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Bringing Down the House

Beloved Mural is Slated for Demolition



Hugh Gorman's mural has been a prominent feature of Plaza Park since 1985. The FORPD Board recently made the difficult decision to approve its destruction as part of the amphitheatre renovation project.

Story and photos by Shauna Boyd

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - The mural on the wall of Veterans Memorial Amphitheatre was painted by Hugh Gorman in 1985. The art is a prominent and recognizable feature of Plaza Park in Fair Oaks Village, and it is beloved by many local residents.

But the renovations planned for the amphitheatre, which are funded by Measure J, could lead to the destruction of both the mural and an in-ground mosaic - also created by Gorman. Upgrades to the amphitheatre will improve the bathrooms and dressing rooms, make the facility ADA compliant, and expand the stage area for year-round use. The demolition of the current stage area will destroy the mural, and the expanded footprint of the new stage area will require the removal of the mosaic.

The District requested a cost estimate to determine the feasibility of removing and relocating the art

pieces. The staff report from the September 16, 2020, meeting of the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District (FORPD) Board of Directors stated that the cost of removal is \$240,000 for the mural and \$90,000 for the mosaic, with "no guarantee provided that the art pieces would not be damaged or destroyed during removal." The total of cost \$330,000 also does not include any costs for reinstalling the art in a new location.

Since the removal and relocation are cost prohibitive, the Board voted to approve the process of removing or destroying the art pieces in preparation of the amphitheatre renovations. Ralph Carhart, chair of the FORPD Board of Directors, said it was a difficult vote because no one wants the artwork destroyed. "We're trying to figure out a way to preserve the content of the mural," said Carhart. He said they are working to find ways to "capture the image and maintain it for the future."

Creating the mural was a labor



of love for Gorman, who invested countless hours planning and creating the work. He is deeply distressed at the prospect of its destruction. When trying to describe his reaction to the news, he couldn't find the words, but the grief was written all over his face. Community members will also feel the loss; a passerby offered Gorman condolences on the news as they crossed through the park.

Carhart said the Board wants to do whatever possible to mitigate the damages. He explained some possible options for preserving the spirit of the mural, such as displaying photographs of the mural on a smaller scale inside the new amphitheatre or

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Sac Zoo Celebrates Birth of New Baby Giraffe



Momma and Baby Giraffe. Photo: Sac Zoo

By Lesley Kirrene, Sacramento Zoo

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

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

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

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

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

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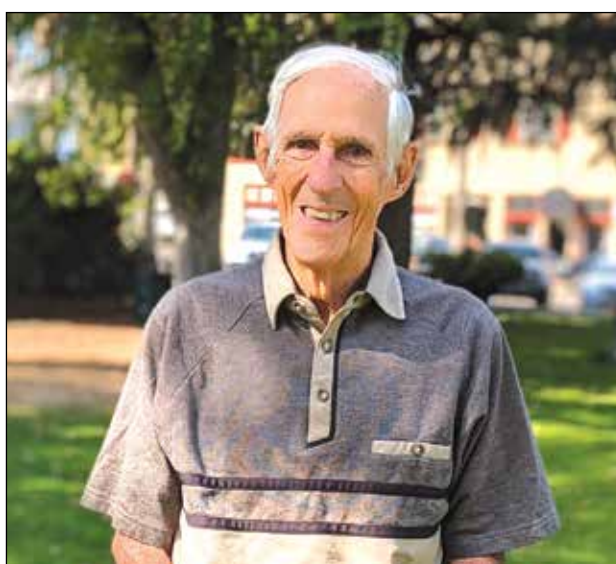
Fair Oaks' New Park Honors Local Jim Streng

Story and photo by Shauna Boyd

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - The new park-in-progress on Swallow Way has an official name. The Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District (FORPD) Board of Directors recently approved the name Jim Streng Park after it was suggested by a community member in an online nomination process, along with about two dozen other potential names.

When Ralph Carhart, chair of the FORPD Board, heard the name, he said, "That's perfect. That's exactly who needs to be recognized."

Jim Streng and his brother Bill started Streng Brothers Homes in 1958. Working with architect Carter Sparks, they constructed thousands of mid-century modern homes in the Sacramento region. Streng's successful career



Jim Streng has lived in Fair Oaks for almost 60 years, and he is honored to have a park named for him. Jim Streng Park is under construction and will open next spring.

is evidenced by the many "Streng" homes in the region, characterized by their open floor plans, low-pitched roofs, and bountiful natural lighting.

Streng also served on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors from 1986 until 1992, dedicating his

time to improving the community and working on many bipartisan issues—earning the respect and admiration of his colleagues and community members.

Former member of the Board of Supervisors Roberta MacGlashan submitted comments in support

of Jim Streng Park, along with Fair Oaks resident Maggie Cox, wife of the late Dave Cox (who served on the Board of Supervisors and as a California State Senator).

Fair Oaks resident Roger Niello, who served on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and as a California State Assemblyman, wrote a letter in support of the action: "This would be a very fitting gesture to an accomplished and modest man. He does not seek recognition, but I would very much like to see him so recognized. His surprise and gratitude alone would be worth the naming action."

Surprise and gratitude very aptly describe Streng's reaction. "It's a real honor to have a park with my name. I'm very pleased. ... I have no idea why they did, but I'm pleased they

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The Capitol Annex Project Debate

Story by Shauna Boyd

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

When asked about the NDAs, Assemblyman Cooley said that such agreements are standard in the post-9/11 world when discussing security issues in closed sessions. He also disputed the idea that the project has eschewed public input, stating that aside from those few closed sessions concerning security briefings, all the JRC meetings are open to the public. When he became JRC Chair in 2017, he moved quickly to launch a comprehensive website to share information about the project with the public. "We've been very public about the whole process," he said.

