



County Streamlines COVID-19 Contact Tracing

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Carmichael Times

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HIDDEN HABITS OF GENIUSES

By Mary Jane Popp



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The Count Continues No Turkey for You!



Candidates Gregg Fishman (left) and Rich Desmond met pre-election in Carmichael Park.

Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - With many thousands of votes still to be counted at the time of this publication, District 3 is still on tenterhooks to learn who its new County Supervisor will be.

Candidates were practically neck and neck on election night, with SMUD director Gregg Fishman slightly ahead of former CHP Chief commander Rich Desmond.

When the vote count was announced at 8 pm, Fishman had an advantage of more than 2500 votes. The gap had closed to 1875 by 10 pm and was further whittled to 1972 by midnight. Two hours later, a refreshed tally had shrunk the lead to 1372. Desmond achieved 63 per cent of almost 4,300 votes counted after 8 pm but at that stage,

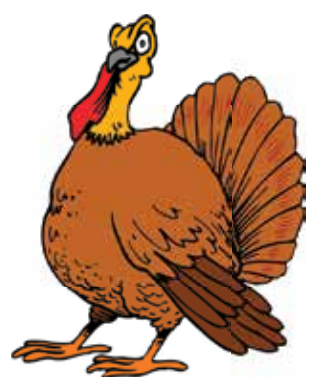
40,000 ballots were still unopened.

The Independent candidate, who spoke at his Fair oaks Boulevard headquarters on election night, told supporters "We've all done our best and we must be patient. During the campaign I've met wonderful people - people who are working hard because they really care about the County. That's given me lots of hope for the future and I hope I'll be there at County level to support their efforts." Desmond noted apparent ballot trends and expressed optimism. "We might not know the final results until next week," he said. My wife and I plan to go away for a few days. Yes, they'll be anxious days and I might be on the phone a lot. But we'll try to relax."

Gregg Fishman (D) spent Tuesday night quietly at home, watching election coverage with his wife. "It was a different experience

than what I had hoped for eight months ago," he said. "I feel optimistic about the results, but it's too early to say." In the meantime, the candidate is helping to organize the collection of thousands of campaign signs littering Sacramento streets. This Saturday, he'll join volunteers delivering these now redundant objects to the Habitat for Humanity store (819 N 10th St, Sacramento). That afternoon, anyone may go to the store and nab as many of the corrugated plastic placards (for art projects or other use) as they want. "They're not recyclable, unfortunately," explains Fishman. "But they're made of durable material and they're good for something. We want to try to keep as many out of the landfill as possible."

Learn about signage disposal by emailing Fishman at gbfishman@gmail.com ★



By Mat Staver, Founder and Chairman Liberty Council

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

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

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

CA's Outrageous Thanksgiving Restrictions

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

The mandatory restrictions for Thanksgiving gatherings include:

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

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SAFE Dedicates a Week to Building CommYOUUnity

By Carole Ferguson, SAFE Credit Union

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

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

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



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

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

More than 170 SAFE employees selected from the many socially distanced and remote volunteer opportunities SAFE scheduled to support 11 local nonprofits that align with SAFE's philanthropic pillars of health, education, and

current and former military personnel. Activities included making no-sew blankets for Hands4Hope; writing words of encouragement and journal prompts for City Year; stocking shelves for Placer Food Bank and Sacramento

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Sacramento Native Checks in with Naval Command in Europe



Lieutenant Kevin Skelly stands proud as a naval flight officer responsible for flying an EP-3 reconnaissance plane. Photo: Navy Office of Community Outreach

By Megan Brown, Navy Office of Community Outreach

NAPLES, ITALY (MPG) - Six years ago, Lieutenant Kevin Skelly joined the Navy because he always wanted to fly and wanted to be fulfilled in his job, and has now checked onboard Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa.

Skelly is a naval flight officer responsible for flying an EP-3 plane.

"I'm the quarterback of the plane, running the mission and putting the plane in areas to be successful," said Skelly.

