we heard news that the new NICU would be built, we were overcome

with joy and emotion, because the unit represents more than just additional bed space. It gives our community access to a modern facility, new technology, and room for privacy, so that parents can bond with their fragile children," said Cary.

The NICU will be up and running to receive its first patient sometime in late October to early November.

Dignity Health is a multistate nonprofit network of 10,000 physicians, more than 60,000 employees, 41 acute care hospitals, and 400-plus care-centers, including community hospitals, urgent care, surgery and imaging centers, home health, and primary care clinics in Arizona, California, and Nevada. Dignity Health is dedicated to providing compassionate, high-quality, and affordable patient-centered care with special attention to the poor and underserved. Dignity Health is a part of CommonSpirit Health. a nonprofit health system committed to advancing health for all people and dedicated to serving the common good. For more information, please visit our website at www. DignityHealth.org.

Food Drive Seeks Help for Needy Families

San Juan Unified **School District Press** Release

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) -In response to increased need due to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn, the San Juan Unified School District has created the "Food to Learn" program to provide additional food to students and their families.

Unified Food Closet donation levels are not meeting the growing need and requests for help. While the school meal program continues to serve breakfast and lunch to students during distance learning, the San Juan Unified Food Closet strives to provide food for evening and weekend meals to our families in need.

Unified Food Closet needs packaging. No large bulk at least 600 bags of food to or expired items please. We serve up to 300 families. will also accept cash, checks Each bag of food helps a family of four to survive for up to three days. "Students cannot effectively learn when their stomachs are empty," said Diana Marshall, Director of Equity and Student Achievement. "Hunger can negatively impact a child's academic performance."

San Juan Unified asks the The current San Juan community to support this initiative with donations of non-perishable food. Suggested items for donation include instant oatmeal, boxed cereal, instant mashed potatoes, pasta, beans, lentils, rice, flour, peanut butter, canned fruit and vegetables, soup, canned meats and fish, cooking oil, fruit and vegetable juices, and snack foods. Items should be new, Each month, the San Juan unopened, and in original

payable to SJUSD, and grocery gift card donations.

Bring donations to the "Food to Learn" drive-thru donation event on Saturday, October 24 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Whitney Avenue Elementary School, 4248 Whitney Avenue, Sacramento (enter on Eastern Avenue).

San Juan Unified will also be adding information to its website for making tax-deductible, online

donations. For more information about the "Food to Learn" donation event and program updates, please contact Edith Gonzalez at (916) 979-8877 or edith. gonzalez@sanjuan.edu, or visit www.sanjuan.edu/ foodtolearn.

ELECT PAM TOBIN

For San Juan Water District



Leadership, Experience and a Strong Voice for San Juan Water District

As a trusted, well respected, and principled leader in the water industry, Pam Tobin understands the complexity of regional water management, sound fiscal planning, and has diligently served the community for many years.

Endorsed by:

Ted Costa, President/Director, San Juan Water District Ron Greenwood, Director, Carmichael Water District Robert Dugan, Chair/Director PCWA Water District



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Fair Oaks Chamber Corner



Dot Boyd, Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - In my September column, I covered that FO Chamber has gone virtual. It just made business sense during these uncertain times with all of our in-person community events having been cancelled or postponed due to the pandemic. However, you can follow what's happening via various social media sites: www.fairoakschamber.com; on Facebook at The Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce and Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce Ambassador; on Instagram at MyFairOaks. Not on social media? You can reach our intrepid Executive Director, Kim Pitillo at 916-967-2903 and at info@fairoakschamber.

she starts holding "FOCC Office Hours" at our local businesses. All requisite safety protocols will be followed, of course. You may find Kim out and about celebrating Support your Chamber of Commerce Day on October 21st! Thank you to our members who have renewed memberships or joined as new members recently. Even if you don't own a business, or are retired, you can support our community Chamber by becoming a member for a nominal fee. To the greater Fair Oaks community and beyond: thank you for shopping and dining locally to help keep our small businesses afloat. We all appreciate you!

Our 5th Annual Best of Fair Oaks contest voting will start soon. Be sure to check out www.bestoffairoaks.com for updates along with social media

If you've stopped by Fair Oaks Village lately, you may have been surprised to see so many new businesses opening up. Great news, isn't it? There's com. Keep an eye out for Biker Bar, a bicycle repair in Fair Oaks!

her around Fair Oaks as shop with a café coming soon; Brahma Bar & Grill; Wild Runners for all your running needs; and a new shop inside the Finegold building, Walter Nash Jewelry along with Dream Vacations. There are new businesses popping up all over including Caffe Italia which is kitty-corner from Del's Pizza. For updates on FO Recreation & Parks District renovations, go to www.forpd.org or follow on social media.

> It's getting spooky out there, Fair Oaks! Chamber member Madison Marketplace is hosting a Halloween Tent Display Contest & Drive-Thru on Saturday, October 24th from 2 pm to 5 pm. That sounds like a safe and fun event! Chamber member Rotary Club of Fair Oaks is hosting its annual Safe Halloween event on Friday, October 30th from 10 am to noon in FO Village. Over twenty five businesses are participating in this popular event observing all safety protocols currently in place.

Stay safe and I'll see you

Remembering Our Past, Looking to the Future

Story by Shaunna Boyd

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - October 8 marked the 75th anniversary of the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District (FORPD). Commemorating the occasion presented some challenges with the continued pandemic, but District staff found creative ways to celebrate.

At the virtual Zoom celebration, Assemblyman Kevin Kiley, representing District 6, commended FORPD for its dedication to serving the community and improving the quality of life of all residents: "This year, more than ever, we're seeing the importance of having vibrant outdoor and recreational opportunities. And I think people in our area have never been more grateful for the tremendous work that you do."

Visitors to a special anniversary page on the District's website (https://www. forpd.org/429/75th-Anniversary) can view a retrospective of photos from throughout the District's history, learn more about Fair Oaks history, and submit their own memories.

The District also hosted the Discover Fair Oaks Challenge, which got families out of their homes and into the parks for a socially distanced scavenger hunt. Participants traveled to each of the District's parks to take photos in specific



Locals celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District. Photo provided by Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District

locations and find historical features.

Residents also attended Pop-Up History Gallery events (at Plaza Park on October 9 and Phoenix Park on October 10) to view old newspapers and artifacts while talking with local historians.