PAC's concern about the project's impact on Capitol Park trees was based on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), released in September 2019 and updated in January 2020, which outlined the project footprint. Based on that footprint, PAC estimated that over 100 rare and historic trees could be at risk.

At a JRC meeting on September 9, 2020, Assemblyman Cooley revealed a detailed design plan with three potential styles for the Annex building (square, circular, or double-T). Cowan noted that the recently released plans deviated significantly from the EIR, with the parking garage location moving from the east lawn to the south between L and N streets. Cowan acknowledged that the new location would disrupt fewer trees, but he feared it could still endanger the trees in the Civil War Grove, "which is sacrosanct."

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

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

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

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

lease revenue bonds to fund the Annex and parking garage.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Fair Oaks Rotary All-In on Polio Eradication



By Fred Rowe, MD

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - “Wait, did you say polio eradication? Didn’t that already happen?” If you’re an American who actually knows what polio is, this might be your reaction to that headline. And indeed, you would be correct as far as the United States goes, since the last case of polio in the US was in 1979. But even in the early 1980’s, worldwide, polio was paralyzing an estimated 300,000 people per year, almost all of them children under age 6, and was endemic (never eradicated) in 125 countries. Their paralysis often made victims dependent for life, since the only treatment modalities, bracing and physical therapy, were largely unavailable in the developing countries where the majority of cases occurred.

That all started to change in the mid-1980’s when the Board of Directors of Rotary International, inspired by a successful polio immunization project in the Philippines, decided to make polio eradication their signature global project. Since polio, like smallpox, is transmitted human-to-human without a vector and can’t survive outside the human body for more than a few weeks, it was possible to eradicate it entirely, as had already been done with smallpox. But it would be a long difficult project, one requiring expertise that Rotary didn’t have, so Rotary partnered with the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the United States Centers

for Disease Control (CDC) in 1988 to form the Global Polio Eradication Initiative; in 2007 the Gates Foundation joined the cause. Since 1988, Rotary has donated \$1.8 billion toward the campaign and participated in the vaccination of 2.5 billion children.

The results? As of late September 2020, polio is now endemic in only two countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan, and this year has paralyzed only 116 victims; it is a truly remarkable achievement. However, until total eradication, this remains a worldwide project because polio has reared its head several times in countries previously polio-free when vaccination levels have fallen below critical percentages. So continued financial and moral support will be needed till the end is achieved. Secure donations can be made at the Rotary International website, rotary.org.

So how is the local Fair Oaks Rotary involved? Last year their members donated \$8,000 to PolioPlus, Rotary’s fund for polio eradication, and this year they expect to surpass that amount by participating in a club project to improve their own health by increasing movement... running, walking, biking, swimming, etc... and pledging money based on miles completed. In addition, they will host a polio survivor as their meeting speaker on October 19 and participate in several larger Rotary activities on World Polio Day, October 24.

If this project strikes you as something worth supporting, remember that you can donate securely at rotary.org. ★

Art After Lockdown is a Sweet Success



Thirty friends of Anne Bradley commissioned Paul Dessau, custom collage portrait artist, to create a collage of “Anne in the Junkyard”. Sunshine Steel is her favorite salvaging haunt. Paul stretched his style to attach actual bits of metal and Anne-type attachments to the piece. The name of each donor is integrated into Anne’s clothing on the collage. Left to right: Mary Ann Low, Anne Bradley, Sue Anne Foster and Paul Dessau. Photo courtesy of Sue Anne Foster

By Elise Spleiss

SACRAMENTO AREA, CA (MPG) - Sunshine and fresh air prevailed the weekend of September 19 and 20, as friends, family members and residents from as far away as Marin County freed themselves from their six-month Covid-



California State Fair award winning sculptor and potter, Chris Thompson combines his favorite mediums of clay and metal into unique pieces. Visitors eagerly purchased many pieces over the two day open air art show. Photo by Sue Anne Foster

19 generated lockdown to relax and enjoy the weather and unique artwork of local artists at Carmichael’s Shangri-la outdoor art show.

Sue Anne Foster, sculptor and president of Valley Sculpture Artists, opened her home and property to showcase the diverse talents and pieces from local artists including kinetic

sculptures by Phill Evans of Fair Oaks and, also of Fair Oaks, Janet Regan who transforms copper in all forms, and the everyday gourd, into one-of-a-kind art pieces.

As with all artists demonstrating their work, the terms ‘mixed media’ and ‘repurposing’ have been given new meaning. With so many materials available in and outside of nature, these artists, including painter Mary Ann Low and ceramic artist and sculptor Chris Thompson, both of Sacramento are always experimenting and branching out into new forms of expression.

Roaming chickens, a large coy pond, and labyrinth adorned by a large, round floating filigree ‘Art Nouveau’ style sphere, all added to the atmosphere.

The highlight of the weekend was the presentation of a 30” by 40” collage portrait of artist Anne Bradley. Created by collage portrait artist Paul Dessau for his long-time friend, the piece was made with scraps of metal and other items in honor of Bradley’s chosen medium. Bradley works with metals scavenged from Sunshine Steel in Sacramento to create her own mixed media pieces of art.

A picture is worth a thousand words. To see more of the diversity and creativity showcased at this annual open-air art show visit ‘Sue Anne Foster’ on Facebook. ★

Mural Slated for Demolition

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using the digital photo files to recreate the mural on a wall behind the band shell in Village Park.

Gorman’s wife Teri said they appreciate the District’s attempts, but they are not enthusiastic about the idea of a photo display in the new amphitheatre. The Gormans would prefer recreating the images behind in Village Park to preserve the original expansive feeling evoked by the outdoor mural.

They also voiced concerns about whether there has been enough outreach about the amphitheatre renovation and whether people knew that the project would endanger these familiar art pieces. Gorman said there’s “a lot of feelings about it that haven’t been expressed. ... If events prevail, a lot of people might raise a ruckus.”

Teri said removing the mural “will change the Village.”

