

Medi-Cal Holding Seniors Back PAGE 3



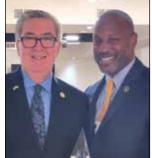
VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 7 Serving Gold River and Sacramento County

JULY, 2022

SEE INSIDE

Metro Fire Opens New Unit

KEN COOLEY RECEIVES AWARD







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Sac Metro's newest state-of-the-art Fire Station 68 is located at 12065 Cobble Brook Dr., Rancho Cordova, Calif., near Douglas Road and Sunrise Boulevard. Photo courtesy of Sac Metro Fire

By Patrick Larenas

By Kim Nava,

Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA

(MPG) - The Sacramento

County Board of

Supervisors voted unan-

imously on June 9 to

approve the \$7.3 billion

recommended budget for

Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23.

"Sacramento County's

FY 2022-23 budget works

to address many of the

needs of our community

and includes additional

investments in programs

and services related to

homelessness, mental

health, substance abuse

and social services for

some of the most vulner-

able people among us,

while maintaining vital

and essential existing ser-

vices," said District Five

Supervisor and Board

The \$7.3 billion bud-

get consists of \$2.8 billion

in Enterprise and Special

Revenue Fund appropri-

ations (utility rates, fees

and other dedicated rev-

enue), \$3.5 billion in

General Fund appropri-

ations (\$936 million in

discretionary resources,

\$1.1 billion in restricted

funds, and the remaining

Chair Don Nottoli.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - On May 27, the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (Metro Fire) opened with a "hose uncoupling" the newly constructed Fire Station 68 in east Rancho Cordova. The now inaugurated facility, located near Douglas Road and Sunrise Boulevard, incorporates stateof-the-art improvements which show the way of the future in firefighting facilities. Susan Wood, wife of Sac Metro Board Director Ted Wood - Division 4, shared with the crowd that during the economic slowdown, the older Fire Station 68 had been temporarily closed, which left a sizeable "geographic service area hole" in the surroundings.

The new Fire Station 68 located at 12065 Cobble Brook Drive will replace the station that was formerly located at 4381 Anatolia Drive, which Rancho Cordova Mayor Donald Terry described as "more like a shed with a house in the back."

Sac Metro staff said the facility will keep "three firefighters, staffing one fire engine with room to expand staffing as the area continues to build and grow." And there certainly has been a lot of growth recently. Fire Chief Todd Harms commented on the first stages of the project: "When I first came out here, and we looked at the site, there was nothing that was out here-literally a few roads. There was a little bit of expectation of the

growth that was about to happen. But just in the time that we have built this location, the growth has just been incredible."

The fire station, which features state of the art crew quarters, health and wellness facilities, safety equipment, and fast-access sideways opening bay doors (rather than garage-style doors), was designed by Tylor Babcock of MFDB Architects and built by Trent McCuen of McCuen Construction Inc., and the construction management team led by Sean Strongman. Speakers highlighted that what makes the new fire station building so innovative are the health and safety features incorporated into its design.

Plastic Tax Initiative Will Devastate Working Families

Commentary from Stop the Tax on Working Families

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -According to a new cost impact study released by the Center for Jobs and the Economy, the average family of four could pay more than \$900 extra per year in higher costs under the Tax on Plastic Initiative (Initiative #19-0028A1) that has qualified for the November 2022 ballot.

The analysis estimates the ballot measure's tax on plastic products and complex regulatory requirements will generate nearly \$9 billion per year in higher direct and indirect consumer costs - more than double the \$5.6 billion currently paid for recycling programs.

"This massive tax increase could not come at a worse time for working families. Record-high inflation and skyrocketing food costs are already causing serious financial hardship for nearly half of California's households making less than \$40,000 per year, according to a recent poll from the Public Policy Institute of California," said Robert Gutierrez, president of the California Taxpayers Association. "Hardworking Californians can't afford to add another \$900 per year to their expenses.' The cost impact study looks at the job, consumer costs, and business impacts of the Plastics Tax Initiative, which proposes a one-cent tax on single-use plastic packaging and food containers while adding a myriad of new regulatory requirements on plastic products. Despite the measure's significant cost increase, its flawed provisions make it unlikely to achieve the state's current recycling goals. Some of the report's key findings include: Adds \$901 per year in higher costs for consumer goods for the average family of four; Creates nearly \$9 billion more per year in total direct and indirect costs, including \$4.3 billion in higher taxes – one of the largest state tax increases in recent history on working families; Doubles the \$5.6 billion that Californians currently pay for recycling while likely failing to achieve California's recycling diversion goal; Impacts more than 40,000 in-state good-paying, middle-class jobs in the packaging industry that Continued on page 6