Sabrina Bernardo, FORPD recreation supervisor, said there is always something new to discover in Fair Oaks. And with Measure J funding many upcoming District improvements, Bernardo noted the importance of celebrating this milestone. It's a moment for the community to remember its past while looking to the future

Farm Bureau Releases Voter Guide

By Dave Kranz, California Farm Bureau Federation

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Reiterating its strong opposition to a ballot initiative that would establish a split-roll property tax, the California Farm Bureau Federation has announced positions on the other statewide measures to be decided this fall. The CFBF Board of Directors released a Voter Guide for the Nov. 3 general election.

Farm Bureau was among the first organizations to oppose Proposition 15, which would create a split-roll property tax to reassess and raise taxes on commercial and industrial property. Although its proponents claim agriculture would be exempt, the measure would allow reassessment of agricultural facilities and improvements such as barns, dairies, orchards, vineyards and processing plants.

"In the middle of a pandemic that has severely disrupted our food-production system, Proposition 15 would impose a new tax burden on family farms and ranches," CFBF President Jamie Johansson said. "Ultimately, those higher costs to the food system would lead to higher food prices. Make no mistake: A tax on farms is a tax on everyone."

Among its other ballot positions, Farm Bureau emphasized public safety by supporting Proposition 20, which would increase penalties for certain theft-related crimes, and opposing Proposition 25, which would abolish the state's cash-bail system.

Theft, vandalism, trespassing and other crimes remain chronic and growing problems in rural California," Johansson said. "By passing Proposition 20 and rejecting Proposition 25, voters have an opportunity to reinforce protection for rural and urban communities alike."

Here Is The Full List Of CFBF Ballot Recommendations:

Proposition 14 – Stem Cell Research Bonds	Neutral
Proposition 15 – Split-Roll Property Tax	NO
Proposition 16 – Affirmative Action	Neutral
Proposition 17 – Voting by Paroled Felons	NO
Proposition 18 – Voting Age	NO
Proposition 19 – Taxes on Homes, Inherited Property	Neutral
Proposition 20 – Criminal Penalties	YES
Proposition 21 – Rent Control	NO
Proposition 22 – App-Based Drivers	YES
Proposition 23 – Kidney Dialysis Clinics	Neutral
Proposition 24 – Consumer Privacy	Neutral
Proposition 25 – Cash Bail	NO

The full Voter Guide may be downloaded from the CFBF website at www.cfbf.com/ voterguide.

The California Farm Bureau Federation

works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of nearly 34,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of nearly 5.6 million Farm Bureau members. ★

Open Enrollment Period Oct. 15-Dec. 7

Northwest Media

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA Enrollment period begins Oct. 15 and ends Dec. 7. During that period, Medicare recipients may:

Switch from Original Medicare to Medicare Advantage; Switch from Medicare Advantage to Original Medicare; Switch from one Medicare Advantage plan to another; Switch from one Medicare Part D prescription drug plan to another; Enroll in a Medicare Part D plan if you didn't enroll when you first were eligible for Medicare.

To help you understand vour options. you can schedule a free

with a local state-registered HICAP Medicare counselor.

HICAP (the Health (MPG) - Medicare's Open Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program) is administered by the California Department of Aging. Its trained volunteer counselors are available by phone and video-conferencing to answer questions and help seniors and other eligible recipients understand their Medicare rights and benefits.

HICAP counselors can provide information about Medicare supplemental insurance (Medigap policies); Medicare Advantage plans; employee and retiree coverage; long-term-care insurance and how to appeal coverage denials.

HICAP serves clients HICAP services.net.

one-on-one session in El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sierra, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties, regardless of income or

> To schedule a free, one-hour phone or videoconference appointment with a state-registered HICAP Medicare counselor in Sacramento County:

or email – hicap@lsnc.net Once your appointment is scheduled, you will receive an appointment reminder by phone, email or text prior to your appointment. If you need to cancel an appointment for any reason, you are asked to call (916) 375-3763.

Call - (916) 376-8915

For more information, go to www.

SJWD Division Map Sparks Debate over Fair Representation

Story by Shaunna Boyd

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On October 14, the San Juan Water District (SJWD) Board of Directors held the fourth and final public hearing to approve a division map and election sequencing for their transition to division-based elections.

In response to a threatened lawsuit claiming the established at-large election system violated the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA), the District is now working to meet the legal requirements of the CVRA: the new divisions must be populations, and communities of interest must be considered. Racial gerrymandering is prohibited.

During previous public hearings, multiple residents of Granite Bay expressed concern that the reasonably equal population requirement would lead to a lack of representation for their area, and for rural properties and retail customers generally. They asked that their area be combined with other similar communities of interest.

According to the staff report, the California Constitution defines a community of interest as a contiguous population with "common social and economic interests." Urban, rural, industrial, and agricultural areas are also considered communities of interest.

According to the Board, they considered the following communities of interest: city/county boundaries, zip codes, existing election boundaries, urban and rural areas, official community associations, special districts, and the retail service area. The staff report cited an "imperfect ability to keep all portions of all identified communities of interest together" while creating compact, contiguous, reasonably equal divisions.

But District Legal Counsel Jennifer Buckman said the proposed map met all the legal requirements. The map also met the Board's priorities of respecting community associations and following the rural/urban divide. The map also refrains from packing the retail customers into one division, which

ing power of this group. Ahead of the meet-

ing, the Citrus Heights Water District (CHWD) and the Fair Oaks Water District (FOWD) submitted a joint letter to the Board in opposition to the proposed map. The letter stated that the map "ignores any existing county, city, or neighborhood boundaries. These communities of interest, especially the City of Citrus Heights, are divided to the maximum extent possible," which they said was "bad policy."

trict lines that make sense in relation to the community," and they saw "no obvious reason for the oddly shaped" divisions.

In an interview prior to the meeting, Ray Riehle, president of the CHWD Board of Directors, said that while the proposed map is likely legal under the CVRA, it "missed the spirit of the law dramatically.'

The staff report specified, "Districts are considered compact when they do not bypass nearby population for people farther away." But Riehle pointed out that most of Granite Bay is included in Division 2, except for a small urban area that is excluded. But Division 2 then extends down into Sacramento County to include parts of Orangevale, including the more densely populated areas along Greenback Lane. Bypassing nearby urban populations for faraway urban populations doesn't seem to meet the spirit of the compactness requirement, and Riehle said "the geography doesn't make sense."

Riehle said that people living in rural areas of Granite Bay probably don't have a whole lot in common with people living along Greenback, so he is skeptical of the claim that the Board prioritized the urban/rural divide.

