

# FIREWORKS BUYERS GUIDE

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# AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 12

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JUNE 26, 2020

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## Having the All-In Attitude

*New Firefighters Graduate to Join Metro Fire*



The Sacramento Area Fire Fighters Local 522 Honor Guard marked the opening of the ceremony with the presentation of the Colors. Photo: Captain Mark Nunez/Metro Fire

**By Captain Chris Vestal,  
Sacramento Metropolitan  
Fire District**

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - On Friday, May 29, 2020, the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (Metro Fire or the District) welcomed eighteen new firefighters, as Recruit Class 20-1 graduates from the Metro Fire Recruit Academy, a California State Fire Marshal Accredited Fire Fighter 1 Academy. Metro Fire Chief Todd Harms highlighted to the new recruits the fact that it was a memorable moment in which "you all are starting your careers and this [same]

weekend members are [also] retiring from their careers."

The Sacramento Area Fire Fighters Local 522 Honor Guard marked the opening of the ceremony with the presentation of the Colors and a procession by a bagpiper from its Pipes and Drums Society.

This was a special class, challenged not only by the usual grueling physical demands and intense academics but by the COVID-19 pandemic. Metro Fire is particularly proud of these new firefighters for their ability to adapt; ensuring they continued to be successful on the academy grounds while maintaining obligations to their

families and other loved ones during this atypical period in all of our lives.

Under the direction of Metro Fire Assistant Chief/Director of Training Adam House and Drill Master/Captain Jason Harris, the sixteen-week academy included hundreds of hours on the drill ground and classroom combining the knowledge and skills critical for performing emergency operations on scene at fires, emergency medical incidents, and motor vehicle accidents. Recruits also trained in live structural fires, simulated structural collapses, wildland fire suppression, and learned

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## Flag Retirement Ceremony Pays Respect to the American Flag

**Story and photo  
by Elise Spleiss**

**FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG)** - Since 2013, members of American Legion (AL) Post 383 have joined with Folsom Boy Scout Troop 134 for a hands-on lesson in Americanism, the official retirement of American flags.

On Flag Day, June 14, 2020 seventeen flags of all sizes were ceremoniously burned by six members of the troop in an official flag burning pit at Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 383 Memorial Garden in Fair Oaks.

According to the guidelines of the Boy Scouts of American Handbook, "A national flag that is worn



Members of Folsom Boy Scout Troop 134 performed their annual American Flag retirement ceremony. On the left: American Legion Post 383 member. On the right: Scoutmaster Josh Baker. Photo by Elise Spleiss

beyond repair may be burned in a fire. The ceremony should be conducted

with dignity and respect and the flag burned completely to ashes (then

committed to the ground)."

Non-cotton flags made of

*Continued on page 3*

## Protecting Sacramento County Seniors

**By Andrea Sandoval,  
Sacramento County**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - COVID-19 has profoundly impacted all of our lives. As we isolate from those closest to us – family, friends, neighbors and colleagues – for older people living in the community or in long-term care settings, the trials are even greater. Social isolation is one of the greatest risk factors for elder abuse.

In California, elder abuse is significantly underreported. For every case of elder or dependent adult abuse known to agencies, 24 are unknown. June is observed as National Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month, a statewide effort to increase awareness of elder and dependent adult abuse and to increase reporting of suspected abuse, not only in the month of June but all year long.

There are numerous forms of maltreatment and abuse, such as: physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse, as well as neglect and abandonment. Elder and dependent adult abuse does not discriminate. Any adult 65 years and older or an adult between the ages of 18 to 65 that requires extra care due to physical or mental limitations can be a victim.

"Social isolation can be difficult for seniors even in the best of times," said Ruth MacKenzie. "We have to help our seniors feel connected especially during COVID-19 and make sure they have access to available local services so they can stay healthy and safe. Staying connected, phoning older adults, checking on an older neighbor, writing a card or letter, can all be positive steps to ensure public safety and social justice."

Seniors are in the highest risk for severe complications from COVID-19, during this challenging time, Sacramento County APS wants to emphasize that there are resources that are available in this time of

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# FIREWORKS BUYERS GUIDE

## Get the Most Bang For Your Buck!

By David Dickstein

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Northern California's three major fireworks distributors - TNT, Phantom and Discount Fireworks Superstore - are going big this season in hopes to release the inner Uncle Sam and Lady Liberty from within a population feeling blue over a topsy-turvy world dealing with a pandemic and pandemonium.

Believing that the joy of fireworks will help shake the blues by adding red and white in honor of America's 244th birthday, these

companies are rolling out a record 24 new fireworks in the Golden State this season - nearly double the previous mark. The 2020 freshman class also includes one new limited-edition assortment, and never has there been more buy one get one free and mix and match deals to woo buyers.

That's a lot of shapes, sizes, colors and prices among the rookie lineup, and while variety usually bodes well for fundraising non-profits running the stands, perplexed consumers will ponder the obvious questions: What's new? What's loud? What's unique?

How long does it last? What gives me the most bang for my buck?

Help has arrived. Our annual and unbiased fireworks buyers guide has reviews of the new items and the very best of the returning rest. For the 19th year, new fireworks are graded on a 5-star scale, judged on performance, duration, distinctiveness and value.

Promotions are noted where applicable. Every Phantom firework this season is a buy one get one; the freebie can be the same item or any firework of like or lesser price. TNT is countering with its own mix and match deals

plus limited-edition items in commemoration of the company's centennial anniversary of selling fireworks. DFS, which TNT took over in California last year, save for a handful of locations up in the Redwood Coast, tends to have lower prices overall and a wider range of brands.

A star-spangled shoutout to the Sacramento Fire Department for cooperation with this season's test. Special thanks to Fire Marshal Jason Lee and Capt. Keith Wade.

Let the sparks fly!