INFAN **FORMUL OPTIONS**

Continued on page 5



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Sacramento County Recommended Budget Approved

\$1.4 billion with Federal, State and fee revenue dedicated to specific purposes), and \$1.1 billion in Restricted Funds.

"This approved budget reflects substantial investments in new and enhanced programs based on the Board's priorities and a survey of Sacramento residents," said County Executive Ann Edwards. "In addition to increased funding addressing homelessness, social services and improving the condition of County roads, we were able to set aside more money in the County's 'rainy day' reserve funds."

The recommended budget recognized new or enhanced areas of growth, including annual commitments of: Addressing Homelessness – \$5.3 million to fund new programs and services addressing homelessness in the County; Road Pavement Rehabilitation Projects -\$20 million in one-time Net County Cost transferred from the General Fund to the Roads Fund to fund pavement maintenance and rehabilitation on roads throughout the

unincorporated County. Substance Use Disorder Residential Treatment \$10 million for the Department of Health Services to procure an additional 156 beds annually for substance use disorder residential treatment; Crisis Stabilization Units – \$5 million for the Department of Health Services to establish a pool for behavioral health crisis stabilization units, which is a service the County is required to provide to Medi-Cal beneficiaries; Mental Health Services Act Full Service Partnership - \$7.5 million in MHSA and Federal match for the Department of Health Services to procure Full Service Partnership programming as a requirement in fulfilling permanent supportive housing commitments; School-Based Mental Health Program - \$4.3 million of Medi-Cal funding for the Department of Health Services to provide increased support to the school-based mental health program, with a planned site expansion to 40 sites; Child, Family and Adult Services

- \$19.1 million to support Child Family and Adult Services' programs, including \$5.4 million to provide enhanced security services at the Centralized Placement Support Unit; Afghan Refugee Assistance – \$3 million in Net County Cost for the Department of Human Assistance to provide services to support new Afghan arrivals in adjusting to their new environment.

During budget deliberations, the Board added additional items totaling \$2.6 million in appropriations, which included: \$1 million for additional scattered sites to house people experiencing homelessness; \$498,072 to provide a fourth staff position in Districts 1,3,4 and 5; \$450,000 for improvements at McFarland Ranch, American River Ranch and Dillard Ranch; \$167,881 to provide a position supporting homeless issues in District 2; \$150,000 to Visit Sacramento for a total annual contribution of \$500,000; \$106,690 to provide additional staffing for the Clerk of the Board's *Continued on page 5*

www.GoldRiverMessenger.com

Stay Comfortable and Save Money

SMUD News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As the mercury rises in Sacramento, residents are seeking ways to stay comfortable in their homes without breaking their budget. While SMUD customers enjoy some of the lowest rates in California, air conditioning needs can drive customer usage and bills during these hot summer months, so SMUD is offering tips on how to stay comfortable in your home while also saving money.

Summer rates start June 1, but it's easy to keep energy use in check without giving up cooling comfort. One of the easiest ways to save is to pay attention to when you are using energy. Energy rates are cheapest during off-peak hours before 5 p.m. and after 8 p.m. That means customers can save by minimizing energy use during the week between 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Another easy step is to prevent your home from heating up, which can reduce immediate cooling costs and help save on long-term costs from wear and tear on cooling equipment. SMUD has also partnered

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with the Sacramento Tree Foundation to provide free trees to shade and cool your home.

SMUD has more energy-saving solutions on its website and offers additional tips to save:

- In the summer, use fans and close blinds on windows that get direct sun.
- Swap out light bulbs for LEDs.
- Change your air filter and clean your HVAC unit.
- Use a programmable/smart thermostat to help control HVAC use.
- For every 2 degrees that you turn up your thermostat, you can save 5-10 percent on cooling costs.
- Avoid using multiple large appliances at the same time, especially during peak hours
- On hot days BBQ outside or use small cooking appliances like crock pots and microwaves to help keep your house cool.
- Customers can also get customized tips, manage their bills and set up alerts on the website.