According to Riehle and the Citrus Heights and Fair Oaks water districts, the eastward projection of Division 1, which cuts into central Granite Bay in Division 2, is an obvious sign the map has been gerrymandered

would have diluted the vot- in an effort to protect at least two seats for Granite Bay – where four of the current Board members reside. Riehle believes "political calculus" was involved in the decisionmaking process.

Legal Counsel Buckman responded to the joint letter at the October 14 meeting: "The commenter is incorrect when they indicate that the map ignores existing neighborhood boundaries. In fact, the commenters would just prefer some different boundaries to have been selected."

Regarding the claim The letter stated that that the map attempts to compact and contiguous "Constituents have the protect incumbent seats, with reasonably equal right to expect clean dis- Buckman said, "There's absolutely no evidence in the record to support that statement." She further stated that she "expressly advised" that the Board not take incumbent addresses into account, and that the Board followed her advice.

> Mike McRae, a director on the FOWD Board and a candidate in the upcoming election for SJWD Board, spoke at the October 14 meeting, stating that the map is "designed to bring longterm disharmony to the San Juan family." He said the primary communities of interest in SJWD are the water districts (CHWD, FOWD, Orange Vale Water Company, and the San Juan retail division): "This map appears to be purposefully created to fragment across those retail water agencies."

> McRae pointed out that while Placer County makes up only 13% of the SJWD population, it will have a shot at two Board seats – or 40% of the Board – under the new division boundaries.

> Two Granite Bay residents, Amber Beckler and Sandy Harris, both spoke in support of the proposed map. Beckler said, "It preserves the community of interest and representation."

> The Board voted unanimously to move forward with the proposed map and the election sequencing - elections for Divisions 1, 3, and 5 will be held every four years starting in 2022 and for Divisions 2 and 4 starting in 2024. The final vote for official approval will be held at the November 9 regular meeting.

Counseling is Available for Medicare

By Kathleen Newton, **Consultants**

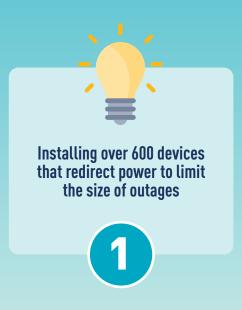
How PG&E is improving Public Safety Power Shutoffs in 2020.



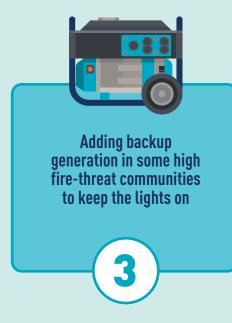
Smaller, shorter, smarter.

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:













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

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By Marlys Johnsen Norris, **Christian Author**

Our world has endured many troubles and heartaches and recent trouble has been devastating to many people. Deaths surmounting because of this virus, happening all over the world. Families separated, unable to even comfort each other. Not to mention facts about our economy in jeopardy. Businesses shut down and given various restrictions by our government. Riots in our neighborhoods! Why?

Yet we are so grateful to people in the MEDICAL world who are serving ahd helping, working endless hours to help people in need. And our POLICE doing their best to stop rioting, looting and creating havoc in our streets all over our country.

AND WE LOVE THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING THERE!!

Plus another year being our political year to again elect our President to serve us the next four years. Our present President Trump and wife now coming down with the virus and

In the Middle of the Storm -Hope is Found in God!

possibly having affected others because of his commitments to speak to Americans in many places. OUR PRAYERS NEED GOVERNMENT!

Our world has been "out of control" for several months and some have tried to forget or discredit the Creator/God, His laws and of all there is. *God has* not been pleased!

He created us to become a part of Himself, through the death and resurrection of His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Through Jesus, the Heavenly Father/God provides forgiveness to those who accept Him as their Lord and Savior of their Soul. Once a person has experienced God's presence – they will never want to live without Him.

He becomes their "Everything" and the PEACE of God comes within when God is in control. Psalm 29:11 states "The Lord will give strength unto His people, the Lord will bless His people with peace."

Genesis 15:6 "and he (you and I) believed in the Lord; and God counted it to him for righteousness. Verse 7 continues "And he said unto him, I AM the Lord..."

The wonderful thing about the God who created us - is - he is a God who has not left us! Because He is our Creator and is more TO SURROUND OUR loving and caring than we can even imagine. He is our Strong Tower and He will never leave or forsake us! Even in our shortcomings and disobedience God still loves us. Isn't that truly like what a truly loving parent does?

Let us become "one big family of God" in spite of any differences we have! A family loves each other in-spite-of how we see life. Let's stop being self-righteous and self- important and come together in peace, listening to each other and showing respect as a citizen of the most wonderful country we live in ordained by the laws of God written in our constitution at its inception.

Honor our Creator and be enveloped in His Abundant Love for

Everyone!

Marlys Johnsen Norris Christian Author of 7 Books, Stephen's Minister **ARM Columnist** since 2006 Marlysjn@gmail.com

Orangevale, Ca 95662 ★

PO Box 114,

Junk Is a Matter of Personal Definition

By Rev. James L. Snyder

I thought I had everything organized and in order. It just shows how useless my thinking is these days.

There are many piles in my office and on my desk, and I know what is in each pile. Everything is organized to my specifications. My rule is: if I can't find something, I don't need it. Believe me; there's a lot of things I don't need.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came into my office area and said rather strictly, "What is all this junk?"

The only junk I could see in my office area was the waste can, which was full at the time. So I picked up the waste can, took it out, emptied it, and brought the empty waste can back.

"There," I said with a degree of satisfaction, "I got rid of all the junk."

My method of organizing is not the same as hers. For example, on the other side of the house, she has what she calls her "Craft Room." I walked into it once, and it was so organized I had to get out as quickly as possible. It gave me a headache. It looked like a well-organized store of craft products. Everything had its place,

and every place had its

My idea of organization is that I know where everything is and if I can't find it, well, you know the rest of

"Look at all of the junk in your office. How can you work with all of this junk around you?"

Still, I do not understand what her definition of junk in my room is. But the fact is, I work better when I'm surrounded by what she calls "junk."

Then she said something that froze my liver. "I have some time so let me help you organize your office."

Then she briskly walked towards one of my "piles." I almost panicked.

"No, no," I said as gently as I could even though I was in panic mode. "Everything is okay; I'll take care of it, you don't have to worry."

Then something happened that saved me from this predicament.