Because the mural is painted on panels of a stucco wall, the Gormans acknowledge that it would likely not survive removal. But on the question of the in-ground mosaic, which was created in 1998, Teri said, “We’re not going down on this without a fight.” The mosaic was

a community-centered project, with many residents and school groups providing stones for inclusion in the Plaza Park centerpiece. Teri believes the work is protected under the Visual Artist Rights Act (VARA) of 1990. District Administrator Mike Aho said they have requested an updated opinion from legal counsel on that subject.

In the grant contract with Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, Gorman noted that the mosaic “has been designed to be moveable, should the need arise. The surrounding walkway will break away from the foundation pad, which is engineered to be free-standing. The concrete won’t fail.” The Gormans have asked that the District reconsider the possibility of relocating the mosaic.

Aho said that when the removal estimate was completed, the moveability of the mosaic was not considered. With this additional information, Aho said he will likely recommend attempting removal and relocation as part of the park construction project, which would be more “cost efficient” than getting a new estimate for a separate removal project. Aho explained the Board would still need to give approval and designate a new location for the mosaic. “Of course, we want to keep it,” said Aho. ★

Fair Oaks’ New Park Honors Local Jim Streng

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did,” said Streng. Always modest about his own accomplishments, he was visibly moved to discover what an impact he’s had on those in the community.

Now 90 years old, he has lived in Fair Oaks for

almost 60 years. He and his wife Mary Jo raised their family here. “It’s a pleasant place to live. ... We’ve enjoyed spending our lives here.” He said they live near enough to the new Jim Streng Park that they could “practically walk to it.”

Knowing Jim Streng personally since the 1980s, Carhart affirmed, “Nobody is more deserving of this recognition.”

Jim Streng Park is currently under construction and is on schedule for completion in Spring 2021. ★

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Police Defunding - Supervisor Candidate Rich Desmond Speaks Out



From Rich Desmond for Supervisor

A lot has happened in the last few months to erode trust in law enforcement all over our country. As a California Highway Patrol veteran, the negative perceptions of law enforcement are personally dismaying. But cries to defund the police are equally concerning to me. Our neighborhoods will not be safe without well-funded policing.

Everyone needs to believe law enforcers will treat people they serve - regardless of income or race - with fairness. I wore the CHP uniform for nearly 25 years and, from hard-earned experience, I know the vast majority of police officers serve with integrity

and honor. Unfortunately, tragic exceptions occur, and when bad acts go unpunished, public trust in law enforcement gets damaged. That is why I was relieved to see criminal charges filed against the officer who killed George Floyd in Minneapolis and the other officers who stood by passively. If any community is to have faith in equality, criminal police acts cannot be ignored, and we must never stop critically examining police practices. If systems are failing, we must make effective and lasting changes.

Public safety reform was a big part of my law enforcement career. As CHP's Legislative Liaison, I worked directly with the African American community, labor organizations, the Governor's office, legislators and law enforcement leaders. Our reform efforts included expanded training requirements on use of force and mental illness crisis intervention. I worked directly on legislation that improved transparency and accountability in law enforcement.

I know there's no

overnight fix for the mistrust some people feel for police, but a sincere start can be made. I feel the first step should be to form better relationships between law enforcement officers and our diverse communities. The criminal justice system must also address racism and bias. I support more training for de-escalation tactics, and I feel more outreach and education will foster better relationships with underserved and underrepresented communities. There should also be uniform and reliable procedures for reporting and handling police misconduct. There are effective models we should explore to partner law enforcement officers with mental health clinicians and homeless navigators. I look forward to working on all of these things as your next Supervisor.

When it comes to public safety, none of us should settle for "good enough." If I'm elected supervisor, I will continue my career-long ambition: to achieve safety, justice, and fairness for everyone, in every community I serve. ★

Is Newsom Serious about Banning Gas-Powered Cars?



By Dan Walters CALMatters

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

During recent hot spells,

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

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

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

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

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

Former Sacramento King Launches Clutch City Basketball Academy

Clutch City Basketball

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - Pete Chilcutt, a former first round draft pick by the Sacramento Kings, has started a new basketball academy in Orangevale to give local youth the opportunity to take their game to the next level and develop a championship mindset.

Pete attended the University of North Carolina and played under legendary coach Dean Smith. Pete then went on to have a successful NBA career playing for over nine years for the Sacramento Kings, Detroit Pistons, Houston Rockets, Utah Jazz, Los Angeles Clippers, and Vancouver Grizzlies. While playing for the Houston Rockets he was a part time starter on the 1995 "Clutch City"

championship team alongside future Hall of Famers Clyde Drexler and Hakeem "The Dream" Olajuwon. Clutch City Basketball Academy was co-founded by Philip Peterson, a local product from Orangevale and Casa Roble High School graduate. Philip went on to compete at the college level at American River College and William Jessup University. Philip was also selected to play on a U.S.A. Athletes in Action team that spent a summer touring China and competed against the Chinese National Team and professional teams in the CBA.

Clutch City Basketball Academy will be offering outdoor camps and clinics in Orangevale over the next several months designed to give youth the much-needed

opportunity to exercise in a safe environment and continue to develop mentally and physically while distance learning is in place this fall at local schools. Clutch City Basketball will also be providing scholarships for underprivileged youth seeking an opportunity to join the academy and a portion of the proceeds from the camps and clinics will be donated back into the Orangevale community through local non-profits. In October Clutch City is offering two Saturday morning clinics on 10th and the 31st. To sign up and for more information about future camps, clinics, individual and group training, or business sponsorships, visit their website www.clutchcityacademy.com or follow them on Facebook and Instagram at @clutchcityacademy. ★

Green Acres Nursery & Supply Announces New Citrus Heights Store

Green Acres Nursery & Supply Press Release

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Green Acres Nursery & Supply is scheduled to open a new garden center in Citrus Heights, California, spring 2021. It will be located at 6128 San Juan Avenue, Citrus Heights, CA, at the corner of San Juan Avenue and Greenback Lane. This will be their seventh garden center in the greater Sacramento area since 2003, including taking over the Auburn's Eisleys Nursery in November.