Office of Assemblyman Ken Cooley

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

-Assemblyman Ken Cooley (D-Rancho Cordova) was honored to receive the 2022 Scales of Justice award presented by the California Judges Association.

The California Judges Association was established in 1929 and is the professional association representing the interests of the judiciary of the State of California. Members include judges of the Superior Courts and Courts of Appeal, Commissioners of State courts and State Bar Court judges.

"It is quite an honor a high point of my legal career," said Assemblyman Ken Cooley.

The "Scales of Justice Award" in given to a select few legislators in recognition of their contribution to the courts and the people they serve.

"Early in my career - another judge, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy sent me a letter that has shaped my view of public service since 2003. It you and all of your colleagues for working to reinvigorate the principle of participatory democracy. Self-government must not be an abstract ideal, but must be a reality, and we must be unceasing in our efforts to make it more effective and respected by our people'. This was a private letter from US Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy (who taught constitutional law at McGeorge School of Law

in the 1980's) to me dated June 18, 2003, in anticipation of the founding of the City of Rancho Cordova on July 1, 2003," said Assemblyman Ken Cooley.

Assemblyman Ken Coolev represents the communities of Arden-Arcade, Carmichael, Citrus Heights, Rancho Cordova, Rancho Murieta, Rosemont, Wilton and other portions of unincorporated Sacramento County. For more information, please visit http:// asmdc.org/members/a08/ ★

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2022 Scales of Justice award presented by the California Judges Association. Photo courtesy of Ken Cooley said 'Congratulations to

Assemblyman Ken Cooley (D-Rancho Cordova) received the



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Medi-Cal Holding Seniors Back

By Ana B. Ibarra, CalMatters.org

California living is expensive. So imagine having to get by on \$600 a month. That's essentially what some seniors and people with disabilities have to do in order to access Medi-Cal, the state's health insurance program for low-income residents.

Individuals with significant medical expenses — but whose income is too high to qualify for free Medi-Cal — may still access the program if they pay some of the costs.

That share of cost works like a monthly deductible; people are allowed to keep \$600 for personal use and must spend the rest of their income on health care expenses before their Medi-Cal coverage kicks in.

"If you make \$1,600 a month, \$1,000 has to go toward paying for your care," said Tiffany Huyenh-Cho, a staff attorney at Justice in Aging, an organization that is urging state lawmakers to update the income rule. Because people using this type of Medi-Cal usually have costly care, for some it's worth paying, but most can't afford it, she said.

In January of this year, the latest month for which state data is available, there were about 81,000 people who were enrolled in Medi-Cal but couldn't use it because they did not meet their share of the cost. The majority are over 65 or have a disability, data show.

Take Maxine Wells of San Diego – she is 91, and with the help of her son,



Thirty-year-old Medi-Cal income limit leaves some seniors without needed care. Photo © Katarzyna Bialasiewicz | Dreamstime.com

Keith Wells, she recently applied for Medi-Cal. Her Social Security monthly income of \$2,000 puts her over the limit for free coverage. Keith is still waiting to get official word from the state on his mom's eligibility status, but isn't sure they'll be able to meet her share of the cost.

The dollar amount that people get to keep, \$600 for an individual and \$934 for a couple, hasn't changed since 1989, when the minimum wage was \$4.25 an hour.

"It was shocking to hear it hasn't been updated since then," Keith Wells said

Older adults like Wells

also qualify for Medicare, the federal health insurance program for seniors and people with disabilities. But Medicare doesn't cover all her needs or at-home care. Wells, a former beauty shop owner, suffers the aftermath of a heart attack, which left her heart muscle damaged. She has chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), dementia and anxiety. Medi-Cal would supplement her Medicare coverage. About 1.4 million Californians are enrolled in both programs.

California has put forth sweeping and first-in-thenation policies to expand health insurance coverage to more people. It has

one of the lowest uninsured rates in the country - about 6% of California residents don't have health insurance. Still, pockets of people continue to struggle to afford the coverage and care they need, meaning they go without it.

Aging advocates say older adults tend to live on fixed incomes but are sometimes subject to rules that haven't kept up with the current cost of living.