My wife's cell phone rang, and it was our daughter. She wanted to know something about a craft project she was working on and wanted to know if her mother could help her.

I saw her eyes light up as she left my office area and went back into her craft

room to help our daughter. I think that's why God gives us daughters!

One person's junk is another person's workspace. Just because you don't understand how my office is organized doesn't mean it's not organized, and it doesn't mean I don't know what I'm doing in my office.

My workspace, or junk as my wife says, is my environment to think and to

While my wife was back in her craft room, talking to our daughter, I happen to think of a verse of Scripture. "Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established" (Proverbs

When in my space, no matter how somebody else may do it, I am in an atmosphere to do the thinking I need to do. Most of the time, my thoughts are rooted in God and how he has marvelously blessed my life.

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 jamessnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www. whatafellowship.com.

Dare to Live Without Limits by Bryan Golden Are You Productive or Busy?

Do you feel you are so busy you can't keep up, yet you don't feel you are getting anything accomplished? Although both being productive or busy require time and effort, only productivity moves you closer to your goals.

Being busy increases stress because you are exhausted with nothing to show for your efforts. In this mode, working harder or longer, doesn't help. You feel as if you are running on a treadmill which is going faster than you can keep up with.

There are effective strategies for becoming productive. Start with identifying exactly what you want to accomplish, along with your deadline. Having a meaningful deadline enables you to set priorities. If you don't know what you want to accomplish, there's no way to be productive.

Apply the 80/20 principle, which states that 80% of your accomplishments are achieved by 20% of your effort. This principle was based on the study of sales organizations which found that 20% of the salespeople were responsible for 80% of the sales. So, concentrate on the 20% of your efforts which yield 80% of your results.

Set your priorities. Focus on what you need to do, rather than what you think you should do. Any activity which moves you toward a goal is something you need to do. Time spent on activities which are not goal oriented, keep you busy with nothing to show for it.

Without clear, meaningful goals, you won't be productive. Procrastination prevents you from being productive. When you are ior. You are attempting to avoid the guilt of not doing anything, by doing something.

Eliminate any tasks which accomplish little or nothing. These are displacement behavior traps which pull you away from productivity. It's common to find a significant portion of your day spent on these tasks.

Remove distractions. Unplug. Silence your phone. Turn off your email. Focus boosts productivity. The greater your concentration, the greater your accomplishments. Interruptions significantly reduce your efficiency. An unbroken flow gets you into high productivity mode.

Contrary t o popular belief, multitasking impedes productivity. Continually changing gears has the same impact as distractions. Your mind performs at peak efficiency when it is unimpeded by having to switch to different tasks. Dedicate yourself to one important task at a

Boost your productivity by breaking goals down into small, manageable steps. Each step can then be readily accomplished without becoming intimidating. When a task is too large it seems overwhelming, allowing

procrastination to set in. Utilize your peak pro-

ductivity period for your most important tasks. This is the time of day when your energy cycle busy, instead of produc- is at its highest. You are tive, you are engaging the most alert and least in displacement behav- fatigued. Other periods, when you are tired, can be used for handling secondary, non-essential tasks.

Organization boosts productivity. The time you spend looking for stuff is wasted. Highly productive people are highly organized. Get rid of anything you don't need, especially papers.

The less you have to keep track of, the easier it is to organize.

Have a standard of excellence. Productivity is enhanced by completing a task only once. Doing things right the first time means you don't have to find time to do them over. Continually fixing mistakes wastes time and energy.

Monitor your progress toward each goal. Track productive time versus

unproductive time. Always be on the lookout to reduce or eliminate unproductive activities. Living a productive life is infinitely more satisfying than just being busy.

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

311 Connect: New and Improved **Links to Services**

Continued from page 1

citizens of Sacramento County. No matter what the concern might be, friendly and knowledgeable customer service representatives remain available 24/7 to answer questions, route calls and manage cases for verification and resolution.

By embracing innovative technologies like 311 Connect, the County focuses on delivering a more accessible, available and accountable government because technology tracks all requests and centralizes the data, allowing for better reporting and analysis. Department directors can review the data, spot trends and identify opportunities for improvement.

The information also allows departments to collaborate on multi-department issues, analyze workloads, balance resources and research spikes in requests for staff scheduling. In addition, the system contains an expanding knowledge base of issues for customer self-service answers to many of your

Together we will keep our neighborhoods safe and clean places to live. At Sacramento County, we strive for

continuous improvement and welcome vour feedback.

Non-Emergency 311 Connect Service Request Types:

Abandoned vehicles and shopping carts; Animal issues - stray, deceased; Culvert/ pipe repair or cleaning; Curb, gutter or sidewalk repair; Ditch cleaning; Drainage problem; Illegal dumping - garbage, trash; Missed garbage collection service; Occupied outbuilding; Graffiti; Potholes; Street light out; Street sign down; Substandard housing conditions - no water, utilities, deficient building, surfacing sewage; Tobacco - selling to minors; Traffic signal timing; Tree trimming

Top Service Requests:

Illegal Dumping: Missed Refuse Services; Abandoned Vehicles; Barking Dogs; Yard Parking/Junk & Rubbish on Private Property

To report an issue within the unincorporated Sacramento County, simply call 311 or 875-4311, visit the 311 website, or download Sac County 311 Connect in the app store on your smartphone.



TO ADVERTISE WITH THE AMERICAN RIVER 916-7/7/3-1111 **MESSENGER CALL**

This is so true for the Kiwanis Club of Orangevale – Fair Oaks. Since March of this year, the only facet of our operation that slowed down was our ability to actively fundraise. However, this didn't really stop us from securing community funds. During this time and up until this writing, Kiwanis has received several grants from like-minded organizations that value and

believe in our projects. One of those projects was to buy age-appropriate books for the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes at Twin Lakes Elementary School. Our partner in this venture was the Orangevale Community Foundation who provided us with a generous grant. We in turn worked with Tom at USBORNE Books who was able to make our dollars stretch farther through the company's unique program that makes it worthwhile for organizations to work with them. (You can reach Tom at ihmbookish@gmail.com for more information). In addition to the books, part 9353 Greenback Lane #8

The Kiwanis Corner

By Sal Arrigo, Jr.

Kiwanis Never Stops!

support the Divine Savior October 24. Kiwanis is also adding additional funds to this very worthy cause.

