

CAL FIRE Gets New **Training Tower**

When Something You Love Makes You Money

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VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 2 Serving Gold River and Sacramento County

FEBRUARY, **2022**

CAMPAIGN FOR STATE SENATE



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JONES RUNS FOR THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



COOLEY'S BILL TO AIDE SMALL **BUSINESSES**



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Help Count the Homeless



Census data helps government take into consideration the needs of its constituents. Photo: SSI

Sacramento Steps Forward Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -Sacramento Steps Forward issued a call for an estimated 500 volunteers to help do a physical count of individuals

living outdoors throughout Sacramento County on Feb. 23 and 24.

The count, previous set for January 26 and 27, was rescheduled based on a review of the public health order issued Thursday by Sacramento County's Health Officer related to the rapid spread of the COVID 19 omicron variant as well as federal guidance on the "Point in Time" census of

unsheltered residents. SSF, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit serving the Sacramento region, is the lead agency for the Sacramento Continuum of Care (CoC), the regional planning body that coordinates housing and

services for homeless families and individuals in the Sacramento area. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires all CoCs to conduct the count at a specified time every other year in order to qualify for federal funding for homeless services programs.

"While January is when we are required to do this, COVID has gotten in the way. But like other organizations, we must approach our work with public health safety first. That is why we are going to move up the date by a month," said Lisa Bates, SSF Executive Director. "This year's count is more important than ever, because it will give us hard data on the state of homelessness, particularly how the effects of the pandemic over the last two years have affected the rate of homelessness." Its benefits will affect how future strategies to end homelessness will be shaped.

"The critical data this count will give our community is indispensable in assessing progress in decreasing homelessness, identifying strengths and gaps in our assistance programs, all of which forms the basis for future programs

and services," she added. The scheduled count for 2020 was cancelled due to COVID. The last count was done in 2019. Using a largely volunteer workforce, it identified 5,570 persons experiencing homelessness on a given night, an increase of 19 percent countywide over the previous two-year period.

The PIT count identifies the number of unhoused individuals, families, or unaccompanied youth under age 18; the length of time being homeless; age; marital

status; ethnicity and establishes the number of those who are veterans or disabled. Unsheltered residents will also be asked about their health, wellbeing, and vaccination status.

Volunteers will have more choices about where they can help. New in 2022 is the addition of more PIT deployment centers throughout the region. The central deployment center will be located on the CSU Sacramento main campus. Satellite deployment sites will also be located in the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, and Rancho Cordova.

Extensive preparation for the event includes the pre-mapping of locations where there is a reasonable probability of people living outside, important to ensuring that volunteer canvassers' time is put to

Continued on page 3

Sacramento Checks Out Over 3 Million Ebooks and Audiobooks



the continued growth and demand of library services including digital lending of ebooks and audiobooks. Photo courtesy Pixabay

Sacramento Public Library Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -

Sacramento Public Library announced today that it reached a record-breaking 3 million digital book checkouts in 2021. This milestone illustrates the continued growth and demand of library services including digital lending of ebooks and audiobooks. Sacramento Public Library is one of 20 public library systems worldwide that surpassed one million digital checkouts.

"We've experienced tremendous demand for ebooks and audiobooks over the past several years," said Library Director and CEO Peter Coyl. "Readers love the convenience of having free access to thousands of materials on their device. You can take the library wherever you go."

Sacramento Public Library has been providing readers 24/7 access to ebooks and audiobooks for several years through the award-winning Libby app, the library reading app created by OverDrive. Reader interest and usage has grown every year. Sacramento Public Library first exceeded 2 million digital items in 2019.

Through apps like Libby by Overdrive, library cardholders can not only checkout ebooks, audiobooks and magazines but also find free online classes in Libby's Extras section to learn how to play musical instruments, decorate cakes, sew, and more.

Readers in Sacramento County just need a valid library card to access digital books from the Library's digital collection. Use any major device, including Apple(R), AndroidTM, ChromebookTM and Kindle(R) (U.S. only) to download the Libby app to get started borrowing ebooks and audiobooks anytime, anywhere.

Learn more about what you can discover with your Sacramento Public Library card at saclibrary. org/welcome.

Blocking A Million Cyber Threats Daily

Sacramento County Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- What if every person in the United States, about 333,000,000 people had tried to hack into Sacramento County government information systems in 2021?

The reality is that the amount would still be shy by roughly 27 million. Last year, there were a whopping 360 million unauthorized attempts to connect to Sacramento County information systems, and each of them was successfully blocked by network filters. At the same time, email filters were successfully blocking 145 million malicious email messages.

In 2021, Sacramento County Successfully **Blocked Cyber Threats:**

360,000,000 Unauthorized Network Attempts 145,000,000 Malicious Email Message Attempts

Network and email filters are just two of the ways Sacramento County's Department of Technology (DTech) is working vigorously to protect the confidentiality, integrity and accessibility of the County's information systems and the data within

Some other ways:

Every day, cybercriminals try to trick Sacramento County employees into clicking malicious links. Thanks to DTech's ongoing Security Awareness training required for the entire workforce, employees are becoming more sophisticated about these persistent "phishing" attempts. In the fourth quarter of 2021, employee and contractor

phishing susceptibility was only 6.6 percent, compared to 17.6 percent in the fourth quarter of 2020, and compared to the overall government susceptibility rate of 26 percent.

