



**Doggy Dash
Registration
Opens Now!**

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PROUDLY SERVING RANCHO CORDOVA & SACRAMENTO COUNTY SINCE 1968

MARCH 12, 2021

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REOPENING PLANS**



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Colleges Begin Vaccinations

But likely won't require immunization



Sacramento State nursing student Amanda Clark administers a COVID-19 vaccine to Denisse Ambriz, a graduate from the Master of Social Work program at Sacramento State University on Jan. 29, 2021. Photo by Rahul Lal for CalMatters

**By Matthew Reagan,
Zaeem Shaikh, Shehreen Karim,
Ryan Loyola, Elena Shao And
Mallika Seshadri, CALMatters**

In mid-January, science education professor Al Schademan received one of around 2,000 emails sent to faculty, student employees and essential staff at California State University, Chico. The email contained a surprise for Schademan: He would be among the first higher education employees in California to gain coveted access to the coronavirus vaccine.

Within a couple weeks, Schademan was climbing a back stairway at the 298-bed Enloe Medical Center, where in a room above the hospital cafe he received his first shot of the Pfizer vaccine, an adventure he said felt like participating in a covert operation.

Getting vaccinated was a relief,

said Schademan, who's now considering teaching in-person in the fall.

"I'm just hopeful we can get back to normal, because staring at a computer all day is not fun," he said.

Chico State is one of at least three California State University campuses offering the coronavirus vaccine to faculty, staff or student employees. Other California colleges may soon follow as the state's vaccine rollout continues and supply increases. But most colleges and universities say they're not likely to require members of the campus community to be vaccinated – even as they plan to ramp up in-person learning.

Educators qualify for vaccine prioritization in the current 1B phase of California's vaccine rollout. Vaccine availability varies by county, however, meaning some colleges have been able to begin immunizations while others

still await guidance from local health officials. Vaccination is key to colleges' reopening plans given previous coronavirus outbreaks fueled by students gathering in dorms and off-campus housing. The state will begin transitioning to a new vaccine distribution system overseen by health insurer Blue Shield, which officials say will create more consistency among counties.

Chico State was able to vaccinate faculty and staff because the local Butte County Public Health Department has moved swiftly through the vaccination process. The county is on track to finish vaccinating K-12 employees in March, and has also offered doses to instructors at Butte College and technical schools, said communications manager Lisa Almaguer.

CSU and University of California campuses are also helping distribute

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A Financial Bite Much Worse Than The Bark

By Chris Ching

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - Man's best friend was the hot subject at the March 1 Rancho Cordova City Council Meeting.

More specifically, the council heard and discussed information provided by Craig Hall the city's Senior Animal Services Officer. With the goal to increase safety for people and pets, Officer Hall spoke on improving what constitutes a Potentially Dangerous Animal (PDA) and Vicious Animal. He also talked about adjusting the licensee fees for owning animals designated as such.

While the codes apply to more than just dogs, dogs were almost solely the focus of discussion. As Vice President Donald Terry duly remarked it's "rare to have a vicious cat."

Currently the Rancho Cordova Municipal Code (RCMC) states, a Vicious Animal, in part, is any animal involved in organized animal fighting. Since this would even apply to puppies not yet trained for combat or older dogs used as "bait" in training who are in the same household as fighting dogs, Officer Hall stated it would be better to "evaluate each animal on its own merit and then place them accordingly."

Conversely, a Potentially Dangerous Animal is only designated when it concerns defensive actions taken to prevent bodily injury by a person, but Officer Hall recommended expanding this definition to include other animals. He also felt the number of two "killings" of another animal in a three year period required to use the designation should be reduced from two to one.

Finally, Officer Hall spoke on the need for a special permit application process and conditions/safety measures for PDA and Vicious Animals. As it stands now, the owner of the animals only needs to pay a fee.

"There's no review of an application and ability to deny it for public safety reasons," said Officer Hall.

He also mentioned a similar lack of oversight in PDA and Vicious Animals who are brought into Rancho Cordova from other cities.

Stepping one foot out of the realm of PDA and Vicious Animals, Officer Hall reported the high cost of licensing fees for unaltered animals is resulting in owners of neutered or spayed pets simply not licensing them. In Folsom, the fee is only \$30

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DA: Let's All Remember the Victims of Crime



Anne Marie Schubert

**By Shelly Orio,
Sacramento County
District Attorney's Office**

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert announces the "2021: Year for Victims" campaign to recognize victims of crime and ensure that they are not forgotten by the criminal justice system, legislators, public officials, the media or the community.

The campaign will be rolled-out on a local, state and national level and led, in part, by a coalition representing the voices of

victims and survivors.

Called "Voices for Victims," the coalition consists of members who have their own personal experience with the criminal justice system and have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to achieving justice for themselves or a loved one. It also includes community leaders who advocate for victims of violent crime. Coalition members are: Dr. Nicole Clavo – People v. Lindsey; Karen Johnson – People v. Dunn; Melissa Oliver Storz – People v. Bracamontes; Bob Canady – People v. Hronis and Bertsch; Nicole W. – Mother of Sexual Assault Victim; Keith Dobson & Tamra Dobson – Parents of DV Murder Victim; Paduacee Vue – People v. Vang; Tammy Johnson – People v. White; Roberta Sanchez – People v. Sanchez; Kristie Kiefer – Victims of Crime Case Manager, CASH; Rhonda Campbell

– Victim Services Specialist, MADD/People v. Winnett; Rachelle Dittmore – Co-Founder, City of Refuge; Joyce Bilyeu – Director of Client Services, Family Justice Center; Misty Foster – Chapter Leader, Sacramento Chapter of Parents of Murdered Children (POMC); Mervin Brookins – Co-Founder & CEO, Brother to Brother; Nina Acosta – Program Manager, District Attorney Victim Witness Program.

The coalition's mission is to ensure that in the pursuit of criminal justice reform the survivors are not forgotten, and the voices of victims are heard. Members serve as liaisons and advocates for victims by sharing their personal stories and supporting legislation, enforcement, funding and resources that will help victims obtain justice.

The website www.VoicesforVictims.org was created to provide more

information about the coalition and its members as well as videos and resources.

Other components of the campaign will include a broad, coordinated social media campaign and an online book highlighting "Profiles in Courage." These profiles will shine a spotlight on the long journey victims, survivors and advocates must travel in obtaining justice.