As I previously stated, we never stop supporting our community! Once again we are sponsoring the 2nd Annual Kiwanis Club of Orangevale – Fair Oaks Pajama Drive to provide our local children with a brand new pair of pajamas. Our club works with the About Kidz organization in Fair Oaks who not only distributes pajamas at the holiday season, but they also provide many other needed items, including toys. In 2019, the Kiwanis Club was responsible for delivering 467 brand new pajamas to About Kidz. We do not do this alone. With support, we can make this the best Pajama Drive yet!

Your donation of new pajamas can be placed in one of the following drop boxes at the following locations from October 19 through December 5, 2020.

Badfish Coffee & Tea 9346 Greenback Lane #3, Orangevale

Blossom Vale Senior Living 6125 Hazel Avenue, Orangevale

The Last Tangle 8820 Greenback Lane Suite "J" Orangevale

Scotty's Hideaway

We would like to Food Drive on Saturday, especially thank these community businesses for their generous support of our Pajama Drive!

Kiwanis also received grants from Almond Heights Senior Living in Orangevale, as well as our own Kiwanis Foundation. We will use these funds to further support the mission of Kiwanis by assisting children in our service area and other important projects. In the last few months this Kiwanis Club has also added four new members. Now I ask you: why not join a great service club that just doesn't

When we went to press, restaurants had reopened. All are welcome to come and visit Kiwanis at 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 (the location varies). Find us at facebook. com/KiwanisclubofOFO or email us for more information at kiwanisclubofofo@gmail.com. Our nonprofit tax ID # is

Sal Arrigo, Jr., is the secretary of the Kiwanis Club of Orangevale -Fair Oaks. The Kiwanis Corner is published monthly.

85-0549857.

Orangevale Community Groups Distribute 72,000 Pounds of Fresh Food



The office of Senator Brian Dahle, in partnership with Badfish Coffee & Tea, K-LOVE, and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office got together for distributing 2000 boxes of food. Photo: Office of Senator Brian Dahle

By Joseph Encinas, Office of Senator Dahle

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - The office of Senator Brian Dahle, in partnership with Badfish Coffee & Tea, K-LOVE Air 1 Christian Radio, and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office, hosted a drive-thru food distribution event Friday morning for local faith-based groups and people serving nonprofits in the Sacramento Area.

The event utilized food boxes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers to Families Food Box program to distribute over 2,000 boxes of food. Each box weighed approximately 35 pounds and was filled with fruit, vegetables, dairy, and a protein. Badfish Coffee & Tea owners Mark Eister and Pearl Spencer, alongside property owner Cliff Wylie, opened up their parking lot for use by big rigs, forklifts, pallet jacks, and volunteers to pass out over 75,000 pounds of food. All of the equipment used was provided by Cliff Wylie, CEO of Ware House Interiors.

"We are handing out food to people in need," said Cliff in a video posted to Orangevale Live's Facebook page. "That's how Orangevale rolls. We step up to the plate."

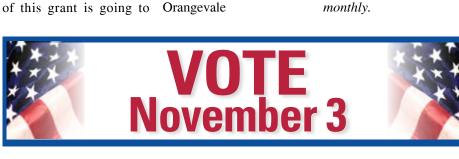
Badfish is a local, family-owned business that opened in 2018 with a passion for family, community, and coffee. Badfish owners Mark and Pearl look to influence the development and progress of the business community of Orangevale by actively engaging meaningfully with every person that comes in the door.

this resource, but when you need to get the food distributed to the places in the community that really has needs we call on faith groups, small churches, and service organizations, they always know better than the Government where people are who may be falling through the cracks. I want to thank these small businesses and other volunteer groups for doing this good deed."

Boxes of food were secured by North State Relief 501c3. They were distributed by numerous volunteer groups including Orangevale Food Bank, St. John's Women's Shelter, Grace House - The Way Ministries, Mooretown Rancheria, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Citrus Heights, Community for Peace, Citrus Heights Veteran's Homeless Center, Citrus Heights Veteran's Homeless Shelter.

Volunteers from K-LOVE Air 1 Radio and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office were on scene early in the morning, staging 48 pallets of food and handing out boxes to families as they drove in. K-LOVE Air 1 helped spread the word and get the community engaged while keeping morale high by playing music throughout the entirety of the event.

The Farmers to Families Food Box initiative was created through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program to provide relief to farmers and distributors who saw a decline in the demand for their food products as COVID-19 took hold over California. Ultimately, both the farmers and distributors and local communities are reaping the benefits of such a program. All of the food came from Daylight Foods, a Bay Area food distribution company in Union City,





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Residents Asked To Help Develop **Disaster Mitigation Plan**



Floods showed, rebounding can be costly and time consuming. It is possible to reduce that impact before disaster strikes. Image by Hans Braxmeier from Pixabay

Sacramento County Press Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Natural disasters whether forecasted or having the element of surprise can leave areas devastated for long periods. As the 2017 floods showed, rebounding can be costly and time consuming. It is possible to reduce that impact before disaster strikes, but to do that requires having a well-developed Hazard Mitigation Plan in place. That plan provides guidance before anything occurs, as well as a roadmap to help get people back on their feet.

Sacramento County is updating its 2021 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) to develop a long-term strategy for reducing disaster losses. The County is teaming with cities and several special districts to meet Federal

Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements to ensure eligibility for FEMA pre- and post-disaster grant funding along with receiving lower costs of flood insurance to residents through the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS).

The County is looking for residents to take an active role in developing the 2021 LHMP. No specific background is required. Residents would attend community meetings, and review a draft plan to provide important feedback. Their knowledge of the needs of area neighborhoods will provide the County and its partners with a better vision of potential issues that might occur if a natural disaster strikes.

The 2016 LHMP was vital in the County receiving FEMA funding to assist with Sacramento County residents living in flood prone areas to receive discounts of up to 40% off their flooding insurance. The County plan also helped secure money for the Sacramento County Home Elevation Program for residents in flood prone areas to raise their homes above the flood elevation level in which FEMA would pay 75% of the cost. To date, two homes are in the process of being elevated above the flood plain.

This preparation for unforeseen disasters will lay the groundwork for successfully coming through them if they strike. The County will be hosting online public meetings about the 2021 LHMP. For more information, and to obtain the Zoom link for the meetings, please visit our Local Hazard Mitigation Plan webpage at www.StormReady.org.

Out-of-Work Californians Urge Governor to Expedite Unemployment Benefits

By Nghia Nguyen, Office of Senator Jim Nielsen

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Standing in front of California's Employment Development Department (EDD) headquarters, seven residents of Northern California urged Governor Newsom to be more hands-on with helping those in need. Like millions of Californians, these residents lost their jobs after the Governor triggered a shutdown of businesses and ordered a shelter-in-place for all Californians.