Aging and health advocates are now asking legislators and the governor's office to allow Medi-Cal recipients who need to pay a share of cost to keep more of their income. Assembly Bill 1900 by Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula, a Fresno Democrat, proposes to raise the monthly limit from \$600 for an individual, which is about 55% of the federal poverty level, to \$1,562, or 138% of the federal poverty level.

This adjustment would require federal approval, according to the Department of Health Care Services, which oversees the Medi-Cal program.

Arambula's bill made it out of the Assembly last week and is now before the Senate. "This is simply a matter of fairness for Californians who are struggling to make ends meet and need access to

health care," Arambula said about his bill in the Assembly Health Committee hearing earlier this year.

Linda Nguy, a policy advocate with the Western Center on Law and Poverty, said it would be difficult to pass the bill if funding for it isn't included in this year's state budget. Funding for this proposal was not included in the governor's May revision of the budget.

However, the version of the budget released by the Legislature's Democratic leaders allocates \$31 million to reduce the share of cost for this population. The Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom must now come together and hammer out a final budget.

The Legislative Analyst's Office has estimated that this proposal would cost anywhere between \$53 million and \$151 million, of which half would be paid for by the state and the other half through federal funds. Without that funding, Arambula's bill would likely get stuck in the Senate's fiscal committee, Nguy said.

At least nine other states and the District of Columbia allow people who pay a share of cost for Medi-Cal (Medicaid in other states) to keep a higher amount for personal use than California does, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.

CalMatters COVID and health care coverage is supported by grants from the Blue Shield of California Foundation, the California Health Care Foundation and the California Wellness Foundation.

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'Kings and Queens Rise' Launch **Co-Ed Youth Sports and Mentoring**



Kings and Queens Rise provides young people opportunities to engage in intercommunity activities, which help prevent and interrupt violence. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Kings

Sacramento Kings **News Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -The fifth season of Kings and Queens Rise Co-Ed Youth Sports and Mentoring League launches this week through a partnership among the Sacramento Kings and The Center at Sierra Health Foundation's Build. Black. Coalition, Black Child Legacy Campaign and My Brother's Keeper Sacramento programs.

Kings and Queens Rise provides young people opportunities to engage in intercommunity activities, which help prevent and interrupt violence. The program is a caring and safe environment where mentors teach community building and sportsmanship.

"We helped launch the Kings and Queens Rise program based on the idea that we all share a collective responsibility in creating safe and supportive environments for our youth," said Sacramento Kings Chief Operating Officer Matina Kolokotronis. "Given the latest tragedies caused by gun violence and the compounded trauma, we know this work is more remain committed to providing youth with pathways for success and opportunities to build positive relationships."

"Kings and Queens Rise is part of the growing network of community-led violence prevention programs throughout Sacramento. The league provides young people opportunities to build community among themselves, across neighborhoods and with trusted adult coaches and mentors," said Chet P. Hewitt, president and CEO of Sierra Health Foundation and The Center, which manages Kings and Queens Rise, Build.Black., the Black Child Legacy Campaign and My Brother's Keeper Sacramento. "We're proud to partner with the Sacramento Kings on these social and development experiences for youth that foster pride in themselves and their communities."

Part of the Sacramento Kings Jr. Kings program, the eight-week basketball season will tip-off on June 25 and run until August 13. Eight teams composed of youth from 4th through 10th grade will participate, one from each of the

important than ever. We following neighborhoods: Arden Arcade, Del Paso Heights-North Sacramento, Foothill Farms-North Highlands, Fruitridge-Stockton, Marina Vista, Meadowview, Oak Park and Valley Hi. Games and practices take place throughout North and South Sacramento in community locations. The season will culminate with a tournament hosted by the Kings.

> In addition to basketball, this year, Kings and Queens Rise includes a co-ed dance team of up to 30 youth as well as golf clinics and a mobile golf simulator for youth participants and coaches.

To learn more about the first season of Kings and Queens Rise, see the inaugural season impact report here and a video recap here. View a video recap of the second season here, the third season impact report here and a video recap of the fourth season here.

To register a youth participant, fill out the Kings and Queens Rise application. For details about the fifth season of Kings and Queens Rise, visit the Black Child Legacy Campaign website.