A vacated retail space, the new Green Acres Nursery & Supply is being repurposed for the local, independent garden center.

The new 75,000 Retail Space will include: 24,000 sq. ft. of Indoor Retail Space; 13,000 sq. ft. for Annual and Perennial Greenhouse; 16,000 sq. ft. Lathe House for Shade Plant; 2,600 sq. ft. for Houseplant Greenhouse.

The Citrus Heights Green Acres Nursery

& Supply store will offer trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, soil, fertilizer, pest control, pottery & decor, houseplants, landscape products & tools, and an Outdoor Living department with patio furniture, grills, and accessories.

The store will create dozens of new job opportunities for the Citrus Heights community. Employment positions will range from cashiers to carry-outs to horticulture sales specialists. "We are thrilled to be part of the Citrus Heights community and look forward to building relationships with new customers for years to come," said Tami Kint, Marketing Director of Green Acres Nursery & Supply.

Green Acres Nursery & Supply, a local and family owned independent garden center for over 17 years with five convenient locations in Elk Grove, Folsom, Rocklin, Roseville, and Sacramento. For more information visit iDigGreenAcres.com ★

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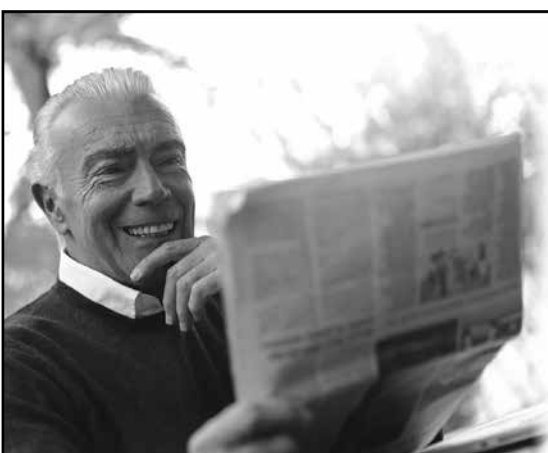
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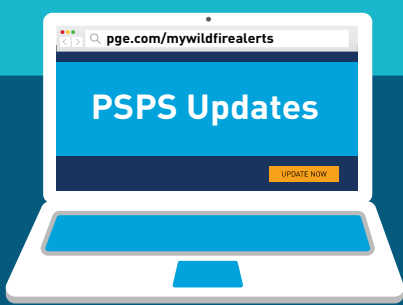
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PREPARING FOR A PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF

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

HERE ARE 5 WAYS TO PREPARE FOR A PSPS:



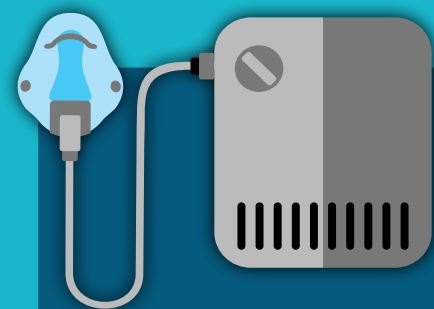
Make sure PG&E can reach you before a PSPS by updating your contact information at pge.com/mywildfirealerts.

1



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

2



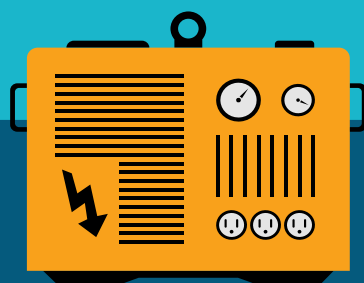
Make preparations for anyone in your family who depends on electricity for medical needs.

3



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

4



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

5



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



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

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President Protects Children Who Survive Abortions

Liberty Counsel Press Release

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Liberty Counsel is supported by tax-deductible donations and maintains offices in Central Florida, Virginia and Washington, D.C.

Liberty Counsel provides broadcast quality TV interviews via Hi-Def Skype and LTN at no cost. ★

Badfish Coffee & Tea's Got the Good Vibe



Badfish Coffee & Tea owners, Mark and Pearl, have expanded their outside seating, and are planning more improvements including an all-weather overhead shade. Photo by MaryAnne Povey

By MaryAnne Povey

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - Most likely if you've ever needed a place to kill time, catch up with a friend, do homework, or host a small meeting, you've been to Badfish Coffee and Tea Co. located in the Downtown Orangevale Plaza, 9346 Greenback Lane, #3. Since opening their doors in 2018, Badfish owners Mark and Pearl, quickly filled a much needed niche, becoming the "Best of Orangevale Hangout and Best New Business". Without a doubt, it's the "good vibe" place to go, serving up great coffee/tea and delicious food items.

After working at another coffee establishment, Mark and Pearl knew that they had something special working together. They both loved the coffee scene and the people they served. That was just the beginning of good things to come.

"It was always a dream to have our own coffee business," said Pearl reflecting back. Then tragedy struck. "Within a short period of time, we suffered several losses of family members and friends, which made us think "life is too short". So we took a chance, a leap of faith, and struck out on our own."

That chance started by purchasing a home down the street to where Badfish is currently located. Next they met Downtown Orangevale Plaza owner Cliff Wylie, who had newly renovated space. Then, with the help of some friends, they made a business plan and from there "everything kept falling into place".

"We worked around the clock for those first, long, six months. There was so much

we didn't know, but eventually learned the hard way", Pearl recalled. "Everything takes much longer and costs more than you think."

In July 2018, they finally opened their doors and in typical Orangevale fashion, the community embraced them with welcome arms.

"The Orangevale community was very supportive from the beginning and we appreciate that very much. I'm glad we fulfilled the need for a good place to hang-out that was unique."