### NEW FOR 2020



**CENTENNIAL FOUNTAIN XL (TNT), \$60** - Burn time is shorter than most 500-gram finales at this price point, but this special-edition fountain proves that duration is sometimes overrated. Wows with a mesmerizing mélange of effects and medley of transitions - droplets to fish to crackle to birthday cake to a shock-and-awe eruption. Here for this season only. 80 seconds. ★★★★★

**COLORAMA (DFS), \$52.99** - Pretty droplets of gold, orange, green and red, and a strong crackling finish aren't enough to compensate for slow tube-to-tube transitions and an uneven performance. 110 seconds. ★★★

**CAPTAIN NUCLEAR FOUNTAIN (PHANTOM), \$49.99 FOR TWO** - Decent crackling sparks mixed with pearls, chrysanthemums, multi-colored glitter and flowers build to a less than satisfying climax. 80 seconds. ★★

**LIVING THE DREAM (TNT), \$49.99** - Like ordering TNT's exquisitely named Wild Side (see Best of the Rest) and saying, "make it a double." 500 grams get you two awesome minutes of super-charged crackles, though at a dear price. 120 seconds. ★★★★★

**FIERY MEADOW FLOWER FOUNTAIN (PHANTOM), \$49.99 FOR TWO** - Proving that hybrid fireworks often make for big crowd pleasers is this combo fountain-wheel featuring titanium crackles and spinning finale. On a smooth surface, the centrifugal force makes this unique rookie rotate. 68 seconds. ★★★★★

**FLOWER PATCH KIDS (TNT), \$40 FOR TWO** - The first few seconds are absolutely gorgeous with deep red droplets that produce the prettiest start of any California firework. The rest of the flowers in this patch aren't nearly as beautiful. 77 seconds. ★★

**TAKE A HIT (TNT), \$40 FOR TWO** - Love the rarely seen lavender droplets and nice palms, but this batter got two bases on a bloop single and error. 75 seconds. ★★

**JUNGLE FLOWER (TNT), \$39.99** - The intense crackle and vivid colors are pleasing. Just wished it had a more exciting overall and longer performance for the price. 49 seconds. ★★

**PINK ICE (TNT), \$30 FOR TWO** - Nice to see pink, but blink and you miss it. And what's with the 10-second delay between tubes? 26 seconds. ★

**REVOLUTION (TNT), \$30 FOR TWO** - You say you want a revolution? Not sure even Paul and Ringo would want this disappointingly short newcomer despite loud three whistles and crackling pink and blue sparks. 34 seconds. ★★

**WAR FOUNTAIN (PHANTOM), \$29.99 FOR TWO** - Colors change with each stage of fiery crackles. Great duration and intensity. 82 seconds. ★★★★★

**FLOWER POT FOUNTAIN (PHANTOM), \$29.99 FOR TWO** - Low-noise fountain enralls with multicolored droplets against a near-constant shower of silver glitter. Use of blob-producing nitrocellulose reduces burn time. Worth it. 52 seconds. ★★★★★



**TNT TORCH (TNT), \$24.99** - Judge this mundane-looking firework by its cover and you'll miss out on beautiful - no, *beguiling* - shimmering golden stars reminiscent of cones from the early '70s. This pyro's pyrotechnic earns "Best New Firework" honors. 72 seconds. ★★★★★

**COSMIC VELOCITY FOUNTAIN (PHANTOM), \$21.99 FOR TWO** - Intense crackling fountain with pretty reds and greens, but needs BOGO promo to offset fleeting duration. 52 seconds. ★★★

**GALACTIC RADIANCE FOUNTAIN (PHANTOM), \$21.99 FOR TWO** - Sub-minute burn time isn't cool, but rest of this colorful crackle-crazy fountain is. 46 seconds. ★★

**ELECTRIC MANIPULATION FOUNTAIN (PHANTOM), \$21.99 FOR TWO** - What's dubbed as a "silky blue explosion" in the second half makes up for an unimpressive opening of standard crackles and colors. 53 seconds. ★★

**SAVAGE FOUNTAIN (PHANTOM), \$21.99 FOR TWO** - While there's titanium crackle fountains more savage than this, newcomer satisfies with various spark types of red, white, gold, silver and green. 70 seconds. ★★★★★

**SPARKLE BERRY (TNT), \$19.99** - Cavalcade of color changes to crackling frenzy after a piercing whistle at the 40-second mark. 65 seconds. ★★

**FLARING STARS FOUNTAIN (PHANTOM), \$15.99 FOR TWO** - Virtually noiseless beauty featuring swarming fish effect in red, gold and green. Shorter version of Phantom's late great Flying Stars. 54 seconds. ★★★★★

**OLD GLORY (DFS), \$15.38 FOR TWO** - Veteran TNT fountain debuts in California rebranded as a Freedom item. Colorful and crackly, but there's better out there. 49 seconds. ★★

**TOXIC BARREL (TNT), \$12.99** - Green toxic sludge blobs and loud crackles make this a freaky rookie sensation even with the fleeting duration. It's your "Best New Firework" runner-up. 45 seconds. ★★★★★

**CENTENNIAL FOUNTAIN (TNT), \$12** - Good height, crackle, color and burn time for the price. Bummer it's only here for TNT's 100th anniversary of fireworks sales. 77 seconds. ★★★★★

**KOOL KAT (TNT), \$9 FOR TWO** - Billed as a new firework, it's actually a rewrap of Cool Breeze that debuted last season and is being sold at closeout prices. 43 seconds. ★

**TORNADO GROUND SPINNER (PHANTOM), \$3.99 FOR TWO PACKAGES OF 6** - Spinning novelty sounds like fun, but if using the Enhanced Fujita Scale for tornadoes, this cyclone gets a rating of EF0. Buy a pack of ground bloom flowers instead. 3 seconds. ★

**ALSO NEW FOR 2020 ... CENTENNIAL ASSORTMENT (TNT), \$110.99** - The only new state-approved assortment this season features 15 respectable fountains named after oldies but goodies and clad in retro labels. Limited-time item commemorates the 100th year of fireworks sold by the Alabama-based company that would become TNT. Best in the box: Big Bomb, Freedom, Red Devil and Ace fountains. ★★★★★

For reviews of the "Best of the Rest," access this newspaper's online edition by first visiting [www.MPG8.com](http://www.MPG8.com).

For stand locations and additional product information, visit the retailers' websites: TNT, [tntfireworks.com](http://tntfireworks.com); Phantom, [fireworks.com](http://fireworks.com); and Discount Fireworks Superstore, [dfsfireworks.com](http://dfsfireworks.com). Check local laws and take all safety measures before buying and lighting. A list of "open" communities can be found at [ca-fireworks.presskit247.com](http://ca-fireworks.presskit247.com).