DA Anne Marie Schubert states, "As District Attorney, I strongly support measured criminal justice reforms that reduce recidivism and enhance public safety. However, improvements to the system can be accomplished without wholesale abandonment of victims or their right to be heard. Through this coalition, we hope to ensure that when public safety policy decisions are being made, the voices of victims will neither be silenced nor ignored." ★

New Study Finds SacRT's Fare-Free for Youth Program Succeeds

By Jessica Gonzalez, SacRT

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - A new study released by the University of Texas, which evaluated the Sacramento Regional Transit District's (SacRT) "RydeFreeRT" fare-free transit for youth program, found the innovative program achieved multiple key goals to increase transit ridership and school attendance.

In Sep. 2019, SacRT launched the RydeFreeRT program, which provides fare-free transit for youth in grades TK through 12. With RydeFreeRT, students and youth can ride the entire SacRT transit network for free.

The program is a result of SacRT Board Director and Sacramento City Councilmember Jay Schenirer's effort to combat chronic absenteeism in schools and support young people's overall success. The City of Sacramento made a \$1 million investment in the initiative, signaling its continued efforts to increase positive outcomes for Sacramento youth. The program was extended for a second year through Sep. 30, 2021, and the City has committed to continue its investment annually.

The study, "RydeFreeRT Evaluation Study:

User Demographics, Attitudes, and Impacts on Travel Behavior," was funded by Sutter Health. Every three years, Sutter Health conducts Community Health Needs Assessments to determine the unique needs and challenges for each community Sutter serves. Sutter's investments with the study directly connect to the priority area of basic needs, which includes supporting access to education, food security, housing and economic security.

Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin administered and analyzed 5,600 student surveys before and after several months of the program's implementation.

Key findings from the study include:

Increased Ridership - The study found a statistically significant increase in the share of students who reported using SacRT to get to and from school, as well as a corresponding statistically significant decrease in the share of students reporting traveling to and from school in an automobile.*

*This finding is in contrast to prior transportation research showing that, when fares are decreased or eliminated, new transit riders tend to be pulled from slower modes such as walking and cycling, demonstrating that the program has potential to create a new

generation of public transit riders.

More Access - Students who reported using SacRT also reported that they can more easily access important non-school destinations because of the RydeFreeRT program.

Afterschool Transportation - Many students who did not ride SacRT regularly to get to school reported they are using public transit more to get to afterschool and non-school activities because of the RydeFreeRT program.

The RydeFreeRT program was well received, pre-COVID-19, by February 2020, student ridership increased by 127%. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, students took advantage of the fare-free program as SacRT provided more than 1 million rides in 2020.

"We saw a huge jump in student ridership when we launched the fare-free transit program, proving there is a real need to get students to school and other activities throughout the region," said SacRT General Manager/CEO Henry Li. "We are excited to see so many students take advantage of the program and hope to keep them as life-long transit riders."

"RydeFreeRT has clearly had a

positive impact on Sacramento youth," said Sacramento Councilmember Jay Schenirer. "This program has multiple 'bottom lines,' including helping to combat climate change. It's rare to find a public program that has a ripple effect like this one."

"A lack of access to basic services is among the top health indicators affecting disadvantaged communities. Unfortunately for many that includes barriers getting to school and other life-enriching activities for young people," said Keri Thomas, vice president of external affairs for Sutter Health Valley Area. "The data shows that when we lower barriers, we can help make a difference in changing that trajectory."

With distance learning and many community-based institutions temporarily closed to the public due to the pandemic, SacRT continues to find creative ways to communicate about the RydeFreeRT program by partnering with school districts and local organizations. In 2021, SacRT will expand outreach efforts to reach limited English speaking populations as well as disadvantaged communities.

To view the full study and learn more about SacRT's fare-free program for youth and students, visit rydefreert.com. ★

Sacramento Public Library Reopening Plans

Sacramento Public Library Press Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - You can now visit 21 library locations with limited occupancy. The public will be able to visit and browse any of the reopened locations to browse for up to one hour.

Patrons can continue to use curbside service at most locations and make one-hour computer appointments at select locations.

Which locations are open to the public?

Some 21 locations are open for browsing as of February 9: Arcade, Arden-Dimick, Belle Coolege, Carmichael, Colonial Heights, Elk Grove, Fair Oaks, Martin Luther King, Jr., North Highlands-Antelope, North Natomas, Rancho Cordova, Rio Linda, Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven, Southgate, South Natomas, Sylvan Oaks, Valley Hi-North Laguna

and Walnut Grove.

Curbside service at select locations continues to be available Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

One-hour computer appointments at select locations continues to be available by calling (916) 264-2920.

Appointment times at most locations are 10:30 a.m. / noon / 2 p.m. / 3:30 p.m. / 5 p.m. *Special hours for seniors and those with chronic conditions or who are immunocompromised are available on Wednesdays from 9 to 10 a.m.;*

Patrons can return items curbside at most locations during regular hours of operations.

24-hour book drops are available every day at 17 locations.

Ella K. McClatchy and Orangevale remain closed.

Are face coverings required?

Yes. All patrons and staff must wear CDC recommended masks,

which are required at all times. If you cannot wear a face-covering during your visit, you are welcome to use our curbside service.

What safety measures are in place at the library?

Public health and safety are our priorities. Please be advised that a few things have changed to help reduce contact and slow the spread of COVID-19. We have implemented the following safety measures:

Face coverings are required at all times for anyone two years or older; We are practicing social distancing – observe all signage and markers; Libraries will have limited occupancy and seating to ensure proper social distancing; Library visits are limited to one hour per patron; Hand-sanitizing stations are provided for use prior to entry, and frequent handwashing is encouraged; Staff conduct daily health checks; High-touch surfaces will

be disinfected regularly.

Please keep yourself and others safe by:

Staying home if you're experiencing symptoms of any illness; Wearing a face covering that covers your nose and mouth, which is required for all patrons two years or older; Washing or sanitizing your hands frequently; Maintaining at least six feet of distance from staff and other patrons; Respecting social distancing guidelines and limiting your visit to one hour; Following the instructions of the library and security staff.

Are there limits on the number of people allowed into the building?

Yes. Our occupancy is limited to ensure that all can maintain social distancing following public health orders. Thank you for your patience.

How do I return items?

Patrons can return library

materials during our hours of operation in designated bins. Book drops are also available at select locations. Returned items will be placed in quarantine for 24 hours and will not be checked in immediately. Items may take up to a week to be removed from your account.

Can I drop off donated materials?

The library is not accepting donations at this time. Learn more about Friends of Sacramento Public Library donation guidelines.

What services are available?