To prevent cybercriminal takeovers of County accounts, DTech has implemented two-factor authentication, which requires users to verify their sign-in to County systems, webmail, and other external-facing web services.

Whenever a vulnerability is discovered in systems or workstations, DTech takes quick and thorough action to implement a software patch. Today, 99 percent of critical and important security patching is being completed within 30 days.

"The fact is, we are so focused on cybersecurity that most of our 14,000+

Sacramento County employees have no idea of the millions of malicious attacks we are blocking and intercepting on our network and email systems every single day. It is now our reality that all U.S. government agencies, big or small, are a target for cybercriminals from all over the globe. We make every effort to be one step ahead of the millions who try to break in," said, CIO and DTech Director Rami Zakaria.

Each workday, County workforce members go about their tasks knowing that although there is an army of cybercriminals constantly seeking to steal County data or disrupt operations, only a very tiny fraction of these attempts will succeed. DTech's mission is to keep shrinking that tiny fraction.

www.GoldRiverMessenger.com

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When Something You Love Makes You Money When



Becoming an umpire is easier than you might think. Knowledge of the game is not required, but it does help. All you need to do is sign up for umpire clinics that are offered by local little leagues and softball leagues. Photo courtesy Pixabay

By Michele Townsend

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - It's January... and with January comes the planning of the year's Baseball and Softball season! Are you a baseball or softball fan? Some of the best games you will ever see, will be those played in Little League. Do you miss your glory days of playing ball? Or maybe, you loved the game, but you weren't one of those people blessed with the gift of being athletic. Well then, umpiring might be just the thing for you.

Umpiring is a great way to make some money as well. Depending on the league, and sometimes the level, umpires will often make between \$25 and \$75 per game. Umpires create their own schedules so you work as much or as little as you want. On weekends, there are often 6 games in a day. That can easily be a \$600 weekend in pay, or more.

Becoming an umpire is easier than you might think. Knowledge of the game is not required, but it does help. All you need to do is sign up for umpire clinics that are offered by local little leagues and softball leagues. The clinics are generally free and teach you from the basics to recent rule changes. They teach you what

equipment is legal, and why other equipment is not legal.

There are free webinars and videos on https://www.littleleague.org/university/umpires/. If you live in the Sacramento area, USA softball is offering an umpire school on January 29th and 30th, in Roseville. Simply go to www.usasoftballsacramento. or or go onto Facebook at Facebook. com/usasoftballsacramento to register for the umpire school. You can also call Chuck Brabec at (916)834-8074 or email UIC@usasoftballsacramento.org

If you miss this one, don't fret. There will be other clinics in your area soon. Simply call Little Leagues or softball leagues in your area and ask to speak to their Umpire in Chief. You can also contact your District office and inquire about umpiring with them. In case you don't know what District you are in: Rocklin & Auburn is Dist. 11; Dixon and Woodland is Dist. 64; Carmichael is Dist. 5; South Sacramento is Dist. 7; Gridley is Dist. 2; and West Sacramento is Dist. 6.

Don't worry about if you are new at umpiring, they won't just throw you to the wolves. They train you and move you up as you gain confidence and experience. As you learn the profession of umpiring, like anything, it's all what you make of it. You can be one of those umpires that enjoy what they are doing and have fun being part of the game.

You can become one of those umpires that spots a shy or nervous kid and encourages them to get that hit or make that catch and know that you played a part in giving that child some self-confidence and pride. Most sports fans are officials from the stands or from their living rooms. Why not do it for real? It's a great way to stay active and have fun.

If baseball and softball is not your game, then consider officials training in whatever sport you like! In the last few years, there has been a real shortage and need for game officials in youth sports. It's really up to you where you take it. You may start out refereeing basketball for parks and rec, or umpiring for softball minors, but you may take it to officiating for schools, or for semi-pro or pro teams.

Regardless of the sport(s) you choose, working two days a week doesn't sound bad either. Officiating youth sports is a great way to give back to your favorite sport, your city and your kids! Put the knowledge you already have to use, and maybe learn some more about the game(s) you love.

When to Call 9-1-1



Urgent care clinics can handle most non-life threatening situations, allowing ambulances to focus on critical situations. Photo: Sac Metro Fire.

Sacramento Metro Fire Press Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - When someone calls 9-1-1, the expectation is that an ambulance shows up quickly, you are assessed, stabilized if necessary, and taken to the nearest emergency department to be seen by a doctor within minutes. However, when someone calls 9-1-1 for a non-life-threatening event, they often times are not seen quickly at the hospital. Sometimes for several hours.

This is because a hospital emergency department operates under what is called a "triage" system and not a "first-come, first-served" system—like a doctor's office. The more significant the medical event is, the faster the patient is seen. This is because things like choking, heart attacks, and head injuries require immediate attention to give the patient the best chance of survival.

Metro Fire would like

to remind the community about when it is appropriate to call 9-1-1 and when an individual is better served contacting their primary care physician or driving themselves to an urgent care clinic to be seen by a doctor.

Always call 9-1-1 for a life-threatening emergency. If someone is having difficulty breathing, choking, head injury, loss of consciousness, chest pains, significant bleeding, internal injury, falls from a high distance, or any other injury or illness that is immediately life threatening 9-1-1 is appropriate.