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**To Our Valued Customers.**

We will continue to offer the best prices possible during these challenging times. Our KP team is working very hard and have your families and our communities in mind. Please honor "social distancing" and be patient in your shopping experience and courteous to all in the store.

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**FROZEN & FISH DEPT**

REG. \$6.99/LB **\$2.99** Buffet Tortilla /lb  
 REG. \$18.99/EA **\$11.99** Unagi Crusted Cod /ea  
 Kabayaki 11 oz

**WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS** \*SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

**BONUS BUY**  
 Beef Ribeye Roast Boneless \$6.49/lb  
 Beef Rump/Bottom Round Roast \$2.99/lb  
 Beef Bottom Round Steak - Boneless \$3.29/lb

**GREAT VALUE**  
 Beef Ribeye Steak Boneless \$6.99/lb  
 Chicken Breasts \$1.39/lb  
 Pork Loin Chops Bone In \$1.79/lb  
 Pork Neck Bones \$1.29/lb

**LAMB**  
 Lamb Shoulder Chops \$9.99/lb  
 Lamb Arm Shoulder Chops \$9.99/lb  
 Lamb Rib Chops \$27.99/lb  
 Lamb Loin Chops \$14.99/lb  
 Lamb Leg Steaks \$9.99/lb  
 Lamb Filets \$6.99/lb  
 Boneless Lamb Flanks \$8.99/lb  
 Boneless Lamb Steak \$9.99/lb  
 Hind Lamb Shank \$6.99/lb  
 Short Cut Lamb Leg \$6.99/lb  
 Lamb Neck Steew \$3.99/lb  
 Ground Lamb \$7.99/lb

**FRESH PRODUCE** SALES FOR PRODUCE WILL BEGIN ON WEDNESDAYS @ 12:00PM

Limes 12 \$1  
 Mexican Mango 7.99/lb  
 Mini Watermelon 1.99/ea  
 Green Grapes 1.69/lb  
 Jalapeno 6.99/lb

Fresh Express Garden Salad 12 oz 9.99  
 White/Brown Beech Mushrooms 150 g 1.29  
 Popeye Spinach 10 oz 2.33  
 Yellow Onions 4 lbs \$1  
 Green Onions 4 \$1  
 Kabocha 7.99

**AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY**

Altoys \$1.59/ea  
 Faraon Salsa de Tomate 39¢/ea  
 Faraon Tomato Sauce 5 oz 99¢  
 Pina Vanilla Flavor 8.4 fl oz 2.99  
 Ibarra 2.99/ea  
 Pops \$3.99/ea

**ASIAN GROCERY**

Oyster Flavored Sauce 32 oz \$3.99  
 Coconut Milk 2.4 L \$1.49  
 Bamboo Shoot Brand \$10.99  
 OX & PALM CORNED BEEF \$5.99  
 Corned Beef 15 oz \$4.99

**EUROPEAN GROCERY**

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 Belender Granatina Vegetable Salad 100 g \$3.69  
 Tandoori Spice \$1.49  
 Keweenaw Cream Fudge 1 lb \$7.99

**KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY**

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 Soybean \$1.99  
 Soybean \$3.99  
 Soybean \$2.99  
 Soybean \$1.99

**HOUSEWARES**

NOVEL MINI ELECTRIC RICE COOKER 1.5 C \$19.99  
 HAMILTON BEACH \$9.99  
 PORTABLE BUTANE GAS \$3.99  
 PORTABLE BUTANE GAS \$3.99  
 PORTABLE BUTANE GAS \$3.99  
 PORTABLE BUTANE GAS \$3.99

**FROZEN & FISH DEPT**

Frozen Octopus Size 300/400 1.5 lb Bag \$5.99/ea

**EUROPEAN DELI**

Krino's Bulgarian Feta Cheese \$2.99  
 President Madrilal Swiss Cheese \$5.99  
 Schmalz's Pork Butts \$5.99  
 Andy's Deli Canadian Style Bacon \$5.99

Advised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE JUNE 24 - JUNE 30, 2020.

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# All-In Attitude



Firefighter Recruit Class 20-1 graduated from the Metro Fire Recruit Academy, receiving their badges and first station assignments. Photo: Captain Mark Nunez/Metro Fire

Continued from page 1  
countless other firefighting and rescue skills.

Captain Harris noted that “all these things are simple in concept, but they are very difficult to execute, especially when you are at the limits of mental and physical endurance... and all under time constraints.”

Physical fitness and overall health was also emphasized to reinforce proper physical training for the rigors of firefighting and the healthy lifestyle and nutrition choices required to ensure a long and healthy career.

Many fire service traditions were on display. Graduating Firefighters received their badges, took their oaths to serve

the public, and received their probationary station and shift assignments. Chief Harms told the recruits, “You’ve each earned your badge; the challenge now is to live up to the traditions and standards that go along with that badge that will go along with you.”

Chief Harms said to the 20-1 class passing on the advice of Metro Fire retirees, “Thirty years comes and goes by really quickly. Enjoy the good times, and know that there is going to be bad times along the way.”

Due to restrictions on large gatherings the event was celebrated without families of the graduates and only District staff essential to the graduation ceremony was in attendance. ★

# Fair Oaks Honorary Mayor Candidates Begin Fundraising for 2020



By Dot Boyd, Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce

fellow Chamber members, Penny agreed to throw her hat into the race. Last year we had the youngest candidate, Matthew Mason, at age 18 and now Penny is the oldest (but young at heart), at age 98! We definitely have an art theme this year, as candidate Chrysti Tovani is an artist and a singer, just for starters. If you have ever seen her fun live videos or read her blog, at ILoveFairOaks.com, you already have an



Penny Howard

have some fun and creative fundraising events going on (some virtual, some in-person), and I invite you to vote with your dollars for these two great causes! Follow them along on Facebook and at www.fairoakschamber.com.

Whichever candidate raises the most money by early September, will be our 42nd HM, following our current HM Jacob Giorgi. Since 1979, this program has raised over \$460,000 for our community!