Speaking of unique - the name Badfish is just that. So if you've wondered where the name "Badfish" comes from, here's what I learned. When Mark and Pearl were thinking of a cool name, "Badfish" was the name of a song they both liked. Then along with the fact that they didn't go the traditional route by taking an hourly job they might be considered a little "bad" by choosing something more risky -- thus the name!

For the most part, business had been great, then COVID hit and things got scary. "We initially stepped back and closed our doors for a couple of weeks to figure out what to do. It gave us time to make adjustments, to comply with the new safety protocols, and figure out our online ordering system."

While the time helped Mark and Pearl pivot and make the necessary changes, it also helped them realize how much their customers really wanted to see them open back up. "Our time being closed, created a desire for us to come back," Pearl shared.

Although things seem to be going more smoothly these days, Pearl admits it's still super unpredictable and that every day is different. "We are doing our best to make sure our employees and customers stay safe. All we can do is try our best," she added.

If you've never been to Badfish or haven't been in for a while, you should! They've expanded their outside seating, adorned with tiki umbrellas and are planning more improvements for the fall including; an all-weather overhead shade, patio heaters and maybe a fire pit too. And as of October 1, indoor seating is also now available in accordance with the County health guidelines.

Be sure to check out their new updated website at badfishorders.com. You can order online and have everything waiting for you when you come to pick it up. If you are looking for something super delish, give their "fan favorite" avocado toast a try along with their one-of-kind hot latte coffee drinks. Not only will your taste buds thank you, but your eyes will too! ★

Celebrate 75 Years of FORPD Service to Community



Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District Press Release

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - You are cordially invited to attend the 75th Celebration of the Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District on Oct. 8 at 6pm. The virtual event will be broadcasted via Zoom and Facebook Live.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88469980441>

Webinar ID: 884 6998 0441

Discover Fair Oaks Challenge

Whether you have lived here your entire life or just recently joined the Fair Oaks community, this journey will have you exploring Fair Oaks and discovering some very interesting history along the way. Complete the journey and pick up a prize at the FORPD Pop-Up History Gallery events on Oct. 9 or 10 (see below).

Plan ahead! This journey of discovery may take many hours and requires you to travel by vehicle and on foot to a specific place or amenity in Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District operated parks/facilities. For a complete list of parks/facilities operated by FORPD, visit: <https://www.forpd.org/facilities>.

The following items will be needed to participate: cell phone to access the "journey" and to take pictures and a water bottle to stay hydrated. You may consider

packing a lunch to enjoy a picnic along the way.

Pop-Up History Galleries

At Village Park on Friday, October 9, at 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

At Pheonix Park on Saturday, October 10, at 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Stop by and view old newspapers, artifacts, spin the wheel for a prize, and talk with resident Fair Oaks historians, Ralph Ca-rhart (FORPD Board Director) and representatives from the Fair Oaks

Historical Center. Be sure to complete the Discover Fair Oaks Challenge prior to attending so that you may pick up your Discovery prize.

*All visitors of the outdoor pop-up gallery must wear a face covering and maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between oneself and others. Please, do not attend if you have experienced any COVID-19 symptoms or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. ★



November 3, 2020 Presidential General Election

Keep Yourself Safe. Vote Early and Vote by Mail.

• All voters will be mailed a ballot

- Ballots will be mailed to voters the week of October 5th

• You can return your ballot starting October 5th

- By mail, no postage necessary
- At a Ballot Drop Box
- At a Vote Center (starting October 24th)

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

Vote Early! Vote by Mail.

• Planning on voting in person?

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

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

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

SACRAMENTO COUNTY



FAIR OAKS COMMUNITY UPDATE

By County Supervisor Susan Peters

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

BALLOTS AND VOTING

Earlier this month all registered voters in Sacramento County were mailed their ballot for November's Election Day. Among your choices will be voting for President of the United States plus contests for Congress as well as the Legislature along with several ballot propositions. You also will decide on the run-off to choose who succeeds me on the Board of Supervisors to represent the suburban unincorporated area.

In terms of voting, you have options as to whether to mail in your ballot, personally deliver it to a secure drop box location or vote in person at a Vote Center of your choice.

To mail in your ballot just place the voted ballot inside the envelope provided in the mailing, sign the envelope and return it (you don't even have to put a stamp on it). If you want to deliver it in person, you can place your ballot in any of the many secure Drop Box locations throughout Sacramento County. And traditional

polling places have been replaced with selected Vote Centers located throughout the county. Certain centers will open on October 24 and all will be open October 31 through Election Day. This means voters can choose when and where they physically want to vote that's convenient for them. A complete list of Drop Box and Voter Center locations was included in the materials mailed to you as well as available online.

For more information about voting in this election, please go to the Sacramento County Elections Office's web site at elections.sac-county.net. You can also call 916-875-6451 for more information.

GET YOUR FLU SHOT

Sacramento County Public Health urges everyone to prioritize getting a flu shot this season to protect you and your family. To help in that effort, Sacramento County's Immunization Assistance Program is hosting through November free Adult and Family Flu Clinics throughout the area.

Getting a flu vaccine will not protect you against COVID-19, however, flu vaccination has many other important benefits like reducing the risk of flu illness, hospitalization and death. Getting a flu vaccine this fall will not only reduce your risk from flu but also help conserve potentially scarce health care resources.

Vaccination of people at high risk for flu complications is especially important to decrease their risk of severe flu illness. These include seniors and people with chronic conditions such as diabetes, high

blood pressure, lung disease and kidney disease. Many people at higher risk from flu also seem to be at higher risk from COVID-19. If you are at high risk, it is especially important for you to get a flu vaccine this year.

Free flu clinics are open to all who are over six months of age and are without medical contraindication to receive the vaccine. If you cannot attend a flu clinic, low-cost immunizations are also available for those who qualify. This month two clinics will be held in our area:

North Highlands Community Center (6040 Watt Avenue) on Tuesday, October 20 10 am to 1pm.