With Mary Jane Popp

Oh Beautiful



That's how it all began... "Oh beautiful for spacious skies for amber waves of grain" a description of a wondrous new land.. We celebrate the Fourth of July with parades and picnics and fireworks where permitted, but sometimes we don't really think about what it really means. This day is the official beginning of our country and its growth to be what it is today. But how much do we know about this special day and the founders? I thought it would be fun to do a "did you know" column of facts we don't think of, as we celebrate to the Max! So here we go on the lighter side.

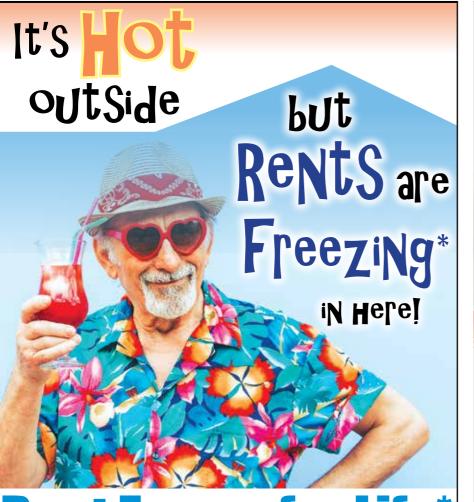
- 1. Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4: John Hancock and Charles Thomson, secretary of Congress. Most of the others signed on August 2.
- 2. Not everyone was on board with celebrating on July 4, the day Congress approved the Declaration. John Adams who became our second President, wanted to celebrate on July 2, the day congress voted for independence. He refused to attend festivities on July 4.
- 3. One U.S. President, Calvin Coolidge, was born on July 4. So were Nathaniel Hawthorne, George Steinbrenner, and Malia Obama.
- 4. July 4 wasn't deemed a federal holiday until 1870, nearly 100 years

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!!!

after the nation was founded, and a paid holiday for federal employees in 1941.

- 5. On July 4, 1778, George Washington ordered a double ration of rum for his soldiers to celebrate the holiday.
- 6. Fireworks have been a major part of Fourth of July since the earliest celebrations. In 1884, miners blew up the post office in Swan, Colorado because it wasn't supplied with fireworks.
- 7. The Philippines gained their own independence from the U.S. on July 4, 1946 by signing the Treaty of Manila.
- 8 .Other countries...including Denmark, England, Norway, Portugal, and Sweden celebrate the Fourth of July because so many of their citizens moved to the U.S. or simply to attract American tourists.
- 9. Americans consume around 150 million hot dogs on the Fourth of July.
- 10. Americans also spend more on beer on the Fourth of July than any other national holiday.
- 11. The first annual commemoration of July 4 was in 1777 in Philadelphia.
- 12. Thomas Jefferson was the first President to celebrate July 4 at the White House in 1801 featuring horse races, parades, food and drinks.

Fun to look at the lighter side of the Fourth of July, but it was serious business at the beginning. Some colonists celebrated Independence Day during the summer of 1776 by putting on mock funerals for King George III of England. They symbolized the death of the Crown's rule in America. The main purpose of this holiday is to honor all those who fought to make this new land America, the land of the free! Enjoy your July 4 with family and friends, but don't forget to remember how it all started!





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Metro Fire Opens New Unit

Continued from page 1

Chief Harms explained that "because someone will live in this fire station 24 hours a day and 365 days a year for the next 60-70 years," they will be exposed to toxic diesel exhaust fumes and soot which cause cancer.

Station 68 features a descending exhaust ducting system that hooks up to tailpipes to expel spent gases, together with divided living and garaged areas which are pressurized at different levels (somewhat analogous to a space station) so as not to allow contaminants flowing into living spaces when opening doors and other access breaches.

Metro Fire Board of Directors President Cinthia Saylors expressed gratitude that this station prioritizes the long-term health and safety of its members.

"As a retired firefighter, this is extremely important to me," Saylors said, "My generation suffers [from] very many types of cancers because we did not have the protections of sucking up the exhaust fumes; We had to live with the exhaust from our rigs; We had to live with the dirt on our turnouts; We carried our turnouts inside our rigs... We did not know that just the soot on our turnouts was cancerous."

Newly representing the redrawn Supervisor District 3, which covers Station 68, Supervisor Rich Desmond attended the grand opening and congratulated the fire district and residents.