The following in-person services are available: Curbside pickup and returns; Computer use; Mobile Printing; Mobile Services

The following virtual services are available: Virtual Programming, Personalized Reading Recommendations; Personal Shopper; Homework help; Virtual Job Coach; English Language Learning; Online learning; VetNow; JobNow ★

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.

THANK YOU for shopping at KP International Market.

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

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COVID-19 Vaccine Questions Answered: How Do I Get a COVID-19 Vaccine?

City of Rancho Cordova

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County Public Health, healthcare networks and pharmacies throughout the region are vaccinating people with the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccine supplies are limited, so the most vulnerable are being vaccinated first. The City of Rancho Cordova wants to answer your questions, point you in the right direction, and help you sort through the confusing chatter about how to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

When will I be able to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

We know, it's confusing. We have broken down the process for getting a COVID-19 vaccine into three simple steps.

Step 1: Find out if you're eligible to receive the vaccine.

Vaccine supplies are limited right now, so the vaccine is being provided in phases beginning with those with the highest risk, including 65 and older, healthcare and congregate care workers, first responders, and education and childcare workers. Visit Sacramento County's website at COVID19.SacCounty.net for more detailed information.

Step 2: If you're eligible to receive a vaccine, you can contact a few different resources for availability.

Check with your healthcare provider and local pharmacies. Start with their websites for information. Links are available on the city's coronavirus webpage at CityofRanchoCordova.org/coronavirus or by calling Rancho Cordova City Hall at 916.851.8700.

If you are eligible based on your employment, check with your employer or contact Sacramento County Public Health through its website at COVID19.SacCounty.net.

If you are 65 and older, Sacramento County is now offering appointments first come, first served. Make an appointment online at COVID19.SacCounty.net. If you need assistance, ask a trusted family member or friend to help you make the appointment.

Emergency service workers, and food and agriculture workers can also sign up to receive email updates about future Sacramento County hosted vaccination clinics at COVID19.SacCounty.net.

Step 3: If you aren't eligible yet to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, sign up to find out when it's your turn.

The State has launched a new app called My Turn where you can find out if it's your

turn to get vaccinated. Sign up at MyTurn.ca.gov or contact the California Department of Public Health on their COVID-19 hotline at 833.422.4255.

If I already had COVID-19 and recovered, do I still need to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. Due to the severe health risks associated with COVID-19 and that it is possible to get reinfected, you should be vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19 infection. However, if you were treated for COVID-19, talk to your doctor about getting vaccinated. Some COVID-19 treatments require you to wait 90 days before getting a vaccine.

Should I get the COVID-19 vaccine even though there are new variants?

Yes. During the February 1, 2021 Press Briefing by the White House COVID-19 Response Team and Public Health Officials, Dr. Anthony Fauci discussed why Americans should get the current COVID-19 vaccines now, even with the variants circulating, instead of waiting for the next generation of vaccines.

"There is a fact that permeates virology and that is that viruses cannot mutate if they don't replicate," said Dr. Fauci. "If you stop their replication by vaccinating widely and not giving the virus an open playing field to continue to respond to the pressures you put on it, you will not get mutations."

What can I do now to protect myself from COVID-19 until I get a vaccine?

Wear a mask, wash your hands and social distance. The Centers for Disease Control, or CDC, tell us that masks protect both you and others from airborne droplets, which is how the virus is spread, as does washing your hands frequently and staying at least six feet from others.

Avoid gatherings. Contact tracing data show that gatherings are the main source of recent outbreaks. We know it's tough, but these small sacrifices will help save lives.

If you suspect you have COVID-19, get a free test. This helps identify others who may have been exposed to the virus, which helps stop the spread.

Do you have more questions about COVID-19 vaccines?

Visit CityofRanchoCordova.org/coronavirus for more information or contact City Hall if you don't have access to a computer at 916.851.8700. ★

Doggy Dash Registration Opens Now!

Sacramento SPCA Press Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Registration for the Sacramento SPCA's Virtual Walk & Pet Festival is Now OPEN!

On Saturday, June 5th, join thousands of walkers as we lace up our shoes and leash up our pups for the 28th Annual Sacramento SPCA Doggy Dash, our largest fundraiser of the year and an opportunity to celebrate the amazing commitment of our community to healthy, happy and unconditional relationships between pups and their people!

This virtual event allows you to participate in your own way while keeping the community safe. Show us your support by walking in your neighborhood, backyard, or local trail - creativity is encouraged!

JOIN US ONLINE for all the fun!

Participate in our pet festival online! Enter contests, win prizes, and visit the Virtual Vendor Village. Don't miss the fun - follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

Your registration and participation in the



Lace up and leash up. First 500 registrants receive a free dog bandana. Photo: Sacramento SPCA

Doggy Dash helps the Sacramento SPCA provide direct care to more than 35,000 animals each year in our community.

Register at www.classy.org/event/2021-sacramento-sPCA-doggy-dash/e322474 ★

First 5 Sacramento Approves Funding

By Erin Maurie, Sacramento County News

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The First 5 Sacramento Commission unanimously approved more than \$40 million in funding for contracts that will begin July 2021. Funding over a three-year period is for critical prevention and early intervention programs that will serve young children and their families in Sacramento County. Funding was allocated specifically to: Prevent African American Child Deaths; Strengthen Families/Decrease Child Maltreatment and Trauma; Improve School Readiness; Build Quality Child Care Settings; Increase Breastfeeding.

A list of agencies approved for funding can be found on the First 5 Sacramento website.

As stewards of Proposition 10 tobacco tax public funds, First 5s across the state work toward three primary goals: 1) to ensure children receive the best start in life; 2) that parents and caregivers have the tools they need to help their children be successful, life-long learners; and 3) that systems serving children are streamlined and efficient.

"For more than 20 years, First 5 Sacramento has invested considerably in a variety of early intervention and preventive programs serving children and families," said First District Supervisor and Chair of the First 5 Sacramento Commission Phil Serna. "These programs provide parents and caregivers the necessary tools to ensure children achieve their greatest potential and succeed in life."

Research shows that 90% of a child's brain develops in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child's growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, a tobacco tax, to support programs for expectant parents and children ages 0-5. In the last year, First 5 Sacramento distributed approximately \$11 million a year in Prop 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs in Sacramento County. All 58 counties have a First 5 Children and Families Commission providing unique local services for that county. More information available at www.first5sacramento.net. ★

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT FUND ★ GRANTS AVAILABLE ★

The City of Rancho Cordova is now accepting applications for grant funding from individuals, organizations, businesses, and community partners who are interested in enhancing the Rancho Cordova community.