One last thing: hats off to neighbors helping neighbors with donations of food and money, and volunteer hours to the OV-FO Food Bank! Last month there were countless food drives, including one co-hosted by FOCC & FORPD, and Chamber members and FO Rotarians continue to step up to serve our neighbors in need. Thank you! We’re all in this together.



Chrysti Tovani

idea of just how deeply she loves to promote our local businesses, the arts, and live theatre. She is also a professional photographer (that’s her work on my head-shot) and a real estate agent in FO Village www.chrystitovani.com Chrysti has chosen Fair Oaks Theatre Festival (FOTF), ‘theatre under the stars’ to help preserve the organization during this summer of closures.

Both Chrysti and Penny

See you in Fair Oaks! ★

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - It’s time for an update on what IS and is NOT happening in Fair Oaks this summer. Our 27th annual A Taste of Fair Oaks has been postponed. Fair Oaks Concerts in the Park have been cancelled.

Now on to some good news! I am so proud of two very special women in Fair Oaks, who have stepped up in these difficult times, to fundraise for their causes via our Honorary Mayor program. We’ll start with Penny Howard, a past Honorary Mayor from 2006, and Citizen of the Year in 2017, who is raising funds for the Del Campo HS Visual and Performing Arts program. Penny chose this cause because she is an accomplished artist and three of her children attended Del Campo. After much persuasion from

# Flag Retirement Ceremony

Continued from page 1

toxic materials are cut up and their fields separated. No longer considered a flag, the pieces may now be disposed of in other ways.

In 2013, Scoutmaster Josh Baker, former Vice Commander of Fair Oaks AL Post 383, saw the need for new sponsorship of a Folsom scout troop. The post agreed to fill the need and Folsom Boy Scout Troop 134 was chartered in 2013.

Baker noted that Americanism is one of the “cultures and pinnacles” of scouting.

This relationship between the scouts and members of the post gives both the opportunity to come together and pay respect to the flag. Post members also serve as teachers to help scouts earn their badges towards becoming an Eagle Scout.

Flags are collected by both boy and girl scouts throughout the year and at different events. Flags that are worn and need to be retired can be given to scouting organizations or dropped off at a Veteran of Foreign Wars (VFW) or American Legion post. ★

# Sac County Public Health Order Amended Again

Sacramento County Press Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County has an amended Public Health Order that will allow the relaxation of restrictions on low-risk businesses consistent from the direction of the State of California, to move further into Stage 3 of the state’s Resilience Roadmap. The new Public Health Order became effective at 11:59 a.m. June 12.

Sacramento County is able to move further into Stage 3 because its Variance Attestation was approved by the state on May 20.

The following activities and venues are now allowable in the amended Public Health Order as listed in Appendix B of the Order, provided they have implemented the required health and safety protocols outlined in Appendix A of the Order:

Bars and wineries; Hotels, lodging and short-term rentals; Campgrounds, RV parks and Outdoor Recreation; Gyms and fitness facilities; Pools; Museums, galleries, zoos and aquariums; Family entertainment centers; Movie theaters; Day camps; Tribal casinos; Cardrooms, satellite wagering facilities and racetracks

Additionally, businesses must include a policy for face coverings in their protocol and provide face coverings to staff when six feet of social distance is not possible.

“In spite of recent re-openings, the virus risk is still here,” said Dr. Peter Beilenson, director of Health Services. “We have seen an increase in COVID cases and hospitalizations recently, in large part due to social gatherings, and to keep these cases down we need to remember to be sensible while we’re being sociable.”

“Continue to maintain social distancing requirements of six feet or more, practice good hand hygiene, stay home as much as possible and remember that gatherings of people not from the same household inside houses are prohibited.”

The Health Order supersedes previous orders and is in effect until it is rescinded or amended by the Sacramento County Health Officer.

The best defense against COVID-19 continues to be: Staying at home and physical distancing; Wearing a face covering wherever possible; Washing hands frequently; Avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands; Avoiding being around people with COVID-19 symptoms

For questions about the Public Health Order, call the Public Health hotline at (916) 875-2400.

For more information about the County’s response to COVID-19, visit Sacramento County’s COVID-19 webpage. ★



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.

## USE ONLY SAFE & SANE FIREWORKS

Because of risk of fire danger, please only use those fireworks that have been certified as “safe and sane” when celebrating this year’s Independence Day.

Dangerous illegal fireworks like aerial shells and other flying devices pose a significant fire hazard, potentially allowing sparks to fall onto roofs and dry brush. If you are aware about illegal fireworks being used, please call the Sheriff via the non-emergency number 916-874-5115 or if an emergency situation

## FAIR OAKS COMMUNITY UPDATE

exists dial 911.

Penalties for possessing illegal fireworks start with five days in county jail – and the sanctions increase if the fireworks were actually used, or if child endangerment occurred.

Even “safe and sane” fireworks can pose a hazard if abused or not exercised with good judgment. Fire officials advise that you should set off fireworks far from dry grass or vegetation, and soak used fireworks in water.

## PARKWAY ALCOHOL BAN

This Fourth of July there will be a complete ban on alcohol consumption and possession both on land and in the water within the American River Parkway between Hazel and Watt avenues. An exception exists for Ancil Hoffman Golf Course.

In past years summer holidays had become major problems along the American River making the parkway less of a family friendly outing because of fights, public nudity, profanity and littering. The Board of Supervisors restored decorum beginning with the 2006 Labor Day weekend and the ban is also applicable for

Memorial Day weekend.

Since the restriction has taken effect, families I have talked to have expressed appreciation for making these holidays once again a time for everyone to enjoy the American River Parkway.

## PROTECT YOUR PETS

Please remember fireworks can be very stressful for your pet possibly causing fear and anxiety.

Sadly, the volume of missing pets significantly increases during the Fourth of July holiday. Leaving a pet outside unattended even in a fenced yard or on a chain can lead to disastrous consequences. In their fear, pets who normally would not leave the yard may escape and become lost, or become entangled in their chain, risking injury or death.

And please make sure your pets are wearing identification tags so if they become lost, they can be returned home promptly.