Desmond said that the new station was not only going to "improve response times... in the local community... but also that it was going to boost Sac Metro's response to all hazards in the county." He was referring to the pre-positioning of wildland response rigs and other special operations which will be based at Station 68.

For more information visit: metrofire.ca.gov. ★

Recommended Budget Approved

Continued from page 1 Office; \$100,000 to the Mack Road Partnership to purchase the South Sacramento Community Center property; \$75,000 to Splash for vernal pool education: \$25,000 for an additional \$5,000 in TOT District Funds for each District.

The Board also set aside \$5 million to fund the new American River Parkway Homeless Reserve.

"I'm grateful to my colleagues and staff for

supporting my proposal to assist the American Parkway Foundation in their well-coordinated efforts to proactively assist those living in the Parkway so we can save the Parkway," said District One Supervisor Phil Serna. For details, read the

County Executive's Budget Letter or view the budget documents on the Office of Budget and Debt Management website.

The numbers on the Recommended Budget will change between now and September, when the County receives new information, including the impact of the State Budget and updated revenue totals. The Final Budget will come back to the Board of Supervisors in September for review and adoption.

By the Numbers: \$7.3 B: Total Budget; \$3.5 B: General Fund; \$2.8 B: Enterprise and Special Revenue; \$1.1 B: Restricted Funds; 13,252 Number of Employees \star

California Expands Infant Formula Options for WIC Families

CDPH Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - To further support California families while supplies of infant formula remain limited, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is adding a new flexibility by expanding purchasing options for the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program. Effective immediately, families with WIC benefits have eight additional formulas, and a total of 13 options, they can purchase for their infants.

WIC families can find the latest updates at MyFamily.WIC.ca.gov or the California WIC App and should contact their local WIC office with questions on how these options work for infants. General information on the infant formula shortage is available at cdph.ca.gov/ formula.

"We are quickly doing what we can to provide our WIC families with as many infant formula options as possible during this challenging time," said CDPH Director and State Public Health Officer Dr. Tomás J. Aragón. "In the coming



Many California families are feeling the effects of the formula shortage. Safe formula preparation is vital to ensure infant safety. Photo courtesy by Ben Kerckx from Pixabay

days we will also add more formulas to this list."

The state's action temporarily expands the existing (WIC) authorized product list to include additional infant formula options. These newer options will be removed once infant formulas are widely available again.

Safety Information for Families in Need of

Formula Many California families are feeling the effects of the formula shortage. Safe formula preparation is vital to ensure infant safety.

Non-WIC parents and caregivers who face a shortage should call their

health care providers first to help them navigate infant formula options when supplies are scarce.

Parents and caregivers are advised to NOT dilute formula or use homemade recipes for substitution as this can seriously harm a baby's health.

Babies usually tolerate alternative formula products except in the case of special therapeutic formula, and that's why it's important to consult with your healthcare provider first to get help or to discuss alternatives.

Visit cdph.ca.gov/ formula for more information.

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Grand Jury Releases New Status Review

Superior Court of California News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - When required to respond to a Sacramento County Grand Jury report showing a less than robust record of leadership at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Grand Jury found that the Board of Supervisors has opted to dodge and deflect. But the Grand Jury's deep concern, plainly stated in that February 2022 report, continues.

In the Grand Jury's newly issued Status Review, it finds that the Board's responses to the Grand Jury report reflect the Board's continuing refusal to acknowledge or accept responsibility for any deficiencies of leadership, accountability or engagement at the outset of the 2020 countywide emergency.

The Grand Jury in its February 2022 report called out the Board for lack of oversight and leadership during the first five critical months of the

COVID-19 pandemic. The Grand Jury conducted extensive research and interviews which found: 1) the Board of Supervisors handed off essential decision-making and CARES Act funding responsibility to its County Executive, or his designee; 2) the Board did not receive timely reports on allocation of CARES Act funds; 3) it failed to demand regular public updates on County pandemic activities; and 4) the Board failed to provide public forums to assess the vast array of needs and challenges faced by residents across Sacramento County.

The record of Board sessions speaks for itself: No actions were taken to publicly account for use of emergency funding, engaging with local residents and businesses, and even with its own agency heads, and is documented in the Grand Jury report.