These are just some of the innovative programs supported by the City of Rancho Cordova's Community Enhancement Fund:

- New after-school programs
- Rancho Cordova Promise Program
- Neighborhood Beautification Projects

The City anticipates awarding approximately \$2 million in community grants in Fiscal Year 2021/2022.

The Grant Application Cycle Is Open Through March 19, 2021.



★ COMMUNITY ★ ENHANCEMENT FUND

RANCHO CORDOVA



Community Grant Types

- ARTS, CULTURE, HISTORY, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS
- EDUCATION
- OTHER PROJECTS



RANCHO CORDOVA CALIFORNIA



The City's Community Enhancement Fund is supported by Measure H, a half-cent sales tax approved by Rancho Cordova voters in November 2014.

★ Apply Now by Visiting ★ www.CityofRanchoCordova.org/CommunityEnhancementFund

A Financial Bite Much Worse Than The Bark

Continued from page 1

compared to Rancho Cordova's \$150. It is estimated only 2% of cats and 8% of dogs are even licensed in the city. By making the license more affordable, Officer Hill contended, more pets would be brought into city compliance.

Returning to the subject of PDA and Vicious Animals, he noted that fees for licensing dangerous animals need to be increased also to keep in line with other nearby communities and require up-front fees that would hopefully endear stronger commitment from owners in tending to their pets but also stem any future incidents and the time and money required for Officers to deal with them.

A woman who called into the meeting while praising the proposed licensing changes added the required time length to spay or neuter a pet be in line with veterinarian research showing some larger breeds not be altered too soon as it could harm their natural growth process.

Councilmember Linda Budge expressed she held off having her own pet neutered for the very same reasons. She also liked Officer Hill's earlier statements about tying licensing with vaccination stating they were dependent on each other. Officer Hill acknowledged the reported science and said his department would work with pet owners.

Slightly less positive thoughts were offered by Vice Mayor Terry and Councilmember David Sander.

Vice Mayor Terry felt raising the licensing costs for PDA and Vicious Animals would only lessen owner interest in paying them as he saw it was solely the owners' lack of responsibility that was at the heart of the matter.

Similarly, in regards to getting owners who bring their harmful designated pets to the city from another, Vice Mayor Terry pointed to "dead beat Dads not paying child support from one county to the next, how are we going to do this for dangerous dogs?"

Councilmember Sander reflected on the extremely low numbers of owners licensing their pets and stated disappointment in the program's success.

Officer Hill accepted their comments and acknowledged the "failure" of past efforts but said that changes needed to be made for pet owners, pets and the public. Hill touched on initial efforts his

department has begun in getting data from city vets on recent vaccinations and how this information could be used to bring more pets into compliance.

The matter ended with Officer Hill to continue to work on his proposals now with council feedback.

The other Regular Calendar item brought up was the renewal of the Rancho Cordova Tourism Business Improvement District (RCTBID). Established ten years ago, the RCTBID is a benefit assessment district designed to help fund marketing and sales promotions, destination development, and destination recovery and crisis response programs for lodging businesses. In the past decade, it's doubled tourism in the city.

Calling the past year "the most difficult year in my lifetime and for many of us," Executive Director at Rancho Cordova Travel & Tourism Mark Sapoznik said they were going to need a little "extra horsepower" this year citing an increase in the hotel assessment fee paid by visitors that fund the district.

However, he did note that no city hotels closed and felt there was a lot of opportunity ahead looking forward to the Summer season. Sapoznik also mentioned that support to restaurants, bars, entertainment, events and even dog park improvements stem from the district.

"With this new renewal (which would generate approximately \$2,490,000 annually) we're going to be in a really good position to promote Rancho Cordova and everything we have here," He said.

After Sapoznik's presentation, the city adopted a Resolution of Intention to discuss the renewal at the March 15 council meeting.

Other notable moments of the night included a woman who called in for Public Comment stating her disdain for the city's "lack of participation in Black History Month (February)" as well as the cleanup after horse owners in her area.

While his thoughts on equine "poop" were not made, Mayor Garret Gatewood did strongly chime in afterward to say, "being the African American on council, I am perfectly happy with how my city has represented us and I think we're doing everything we possibly can in an amazing way for Black History Month." Later, during Council Reports, he mentioned 4% of the Rancho Cordova police were African American and a third were

a minority and happily described the city as "an extremely diverse" community.

Also during the reports, Councilmembers unanimously lauded the recent February 25 Business Outlook event. Councilmember Sander who serves as the President of the Ranch Cordova Athletic Association shared the frustration he and other youth sports leaders are having in getting kids back out on the playing field. Councilmember Budge relayed from her Regional Transit meeting that free rides are available for those getting vaccinated. Vice President Terry cautioned residents to check Air Quality levels as

aside from wildfire season it is currently the worst air quality time of the year. He also hopefully discussed the timeline and transition of students from at home to in person learning.

A couple of meetings before, Councilmember Budge had asked if the sessions could close in the memory of recently departed friend Russ Knauer who had been responsible for the creation of the Nimbus Winery Complex. For the end of this meeting, she asked if it be closed in the memory of Knauer's business partner on the shopping mall Marlon Ginney who poignantly died within three days of Knauer. ★



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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF HELEN JOSEPHINE KRAL
 CASE No. 34-2020-00286540

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both of Helen Josephine Kral, deceased A Petition for Probate has been filed by Kenneth L. Kral, in the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, requesting Kenneth L. Kral be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows May 4, 2021 9:00 a.m. in Dept 129. Appearance by Zoom Application or Telephone at least 5 minutes before hearing date and time using https://saccourt.zoom.us/j/8528229292 or Toll Free Telephone Conference Line @ (888) 475-4499, with meeting ID #689-534-3925 at Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento 3341 Power Inn Road Sacramento, CA 95826. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Petitioner is: Kenneth L. Kral 7627 Scribner Avenue Citrus Heights, CA 95610 916-640-9273 Publish: March 5, 12, and 19, 2021 KRAL 170622 3-19-21

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF WILLIAM WALLACE MILLER

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF WILLIAM WALLACE MILLER
 CASE No. 34-2021-00295066