It is recommended that you contact your physician for issues such as general pain, prescription refills, COVID testing, or an illness or injury that is not an immediate threat to health or life. If you need to be seen immediately, urgent care clinics can handle most non-life threatening issues such as prescriptions, routing testing, cold and flu like symptoms, and more!

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FEBRUARY, 2022 GOLD RIVER MESSENGER • 3

Sacramento Steps Forward: Help Count the Homeless

Continued from page 1 efficient use.

Bates said a volunteer sign up portal is now available on the SSF website. "Past volunteers tell us it is a great way to learn about homelessness and make an impact. Some do it to earn volunteer hours or course credit, have a joint activity with friends or colleagues, or simply to accomplish something unique and meaningful. Whatever their reason, we welcome their participation and involvement," she said.

There are two ways volunteers can help. "We will be putting together small teams of canvassers who will use a survey tool we developed, record the count and distribute gift cards to survey participants. And there are a variety of

essential support functions that a volunteer can sign up for," she said.

These include such support functions as being a volunteers' concierge who distributes packets to canvassers and addresses canvassing questions; serving as check- in and check- out station attendants, health screeners, or helping distribute food and beverages to volunteers.

To be a canvasser, volunteers must be at least 18 years of age, be willing to travel by foot or car, attend all required trainings and be willing to bring their own flashlight, smartphone or other personal supplies.

"We are making every effort to ensure our volunteers will have a well- organized, supported and safe experience," Bates said. All volunteers must show proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by having at least 2 shots of Pfizer or Moderna, or 1 shot of Johnson and Johnson vaccine, and of course, anyone with active symptoms of a cold, flu or COVID-19 will not be able to participate.

For more information, visit www.sacstepsforward.org

Gold River TOWN CENTRE

Gold River Town Centre is where you can find a variety of local eateries, shops, and services. If you are looking to grab a quick bite to eat, enjoy quality time with friends and family, or glam up with a beauty service, Gold River Town Centre has everything you need and more.













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Assemblyman Roger Niello Announces Campaign for State Senate



Roger Niello

Roger Niello for State Senate 2022 Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- Assemblyman Roger Niello (fmr.) announced his campaign for the newly drawn State Senate District 6, currently represented by Senator Brian Dahle and Jim Nielsen.

"It is no secret that California faces significant challenges, unfortunately high rates of homelessness, increasing crime, and an abysmal climate for small business owners." Niello stated. "We need leaders who are willing to put politics aside and do the hard work of crafting solutions that improve life for California's working families."

Niello enters the race

for Senate District 6 with wide-reaching support, with endorsements from over twenty-five local elected officials, including Placer County Supervisors Bonnie Gore, Robert Weygandt, and Jim Holmes, as well as Sacramento District Attorney Anne Marie Shubert and Supervisor

Rich Desmond. "Roger Niello has been a longtime advocate for our region and been steadfast in creating new business and job opportunities for Sacramento and Placer County residents." said Placer County Supervisor Bonnie Gore. "He did it as a business leader, he did it as an Assemblyman, and I firmly believe he will do it again as our representative in the State Senate."

also added his early support for Roger, stating "Roger Niello is uniquely qualified to serve Placer and Sacramento Counties in the State Senate. After more than four decades representing these communities in the State Legislature, there is no one

I trust more to serve with

Senator Jim Nielsen

knowledge, experience, and real-world compassion than Roger Niello."

Roger Niello is a successful small business owner, having owned and operated The Niello Company auto dealer group with his brothers David and Rick.

Roger is a CPA and formerly served as a member of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, the California State Assembly, and President & CEO of the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Roger served as Interim Director of the El Dorado County Community Services Agency.

Roger is running for California Senate District Six, an open seat that is comprised of large portions of Placer and Sacramento Counties, including the communities of Galt, Rancho Murieta, Rancho Cordova, Arden-Arcade, Carmichael, Fair Oaks, Folsom, Citrus heights, Antelope, Roseville, Rocklin, Granite Bay, Loomis, and Lincoln.

Roger lives with his wife, Mary, in Fair Oaks. Together, they have five adult children and six grandchildren.

Jones Campaigning for California's 3rd Congressional District



Scott Jones

Sheriff Scott Jones for US Congress

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -Sacramento County Sheriff Scott Jones announced he is joining the Republican primary for California's newly drawn 3rd Congressional

District.

Starting with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office in 1989, Sheriff Jones rose through the ranks, earning the respect of his peers and the community alike. He was first elected Sheriff by the people of Sacramento County in 2010 and was subsequently re-elected in 2014 and 2018.

"We are at a pivotal moment in America's history. Our people have an infinite amount of patriotism, passion, ingenuity and drive. Unfortunately, the failed policies and politics of liberal Washington politicians are dividing us, making us less safe, and stifling opportunity.

I've spent 33 years on the front line of law enforcement. I think everyone knows I'm not always politically correct, and that I 'call it like I see it.' Crime and lawlessness are growing. Nothing is being done to secure the border and stop illegal immigration.

That is why this election is all about who has the leadership and experience to make a difference, and who will restore law and order in America. I am the law and order candidate - I'll stand up against the "woke" liberals like Nancy Pelosi. I have and will stand up against the 'Defund the Police' movement to help make our communities safe again. I have and will stand up to demand we secure our horder.

Today, I am declaring, with my wife of 27 years and my 4 children at my side, that I am a candidate for Congress. I will put the safety of America and Americans first again."