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

# FBI Seeks Information on Individuals Inciting Violence

FBI National Press Office

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG) - The FBI respects the rights of individuals to peacefully exercise their First Amendment rights. Our mission of protecting the American people and upholding the Constitution is dual and simultaneous, not contradictory.

Accordingly, we are committed to apprehending and charging violent instigators who are exploiting legitimate, peaceful protests and engaging in violations of federal law. The continued violence, potential threat to life, and destruction of property across the United States interferes with the rights and safety of First Amendment-protected

peaceful demonstrators, as well as all other citizens.

To help us identify actors who are actively instigating violence in the wake of Mr. George Floyd’s death, the FBI is accepting tips and digital media depicting violent encounters surrounding the civil unrest that is happening throughout the country.

If you witness or have witnessed unlawful violent actions, we urge you to submit any information, photos, or videos that could be relevant to the case at fbi.gov/violence.

You may also call 1-800-CALL-FBI (800-225-5324) to verbally report tips and/or information related to this investigation. ★

Continued from page 1  
need and uncertainty.

According to the latest data, in 2018, it is conservatively estimated that more than \$5 million annually is lost to financial abuse annually within Sacramento County. At least 40 percent of this is due to scams. Therefore, it is important to know the signs of fraud scams making their way through Sacramento County:

IRS: Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it can be paid through a wire transfer; Grandparent Scam: Caller claims to be the victim’s grandchild traveling in a foreign country who has been arrested and needs money; Sweepstakes/Lottery Scams: Caller says the victim is a winner and needs to make

a payment to unlock the supposed prize;

Sacramento County has a 24-hour hotline for reporting abuse of older adults and disabled adults who may be physically or financially abused, neglected or exploited. The local APS number is (916) 874-9377. To report suspected abuse of an elder in a nursing home, residential care facility for the elderly or assisted living facility, contact the State CRISIS line: 1-800-231-4024. To report abuse in all long-term care facilities, call: Ombudsman Services of Northern California at (916) 376-8910.

To download an abuse or financial abuse report form and to learn more, visit the Sacramento County Adult Protective Services website at https://dcfas.saccounty.net/ ★

# Protecting Sacramento County Seniors

# Public or Private, July 4th Fireworks will be Different

By David Dickstein

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) -** This is the first in a two-part series covering how the Sacramento Valley will celebrate Independence Day with traditional fireworks in an untraditional year. Watch for our annual fireworks buyers guide in the next issue.

Between California's months-long shelter-in-place order and other "don'ts" issued by governments of all levels during the coronavirus pandemic, citizens might feel that they're living in the home of the brave, but not so much the land of the free.

That sentiment could make this coming Independence Day the most important one since the first.

"I don't disagree with that," said John Kelly, vice president of TNT Fireworks, the nation's largest reseller of perhaps the most recognizable symbol of the Fourth of July after Old Glory. "People are feeling constrained in response to the coronavirus crisis. Social distancing has gone on since winter, and for those who have suffered through the loss of loved ones and jobs, this ordeal has been an especially painful journey."

One way humans cope through crisis is by sharing happy and entertaining physical experiences, even in the era of social distancing. It's no surprise, then, that Kelly, part of a consumer industry hoping to salvage a season, proclaimed that "celebrating America's birthday with fireworks is about as happy and entertaining as it gets."

Bought for therapeutic or patriotic purposes, consumer fireworks sold by non-profit organizations out of temporary stands in Sacramento County and other areas where legal will be how many Americans get their bang-boom on for the nation's 244th birthday. The reason is scant few of the 16,000 public fireworks displays typically staged in country on the Fourth of July are expected to go forward, according to the American Pyrotechnics Association.

"There have been widespread cancellations of Independence Day



Cash-strapped non-profits are hoping for brisk business with so few professional displays being staged this season. Photo by David Dickstein

parades, concerts and fireworks displays nationwide," said APA Executive Director Julie Heckman. "Due to social distancing mandates related to COVID-19, the skies will be dark above the vast majority of cities, towns and municipalities."

Giving a rare green light to skies of red, white and blue are the cities of Yuba City and Elk Grove, and the Folsom Chamber of Commerce. The Bi-County Fireworks Show will wow residents of Yuba City and Marysville on the Fourth. The Folsom display, taking place on July 3 above Folsom Ranch, makes up for the cancellation of a fireworks-sparked pro rodeo held every Fourth of July weekend. Further south, Elk Grove has approved an aerial show for July 4. Instead of setting off fireworks over Elk Grove Regional Park and the 22,000 or so gathered there, the staging area will be at an undisclosed location so that residents can watch from their homes.

Yuba City, Folsom and Elk Grove are lighting up, but from Rancho Cordova and Sacramento to South Lake Tahoe and Davis, aerial displays have been grounded to the disappointment of pyro fans and the detriment of pyro producers.

"The business is on life support. We are down 90 percent in sales and shows," said James Souza, CEO of industry bellwether Pyro

Spectaculars, which does have the Elk Grove gig. "Everyone wants a show but is not going to commit due to the state's public gathering policy."

At press time, hope was being held out for a show to go on in a smattering of other locations awaiting health data on the staged reopening approach. Even with favorable figures, putting on a professional firework display still might not be possible given the short fuse. "The business is on life support. We are down 90 percent in sales and shows," said James Souza, CEO of industry bellwether Pyro Spectaculars, which does have the Elk Grove gig. "Everyone wants a show but is not going to commit due to the state's public gathering policy."

At press time, hope was being held out for the show to go on in a smattering of locations awaiting health data on the staged reopening approach. Even with favorable figures, putting on a professional firework display still might not be possible given the short fuse.

"All the more reason for the general public to stock up on consumer fireworks and plan a backyard or neighborhood celebration - of course, abiding by social distancing guidelines," said the APA's Heckman.

Many of the nearly 33 jurisdictions in Sacramento, Placer, Yolo and Yuba counties warm to consumer fireworks had left existing laws as-is at press time, while others may enact a one-year moratorium on sales that has no impact on use. Best to check with your local fire department before lighting. A list of "open" communities can be found at <http://ca-fireworks.presskit247.com>.

For most of the state including Sacramento County, June 28 starts a potentially big week for non-profits that could be more cash-strapped than usual.