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both of William Wallace Miller, deceased A Petition for Probate has been filed by Wendy A. Miller, in the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, requesting Wendy A. Miller be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows July 7, 2021 9:00 a.m. in Dept 129. Appearance by Zoom Application or Telephone at least 5 minutes before hearing date and time using https://saccourt.zoom.us/j/8528229292 or Toll Free Telephone Conference Line @ (888) 475-4499, with meeting ID #689-534-3925 at Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento 3341 Power Inn Road Sacramento, CA 95826. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Petitioner is: Mauriah Conway 1601 Response Road Suite 110 Sacramento, CA 95815 916-668-9365 Publish: March 5, 12, and 19, 2021 ONEILL 170622 3-19-21

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF HELEN JOSEPHINE KRAL

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF HELEN JOSEPHINE KRAL
 CASE No. 34-2020-00286540

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both of Helen Josephine Kral, deceased A Petition for Probate has been filed by Kenneth L. Kral, in the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, requesting Kenneth L. Kral be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows May 4, 2021 9:00 a.m. in Dept 129. Appearance by Zoom Application or Telephone at least 5 minutes before hearing date and time using https://saccourt.zoom.us/j/8528229292 or Toll Free Telephone Conference Line @ (888) 475-4499, with meeting ID #689-534-3925 at Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento 3341 Power Inn Road Sacramento, CA 95826. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Petitioner is: Kenneth L. Kral 7627 Scribner Avenue Citrus Heights, CA 95610 916-640-9273 Publish: March 12, 19, and 26, 2021 MILLER 170622 3-19-21

CLG NEWS UPDATES

Provided by Citizens for Legitimate Government (CLG) See legitgov.org

90 percent of COVID deaths occur in countries with high obesity levels - study | 05 March 2021 | Nearly 90 percent of coronavirus fatalities have occurred in countries with high obesity levels, according to researchers -- who now want overweight people to be prioritized for vaccinations. Death rates were 10 times higher in countries such as the US where at least 50 percent of the total population is overweight, according to a World Health Organization-backed study released Thursday by the World Obesity Federation. For the report, researchers examined mortality data from Johns Hopkins University and the WHO Global Health Observatory data that showed a total of 2.2 million of the 2.5 million deaths worldwide were in countries with high levels of obesity.

Four Months After 2020 Presidential Election in Georgia, No Chain of Custody Documents Produced for 404,000 Absentee Ballots Deposited in Drop Boxes; Fulton County One of 35 Scofflaw Counties – The 2020 presidential election outcome in Georgia was decided by fewer than 12,000 votes | 04 March 2021 | Four months after the November 3, 2020 presidential election, state and county officials in Georgia have failed to produce chain of custody documents for an estimated 404,691 vote by mail absentee ballots deposited in drop boxes and subsequently delivered to county registrars for counting. As of March 3, only 56 of Georgia's 159 counties have provided ballot transfer form data to *The Georgia Star News*. The number of absentee by mail ballots delivered to registrars in those 56 counties total only 195,309, or 32.5 percent, of the estimated 600,000 absentee vote by mail ballots deposited in drop boxes and delivered to county registrars and counted in Georgia's 2020 presidential election.

After Finding Shredded Ballots in the Dumpster Earlier Today, a Mysterious Fire Breaks Out at Maricopa County Official's Farm | 06 March 2021 | The Arizona Maricopa County Board of Supervisors (MCBOS) on Wednesday loaded its 2020 Election ballots on a truck for delivery to the Arizona Senate. After months of attempting to obtain access to the ballots, the Senate won a court case where the judge ordered the ballots to be produced to the Senate. So immediately before being told when and where to deliver the ballots, the MCBOS loaded the ballots onto a truck even though the Senate had not yet asked for the ballots. It is not believed that this move of the ballots was performed under the proper chain of custody... The ballots were then stored in an open warehouse. Individuals in the county found shredded ballots at this location, earlier today. Tonight, two barns on the farm of one of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors caught on fire.

Ballots in Maricopa County Found Shredded and in Dumpster - Days Before Senate Audit to Begin | 06 March 2021 | Piles of shredded ballots were located today in a dumpster in Maricopa County, Arizona. This find occurs only days before the Senate's audit of the county's 2020 election results is due to start. For months, the Board of Supervisors in Maricopa County have blocked and delayed any independent audit performed by the Arizona Senate of the County's results in the 2020 presidential election. As we've reported previously, after being subpoenaed by the Arizona Senate and then suing the senate to prevent a senate audit of their 2020 election results, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors (MCBOS) agreed to have an audit if they could pick the auditors.

YouTube Deletes All Copies of President Trump's CPAC Speech, Suspends RSNB for Two Weeks | 04 March 2021 | YouTube has deleted all copies of President Trump's speech to CPAC given last Sunday in Orlando and has suspended the account of Right Side Broadcasting Network for two weeks as apparent punishment for live streaming the speech in which Trump reiterated his belief the 2020 presidential election was stolen from him. YouTube took down videos from mainstream outlets including the U.K. Independent which had over one million views as well as Fox, Fox Business, ABC News and the U.K. Sun. A search of YouTube that earlier this week showed several channels with archived live streams of the speech now shows all archived live streams have been taken down.

People more concerned about violence in cities than Capitol riot - Poll | 04 March 2021 | A poll shows that a majority of U.S. voters are more concerned about the violence that took place in cities over the summer than the Jan. 6 Capitol riot. The most recent Harvard-Harris poll found that 55% of registered voters see violence in cities as more concerning, while 45% said the Capitol riot was more concerning. The poll also found that 71% of voters view antifa as a domestic terrorist group, with 29% of respondents disagreeing with that characterization. ★

Crossword Puzzle on Page 8

I	S	M	S		T	A	U		A	P	E			
S	H	A	H		T	A	L	C		O	G	L	E	R
M	I	L	E		R	I	L	L		N	O	T	E	R
	V	I	R	G	I	N	I	A		A	N	O	N	
		P	A	S	T	S		W	I	Z				
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	B	E	A	U		D	I	V	I	S	I	O	N	
P	E	N	N	I		E	W	E	R		A	M	O	K
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A	N	D				E	S	T			S	T	A	G

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 8

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

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CLUES

ACROSS

- Theories
- T in Greek
- Tarzan's mom, e.g.
- Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, e.g.
- Ingredient in talcum powder
- Spectator
- 5,280 feet
- Tiny river
- Note taker
- Last NCAA basketball winner
- Any day now
- Antiquarian's concern, pl.
- Diana Ross and Michael Jackson movie, with The
- Saw a nightmare
- Caribbean rattles
- Witch's spell
- Flocked-to destinations
- Goo or slime
- Plural of ostium
- Leo mo.
- Eurasian goat-like antelope
- Showing signs of use
- "Yo, ___!"
- *Nothing but it
- Wrap a baby
- *___-elimination
- Outrage
- Fraternity K
- One of the Bridges
- *___ 1 schools only
- *___ less but pennywise
- Decanter
- In a frenzy
- Threesome
- Turkish monetary unit, plural
- Dumpy establishment
- Common conjunction
- New York time
- Male deer