Sheriff Jones

accomplished a strong record of leadership at the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office, stewarding the Department's recovery from the worst financial crisis of its history, becoming a regional leader in the fight against gangs, and hiring a record number of women, minorities, and veterans. As one of the foremost experts on law enforcement in California, Sheriff Jones will be an advocate for investing in public safety and a vocal opponent of the 'Defund the Police' movement. Jones will be an advocate for fiscal accountability, border security, and restoring criminal justice to America's communities.

California's 3rd Congressional District includes the Counties of Placer, Nevada, Mono, Sierra, Inyo, Plumas and Alpine and portions of Sacramento, El Dorado and Yuba Counties. It is an open seat and Republicans hold a 7-point registration advantage.

To learn more about Sheriff Scott Jones and his campaign for Congress, visit: scottjonesforcongress.com.

Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber PAC Endorses Pat Hume for Supervisor

Pat Hume News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber Political Action Committee (Metro-PAC) endorsed Pat Hume for the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors in District 5.

"Pat Hume is a proven regional leader through his work to drive economic development and create coalitions across geographic and political lines to tackle real issues," said Metro-PAC Board Chair Chelsea Minor. "Pat has been a champion for the business community, especially our small businesses. It is because of Pat's understanding on the important role public policy plays in creating jobs

and driving inclusive economic prosperity that the Metro-PAC has endorsed him for Sacramento County Supervisor."

The Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber Political Action Committee is joined by other area business groups including Region Business, Sacramento Association of Realtors, California Apartment Association, and the Builders Exchange in supporting Pat Hume.

Hume has already been endorsed by the Sacramento County Deputy Sheriff's, Sacramento County Probation Association, State Coalition of Probation Organizations, as well as the Elk Grove and Sacramento Police Officers Associations. Pat Hume was elected to the Elk Grove City Council in 2006, and overwhelmingly re-elected three times, most recently in 2018 when he earned nearly 60% of the vote. District 5 includes the cities of Elk Grove, Galt and Isleton, and Rancho Cordova; along with the unincorporated communities of Rosemont, Wilton, and the Delta.







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FEBRUARY, 2022 GOLD RIVER MESSENGER • 5

Folsom Lake College Supports Military Service Credit for Veterans

Folsom Lake College Press Release

FOLSOM, CA (MPG) - Folsom Lake College has been selected to participate in the Military Articulation Platform (MAP) 2022 Cohort. The goal of the program is to ensure all United States military veterans and active duty service members receive college transfer credit for the rigorous training and coursework they complete during active duty.

The cloud-based MAP system will track approval and articulation of college courses to military credit recommendations. Cohort colleges will be provided with access to the platform, along with support, training, and opportunities for regional collaboration to successfully facilitate articulation agreements to award credit to student-veterans.

Veterans and active duty service members can receive up to one year of Folsom Lake College credit towards academic programs leading to graduation, transfer to a four-year university, and careers. For more information on military service for credit, see the Folsom Lake College website at flc.losrios.edu.

The MAP project launched in 2017 at Norco College and was supported by a \$250,000 legislative appropriation for Phase 1 (design and beta test). The current phase, Phase 3, is supported by a \$2 million legislative appropriation.

The Military Articulation Program initiative is a collaborative effort by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO), the Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges (ASCCC), the American Council on Education (ACE), CalVet, and local and regional legislators.

FLC offers educational opportunities and support for students to earn associate degrees or certificates, transfer to four-year institutions, and achieve career goals. For more information on Folsom Lake College, go to flc.losrios.edu.

Poppoff! With Mary Jane Popp

Getting Through

Haven't had a chance to tell you all that I had a really BAD fall on January 17 and fractured my upper arm just below the socket. Suffice to say it has been a rough road as my whole arm down to my hand turned black and blue and range of motion is like non-existent right now. I have been off from my radio show three weeks now and probably more to come. Of course it had to be my dominant arm too. I know I will get through this trauma and pain physically, but psychologically, it has been a nightmare. I am not one to sit around like a slug. I want to go at lightning speed, and this break has put a halt to that. So I called good friend Dr. Susan Smith-Jones for some advice when you are hit with this kind of distress.

Dr. Jones has made extraordinary contributions in the fields of holistic healing, supreme well-being and balanced living. Author of some 27 books with her latest "Wired For High-Level Wellness," she shared these 12 powerful ways to achieve peace of mind and inner calm They are simple things you can do to calm your thoughts and to live more simply and peacefully. So I hope they can help you and me when chaos strikes.

- 1. LISTEN TO MUSIC. Music is food for the soul and an instant way to gain 12. CULTIVATE AN ATTITUDE OF peace of mind.
- 2. SLOW DEEP BREATHING. This is a quick and easy way to instantly feel
- **3. GO FOR A WALK.** Getting out in the fresh air can do you a world of good and promote peace of mind.