It was this pattern of lack of leadership, engagement and oversight that was contained in the Grand Jury's report, and the basis tained in its Report.

of its findings and recommendations. The Grand Jury found that in the Board's response, it unfortunately cloaks itself in bureaucratic, misleading, and at times inaccurate statements.

Board The of Supervisors' position that there is 'nothing to see here' reflects the precise leadership and accountability deficiencies outlined in the Report. Sacramento County needs and deserves engaged, accountable leadership from Supervisors. This became clear during the pandemic.

The Report provides a roadmap toward improved County governance to better serve its residents. The Grand Jury remains concerned that the Board's apparent refusal to acknowledge any deficiencies will leave the County ill-prepared and vulnerable to the next inevitable public emergency. The Grand Jury strongly urges the Board to carefully reconsider the recommendations con-

Plastic Tax Initiative

Continued from page 1 are disproportionately held by Latinos and workers with a high school degree; Dedicates only about 30% of its tax proceeds toward increasing recycling and reducing plastic waste; and Opens consumers to even higher costs in the future by allowing the state to

impose new recycling measure. taxes and fees on other materials without a vote of the Legislature.

About Stop the Tax on Working Families

Stop the Tax on Working Families is a coalition of consumers, taxpavers, and small businesses opposed to the Tax on Plastic ballot

Paid for by Stop the Tax on Working Families, a Coalition of Taxpayer Groups and Business Associations Advocating to Keep California Affordable. Committee Major Funding from American Chemistry Council, California Business Roundtable. ★



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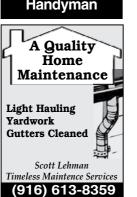
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1. Kitchen boss 5. Churchill's "so few' 8. Epochs 15 12. "Watch out!" on a golf course 13. East of Java 14. *Pinocchio's state of being 15. Hard currency 16. Emanation 17. TV and radio 24 18. *Mr. Popper's birds 20. Newspaper piece 21. *Like "Goosebumps Classic 22. "What?" 23. *Richard Scarry's Things That Go 26. Oxygenate, as in lawn 29. Skin cyst 43 30. Middle Eastern meat dish, pl. 33. Antonym of "yup" 35. Dispatch boat 37. Female sheep 50 51 38. Throat infection 39. Searching for E.T. org. 40. *"I think I can, I think I can...", e.g. 42. *"____ Spot run!" 59 43. Accounting journal 45 *The Plaza Hotel resident 62 of kids' book fame 47. Long, long time 48. Caffeine-containing nut trees 50 Off-color 52. *Ludwig Bemelmans' Parisian boarding school resident 55. Middle Eastern porter 56. Movie "____ Br 57. Karl of politics _ Brockovich' 59. In a cold manner 60. Obscenity 61. Middle of March 62. Fringe benefit 63. *Side for Green Eggs 64. Put in the outbox DOWN 1. Chlorofluorocarbon, abbr. 2. Obstacle to jump through 3. Great Lake 4. Tiny fox with large ears Two halves of a diameter 6. Like one in isolation cell 7. Evergreen trees 8. *Babar. e.g. 9. Thumb-up catch 10. Full of enthusiasm 11. *"The Little Mermaid" domain 13. Stock exchange, in Paris 14. Affair, to Emmanuel Macron 19. Michael Douglas' 1987 greedy role 22. "For a iolly .. 23. *Clement Clark Moore's famous beginning 24. Live it up 25. Join forces 26. Aid in crime 27. Bodies 28. *Athos', Porthos' and Aramis' swords 31. *Cordurov or Paddington 32. Stiff grass bristle 34. *D'Artagnan's sword 36. *It ends, according to Shel Silversteir 38. North American purple berry at Work, band 40.



Now You Can Use Your Library Card to Visit State Parks

CA State Library News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California State Parks and the California State Library today announced an additional opportunity to advance safe and equitable outdoor access to all Californians.

Starting in the first week of April – National Library Week – California State Parks will be distributing the California State Library Parks Pass to public libraries across the state for checkout by library patrons. The new pass will allow free vehicle day use entry at more than 200 participating state park units.

"Spending time in nature is crucial to our mental health and well-being," said First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom. "We're lucky to have the largest state park system in the nation, and I am thrilled to partner with California State Parks and the California State Library to help make those spaces more accessible to California families. With the California State Library Parks Pass, anyone with a library card will be able to unlock the benefits and beauty of our majestic state parks."