"I just got out here in 6th Fleet, but it's been great going out of my comfort zone, living overseas for three years and seeing a whole new part of the Navy," said Skelly. "I'm excited to work as a staff officer and see a different part of the Navy. The travel, food and wine in Italy doesn't hurt either."

Skelly is a 2008 Rio Americano High School graduate, a 2012 Cal Poly San Luis Obispo graduate and a native of

to Antarctica; as well as the Adriatic, Baltic, Barents, Black, Caspian, Mediterranean and North Seas.

"I am confident we will maximize the Navy we have today while delivering the Navy that our nation will rely upon tomorrow," said Gilday. "And we will do so with urgency. Our fleet will be a potent, formidable force that competes around the world every day, deterring those who would challenge us while reassuring our allies and partners."

There are many opportunities for sailors to earn recognition in their command, community and careers. Skelly is most proud of commissioning as an officer, getting his wings, getting fully qualified as a Senior Evaluator and Mission Commander, and receiving a chief coin.

As a member of the U.S. Navy, Skelly, as well as other sailors, know they are a part of a service tradition providing unforgettable experiences through leadership development, world affairs and humanitarian assistance. Their efforts will have a lasting effect around the globe and for generations of sailors who will follow.

"Being in the Navy means respecting something bigger than myself," said Skelly. "Serving my country has been such an honor and something I'll never forget. Also, it's been really cool meeting people from all over the U.S. and seeing how they were raised and what they believe in." ★

Sacramento, California.

According to Skelly, the values required to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Sacramento.

"California is a very diverse area with so many different geographic areas not too far from each other," said Skelly. "I think that prepared me for going all over the world and seeing the different cultures. Also, my parents always told me to treat people with respect, so I try to live by that."

With more than 90 percent of all trade traveling by sea, and 95 percent of the world's international phone and internet traffic carried through fiber optic cables lying on the ocean floor, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity and security of the United States is directly linked to a strong and ready Navy.

The Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa (NAVEURNAVAF) area of responsibility (AOR) covers approximately half of the Atlantic Ocean, from the North Pole

Check Out the Future of Barrett Middle School



The school district will transform the elementary school into a true state-of-the-art middle school campus. Image courtesy of SJUSD

San Juan Unified School District

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - A new science building, multipurpose room, and improved onsite traffic lanes and parking areas are the cornerstone pieces of a Barrett Middle School modernization project that is expected to break ground in 2021.

The project, funded by the district's bond program, will also include a full modernization of current classrooms and a renovation of the current multipurpose room to become a food court.

The San Juan Unified facilities team is continuing to accept feedback from staff members and neighbors on the project, but an animated video of what the campus will look like upon completion has been released by the project's designer, WLC Architects. See bottom of the article for the video.

"It's really exciting and a great opportunity for our students to be able to get new classrooms, a new science wing with state-of-the-art instructional space. We're getting a new gym that will bring a middle school gym experience as well," Principal Amy Alexander-Carter said. "Also, we are really excited that we will have a bigger parking lot to increase the flow of traffic and improve the experience

of coming in and out of school."

San Juan Unified Director of Facilities Construction & Modernization Nic Arps said the modernization at Barrett will "transform what was really the bones of an elementary school being used as a middle school, and turn that into a true middle school campus."

Full features of the project will include: Brand new construction of a science building; Brand new construction of a multipurpose room/gymnasium; The current multipurpose room will be a modernized food court; Removal of portables and outdated classrooms to make room for more usable outdoor space (quad area); Full renovation of all remaining classrooms to bring them up to 21st century standards; Modernized administration building on the front corner of campus; Fencing that enforces a single entry point through the administration building; Expanded parking lots with traffic lanes designed for better circulation during pickup and drop-off times.

For updates on the Barrett Middle School modernization project, visit www.sanjuan.edu/barrettmod.