- 4. ENJOY NATURE. Too much concrete is never a good thing, so listen to the birds singing and enjoy the peace and tranquility.
- 5. PLAY WITH A PET. Having a pet to play with is a great way to de- stress.
- 6. DE-CLUTTER. Clutter can add to feelings of tension and a clean, clear home allows for a more peaceful mind.
- 7. MINDFULNESS. When we are mindful, we are fully present in the moment, less stressed and acutely aware of our five senses: touch, taste, sight, hearing and smell.
- 8. SENSE OF HUMOR. The world is instantly a better place when you can see the funny side of life.
- 9. LIVE IN THE MOMENT. When we live in the present, the concerns of the past and future can't worry us.
- 10. WORRY LESS. Learn to "shelve" worrying by reminding yourself that most of your worries are unproductive and remove any chance of peace of
- 11. ENJOY "ME-TIME." A little bit of selfish time to treat yourself or do exactly as you please sets you up for taking on the constant demands of life.
- GRATITUDE. Focusing on all the things in our lives for which we are grateful, promotes inner calm and reminds us that there are always positives if we seek them out. Hope this helps, and keep the faith. Will keep you posted!

Probation Officers Endorse Pat Hume for Sac County Supervisor

Sacramento County **Probation Association Press Release**

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Probation Association (SCDSA) endorsed Pat Hume for Sacramento County Board of Supervisors in District 5. Current Supervisor Don Notolli is not running for re-election.

"Pat Hume has a long and consistent record of standing up for crime victims and ensuring public safety officers have the resources to do a difficult job," said Greg Stuber, President of Sacramento County Probation. "He's earned our support."

"It is an honor to earn the endorsement

of the Sacramento County Probation Association," said Hume. "Probation officers are the unsung heroes of our public safety system. They are the ones getting repeat offenders and illegal guns off our

Hume has also been endorsed by the State Coalition of Probation Organizations.

Pat Hume was elected to the Elk Grove City Council in 2006, and overwhelmingly re-elected three times, most recently in 2018 when he earned nearly 60% of the vote. District 5 includes the cities of Elk Grove, Galt and Isleton, and Rancho Cordova, and the unincorporated communities of Rosemont, Wilton, and the Delta.

Nielsen Cautions on Projected Surplus



Office of Senator Jim Nielsen

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -Senator Jim Nielsen, R-Red Bluff, issued the following statement in response to Governor Newsom's proposed 2022-23 State Budget:

"Governor Newsom needs to wake up on water storage. There is an urgent need to fully-fund and immediately build large above-ground water storage projects like Sites Reservoir. and his proposed budget falls billions of dollars short. Groundwater recharge and conservation, while important, simply aren't enough.

"As the state continues to face devastating wildfires that destroy lives, property and wildlife, the governor's budget proposes \$1.2 billion for forest health and fire prevention. Republicans have advocated for these efforts for decades. I'm glad that the Governor is slowly coming around on prevention, though much more needs to be done.

"Dangerous people are not in custody and the people of California don't feel safe. This budget proposal takes a few steps but doesn't sufficiently address the need to support law enforcement.

"The state budget has a \$21 billion surplus, so there's no reason to not provide enough money to fund these critical priorities."

Watch Senator Nielsen's video clips: https://vimeo. com/663401256/813c222bcf

Visit nielsen.cssrc.us/ to the Senate Republican's letter to Governor Newsom outlining their critical budget priorities.

Elected to the State Senate in January 2013, Senator Nielsen represents the Fourth Senate District, which includes the counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba. To contact Senator Jim Nielsen. please call him at 916-651-4004, or via email at senator.nielsen@senate.ca.gov. Follow him @ CASenatorJim.

Social Security Matters

I Have Medicare Advantage -Why Is a Medicare Premium Deducted from my Social Security?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: My wife and I have a Medicare Advantage Plan, and we do not use Medicare for our claims. However, we still have the Medicare premium deducted from our Social Security checks. Is this correct? Signed: Wondering

Dear Wondering: If, after age 65, you choose to take Medicare outpatient coverage of any kind you must pay that Part B premium, even if you decide to acquire a Medicare Advantage plan instead of using "original Medicare" to administer your healthcare claims.

Medicare Advantage plans (often referred to as Medicare "Part C") are healthcare plans offered by private insurers who will administer your healthcare claims instead of the Federal Government. But you cannot get a Medicare Advantage plan without

and Part B (coverage for outpatient services) and paying any associated Part B (and perhaps Part A) premium.

As you know, you pay a low premium (or perhaps no premium) for your Medicare Advantage plan. That's because the Part B premium you are now paying from your Social Security is actually going to your Medicare Advantage plan provider, enabling them to offer you equivalent coverage at little or no additional cost. Some Medicare Advantage plans even provide added coverage which Medicare Part B doesn't, such as dental and vision and, sometimes, prescription drug coverage. If that all sounds enticing, remember that Medicare Advantage plans usually also include restrictions on which medical service providers you can use, unlike "original Medicare" which permits you to use any medical service provider who accepts Medicare (nearly all).

So, when you see or hear a Medicare Advantage provider advertising "no cost" or "very low cost" coverage, recognize that they can offer that only because the fixed amount for your care amacfoundation.org.

first being enrolled in from the Medicare Part B Medicare Part A (inpatient premium taken from your hospitalization coverage) Social Security. The Part B premium you are paying from your Social Security benefit is why your Medicare Advantage plan premium is as low as it is.

Many people like the cost efficiency and extra coverage provided by Medicare Advantage plans and are comfortable with the restriction to use "in-network" providers. Many others choose "original Medicare" because of the inherent flexibility to use just about any healthcare service provider they wish. You should always carefully evaluate which type of healthcare coverage is right for you personally.