"The experiences of out-of-work Californians and EDD's lack of action are shameful," said Senator Jim Nielsen (R-Tehama). "The Governor and his Administration must do better to serve the people who elected him. Californians deserve better."

Waiting for unemployment benefits has been a shared frustrating, infuriating and devastating experience.

Phone calls are cut off after hours of waiting on hold. Mails and emails gone unanswered. Endless requests for legal documents that are not always related to the applicant's claims, has resulted in a nerve-racking game of waiting.

With the support Senator Jim Nielsen, Sacramento area residents spoke up for the 1.6 million Californians who are still waiting for their benefits.

'Action must be taken now to help those who are waiting for their benefits," said La Toya Horne of Sacramento. "I don't want anyone else to deal with the humiliation and bureaucratic obstacles I had to endure. I lost my home. No one should have to lose their home while waiting for a benefit they have earned and deserved."

Ms. Horne owned a thriving salon in an upscale part of town. She applied for unemployment in March when salons were forced to close. Months later, a stranger contacted Ms. Horne through social media to inform her that mail from EDD arrived at his house. She had lived at that address 10 years ago. When she amended her application and updated her identification, EDD told her she needed a judge to resolve the issue. They later reversed their decision.

Resolved in her passion to help others, Ms. Megan Williams drove nearly 100 miles to urge the Newsom Administration to act swiftly to get benefits to applicants.

"It is very disheartening to see the lack of urgency. I feel bad for the people who are not as lucky to have others to lean on financially. or who have landlords that are not as understanding as mine. The stress of having to call

phone companies, credit cards companies, etc. to work out payment plans or shifting debt from one credit card to another, just to maintain on time payments, or keep things turned on, is unnecessary," Ms. Williams

EDD just emerged from a two weeks closure that left an estimated 100,000 people unable to apply for benefits. The hiatus was supposed to "reset" its operations and implement a new system. However, Senator Nielsen's office was informed Tuesday that the backlog to review claims went from eight weeks to 11 weeks.

Understanding the financial and mental toll of waiting for EDD's sloth-like movements, Mr. Rick Walters of Yuba City joined the call to ask the Governor to immediately take action to help those who have lost their jobs due to the government-imposed lock-down.

"Government is supposed to work for us when we need help. We are law-abiding taxpayers. This experience was beyond stressful. As Governor, you need to act now to protect our citizens of this state," Mr. Walters appealed.

Like the 1.6 million residents still waiting for their benefits, Ms. April Carlton of Citrus Heights has been able to meet most of her financial obligations thanks to her close-knit

As an office manager and bookkeeper at a small business, Ms. Carlton's hours were reduced and she was later furloughed. EDD denied her claim based on a name change in 2018. Ms. Carlton provided EDD with judgment orders for the name change, immigration papers and proof of residence. Despite providing all legal documents, Ms. Carlton is still waiting for her backdated benefits.

"Thank God for the support of my family. Without them, I would not have been able to handle this financially straining and emotionally infuriating process," said Ms. Carlton.

Sherri Bailey of Rancho Cordova, along with her 82-year-old mother, joined the group to remind EDD officials of their commitment during the Great Recession to the public and lawmakers.

"They are not keeping the promise they made in 2008. They owe it to Californians to tell us what they did do to serve the public. Clearly, their system is still broken."

Elected to the State Senate in January 2013, Senator Nielsen represents the Fourth Senate District, which includes the counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba. To contact Senator Jim Nielsen, please call him at 916-651-4004, or via email at senator.nielsen@senate.ca.gov. Follow him @CASenatorJim.

November 3



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Proposition 15 Is A Small Business Issue!

National Federation of Independent **Business Press Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Should it pass in November, Proposition 15 would be the largest tax increase in California history, but would it work as advertised? Most definitely not, argue two public policy veterans in the second in a series of NFIB podcasts established to give its small-business-owning members the full picture of the issues impacting their solvency.

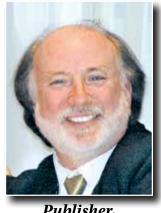
Rex Hime, president of the California Business Properties Association, says the proposition will do little for education while having manifestly negative consequences for California's economy, and John Kabateck, NFIB's California state director, explains why Prop. 15 is a small-business matter and takes issue with proponents' arguments that it's not.

Hime also provides a brief history of the previous attempts to undo the property tax protections put in place 40 years ago with the passage of Proposition 13.

To listen to the half-hour podcast and hear the first podcast on Paycheck Protection Program loans with special guest James Beckwith, president of Five Star Bank visit www.nfib.com/content/news/california/ nfib-california-launches-podcast-series/

Keep up with the latest on California small-business at www.nfib.com/california

For more than 77 years, NFIB has been advocating on behalf of America's small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. NFIB is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, and member-driven association. Since its founding in 1943, NFIB has been exclusively dedicated to small and independent businesses and remains so today. For more information, please visit nfib.com.



Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

American River Messenger is a member of Messenger **Publishing Group**

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AMERICAN RIVER

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Meals Getting to Seniors During COVID in Sacramento County

By Brenda Bongiorno, Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County established a new program during COVID-19 to bring meals to seniors who are facing food scarcity. Dine At Home Sacramento, a partnership between Sacramento County, local restaurants and the

Area 4 Agency on Aging (A4AA), is proud to announce that as of Sep. 11, 15 participating restaurants have served 62,911 meals to 819 seniors across Sacramento County.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



By County Supervisor Sue Frost

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

As everyone is painfully aware, the State of California remains in lockdown as we wait for the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since mid-March, schools and businesses have been forced to remain fully or partially closed. We are now on our second or third version of a reopening model, but unfortunately, it still does not make a whole lot of sense. The latest model is a tiered system, placing counties into a different colored tier based on daily new cases and positive test rates. The "Blueprint for a Safer Economy," as this model is called, still ignores the deficiencies of a county-based system. I am proud to say that I have joined my fellow elected leaders in writing proportionately impact the Governor and the State Secretary of Health and them to employ a system that makes more sense.