For animation video see www.youtube.com/watch?v=gslsxNeCdvU&feature=youtu.be ★



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Hidden Habits of Geniuses

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

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

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

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



By Noah Howard

One of the longest running series in video games, *Assassin's Creed* has always prided itself on its diversity of settings and protagonists. The series has created big-budget games that star a Native American man, an African American woman, and an Egyptian man, and fans of the series have consistently called for more of this type of representation that is woefully absent in most major video games. *Assassin's Creed*, as a franchise, has more potential to explore diverse stories than most other series, as the games are mostly-independent works of historical fiction that take place anywhere and anytime in human history.

But as I near the end of my playthrough of the beautiful and thrilling *Assassin's Creed Origins* (set in ancient Egypt), I'm forced to reflect on a major barrier for diversity in the series as it goes forward: I don't really know what's going on.

Part of the appeal of the *Assassin's Creed* franchise is the ability for the protagonist to become involved in recognizable historical events alongside famous names from history. *Origins* does not disappoint in that regard, choosing to set its events during the tumultuous decline of Egypt's Ptolemaic dynasty. But though I recognize key names like Cleopatra and Caesar, as I play the game I realize that my

Game Plots History and Diversity in Assassin's Creed

images of these characters are more informed by Shakespeare than by actual history. My grasp on the history of Egypt is tenuous at best.

Contrast this with my experience playing *Assassin's Creed III*, a game set during the American Revolution. I battled with American rebels on Bunker Hill, I threw tea into the harbor during the Boston Tea Party, and I shivered alongside decrepit soldiers at Valley Forge. My familiarity with the history of the setting made my experience infinitely more valuable.

But this creates a problem for Ubisoft, the developers of *Assassin's Creed*. The games are made for a Western market, and Westerners (like myself) are often unfamiliar with many periods in history outside the West. Fans have been clamoring for a major *Assassin's Creed* game set in China or India, but if one came along, it would face an audience largely ignorant of the historical significance of the events and people those games would try to recreate. As a result of what stories are told in our education system, the primary market for *Assassin's Creed* games remains clueless of many beautiful, epic settings throughout history that would make for incredible experiences.

As a result, the newest game in the series (releasing in just a few weeks) is the umpteenth entry based somewhere in Europe, where the majority of people who play

the game are more likely to feel familiar with the setting and time period. This leaves Ubisoft with a conundrum: do they take it upon themselves to fill the gaps in education to help us enjoy more diverse settings and stories?

The answer, perhaps, is that they already have. Though *Assassin's Creed Origins* doesn't do a great job of catching me up with its historical context, further games could surely do better. And despite this failing, as a result of the game I took it upon myself to research for myself what was going on, learning Egyptian history in the process that I never otherwise would have touched. Additionally, *Assassin's Creed* games have begun to include "Discovery Tour" modes that convert their worlds into interactive history lessons rather than festivals of blood and violence. These modes recognize that, apart from simply being fun, these games have the potential to fill gaps in our historical education in important ways.

Combined, these efforts may be sufficient to inform ignorant players like myself. If Ubisoft keeps up this trend of placing a value on communicating historical context within their games, I hope that they can find a Western audience for more settings outside the West. If so, I hope to enjoy more exploring and learning come the next entry in the series. ★

ASK THE DMV



What you need to know about accessing DMV services online

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the DMV is prioritizing customer and employee safety and increasing the number of transactions that can be completed without a visit to a DMV field office. The DMV has several channels to better serve customers, including self-service options online or at DMV kiosks, the ability to complete transactions online or over the phone with help from a DMV representative, or via a DMV business partner so that customers can "visit" the DMV by other means. The following questions address the most convenient ways to access DMV services and complete essential transactions without stepping foot in a field office.

Q: MY DRIVER'S LICENSE IS EXPIRING SOON. CAN I RENEW MY LICENSE ONLINE?