Mission Oaks Community Center in Carmichael (4701 Gibbons Drive) on Tuesday, October 27, 10am to 1pm.

For a complete list of clinics, please go online to dhs.sac-county.net.

COVID-19 CANCELS COMMUNITY MEETING

Due to the current status of the COVID-19 outbreak, I must cancel this month's Community Coffee Meeting in Fair Oaks which had been scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, that morning. To all of the usual attendees, please accept my best wishes and regrets that the current public health emergency prevents me from visiting with you. Hopefully, the time will come that I can say hello when seeing you in the village at a later date under better circumstances.

Susan Peters represents the Third District on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. She can be reached at susanpeters@sac-county.net. ★

Guy Rents, Inc., Acquires Greenback Equipment Rentals, Inc.

By Paul Powers, Powers Associates

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - Guy Rents, Inc. dba Rental Guys, a Chico, CA based equipment rental company has closed a transaction to acquire the assets of Orangevale, CA based Greenback Equipment Rentals, Inc. The Orangevale location, near Folsom, CA will be Rental Guys' 9th Northern California location. CEO Alex DuBose said that "The new location compliments our existing footprint as we continue to grow in the rural markets of Northern California. We will be investing significantly in new rental fleet in the location that serves the eastern foothill suburbs of Sacramento County." Jerry and Vickie Culbertson, owners of

Greenback said "We had many offers, including some from large companies, but felt Alex and his family-owned business was the best fit for our employees." Jerry, Vickie and their son Brian that managed the store, would like to thank their customers and employees for their loyal support over the years.

Leslie Chayo, Esq. and Powers Associates, LLC PowersAssociates.us were exclusive advisors for the transaction.

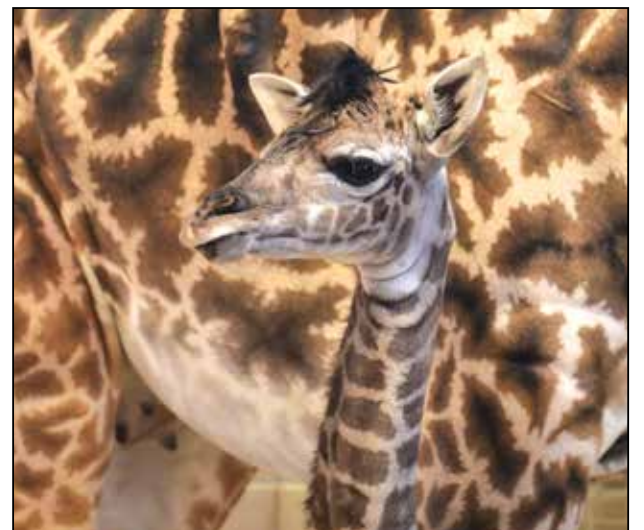
Rental Guys is a contractor, industrial and homeowner rental company based in Chico, CA with a focus on the Northern California rural markets for equipment rentals, sales and service. Learn more at rentalguys.com ★

Sac Zoo Celebrates Birth of New Baby Giraffe

Continued from page 1 with Butternut the prehensile-tailed porcupine.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

Do We Really Understand "What A Christian Is?"

Many of us went to Sunday School and invited Jesus into our heart when we were a child.

Then, we went into living our own way and years went by, thereby we are here today and we question those words because we have always answered "yes" to those words.

However following that decision we did not fully understand the meaning of those words and did many wrong things in our lives totally disregarding that youthful decision we made as a child.

Why did God just allow and let us do them and sin??? Friend, it's because He loves us and there is possibly only one way He knew that someday we would learn and appreciate God's personal love just for us. Maybe today the words we read will help us now

to understand. This is my story and I understand only because it also happened to me!

In the beginning God created Adam. Adam was supernaturally born of God. Then, God decided Adam needed a helpmate and God desired for more humans to be born, exactly like when He created all forms of animals, etc. So, He miraculously created Eve out of Adams rib.

Their life together was pure until God's enemy "Satan" tempted Eve and told her to eat the fruit out of the "tree of Good and Evil". She did and the sin of disobedience to the rules of God entered her. Then she enticed Adam to do the same. Hence "SIN" was birthed in every human ever born. And they proceeded to do things that dishonored our Creator. **SIN is "anything" done that dishonors Father/God!** Included is hatred, murder, impurity, gossip, swearing, unkindness, disobedience and **any denial or blasphemy against**

Gods Holy Spirit. Even dishonoring your own body which is to one day be the Temple, where God's Spirit wants to reside.

Finally God made a decision to remedy it all and provide His Forgiveness and Salvation and to create a supernaturally born man/son to be His Lamb of God. Through His death God would provide forgiveness and gift of eternal life. Mary was a Virgin and God pro-created Jesus as a baby into her womb for those who would accept His death sacrifice on the Cross. He was willing to die and He paid the price to set mankind "free" from all their sins by His death and they shall be called **Children of God – born-again "Christians."**

Marlys Johnsen Norris
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Stephen's Minister
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Oh, to Be Crazy and Get Paid for It

By Rev. James L. Snyder

I usually don't complain a lot. When I do I get caught in some dilemma that I can't talk my way out. You think I would learn my lesson, but I'm still in the learning curve.

After supper one night, we took our coffee into the living room to watch a little bit of the news. That is always the wrong thing to do, and you would think I would know it by this time.

Watching the news, my wife could see that I was getting a little bit agitated. I don't always get agitated, but when I do... I do.

"What has you all worked up," my wife asked?

Finally, I broke my silence and said, "I'm rather tired of all of these crazy politicians who don't know their right hand from their left hand, except when they stick it out for donations. I'm tired of these crazy politicians being on television! Why can't they go to the principal's office like I had to do so often when I was in grade school?"