Down

- Singular of #1 Across
- Rikers Island weapon
- Burkina Faso neighbor
- Himalayan mountaineer
- Tarnish
- *___ fair in love and war"
- *School with most NCAA basketball titles
- Choir member
- Hammer part
- Blunder
- Sad, to mademoiselle
- Radio studio sign
- *Mid-major school that's become major powerhouse
- Kind of ray
- Is no longer
- Arabian sailing vessels
- Restart from seed
- Uncredited actor
- The Wise Men
- Acting as a prompter
- Snow impression
- Eric Heiden's "shoe"
- *Oklahoma State's super freshman ___ Cunningham
- Mixed breed puppy
- *2021 NCAA Tournament location
- What Edward Scissorhands does
- Stout relative
- Dream big
- Ancient Celtic priest
- Water nymphs
- Fuzzy fruit, pl.
- Deflect
- Sanders' campaign slogan "Feel the ___"
- "National Velvet" author
- Bagnold
- Expunge
- Fail to mention
- Scotia precursor
- School-related org.
- Liquor store pony



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

Solutions on Page 8

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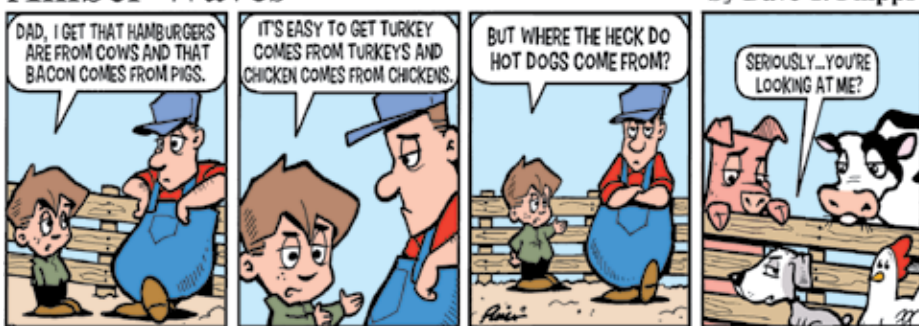
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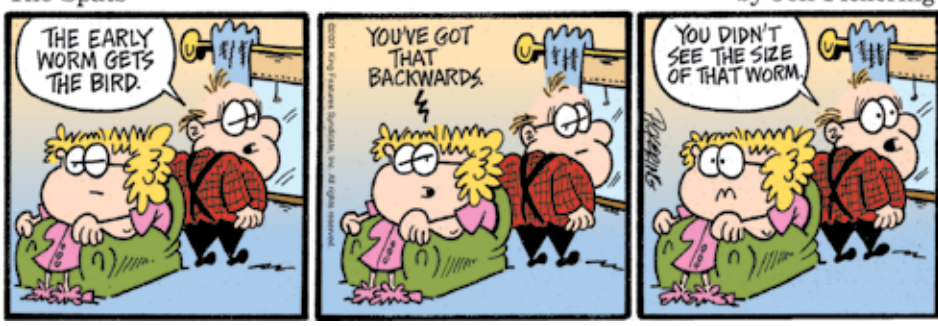
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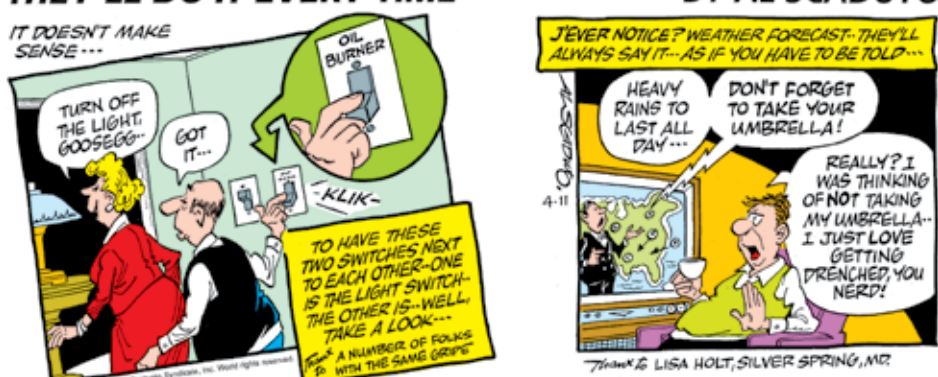
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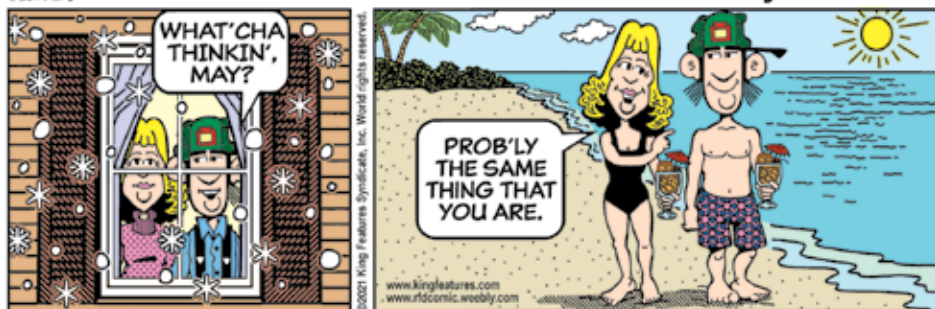
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Ask Toni

Medicare Supplement Rate Increase is Outrageous!



Toni King

Toni:

We have received a 20% increase for our Plan F Medicare Supplement that is effective May 1. I am a 70-year-old female in good health, but my husband is undergoing cancer treatment at MD Anderson. Also, his cardiologist has advised him that he may need a pacemaker.

My friends have advised me that we will have to wait until October when Medicare Annual Enrollment begins to change from our current Medicare Supplement plans. I am concerned that with the Medicare Supplement increase we may not be able to afford the premiums. What should we do? Would a Medicare Advantage plan be a good option to change to with Fred's cancer issues? ~ Carol from Denver

Carol:

Carol, you were given wrong information from your friends. I have good news for you because you do not have to wait until Medicare Annual Enrollment to change your Medicare Supplement insurance company and enroll in a new plan. You can change your Medicare Supplement any time during the year. Medicare Annual Enrollment is a time to change your Medicare Advantage plan or Medicare Part D Prescription Drug plan.