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Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

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Cooley's Bill to Aide Small Businesses Passes Committee



Assemblyman Ken Cooley

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - Assemblyman Ken Cooley (D-Rancho Cordova) announced that his Assembly Bill 820, which aims to spur lending to small businesses especially hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic by allowing qualified lenders to receive a tax credit for loans distributed during this trying time, has passed the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation with bipartisan support.

The 2019 COVID-19 Pandemic response upended the daily lives of all Californians. In an attempt to limit the spread of the virus, mandatory shutdowns were put in place. As the pandemic worsened and the shutdowns continued, the costs of operating a business without continued revenue became burdensome for many of California's small businesses.

"During the pandemic public investment was offered from the federal and state governments but not nearly enough small businesses applied and received relief. It is clear that the demand for capital and financial assistance exceeds available public resources." Cooley said. "It's vital that we do everything we can to keep these businesses afloat in these trying times. They are the economic engine that will spur our recovery."

AB 820 provides banks additional incentives to lend to small businesses by excluding the qualified interest income from calculation of the sales factor for taxable years starting January 1, 2022 and before January 1, 2027. These loans must be one million dollars or less issued to a qualified business on or after March 15, 2020, but prior to January 1, 2025. A qualified small business must have 50 or fewer full-time employees and demonstrated and annual loss in net income of 10% or more from 2020 to 2021. These definitions help to ensure that the aid is properly funneled towards supporting businesses that have struggled in the immediate throws of the pandemic.

AB 820 now moves to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

Assemblyman Ken Cooley represents the 8th Assembly District which includes 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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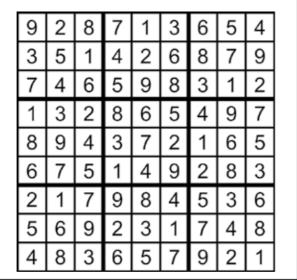
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8 • GOLD RIVER MESSENGER FEBRUARY, 2022

CAL FIRE Gets Training Tower

By Kathy Ziprik, Ziprik Consulting

CAMERON PARK, CA (MPG)

- Fire Captain/Paramedic Jonah Winger possesses a specific skill that has served him well during his 27 years in the fire service: patience. In 2011 Winger started the process of requesting funding for a fire training structure for the Cameron Park (Calif.) Fire Department. Finally, after many starts and stops, a new Firefighter training structure is now in place.

"The process took us 10 years to complete, but it's so worth it," says Winger, with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the Amador-El Dorado Unit out of Cameron Park. "Fire Facilities was patient to continually update us on costs and information as we worked to get the tower approved over the years. They were easy to work with on choosing, designing, and receiving estimates for the structure we desired.

"Having the three-story Firefighter tower readily available has changed everything. Now we can train any day or time at a moment's notice."

Training is critical for firefighters across the country, but especially in wildfire-prone California. So far in 2021, CAL FIRE has assisted with numerous wildfires, including the explosive 67-day Caldor fire that burned 221,835 acres. CAL FIRE teams are constantly on-call to control all aspects of wildfire suppression in the 1,786 square miles of El Dorado County.

"The Firefighter tower can be used for wildland



urban interface structure triage and wildland drill scenarios," says Winger. "Previously we had to train on local business buildings and at our fire stations. Now we are training daily on a tower more suited for our needs. While wildfires are extensive in our area, we use The Firefighter tower almost exclusively for structural firefighting and rescue training."

provided by Ziprik Consulting

CAL FIRE/Cameron Park Fire Department has already started including other stations in training for multi-company drills. The height and features of The Firefighter allow replication training for one- to three-story

scenarios of multi-family residential units, single-family residences, commercial structures and health care facilities. The crews are also training on internal and external staircases, fire protections systems, flat commercial roofs, parapets, attics, FDC, sprinklers and standpipes.

To enhance training experiences, several custom elements were added to The Firefighter for CAL FIRE.

"We chose to add the rappelling anchors, FDC, sprinkler system, burn crib, and roof hatch so we could use the tower for a variety of training scenarios," says Winger. "Every drill we place certain features 'in or out' of play to create a specific atmosphere and training objective." So, how did

CAL FIRE finally get its customized tower? According to Sherry Moranz, Assistant Chief, Central Division Operations for CAL FIRE, the need finally matched up with the funding availability.

"We presented the project concept, the plan, the cost, the justification, and the benefit to the Cameron Park Community Services District Board and to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors," says

Park residents, but residents across all of El Dorado County."

Now located adjacent to Fire Station 89 in Cameron Park, The Firefighter is ready for action. Winger believes more than 100 people will train on the structure regularly.

"The tower and burn room annex are ideal for both fire and EMS scenarios," says Winger. "We anticipate the entire CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado Unit will train here. This includes our personnel, fire interns, fire explores, fire academies, class and other El Dorado County fire cooperators.

"We waited a long 10 years to get this terrific training tower. Now we plan to use it constantly to hone our skills and prepare even harder to serve residents in our area."

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Brandon Rose Elected SMUD Board President



SMUD Press Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - SMUD's Board of Directors elected Brandon Rose as its new President of the Board. His term will run from January through December 2022. Director Rose was first elected to the Board in 2016 and represents Ward 1, which includes Fair Oaks, Citrus Heights, Orangevale and part of Folsom.