A: Yes, you can renew your license online. Governor Gavin Newsom signed executive orders waiving in-person renewals for eligible driver's license and identification cardholders who had reached their maximum out-of-office renewals. With that waiver in effect for the length of California's State of Emergency, or until modified, nearly all California drivers younger than age 70 are eligible to renew their license online or by mail. The DMV is providing an automatic one-year extension to drivers age 70 and older with a non-commercial driver's license with an expiration date between March 1 and December 31, 2020. The California Department of Motor Vehicles is encouraging eligible Californians to renew their driver's licenses online and avoid visiting DMV field offices at this time, even if their mailed renewal notice states an office visit is required. You can start the process by visiting dmv.ca.gov and clicking on "Driver License & ID Cards."

However, Californians applying for a REAL ID for the first time must visit a field office to complete their transaction. The DMV strongly encourages REAL ID applicants to fill out the online application, upload the required documents and bring their confirmation code with them before their office visit. To get started, please visit: realid.dmv.ca.gov.

Learn more about online license renewals at www.dmv.ca.gov.

Q: I AM A SENIOR OVER THE AGE OF 70 WITH A DRIVER'S LICENSE THAT IS ABOUT TO EXPIRE. DOES THE DMV REQUIRE IN-PERSON VISITS FOR CUSTOMERS OVER AGE 70, OR CAN I RENEW MY LICENSE ONLINE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE?

A: The California Department of Motor Vehicles is working hard to help Californians stay safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, and senior drivers are no exception.

The DMV is providing an automatic one-year extension to drivers age 70 and older with a non-commercial driver's license with an expiration date between March 1 and December 31, 2020. This action delays the requirement for many seniors to visit a DMV office during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the new extensions are automatic, drivers will not receive a new card or paper extension in the mail. As an option, drivers can request a free temporary paper extension online beginning July 15 through DMV's website, though it is not needed to drive. Californians with a suspended license are not eligible.

Drivers over the age of 70 can find information on DMV services, safety guidelines, and other resources by visiting www.dmv.ca.gov/seniors.

No Turkey for You!

Continued from page 1

shouting are strongly discouraged, but if they occur, a face covering must be worn. And the singing should be quiet.

•Instrumental music is allowed but no wind instruments.

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

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

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

to respond.

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

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

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

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

For more information see LC.org ★

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This charming single-story home is tucked away in a fabulous Carmichael neighborhood. A sprawling green lawn and welcoming front porch add to this home's great curb appeal! Step inside to a spacious floor plan with three bedrooms and two baths, two spacious living areas, a dining area, and a roomy kitchen with a new garbage disposal and Bosch dishwasher. Enjoy light-filled living spaces, newly refinished hardwood flooring and dual pane windows, recently insulated attic, and a fully remodeled master bath and partially updated guest bathroom. Relax and unwind in the private backyard with an expansive newly built deck that overlooks an assortment of fruit trees and a beautiful garden. *Must see!*



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

Continued from page 1
Food Bank and Family Services; writing letters to Snowline Hospice clients; creating Welcome Home kits for Sacramento Self Help Housing; and other projects supporting St. John's Program for Real Change, Wellsprings Women's Center, St. Vincent de Paul, and HOPE Counseling.

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

SAFE also extended emergency financial services to its members including no- to low-cost



Dina Garcia, a manager with SAFE Credit Union Card Services, joins other SAFE Credit Union employees at Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services. Photo: Safe Credit Union

loans and payment deferral options on certain loans and credit cards to help them cope with lost wages during the pandemic.

"SAFE truly cares about our members, their neighbors, and all the communities we serve,"

Merz said. "I'm pleased that SAFE launched what I expect will become an annual week dedicated to helping our region thrive."