You are not alone with receiving a Medicare Supplement plan increase. It seems that the renewal increase is more than the public is expecting. Most insurance agents are finding out about the Medicare Supplement increases via an email from the insurance company informing of a renewal rate adjustment.

In 2015, Congress passed legislation called "Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015" (MACRA) to help the medical industry by correcting the "Doc Fix" proposal. MACRA also made changes to Medicare Supplement's plans F and C which began January 1, 2020 and so Medicare Supplement plan increases began.

Anyone that wants to change their current Medicare Supplement plan and have had their Medicare Part B longer than 6 months must now answer underwriting questions regarding their current and past health issues as you and your husband will have to do.

Carol you have an option to change from your current Medicare plan to a different Medicare Supplement company or a different type of Medicare Supplement plan such as plan G or N. Carol both you and your husband must qualify by answering medical underwriting questions.

If you cannot qualify because of a health issue, then another option may be to search for the right Medicare Advantage plan to fit your medical needs. The only catch to making a change to a Medicare Advantage plan is that you must wait until Medicare Annual Enrollment period which begins October 15th thru December 7th every year.


The Difference in Medicare Supplement Plans:

- **Medicare Supplement Plan F:** is available to those with Medicare Part A with an effective date prior to January 1, 2020. Plan F has less out of pocket with premiums which maybe higher.
- **Medicare Supplement Plan G:** offer lower rates and the same Medicare benefits as Plan F except the Medicare Part B deductible is not covered and will be paid for by the enrolled Medicare beneficiary. Part B deductible for 2021 is \$203.
- **Medicare Supplement Plan N:** generally, has lower premiums than Plan G with generally more out of pocket. There is a \$20 co pay for a doctor visit with \$50 co pay for emergency room. Part B deductible is not covered, and Part B excess charges are not paid for by the insurance company which Plan G includes.

Caution: Do not cancel your existing policy until you have been approved by your new Medicare Supplement insurance company.

2021 Confused about Medicare Zoom webinar is Thursday, February April 1st at 4:00 PM. Visit www.tonisays.com to sign up for Toni's new webinar event.

Toni King new 2021 Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced book is available at www.tonisays.com. Medicare question? Call 832/519-8664 or email info@tonisays.com. ★



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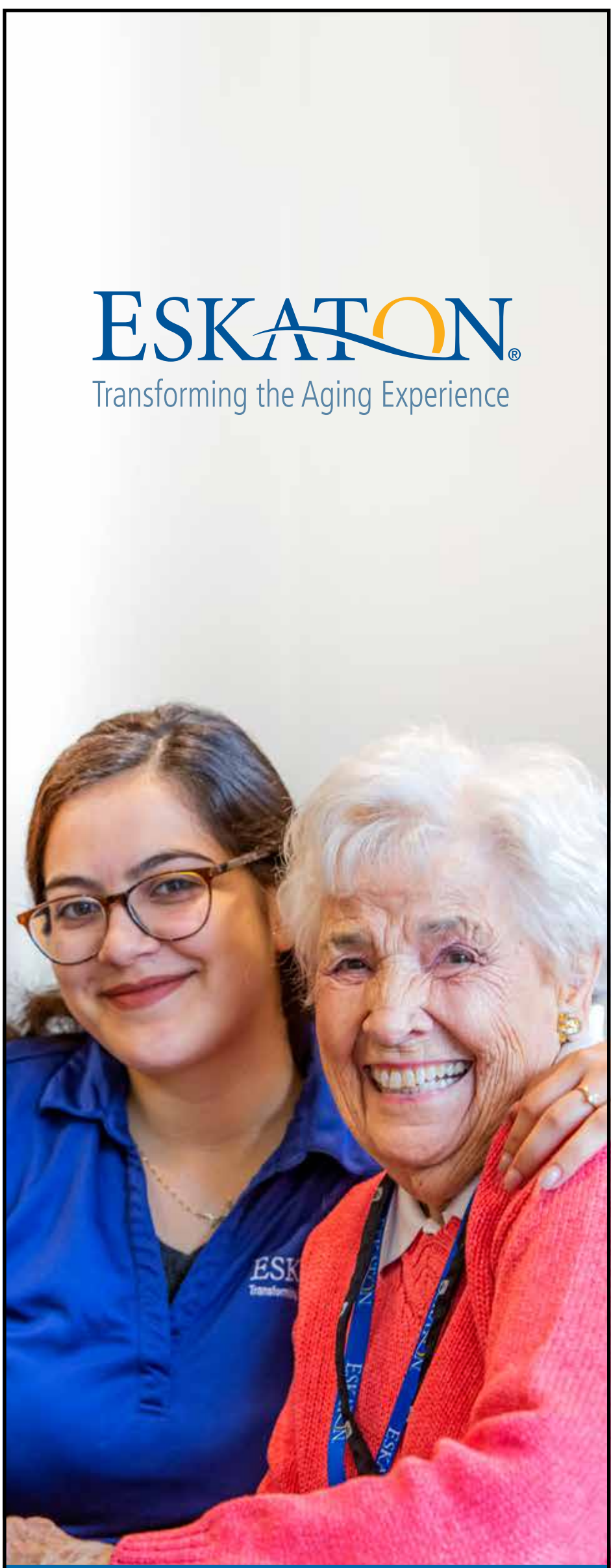
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Colleges Begin Vaccinations

Continued from page 1

vaccines to the wider community. Eleven of the 23 CSU campuses have on-site vaccination centers, and more are expected to come online within the next few weeks, according to CSU spokesperson Mike Uhlenkamp.

Colleges Pass On Vaccine Mandate

While CSU and UC have said they will encourage students and staff to be vaccinated, they have no current plans to require it.

“Our focus is really to try to get the vaccines here to each campus and to inspire participation,” CSU Chancellor Joseph Castro said at a Feb. 8 press conference with student media. “There may be some students for different reasons who decide they don’t wish to be vaccinated, or a staff or faculty member who doesn’t wish to do so. I’m going to respect that and really focus on trying to get as many people vaccinated as possible.”

Castro added that he wanted to avoid any legal issues that could accompany mandating a vaccine that has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for emergency use only.