Whereas residents of other states can also let the sparks fly on New Year's, if not year-round, celebrating the anniversary of our country's fervent declaration of independence from Great Britain in 1776 is the occasion for which California consumers can legally light fireworks, and only the state-approved "safe and sane" variety.

Depending on ordinances in effect at the time, law-abiding revelers and sellers may need to wear masks and separate households by at least six feet during the show. Except for rules around personal protection equipment and distancing, buying fireworks may not be all that different from non-pandemic years.

"Key guidelines that will need to be met are already built in,"

said Kelly of TNT, which has its Northern California regional offices in Sacramento. "We're already selling out of stands where the volunteer salespeople and customers are separated by wood panels and chicken wire. Buyers don't touch product until purchase."

Phantom Fireworks, the state's second-largest fireworks reseller, is confident that patriotism, community support, a hunger for outdoor family amusement and the most favorable day of the week for a Fourth of July will outweigh any inconveniences associated with compliance.

"A weekend Independence Day is always great for fundraising, but with the fourth falling on a Saturday, that's even better," said Linda Hass-Kreman, Phantom's West Coast operations manager based in Sacramento. "A Saturday July Fourth means many among the workforce have that Friday off as a corporate holiday and the next day off as well being a Sunday. I think society is so ready to have fun outside the home, enjoying something separately, but together, that we're going to have one of the most special and successful fireworks seasons ever."

It's not as if the country doesn't have experience dealing with pandemics at this time of year. Smallpox, measles and other diseases had wary colonists shutting themselves in their houses at the time future president John Adams correctly predicted that the first Independence Day would be celebrated with "bonfires and illuminations."

Two and a half centuries later, American history will repeat itself when patriotic citizens ooh and aah to star-spangled fireworks under pandemic conditions.

"Fireworks are the most widely anticipated tradition of celebrating our nation's independence," Heckman said. "Americans are ready to celebrate and looking for something to do after being cooped up for so long, and many of us still are in parts of the country." ★

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## Be Aware of God's Presence

By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

A Christian believer and follower of Jesus Christ we should be continually and constantly aware of the magnificent presence of God in our lives! This morning was one of those times for me. Much too often I do assume it is so. However I am very aware that much like the world around us many never really think about it.

We pray often to be in God's will for our lives. But do we ask to be in His perfect will? The world is unaware that we can hear His voice and to follow His guidance in all our affairs? We ask for His help in the affairs of our lives, wanting God to intercede and bless our lives.

No matter what we are doing every moment of our daily lives, we need to be aware of His loving presence always with us. Yes, regardless of what we are doing God's promises surround and protect us when we walk with Him. He is always there regardless of what we are doing.

It is a miraculous wonder to know every one of us can freely talk to Him about everything, every moment of our day. Yes, because of His enormous greatness as our Creator, He loves and cares for every one of us! He hears

and knows about all of our concerns.

Knowing all God accomplished on the Cross for us, some thoughts came to me this morning as I was conversing with Him. How can I show God how much I deeply love and appreciate all He has done in my life? How can I really help others to understand His intimate personal love for them? How can I write something to spark their knowledge of His awesome love and presence in their lives and for them to understand His greatness?

Thank you Heavenly Father for every word you bless me to write. May the words you give me help someone to surrender into your loving care and to understand by accepting your love just for them! My prayer is: May they become "born-again" finding freedom from all their past sins as your Holy Spirit draws them into experiencing your magnificent personal love. Simply invite Jesus into your heart and life and accept God's beloved Son Jesus as their personal Savior and Lord of their life today!

**Marlys Johnsen Norris**  
 Christian Author of 7 Books  
 Coming: "Diamonds of God's Blessing for Life's Journey"  
 Marlysjn@gmail.com  
 PO Box 114, Orangevale, CA 95662 ★

## SMUD Clearing Trees and Brush Near High-voltage Lines



SMUD contract tree pruning workers clear high-fuel vegetation and brush under and near high-voltage transmission lines in Rescue, El Dorado County. Photo: SMUD

### SMUD Press Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - SMUD vegetation management crews are busy clearing large areas of trees with high fuel loads and elevated fire risk in the Sierra foothills under and near high-voltage transmission lines. With the 2020 fire season approaching, tree and brush work is essential to SMUD's efforts to mitigate wildfire danger during the hot summer months.

Crews working in the Rescue area east of El Dorado Hills are conducting the latest in planned vegetation management work in El Dorado County that's been going on for several years. SMUD owns rights-of-way in its transmission line corridors that span forested areas all the way to Loon Lake in the Crystal Basin area.

The transmission lines move electricity from SMUD's hydroelectric plants in the Upper American River Project (UARP), which produce about 700 megawatts of electricity or about 20 percent of SMUD's customer demand. This carbon-free resource is especially valuable in the hot summer months when air conditioning load in SMUD's service territory can push demand to near peak levels.

Though SMUD doesn't serve El Dorado County, the community-owned electric company works directly with property owners to plan the work, which in some cases crosses private property near homes and businesses including orchards and vineyards. In many cases, property owners request the removal of trees and brush on their properties

as wildfire danger has become considerably more threatening in recent years.

"Managing this vegetation near our transmission lines that feed the SMUD grid is critical to keeping our system reliable," said SMUD Chief Energy Delivery Officer Frankie McDermott. "This exhaustive planning and work execution also go a long way in mitigating potential wildfire danger."

In fact, SMUD's comprehensive approach to vegetation management using industry best practices has delivered life- and property-saving results. The work aided firefighters in gaining control of the King Fire in 2014, which impacted SMUD's transmission lines near Camino. A key turning point came as SMUD's already-managed transmission line rights-of-way provided critical fire breaks for firefighters to stop the fire's spread. CAL FIRE officials even publicly acknowledged SMUD's vegetation management programs as critical factors in protecting the foothill communities of Camino, Pollock Pines and Apple Hill from the catastrophic King Fire.