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



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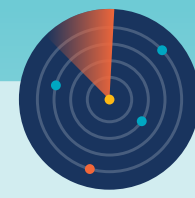
PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF (PSPS) is a statewide effort to prevent wildfires by proactively turning off power to communities when severe weather is forecast. As California battles historic wildfires, a Public Safety Power Shutoff is just one of many tools that PG&E uses to help keep customers and communities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

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



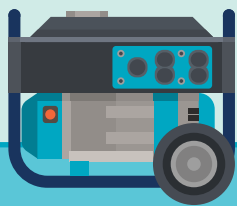
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To learn more ways to prepare for a Public Safety Power Shutoff, visit safetyactioncenter.pge.com

Does More Money Mean Better Schools?



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

wealth and comparatively high tax revenues?"

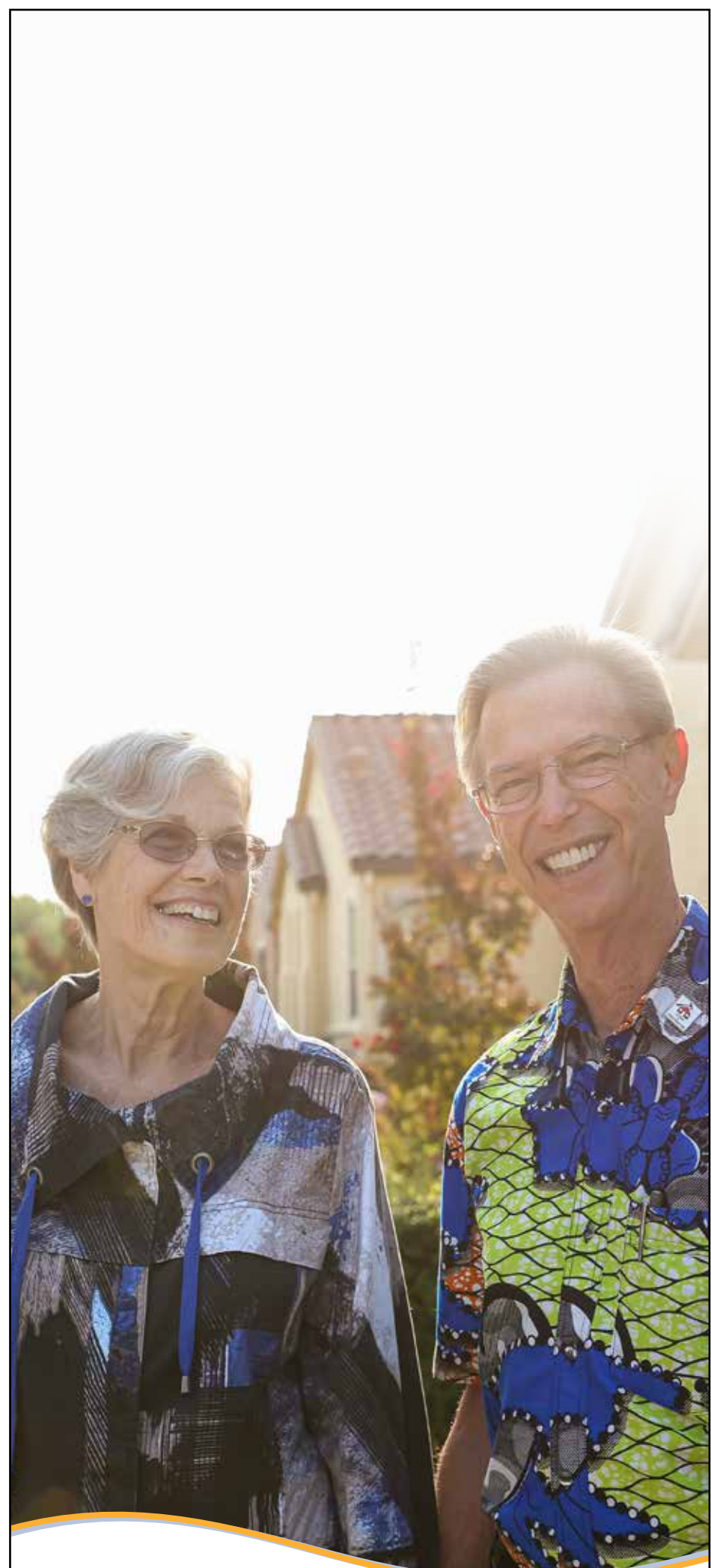
The report's charts appear to be accurate as far as they go. But they don't go far enough because they are confined to financial comparisons on the questionable assumption, also reflected in the 2018 study, that money automatically equates to educational achievement.