The emergency use authorization – a rarity in U.S. history – is the main issue driving legal uncertainty around whether campuses can require the vaccine, said UC Hastings College of the Law professor Dorit Reiss. Some colleges already require other immunizations for students who want to attend; UC, for example, made flu shots mandatory for students, faculty and staff last year.

If colleges do eventually decide to start mandating a COVID-19 vaccine, Reiss and other legal experts said, the requirement could survive legal challenges by being narrowly tailored to protect public health and allowing individuals to opt out for medical or religious reasons.

“The Civil Rights Act of 1964 does say you can’t discriminate in education based on religion, but that only requires accommodation if the accommodation is no more than a minimal burden,” Reiss said. “A university can say allowing students to bring in COVID-19, measles, influenza is more than a minimal burden. It can also say, ‘We’re offering an accommodation. The accommodation is if you don’t want to get the vaccine, take the course online.’”

At California State University, Sacramento, administrators considered requiring students to be vaccinated but changed course after hearing from the chancellor’s office, said Cely Smart, chief of staff to campus president Robert Nelsen.

“We initially thought that we would be able to (mandate the vaccine), especially for our student population, in the way that we do meningitis and some of the other immunizations,” Smart said. CSU officials advised against that due to concerns about the emergency use authorization, Smart said. But if the vaccine is approved for non-emergency use, Smart said, she believes the university would revisit that requirement “pretty quickly.”

Sacramento State has been offering on-campus vaccines to employees on a voluntary basis since Feb. 16, Smart said.

In-Person Learning Expands

As the vaccine rollout continues, a few California colleges are increasing the number of students attending class in-person in outdoor tents and even indoor classrooms. Their efforts provide a glimpse of what campus operations could look like statewide this fall.

UC Berkeley also began offering indoor classes this week, despite a coronavirus outbreak earlier in the semester that saw students confined to their dorms. Classes will be capped at 26 students, said spokesperson Janet Gilmore, with all students required to test weekly for COVID-19, complete a daily symptom screening and wear a mask. Students in the university’s Rausser College of Natural Resources are conducting outdoor labs, string ensembles are rehearsing al fresco, and engineering students are attending outdoor meetings.

Stanford University said this week that it

will bring juniors and seniors back to campus for the spring quarter that starts March 29, though most classes will remain online. “We believe our campus is prepared to respond effectively to positive cases that occur,” Stanford President Marc Tessier-Lavigne and Provost Persis Dell wrote in a message to students, according to the Stanford Daily. The move was opposed by Stanford’s student government, who argued bringing students back would place a heavier burden on local hospitals, citing a small uptick in Covid cases during the winter quarter and some students’ refusal to comply with safety measures.

Planning For Fall

But most California colleges, including the UC and CSU systems overall, are focused on Fall 2021 as the date for a return to campus life. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s top infectious disease expert, sparked optimism among higher education leaders in December when he predicted that most college students could be vaccinated by late summer. Bringing students back to campus is important for not just colleges’ culture and learning environments, but also their bottom lines; many have lost millions of dollars in revenue as students stopped paying for dorms and meal plans.

“We all want to get back to normal, knowing that normal is not what it was before, but we’re working really hard to bring back our students and to have that on campus interaction,” said Kristen Soares, president of the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities, which represents private colleges.

Some students say they’re cautious about returning. Alissa Vasquez had been looking forward to transferring to Cal State Northridge from community college this fall, and reuniting with friends there. But if her campus doesn’t require students to be vaccinated, Vasquez said, she worries that she’ll endanger her immunocompromised grandmother by commuting from her family home to in-person classes.

“As much as I’d love to have that college experience and see the university firsthand, I just still don’t feel safe,” Vasquez said.

When UC student leaders met with President Michael Drake to discuss the university’s return to in-person learning, they urged him to give students flexibility, said UC Santa Cruz student body president Shivika Sivakumar.

“We are really pushing for a hybrid option because we know not everyone would be vaccinated by then,” Sivakumar said. “Most of our talk with President Drake was, ‘When you come up with a plan of action, make sure you’re keeping in mind that there are different student groups and different staff professionals who are going through different things right now. If you make remote not an option anymore, it’s going to be hard.’”

Faculty, too, are pushing to have a voice in universities’ fall plans.

Schademan, the Chico State science education professor, said administrators there did not consult with instructors before deciding that 20 to 30% of fall classes would be in-person. As he weighs returning to the classroom, he said a lot of questions remain unanswered – such as whether he’ll have access to the sinks and supplies he needs to effectively train new science teachers.

Even after more students and employees are vaccinated, colleges shouldn’t expect a return to the carefree days of 2019, said Gerri Taylor, co-chair of the American College Health Association’s COVID-19 task force.

Students will still need to wear masks, be tested for the virus regularly – her organization recommends at least once upon arrival to campus and twice a week after that – quarantine if exposed and socially distance within the classroom, she said.

And new variants could prompt a need to create new vaccines that students in coming years will have to receive, she said. “It may become a yearly occurrence, just like the flu vaccine.”

SMUD Extends Suspension Of Power Shutoffs

SMUD Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and growing economic challenges, SMUD announced it will extend the suspension of disconnecting power due to non-payment for residential and commercial customers through June 30, 2021, at the earliest.

“We stand by our community during these tough times,” said SMUD CEO and General Manager Paul Lau. “This prolonged pandemic has put a strain on our local economy and we’re committed to ensuring that ALL customers have safe and reliable power as we work through these unprecedented times.”

The suspension of power disconnection due to non-payment began March 13,

2020 and will last through June 30, 2021, at the earliest, as SMUD continues to monitor the evolving situation.

Customers who are behind on payment will still owe SMUD for service, they will just not lose power at this time. Customers are encouraged to contact SMUD to make payment arrangements or to enquire about energy assistance rates and other programs.

Since March, SMUD has suspended power shutoffs for non-payment and late fees, as well as adjusted its low-income rate so more people can qualify. SMUD is also offering flexible payment arrangement options.

In the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic, SMUD has taken a number of actions to keep its employees and the

community safe. As an essential service provider, SMUD is proactively minimizing risk to employees to ensure reliable electric service and is asking the public to abide by the social distancing guidelines and not approach work crews. Their safety and well-being is key to keeping our community powered, so please thank them from afar. For information about our continued efforts, please visit smud.org/HeretoHelp.

As the nation’s sixth-largest, community-owned, not-for-profit electric service provider, SMUD has been providing low-cost, reliable electricity for almost 75 years to Sacramento County (and small adjoining portions of Placer and Yolo Counties). For more information, visit smud.org. ★

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