SMUD patrols these lines annually, by truck, on foot and by helicopter. To identify trees proven to be historically associated with causing power outages. SMUD uses Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology and a helicopter to efficiently and strategically pinpoint those trees for pruning or removal that are within defined clearance limits of SMUD's power poles, towers and lines. LiDAR measures distance to a target by illuminating it with an FAA-approved pulsed laser light and measuring the

reflected pulse – like SONAR but with light instead of sound – producing digital 3D pictures of the target. The imaging technology is even capable of identifying chlorophyll, which makes plants green and is an accurate measurement of plant health, which is utilized to identify potential hazards from weak, dying or dead trees, the result of recent drought years.

SMUD also manages trees and brush below and near clearances in the neighborhoods with overhead lines in the SMUD service territory at least every 36 months. Some trees grow faster, and any potential situation that can cause an outage or safety issue is prioritized and addressed to ensure public safety and reliability.

Trees are beautiful and provide excellent natural benefits including comfort and energy savings from the shading canopy, but their growth needs to be managed in an environmentally friendly way. The elected SMUD Board of Directors makes Environmental Stewardship a Core Value. SMUD's "Do No Harm" edict coincides with public safety and electric reliability.

SMUD has also been recognized by the Right-of-Way Stewardship Council (ROWSC) for demonstrated excellence in managing the vegetation growth near the SMUD electrical system.

Remember, during this time of heightened concern over COVID-19, if you see our field personnel out, please greet them from afar with a thumbs up or a wave.

For more information about SMUD and its vegetation management programs, visit SMUD.org. ★



By County Supervisor Sue Frost

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

The killing of George Floyd was horrific - and the officers responsible have been arrested and will stand trial. But now politicians and activists are blaming everyone in a uniform. "Defund the police" has become the rallying call for protesters.

Activists want to strip money from law-enforcement, disband police, close jails and prisons, then divert public funds to community groups, counselors, and social workers for "community empowerment." What does that mean? It means instead of police and sheriffs enforcing the law, taxpayer funds will go to private non-profits run by activists and programs like "Advance Peace" which pays gang members \$500 a month not to shoot each other.

How will reducing the number of police officers make the community safer? In 2018, police officers arrested 11,970 murderers, 495,900 violent criminals, and more than 1 million drunk drivers. In February of this year, a months-long investigation resulted in 518 arrests when police smashed a human trafficking ring and rescued hundreds of children who were being sold into prostitution. Do activists think that councilors and community groups are going to detain violent gang members, break human trafficking rings, or get drunk drivers off

## GOLD RIVER COMMUNITY UPDATE

### Defunding Police isn't the Answer

our roads? No alternative to an organized, well-funded, and well-trained police force offers enforcement ability on such a high level.

In Los Angeles, Mayor Eric Garcetti recently announced that he was going to "defund police" by cutting \$150 million from the LAPD budget. Cities like San Francisco, Portland, Minneapolis, and Baltimore have announced that they will pursue efforts to "defund police." Political "leaders" in Congress and State Houses have echoed the call and introduced legislation to cut funding for law enforcement - or punish jurisdictions who refuse to do so.

The vast majority of police budgets go to personnel, so the budget cut means one thing: firing police officers. Which officers will be fired? A common practice for addressing mass budget reductions through layoffs and that has been used by the LAPD in the past is LIFO (last in, first out). That means that Garcetti's "defund" policy will result in firing recent recruits - young black, Asian and Latino officers who were recruited from, and reflect, the very neighborhoods who are underrepresented and suffer the most from crime.

Sadly, this movement is not new. In 2015 Camden New Jersey pushed a "defund police" measure. They dismantled their department and disbanded the police officers' union. They placed some activists in oversight positions and hired most the police back - at a lower salary. Some believe the effort was really more about breaking the union than reforming the system. Today, many of the same complaints have returned.

Eliminating law enforcement is the opposite of a

solution - we cannot abandon our communities to the whims of gangs and criminals who prey on neighborhoods. We do need to encourage investment in poor neighborhoods where crime is rampant, schools are failing, and hope is abandoned. Empowerment zones, school choice, and incentives for investment have seen tremendous success.

Communities that partner with police, rather than fight with them, have seen a marked improvement in crime reduction, complaints against police, and more recruitment of people from the community into law enforcement - community members who have relationships and earnestly want to make lives better - and have the training to enforce the law.

This rush to respond to "defund police" activists is not reform - it is retribution and appeasement. And it is dangerous. The result will be every community and every resident will be less safe.

We need more community engagement and understanding, not less. We should be investing in more training, recruiting, and community engagement, not eliminating prisons and defunding police.

Thank you for reading - and as always, if you want to contact me, call me at 916-874-5491, or e-mail me at SupervisorFrost@saccounty.net.

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 Oaks. ★

## Thank You Kiwanis Club!



Pictured are members of the Orangevale - Fair Oaks Kiwanis Club and the About Kidz program staff as Kiwanis delivered 24 scooters and helmets to children like the Soloman sisters. The mission of Kiwanis is supporting children worldwide and in our own backyard. When asked about the scooters, the girls replied, "Thank You Kiwanis Club!" Photo courtesy Tim Engle

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with Mary Jane Popp

## BRAIN POWER

Do you feel like your concentration is not what it used to be? Do you think your brain power is waning? Would you like some ways to maximize your mental health, no matter what your age? And by the way, it won't take a pill to do it. That's what Dr. Susan Smith-Jones shared with me on my POPPOFF Radio Show recently. She has made extraordinary contributions in the fields of holistic health, anti-aging, and balanced living. She's author of more than thirty books, including "Kitchen Gardening," "Be the Change," "Choose to Thrive," "Invest in Yourself with Exercise," and her latest "Wired for High Level Wellness." So here are ten ways you can start your journey to maximize your mental health and improve your brain power.