Rose first became interested in energy policy while a student researching SMUD's network of

along Highway 50. He later gained extensive experience while working in the California Energy Commission's Renewable Energy Office with a focus on emerging technologies including solar and wind power. At the California Energy Commission, Rose was staff lead for the pilot Performance-Based Incentive Program for solar electric systems, an innovative economic-based approach to incentivize installations, and a precursor to California's Million Solar Roofs Initiative.

In his current role as an Air Pollution Specialist with the California **Environmental Protection** Agency, Rose focuses on emerging zero and near-zero transportation technologies, and the fuels that power them, such as hydrogen, renewable fuels and electricity.

Rose is active in

dams in the Sierra Nevada the community, having served as an elected Board Member of the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District for more than eight years, including two years as Chair. In 2011, Rose was elected as the Special District Representative to the Sacramento County Treasury Oversight Committee and chaired the Committee from 2014 to 2019. He is currently an executive Board Member and Past President of the Environmental Council of

Sacramento. Rose graduated from Bella Vista High School and holds a Bachelor of Science degree from U.C. Davis in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning, with a specialization in City, Regional Planning and Public Lands Management.

For more information on SMUD's Zero Carbon Plan and its customer programs, visit smud.org. ★



Moranz, who is located

at the Amador-El

Dorado Unit. "We used

Development Impact

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this training tower at

an estimated cost of

\$450,000, and a final

actual cost of \$586,663.

This training structure will

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can expand your social life, eat well and have daily entertainment. Come on home,

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It Takes All Kinds

By David Dickstein, **Gold River Resident**

A Tale of Two Tails

Human to human communication hasn't been perfected in the 6 million years our species has been around, so it's no surprise that in this day of wokeness, social distancing, political polarization and anti-social social media, interaction among us has become even more flawed.

Lately, even the most innocent of encounters presents an opportunity for a "Curb Your Enthusiasm" moment. Having been subject to weird and/or awkward encounters with people from Gold River to Giza and Arizona to Antarctica in just the COVID-19 era alone, it's no overstatement when I say that the more I'm out in public, the more I understand why some prefer to live a near-hermit-like existence by rarely leaving their home.

To wit, just the other day I was walking my dog around the village, minding my own business like 99.3 percent of all Gold River residents, when I saw in the distance two women with two dogs. Noticing that all four were off-leash, Daisy and I crossed the street to walk on the opposite side of the oncoming humans and hounds. But as we got closer, one of the dogs started scampering across the street toward us. My dog, being her friendly and social self, got into a crouching position ready to greet this pooch heading our way.

"Is your dog OK?" asked the presumed owner of the free-range dog coming toward us.

I told her that's Daisy wanting to be friends, and I was a bit surprised a dog owner in her – just guessing here – late-60s didn't recognize the familiar "play bow" posture.

"My dog can be ornery," the woman said just seconds before our pets would have their close encounter of a furry kind.



Even a nice, quiet walk with the dog isn't safe from surreal human interaction these days.

"Your dog is ornery and not on a leash?" I responded. "He needs to be on a leash."

"I get that a lot," said the woman while her lady friend and her own dog stood silently a few yards away.

I held the strap of Daisy's harness tightly just in case the approaching dog, a Yorkshire terrier I believe, got ornery as advertised. Upon meeting, the small- and medium-sized pups checked each other out as creatures of that species do, and the first

few seconds of mutual rectal examination were cordial. Then one of them snapped. I'd need slo-mo instant replay to determine which was the instigator, but my immediate reaction was to pull Daisy away from the untied terrier.

"The reason they did that is because your dog is on a leash," said the woman, who spoke like a know-it-all despite not knowing a dog's posture for playing or Gold River's CC&Rs on the subject.

"Your dog should be on a leash," I told her, and more calmly than she deserved. "Those are the rules here" – to which she snapped back, "Rules are made to be broken."

And with that, I said, "OK, we're done," and continued with what had been a lovely brisk afternoon walk. How unfortunate that Daisy and I encountered two living beings who both need to go to obedience school.

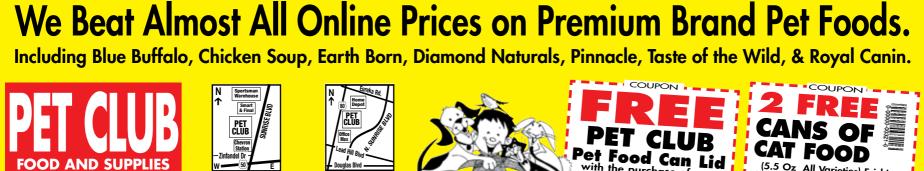
So Shines a Good Deed in a Weary World

Whenever I worry that society is deteriorating for myriad reasons, wonderful people will come out of nowhere to restore my faith in humanity.

To wit, again, in last month's column, I wrote that I collect toiletries from my hotel stays for the downtrodden living under the 50 freeway on 18th Street. The homeless living there are always well behaved, appreciative and too proud to panhandle – at least when I pay them a visit. I left out the part about these destitute individuals being nearly all women, not that they need soaps, shampoos and other personal products any less than men living in a tent or cardboard box. Still, they get a softer heart from me.

When I mentioned that my next dropoff will be on Valentine's Day, a holiday when everyone can use a little more love, several of you answered the call by emailing me before delivering items to my home. A few swung by anonymously. Between these readers' donations and what I've collected over my latest travels, the kindness of strangers will assuredly be embraced by the down and out of this particular homeless camp. They might be penniless, but on this Valentine's Day at least, they won't be loveless.