On October 5th, Assemblyman Kiley, Senator Dahle, Folsom Mayor Aquino, and I signed a joint letter asking for

Orangevale Community Update

Need For More Targeted Approach to COVID

cities like Folsom are meeting the levels of testing and positivity rates to advance tiers faster than the County. Meanwhile, Folsom shares a border with El Dorado Hills, which is advancing tiers significantly faster than Sacramento County, allowing for the reopening of schools and businesses ahead of Folsom. To the surprise of no one, El Dorado Hills having more businesses open has caused Folsom residents to cross the county border to shop, dine, and enjoy a somewhat normal lifestyle. Because the State insists on sticking with a County-based approach, Folsom businesses are left to suffer without the ability to open fully.

When asked whether the State would consider a zip-code based system during a hearing, the acting State Public Health Officer insisted that they had to continue to let the data at the County level determine reopening. Then, in a contradictory move, the State announced that data from disadvantaged communities would be added as a factor in a County's reopening ability. While it is essential to ensure that COVID-19 does not disdisadvantaged communities, this also proves that the data Human Services, urging we use to reopen is arbitrary. California could benefit from looking to New York, where the Governor has decided to focus resources based on, you guessed it, zip codes.

Folsom and El Dorado a reopening system that Hills are not the only focuses on zip codes, not California cities that are sepcounties. We did so because arated by nothing more than

a line on the map. Shifting the approach of the State to one focused on zip codes enables us to simultaneously focus COVID-19 resources in the most heavily impacted communities while allowing businesses in less impacted areas to reopen safely. Moreso, school districts that cross county lines can focus on putting kids back in classrooms and not navigating conflicting jurisdictional restrictions. To me, helping the communities struggling the most while helping everybody by allowing businesses to open seems like a clear win-win scenario.

It is irresponsible to carry on with a system based on the assumption that county lines stop the spread of COVID-19. For more than half a year, businesses have been forced to stay closed or operate at a reduced capacity. Businesses and families are suffering, and not just from COVID-19, but an inability to pay bills and put food on the table. We are beyond the point of doubling down on a flawed system to make it seem like there is some level of control. I sincerely hope that the Governor and state leaders will take the words of my colleagues and I seriously and rethink the "Blueprint to a Safer Economy."

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

How Has the Decline in Physical Activities Affected California Residents

By Elli Carrillo, QuoteWizard

SEATTLE, WA (MPG) - The lack of physical activity is found to be directly linked to mental health along with many health conditions deemed high-risk for serious COVID-19 illness. Physical activity during stayat-home orders found 43% of people experiencing a significant decline, which came with an increase in stress.

analyzed CDC data and found, 79.2% of California residents were found to be physically active ranking among the most active states in the country -making those in California at lower risk of serious illness from COVID-19, but susceptible to adverse mental health. If you would like to learn more about physical activity and its effect on health during the pandemic, visit our

quotewizard.com/news/posts/ most-physically-active-states **Key Findings:**

In 2019 there were 64.2 million US gym memberships, with an average attendance of 104 days a year per gym goer; On average 76% of American's have participated in physical activities in the last month; Nearly 88% of workers reported experiencing moderate to extreme stress over the first six weeks of the COVID-19 outbreak.★









BooZilla

It seems like 2020 has created a new Halloween monster called covid 19, and we are changing our actions in so many ways and that includes our traditions. But the traditions of yesterday still hold true. Halloween comes between fall and winter with a dire meaning life and death. It combines celebration which will be curtailed this year and death which we have already experienced beyond our wildest imagination. Halloween is thought to have originated with the Celtic Festival of Samhain. People would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off roaming ghosts. That was some 2000 years ago in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and Northern France.

Their New Year was November 1 which marked the end of summer with a harvest and the dark cold winter, a time of the year that was associated with human death. Celts believed that on the night before the New Year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. That's why they celebrated Samhain on October 31. They feared the roaming ghosts would cause trouble. They also thought the presence of other worldly spirits made it easier for the Druids and Celtic priests to make predictions about the future. Since this was a culture entirely dependent upon the volatile natural world, these prophecies were an important source of comfort and directions during the long and dark winter. Many cultures, including the Roman Empire that conquered the majority of the Celtic territory combined the festivals of the Celtics. So here we are in 2020 facing some of that volatile natural world and feeling helpless to make things go away ... at least for now. Funny how history repeats itself in such strange ways.

Anyway, Halloween came to America, but extremely limited in colonial New England by the rigid Protestants.

Today's Halloween probably dates back to the early All Soul's Day parades in England when poor citizens would beg for food, and families would give them "soul cakes" in return for their promise to pray for the family's dead relatives. The soul cake was encouraged by the church as a way to replace the ancient practice of leaving wine and food for roaming spirits. Combine the different ethnic groups along with Native Americans and America developed its own Halloween. First there parties as neighbors would share stories of the dead, tell fortunes, dance and sing. Eventually, they added ghost stories and mischief making. Then, in the second half of the 19 th century, America was flooded with new immigrants because of Ireland's potato famine of 1846. Now you have a combo of Irish and English traditions. So came dressing n costumes and going house to house asking for money for food. And so "trick or treat" was born. Young women believed they could divine the name of their future husband by doing tricks with yarn, apple parings and mirrors.

It's amazing how things change. This year it's not a culture but a virus that will change things. Please stay safe and pray for a better 2021 Halloween

Misusing Taxpayers' **Money for Campaigns**



By Dan Walters **CALMatters**

California voters are not only voting on presidential, congressional, legislative and local government offices and a dozen statewide ballot measures but deciding the fate of 234 local tax and bond measures.

The California Taxpayers Association estimates that if passed, the local tax measures would raise about \$1.5 billion a vear in new revenues. The proposed bond issues, mostly for schools, total nearly \$15 billion and their passage would automatically trigger increases in property taxes to repay lenders.

These are hefty financial stakes and the local officials ballot have reason to worry about their passage. Voters rejected 62% of the 239 local measures on the March 3 primary ballot — and that was before the COVID-19 pandemic struck home, the state's economy plummeted and more than two million jobs were erased.

The recession that's still raging is a two-edged sword for local government and school officials. It has cut their tax revenues sharply and also tends to make voters even more leery about paying higher taxes.

City council members, county supervisors and school trustees are tempted, in their zeal to persuade voters to vote for new taxes and bonds, to violate a state law prohibiting them from using taxpayer funds for campaign purposes.

Government Code Section 54964 forthrightly declares, "An officer, employee, or consultant of a local agency may not expend or authorize the expenditure of any of the funds of the local agency to support or oppose the approval or rejection of a ballot measure, or the election or defeat of a candidate, by the voters."