**1) ADD AN APPLE A DAY.** A Cornell University study says this much-loved fruit has a potent antioxidant called quercetin that protects

brain cells from free-radical damage. **2) BE A BERRY FANTATIC.** Find ways to add all kinds of berries to the foods you already eat, either fresh or frozen. Enjoy them in smoothies, fruit salads, cereals, desserts, or simply as a snack. Blueberries are known as the "brain berry." Just one half cup a day retards brain aging and can reverse failing memory. **3) PREVENT MEMORY LOSS WITH HERBAL SUPPORT.** Ginkgo biloba increases mental clarity and clears up headaches. It contains terpene lactones that increase circulation to the brain and other parts of the body. **4) BANANAS AND BRAINPOWER.** Bananas will enhance your brainpower well into your golden years. They are rich in potassium and B6 and assist learning by making us more alert. **5) EAT SPINACH – THE WONDER FOOD.** Spinach helps vision and memory loss. The fat soluble nutrients in spinach like vitamins A, D and E keep your mind sharp. Guess POPEYE knew what he was talking about. **6) ALMONDS GIVE YOU NEEDED MAGNESIUM.** Almonds are rich in omega-3 fatty acids, a form of unsaturated fat that helps improve

memory and mental performance and may defend against Alzheimers. In addition, they are a great source of vitamin E, another memory enhancer. **7) USE ROSEMARY TO REMEMBER.** You may have heard the old saying "rosemary for remembrance." Rosemary is full of antioxidants that will keep your memory sharp. **8) EXERCISE FOR LIFE.** Exercise is imperative if you want to keep your mind strong and healthy well into your "goldenite" years. It keeps your mind alert, focused and strong. **9) GET REST AND STAY HYDRATED.** Ample sleep and purified water are essential for brain vitality. **10) INDULGE IN JOYOUS ACTIVITIES.** Reading, crossword puzzles, chess, backgammon and checkers all support brain health. Try to learn a new word daily. It's simple, but you have to take the initiative to get started. You can check out [www.susansmithjones.com](http://www.susansmithjones.com) for more information, and DON'T FORGET to sign up for her free newsletter with all kinds of great health hints and positive talk. Get that brain power going strong now and for many years to come!!! ★

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## Elder Abuse

We don't talk about it, but there are more than 200,000 cases in California annually

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- ◆ Financial Abuse
- ◆ Mental Abuse
- ◆ Neglect
- ◆ Abandonment
- ◆ Isolation

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## AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

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Subscriptions should be mailed to:  
 American River Messenger  
 7144 Fair Oaks Blvd., Suite #5, Carmichael, CA 95608.

Subscription rate is \$28 per year in Fair Oaks and Orangevale. The *American River Messenger* is published twice-monthly.  
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(ISSN # 1948-1950) **MPG**

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## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • COCKTAILS AND MOCKTAILS

**Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 6**

**CLUES**

**ACROSS**

- Angelou and Rudolph
- Mason's lead
- Bobby Pickett's "Monster"
- Infection from contaminated water or food
- Formerly Cassius Clay
- Slow, musically speaking
- Ste. Marie, Ontario
- Bonding words
- Like draft beer
- Cognac, orange liqueur, lemon juice
- Tropical cocktail favorite
- Motion of approval
- Home of pisco sour
- Smoker's residue
- Big butte
- It has both white and dark rum
- Popular BBQ side
- Pea houses
- Hold your drink aloft in honor
- "Downton Abbey" countess
- Subject of 17th century Dutch mania
- Cote d'Azur locale
- Teatro alla Scala offering
- Sushi selection
- Kind of jeans fit
- She famously disliked the eponymous drink
- Chesterfield or ulster
- Bro's sib
- Long and lean
- Petting spot
- Negroni and boulevardier ingredient
- Time for the big bowl games
- Unethical loaner's practice
- Designed to guarantee equal rights
- Cooler manufacturer
- #38 Down, pl.
- Atlantic catch
- Musical ensemble
- Rodeo Drive tree
- It's of the beholder
- Rosetta Stone, e.g.

**DOWN**

- Difficult situation
- Antioxidant-rich berry
- Common contraction
- Kind of wrench
- TV's popular portmanteau
- Let it down to relax?
- fashioned
- D in LED
- Take-out handout
- Nay sayer
- Sun, e.g.
- Indigenous people of northeast Arizona
- Nespolino fruit
- Highly skilled
- Elbow rest
- Portable lock
- Fancy tie
- Ski run
- Sheik's bevy
- Whiskey
- Charged particles
- Flip side, pl.
- Binary digits code
- Things on a list
- "Star Trek" speed
- Fodder holder
- Eloise's residence
- Quiets
- Otitis organ
- Popular mixer, pl.
- Brother's daughter
- Should
- Turning point
- World's largest continent
- To warm wine or cider and add spices
- Junior ball
- Green gemstone
- Burn-soothing plant
- Agitate
- Yesteryear
- First name in cola and grenadine

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**Solutions on Page 6**

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## Find Puzzles on Page 6

M	A	Y	A	S	H	O	D	M	A	S	H				
E	C	O	L	I	A	L	I	L	E	N	T	O			
S	A	U	L	T	I	D	O	O	N	T	A	P			
S	I	D	E	C	A	R	D	A	Q	U	I	R	I		
					N	O	D		P	E	R	U			
A	S	H			M	E	S	A		M	A	I	T	A	I
S	L	A	W		P	O	D	S		T	O	A	S	T	
C	O	R	A		T	U	L	I	P		N	I	C	E	
O	P	E	R	A		R	O	L	L		S	L	I	M	
T	E	M	P	L	E		C	O	A	T		S	I	S	
							L	A	N	K		Z	O	O	
C	A	M	P	A	R	I		J	A	N	U	A	R	Y	
U	S	U	R	Y		E	R	A		I	G	L	O	O	
S	I	L	O	S		C	O	D		C	H	O	I	R	
P	A	L	M			E	Y	E		S	T	E	L	E	

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## Sudoku Puzzle on Page 6

7	1	6	3	5	9	4	8	2
5	4	3	7	2	8	6	9	1
2	9	8	6	1	4	5	3	7
6	3	2	5	8	7	9	1	4
1	5	9	2	4	6	8	7	3
8	7	4	9	3	1	2	5	6
3	2	1	8	6	5	7	4	9
4	8	7	1	9	2	3	6	5
9	6	5	4	7	3	1	2	8



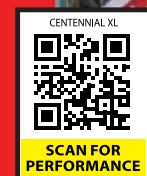


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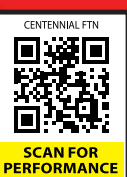


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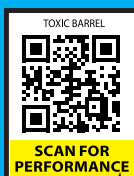
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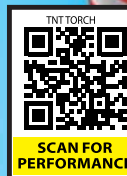
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