When I quieted down, I heard some chuckles across the room. I looked in my wife's direction, and there she sat giggling and chuckling and having a great time of it.

"What's so funny?"

She just looked at me and continued giggling and then finally said, "Don't you know that those crazy politicians get paid for being crazy. The crazier they are, the more money they make."

Then she broke into one of her hysterical laughers.

"Don't you," she said between giggles, "wish you were that crazy?"

"If you want to make money like them," my wife continued, "you will have to be just as crazy as they are."

That's a very good thought. Maybe I ought to look into this situation a little closer.

"That's why you don't have much money," my wife explained, "you are not crazy enough!"

That was a surprise coming from my wife. I thought she knew how crazy I really was. But then I got to thinking. Perhaps she is right after all.

"Where do you suppose they get all of their craziness?"

Again, my wife chuckled and looked at me and said, "Because they have no idea what they say from one day to the next. They live in a bubble and have lost a sense of reality in this world of ours."

Again, she was spot on about this craziness in politics.

"They don't live in the real

world," my wife began to explain to me. "They live in a world of their imagination, and their imagination creates a spirit of craziness."

"So," I said to her, "if I'm going to get paid for being crazy, I gotta quit living in the real world."

"Now you got it," she replied.

I got it, but I'm sure not going to get it. Getting paid for being crazy means that I have to live in a bubble and not the real world, I wonder if it's really worth it?

Maybe being poor and sane is the better alternative.

How much money would be worth becoming that crazy?

I then thought of a verse in the Bible. "Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with their income. This too is meaningless" (Ecclesiastes 5:10).

Being crazy isn't worth all the money in the world.

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. ★

County Voter Information Guide Mailed to Registered Voters

Sacramento County Election Update

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

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

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

Key Election Dates

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

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

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

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

Saturday, October 24 - 11 Day Vote Centers open

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

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

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

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Now Available: IRS Form 1040-X E-Filing

By David A. Tucker II, Internal Revenue Service

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

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

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

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

and Electronic Tax Administration Advisory Committee (ETAAC).

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

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

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

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

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

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

Signs on Utility Poles Pose Serious Safety Hazard

SMUD News Media

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

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

to restore power during storms and at night.

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

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Love of the Game

River Cats Broadcaster Writes Haikus on Baseball and Life

Story by Shaunna Boyd

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

Doskow was “raised with the game” and always knew he wanted to call baseball. “I’ve been fortunate to fulfill my dream,” he said. His career began in 1991 calling local sports in Iowa. Two years later he started his first job in professional baseball with the Cedar Rapids Kernels. From there, he moved to California, where he worked with both the High Desert Mavericks and the Fresno Grizzlies before becoming the voice of the Sacramento River Cats in 2001. He also broadcast for the major leagues for 34 games in 2012 with the Oakland A’s.

This past March, with the baseball season forced into hiatus by the coronavirus pandemic, Doskow had no games to call. During his first summer off in 28 years, he started writing. Originally, he didn’t have plans for a book; he was just writing haikus about life and moments he wanted to remember. It was his wife Deb who suggested he write about his life’s passion: baseball. Before he knew it, he had more than enough poems to fill a book. “It just happened organically,” he said.

Doskow has been fascinated by haikus ever since his older brother introduced him to the format as a kid. “I’ve always written them,” Doskow said – even writing them in the margins of in-flight magazines as he traveled during the baseball season. “I



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

never kept any of them,” he said. Doskow likes the rhythm of haikus (written in a syllable pattern of five, seven, five) and

enjoys the challenge of “trying to tell a story in 17 syllables. It’s not easy to do.” Telling a story in such a small space offers

the potential for both simplicity and depth. In “Patience,” Doskow writes, “dark cloudy morning/sun squeezing through

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

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

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

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

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Who Will Pay for It?

By Ben Christopher, CalMatters.org

When supporters of a November property tax ballot measure talk about soaking the state's faceless corporate giants and its wealthiest landlords, they are not talking about people like John Kevranian.

The co-owner of Nuts for Candy & Toys in Burlingame, Kevranian and his wife have operated this mainstay of the Bay Area city's downtown strip for more than a quarter-century. He rents the shop. And he's exactly the type of voter that backers of Proposition 15 – which would raise property taxes on many commercial and industrial property owners – had hoped not to goad.

Kevranian feels plenty goaded.

If Prop. 15 passes in November, he said, he is convinced his landlord will simply pass the higher cost along to him – and then “I would close my doors.”

The “Yes on 15” team has marshalled a small army of high-caliber economists, including a Nobel Laureate, to help make its case: politically sympathetic small business owners need not lose sleep over this year's “split roll” initiative.

But many business owners and commercial real estate experts warn that the hotly contested ballot measure contains a glaring hole – and that many mom-and-pop shops across California are going to fall in.

On this question, the Yes and No camps are “talking past each other,” said Adam Sachs, a business transactions lawyer in the Bay Area. “In the long term, the tax hits landlords. But in the short term, it's on tenants.”

In a statement, Yes on 15 spokesperson Alex Stack pointed to some of the other exemptions and benefits in the measure that are aimed to assuage small businesses' concerns:

“Prop. 15 cuts taxes for small businesses, exempts those whose property is worth \$3 million or less, and allows for an extended phase-in period. Prop. 15 provides the support, flexibility, and investment that small businesses need going forward.”



If it is going to happen in the Bay Area it is going to happen here. The current economy can't afford to take another heavy hit against small business owners. Photo by Artem Beliaikin from Pexels

Ever since voters in 1978 passed Proposition 13, placing a cap on how much property taxes can increase year-over-year, politicians have been loath to mess with it.

But teachers' unions and other Prop. 15 backers created a savvy workaround to minimize backlash: Propose to repeal those protections only for businesses over a certain size. If Prop. 15 passes, any commercial or industrial property owner with more than \$3 million of California real estate would have to pay taxes based on the current market value of the property, rather than the original, likely much lower, purchase price. Smaller business owners would be exempt.