In fact, such violations have become commonplace in recent years. Under the guise of providing "information," local officials routinely hire campaign management firms to design advertisements, mailers and other material aimed at persuading voters to pass the proposed taxes and bonds.

They have done so because they know that state and local prosecuthat placed measures on the tors just as routinely refuse to prosecute violations of Section 54964 by their fellow officeholders.

The only investigative agency to interest itself in such violations is the California Fair Political Practices Commission and while the FPPC lacks authority to enforce Section 54964, it can treat agencies that step over the line dividing information from advocacy as campaign contributors.

Recently, for example, the FPPC targeted the County

2017 spent a million dollars for an ill-disguised, but successful, campaign to pass Measure H, a quartercent increase in the sales tax. The campaign included broadcast commercials in English and Spanish that used the slogan "Real Help. Lasting Change."

County officials, without admitting liability, agreed to pay the FPPC a \$1.35 million penalty for failing to report their spending as a campaign contribution. However, that pales in comparison to the estimated \$355 million a year that Measure H's passage will generate.

Last week, the FPPC invited the public to use its "AdWATCH" program to monitor the materials local officials are using to promote their tax and bond measures and upload questionable items to the agency for examination and perhaps investigation.

"The public can play a vital role in helping our enforcement division in making sure campaigns and public agencies are following the rules and ensuring a level playing field," FPPC Chair Richard C. Miadich said in a statement.

The FPPC's efforts are welcome, despite being an indirect and relatively weak way of discouraging improper use of taxpayer funds for campaigns, but it's likely to be the only way as long as prosecutors refuse to enforce the law.

Dan Walters has been a journalist for nearly 60 vears, spending all but a few of those years working for of Los Angeles, which in California newspapers *

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20. Best part of cake? 22. *Halloween month

26. Forbidden 27. Howard of radio fame

29. Physicist Niels 31. Preakness, e.g.

42. To the point

32. Like cottage cheese 33. Piano student's exercise

34. *Leatherface's state 36. Biz bigwig 38. ESPN award

45. *Scary story-related sensation

24. Alters to be more useful

25. Type of coffee with alcohol

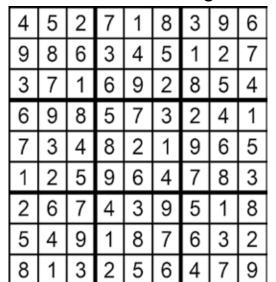




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 Regular •Unscented ON SA Limit 2 Jugs Per Family

Everyday Effective 10/21/20 - 10/27/20

PURINA KIT N' KABOODLE **DRY CAT FOOD** 16 Lb Bag

Limit 2 Bags Per Family

HI-COUNTRY WILD BIRD SEED

Effective 10/21/20 - 10/27/20

20 Lb Bag (Kaytee, 20 Lbs - \$8.99) (Audubon Friends, 20 Lbs - \$5.99)

Per Family

Effective 10/21/20 - 10/27/20

PRO-PLAN DRY DOG FOOD \$3 OFF Chicken & Rice •Lamb & Rice
 Beef & Rice •Sensitive Skin &
 Stomach •Lite •Performance 30-35 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags Per Family WILDERNESS DRY CAT FOOD AS MARKED \$6 OFF •Chicken •Salmon •Duck •Indoor •Weight Control 100% Grain Free 11-12 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags FRESH STEP
CAT LITTER
21 Lb Bag (14 Lb Bag - \$4.49)
Limit 2 Bags

MEOW MIX CAT FOOD

Market Select 2.75 Oz Cup Limit 2 Cases

40 Lb. Bag Limit 2 Bags 28.5-33 Lb Bag SCIENCE DIET DRY DOG FOOD

EVERCLEAN PREMIUM CAT LITTER

PESTELL

CLUMPING CAT LITTER

\$4499 Sensitive \$4999 Perfect Weight \$5199 3 FREE Core Cat Cans 5.5 Oz With each purchse NATURAL DRY CAT FOOD •Original •Indoor •Turkey Grain Free 11 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags

13.2 Oz All Varieties Limit 2 cases

MERRICK'S GOURMET CANNED DOG FOOD On Sale

30 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags Fer Family 199 •Large Breed
•Lamb Meal & Rice
•Weight Control

AVODERM CANNED DOG FOOD

•Regular •Grain Free (Avoderm Canned Cat Food 13 Oz Limit 1 Case 3 oz Grain Free \$89¢ 5.5 oz Reg \$1.19) •Regular •Soft Step 11-13 Lb 16.7 Lb \$ 19.8 Lb \$17.99

ADVANTAGE FLEA CONTROL & TREATMENT Dog Extra Large (Blue) As Marked Cat Small (Orange) Dog Small (Green) Dog Large (Red) Cat Large (Purple) Limit 2 Per Family. Cannot be combined with any other offer. **OUR REGULAR LOW PRICES** REDBARN
NATURAL DOG TREATS Bramton SIMPLE SOLUTION OFF • Bully Treats • Filler Bones
• Bully Nuggets All Varieties
except Mammoth Bone \$7.99 OUR SUPER LOW PRI

NATURE'S MIRACLE

DISPOSABLE LITTER BOX
with Baking Soda \$ 9 9
ar 3 pack • Jumbo 2 pack •Regular 3 pack •Jumbo 2 pack

TRAINING PADS \$ 23" × 24" 100 Ct Box 23" x 24" 100 Ct Box CORRECTOR 1.58 oz. 56.99 **STOPS BARKING** 6.35 oz. **\$13.99** PENGUIN 150B PENGUIN 200B

PLASTIC AQUA-PLANTS

MARINELAND POWER FILTER SALE

AQUEON BOXED 10 GALLON TANK With Economy Kit Just add Heater **MARINELAND** PREMIUM FISH FOOD PENN PLAX

BONUS COUPON JONNY CAT

PREMIUM CAT LITTER 10 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags With Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Fan Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon Effective 10/21/20 - 10/27/20

BONUS COUPON WHISKAS **TEMPTATIONS CAT TREATS**

•All Varieties 3 Oz. Limit 2 Pkgs with Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon Effective 10/21/20 - 10/27/20

ALL VARIETIES **20% OFF** •Goldfish •Tropical •Cichlids •Wafers OUR SUPER LOW PRICES BONUS COUPON

FANCY FEAST GOURMET CANNED CAT FOOD 3 Oz - All Varieties Except Elegant Medley Limit 1 Case Per Family Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon Effective 10/21/20 - 10/27/20 Everyday CHM PLU 361