Research shows that spending time in the outdoors is associated with better mental and physical health, and that many Californians face barriers to accessing their parks. California has a wealth of state parks, and many public libraries are likely within driving distance of one. By reducing barriers to park access and partnering with entities such as public libraries, the state can help more Californians explore the outdoors and generate positive impacts in the area of health, natural resource stewardship, and historical and cultural connections.

"Parks and libraries have the potential to be powerful symbols and agents for California's open spaces," said California State Parks Director Armando



Visit your local public library and check out a California State Library Parks Pass. Photo courtesy of California State Library

Quintero. "It is an honor to work side-by-side with the California State Library, Newsom Administration and partners to advance outdoor access to all Californians via public libraries, inspire stewardship for the state park system and build a healthier California."

As part of a three-year pilot program starting in April, each library jurisdiction will receive at least three California State Library Parks Pass hangtags per branch for checkout by library patrons, including mobile libraries. Park Passes will enter circulation on a rolling basis throughout April and May for checkout by library patrons; library users can contact their local library for more information. Library-card holders will be able to check out the pass for the allotted number of days allowed by the local library, then return the pass to the library for others to use. The pass is valid for entry of one passenger vehicle with capacity of nine people or less or one highway licensed motorcycle at participating state park units.

"Libraries are trusted community hubs where Californians know they can find what they need to work, play, and thrive," said California State Librarian Greg Lucas. "This partnership with State Parks now allows Californians to 'check out' California's great outdoors at their community library."

Libraries are already an important part of Californians' lives. There are 1,184 public library buildings in California, and more than 23 million Californians have library cards. In 2019-2020, these libraries circulated over 97 million items free of charge, such as books, technology, Wi-Fi hotspots, videos, music, instruments, tools, telescopes and more. Additionally, the libraries hosted over 300,000 programs in 2019-2020, with almost 7.5 million people attending. The California State Library Parks Pass program is one more way that Californians can get empowered through their libraries. Additionally, the California State Library will be providing grant funding to libraries for outdoor-related items for checkout, programs that teach natural resource stewardship and outdoor skills, or to encourage their library patrons to enjoy the outdoors and make historical and cultural connections to parks.

"All Californians should have the opportunity to be outdoors in nature," said California Secretary for Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot. "Yet many of our state's residents live in communities without adequate parks and open space. This innovative new program will enable more Californians to explore our incredible State Parks system, and in the process create more equitable access to nature and the outdoors."

The 2021/22 State Budget included initiatives to advance equitable access to state parks and open spaces for all Californians. A \$9.1 million one-time General Fund investment was included in the budget to launch a state parks pilot to expand parks pass distribution, especially for youth in disadvantaged communities. The pilot includes the California State Park Adventure Pass program that provides free day-use passes for fourth graders and their families, the revamped Golden Bear Pass Program and the California State Library Parks Pass.

"California State Parks Foundation was honored to work with First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom to secure funding for the California State Library Parks Pass program and other innovative pilot programs to increase access to the state's magnificent park system. We firmly believe every Californian should have access to the beauty and benefits of parks, and we know that cost can be a barrier to visiting. We're excited that local branch libraries will now be a gateway to state parks," said Executive Director of the California State Parks Foundation Rachel Norton.

Detailed information on the new California State Library Parks Program, including full terms and conditions, is available online at CheckOutCAStateParks. com. For more information on all the new parks pass programs, please visit parks.ca.gov/ CaliforniaOutdoorsForAll.

Subscribe to California State Parks News online at www.parks. ca.gov/news or email us at newsroom@parks.ca.gov.

California State Parks and the recreational programs supported by its divisions of Boating and Waterways, Historic Preservation and Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation provide the opportunity for families, friends, and communities to connect. Off-highway motor vehicle recreation, boating activities, horseback riding, cycling, hiking, camping, rock climbing, tours, hikes, school group enrichment, and special events are just some of the activities enjoyed in 279 park units organized into 21 field districts throughout the state. Learn more at www.parks. ca.gov.



Launched during National Library Week, the new pass is valid at over 200 participating state parks throughout California for vehicle day-use entry. Photo courtesy of California State Library

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