The idea: Homeowners are fans of Prop. 13, but voters here usually are more than willing to stick it to the 1%.

But that argument only works if voters really believe that just the fat cats will take a financial hit.

In a recent ad, the “No on 15” campaign – principally funded by large businesses, corporate landlords and low tax advocacy groups – warned that “small businesses that are already struggling will be hit with higher rents and tax bills.”

But candy and toy store owner Kevranian, also president of his downtown business improvement district, said he and his peers

are right to feel anxious. His lease obligates him to pay rent, along with an insurance premium, maintenance costs and the entirety of his share of the building's property tax, he said.

These types of rental agreements, known as “triple net leases,” are relatively common, said Norma J. Williams, a commercial real estate lawyer in Los Angeles. And while there are variations on this form, “most (commercial) leases of whatever type have landlords passing through all or some portion of their taxes to tenants,” she said.

Business tenants with these leases always face the risk of their landlord selling the building, triggering a reassessment of the property and a tax hike that is shunted off to the renter. But if Prop. 15 passes, thousands of buildings would be reassessed simultaneously – turning that risk into a certainty.

Prop. 15 was written to target big business and corporate property owners. But some small businesses worry that, as renters, their landlords will just pass the higher taxes along. File photo by Anne Wernikoff for CalMatters

For tenants halfway through a 10-year lease obligating them to foot any increase in the property tax bill, what we're talking about is “probably

four years of intense pain or even, ‘I can't pay this,’” said Stephen Ledoux, a real estate attorney who represents many restaurant renters. “And then it's up to the landlord to decide, ‘I have a tenant who can't pay rent; do I want to work with them or terminate their lease?’”

Ledoux said it's impossible to say how many businesses might fall into this special category. He estimated “thousands and thousands.”

“This is a big issue,” he said. “I don't know how big it is in the grand scheme of Prop. 15, but for these people who will be affected...those are hard conversations.”

A study commissioned by the Yes on 15 campaign in July estimated that 92% of all the new revenue raised by the measure would come from 10.5% of commercial and industrial properties.

Kevranian said his tax bill is about \$2,500 per year. If the building were reassessed to its current market value, he predicts his share would increase seven-fold to roughly \$17,500 – an estimate CalMatters was unable to verify.

“They're trying to tackle the major corporations like Disneyland and Chevron and that's fine,” he said. And while his lease ends in November, many of his neighbors may be stuck in

leases obligating full property tax payments for years. Supporters of Prop. 15 are “not small business owners, they're not landlords, they don't understand the process,” he said. “They just see numbers.”

Last week the research consulting firm Beacon Economics released a report, funded by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, that analyzed 12,000 commercial property transactions across the state's major urban areas. It found that market rents are best predicted by a number of variables like location, size, vacancy rates and local costs like wages.

Missing from that list: a company's tax bill. “The rents are not driven by the property taxes paid, but by other factors,” the report found.

But Chris Thornberg, founder of Beacon Economics, said the study did not look “lease by lease” to see what became of businesses that pay a unit's property tax bill as a condition of the rent. “That's a separate conversation,” he said.

The No on 15 camp was quick to slam the study's methodology. “The Beacon Economics study cannot quantify the true impact of Prop 15 on small businesses because the data necessary to do so does not exist,” spokesperson Michael Bustamante in a press release.

Thornberg joins 19 other bigwig economists who penned a letter earlier this month in defense of the measure.

If voters pass Prop. 15, the letter reads, “standard economic theory says that these kinds of impacts reduce windfall profits; they do not lead to price increases.”

“The claim that (landlords) will pass this on through prices – that's just not the way that this works,” said Jesse Rothstein, a UC Berkeley labor economist and one of the letter's lead authors.


Signatories on the list also include Economic Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz, deputy Treasury Secretary of the Clinton Administration Brad DeLong and both Saez and his frequent collaborator Gabriel Zucman.

Their argument: Let's say a cafe needs to replace its leaky roof. It can't hike the price of its lattes to make up the difference without risking an exodus of customers. In the same way, landlords have to compete with one another for tenants. The property tax break under Prop. 13 is unevenly distributed, with longtime owners getting a particularly sweet fiscal deal and newer owners seeing little benefit. Raising taxes on those extra profitable landlords will just bring their costs up to that of their competitors. If the newly taxed property owners try to retain their old profit margins by raising the rent, tenants will just flee to other landlords who didn't face a tax increase and will continue to charge the same rent.

There is one caveat, Saez said. If taxes increase and landlords try to pass along the bulk of the cost, property owners and their tenants will have to negotiate new terms, new leases will be struck after old ones expire, and some businesses will need to relocate in the face of obstinate landlords.

“That could take some time to play out,” he said.

Ben covers California politics and elections. Prior to that, he was a contributing writer for CalMatters reporting on the state's economy and budget. ★



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Students Can Still Soar

California Capital Airshow Press Release

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

Thanks to the support of sponsors and ticket holders each year, CCA's deep commitment to inspiring young people has produced great results. The Airshow team's efforts, in the air, on the ground and throughout the year has delivered \$262,000 in awards to 156 remarkable future leaders to attend 36 different education institutions across 14 states. These students plan to change the world in a variety of ways, from using artificial intelligence to end climate change to building



Donating will get you a 2021 airshow ticket to see the United States Air Force on September 25-26. Photo: CCA

filtration systems in third-world countries. age and is likely attributable to attendance at the California Capital Airshow where I

first saw the B-29 fly," said John Kroeger, recent CCA scholarship recipient. "An aerospace engineering degree will open up a world of possibilities for me. I plan to work on the next generation of machinery that will drive humanity into the future - designing safer, more advanced, and more efficient airplanes."

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

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

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



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



The California Capital Airshow continues to deliver on its primary mission to expose kids to possible professional careers. Marke Loper Photography/CCA

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