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

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

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

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



Requirements for Students to Enter IB Middle Years Diplomat Program

San Juan Unified School District

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

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

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

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

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

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

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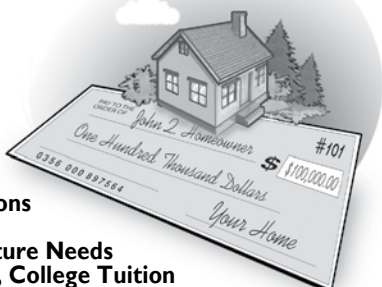


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WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



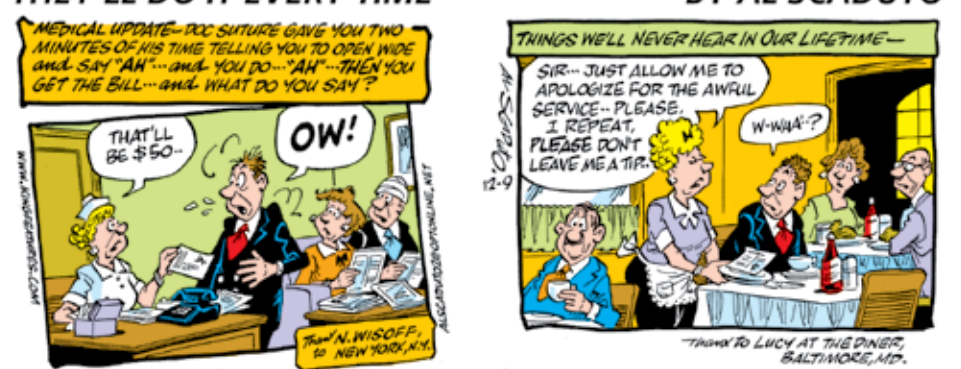
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



SCHOOL DAZE

EVERY DAY HIGH-SCHOOLER WOMBO LUGS HOME A BAG FULL OF BOOKS TO STUDY, RIGHT? HEH-HEN-NOW IT'S FOOTBALL NIGHT TIME--AND HIS BOOKS--TAKE A LOOK--ARE STILL IN HIS CARRY-ALL BOOK BAG--STILL UNTOUCHED, UNOPENED AND UNCRACKED--ASK MOM AND DAD--THEY'LL TELL YOU--



CRIM THE BIAR IT

LAFF-A-DAY



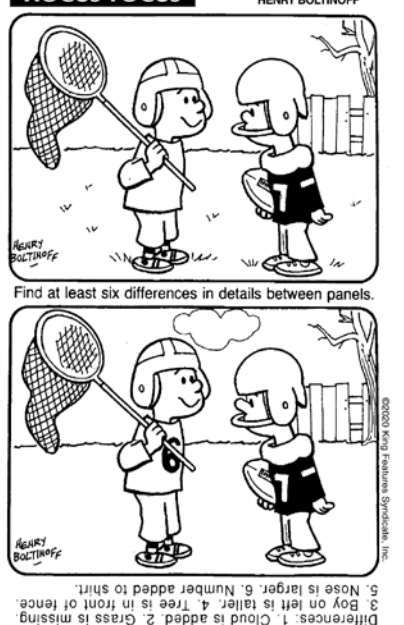
Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTONOFF



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Sacramento County Streamlines COVID-19 Contact Tracing

Sacramento County Public Information Office

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

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

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

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

Personal health information from positive cases will not be shared with



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

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

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

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

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

COVID19@sacounty.net or visit the Sacramento County COVID-19 webpage.

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

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

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

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