David Dickstein is a Gold River resident, award-winning writer and principal at the PR firm Prose & Comms Inc. He can be reached at daviddickstein1@gmail.com.



EVERYDAY LOW PRICES er Discount Prices Hot Specials & Coupo We Only Accept ATM, Cash, & Checks M-F 9-7, SAT 9-7, SUN 10-7 Effective 2/9/22 - 2/15/22

Rancho Cordova, CA 916-635-5008

2344 Sunrise Blvd. 318 N Sunrise Blvd. Roseville, CA 916-781-8500

Pet Food Can Lid with the purchase of pet, fish food or supply. Limit 1 9¢ value PLU 334 СНМ Limit 1 Coupon per family Effective 2/9/22 - 2/15/22

(5.5 Oz All Varieties) Friskies (Selected Indoor Included), 9 Lives

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Look for Advertised Sale Items Everyweek at www.petclubstores.com

BLUE BUFFALO DRY DOG FOOD 30 Lb Bag ken (Reaular & Large Breed)

 Chicken (Regular & Large Breed)
 Fish & Oatmeal (Reg & Lrg Breed) • Clinca:
•Fish & Oatmear (Reg & Large Breed) •Senior (Reg & Freed)
• Reg & Law Price

• Healthy Weight Our Regular Low Prices! Effective 2/9/22 - 2/15/22 FRISKIES BUFFET

CANNED CAT FOOD 5.5 Oz **All Varieties**

Limit 2 Cases ON SA Per Family **Everyday** Effective 2/9/22 - 2/15/22

PRO-PLAN DRY DOG FOOD

hicken & Rice 30-35 Lb Bag •Beef & Rice •Lamb & Rice Sensitive Skin & Stomach
 Lite •Peformance

Limit 2 Bags
per Family OUR REGULAR LOW PRICE Effective 2/9/22 - 2/15/22

> PURINA KIT N' KABOODLE DRY CAT FOOD 16 Lb Bag

> > Effective 2/9/22 - 2/15/22

Limit 2 Bags Per Family

 Regular Limit 2 Jugs Per Family

MERRICK'S **GRAIN FREE DRY DOG FOOD** Chicken/Sweet Potato
 Duck/Sweet

otato •Bison/Beef/Sweet Potato •Samoi Sweet Potato •Texas Beef/Sweet Potato 22 lb Bag \$ 1 O OFF OUR REGULAR LOW PRICE! Effective 2/9/22 - 2/15/22

SCOOPABLE CAT LITTER 20 Lb Jug •Unscented ON SAL

TIDY CATS

Everyday Effective 2/9/22 - 2/15/22

NATURAL BALANCE **DRY DOG FOOD**

•Ultra Free 24 Lb •Potato & Duck 26 Lb Vegetarian Dog 28 Lb • Chicken & Brown Rice 26 Lb •Ultra Original (Reg & Lrg Brd) 30Lb

Our Regular Low Prices Per Family Effective 2/9/22 - 2/15/22

HI-COUNTRY WILD BIRD SEED

20 Lb Bag (Kaytee, 20 Lbs - \$9.99) (Audubon Friends, 20 Lbs - \$8.99)

Effective 2/9/22 - 2/15/22

MERRICK'S GOURMET CANNED DOG FOOD On Sale

SCIENCE DIET DRY DOG FOOD •Lite
•Active Maturity

•Perfect Weight
•Sensitive Stomach

• 5399 Limit 2 Bags FRESH STEP **CAT LITTER**

21 Lb Bag (14 Lb Bag - \$4.99) Limit 2 Bags MILK-BONE DOG BISCUITS Flavor Snacks \$ 999 7 Lb Box

EVERCLEANPREMIUM CAT LITTER

PESTELL CLUMPING CAT LITTER 40 Lb. Bag Limit 2 Bags PRO-PLAN
CANNED DOG FOOD
(Reg Price \$1.65)
(Reg. Price \$1.75)

CORE NATURAL DRY CAT FOOD

Limit 2 Bags 3 Lb Bag FANCY FEAST DRY CAT FOOD (Purina One Dry Cat •Selected Varieties 3 Lb. \$7.49) 30 Lb Bag

Per Family

IAMS DRY DOG FOOD Limit 2 Bags •Large Breed \$3099 •Lamb Meal & Rice \$3199 •Weight Control

PURINA YESTERDAY'S NEWS CAT LITTER Made with Recycled Paper 13.2 Lb. Bag **OKOCAT** CLUMPING WOOD LITTER

•Regular •Soft Step 11-13 Lb \$ 1399 16.7 Lb \$ 1999 MARINELAND POWER FILTER SALE TANK SIZE

MIDWEST METAL PRODUCTS •Exercise Pens •Folding Crates **Limited Suplies OUR SUPER LOW PRICE**

PET CENTER
CHICKEN BREAST TENDERS

16 Oz Jar • Chicken Nibblers PETSAFE GENTLE LEADER

Come With Me Kitty
 OUR SUPER LOW PRICES

MAMMOTH PET PRODUCTS
TIRE BITER PAW TRACKS

Squeaky Freaks
Soft Pet Toys
All Varieties

OUR SUPER LOW PRICES **ASPEN PET 20% OFF**

ASPEN PET PORTABLE PET Asst HOMES Sizes OFF •Light Weight •Pop Up Shelter OUR SUPER

Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon Effective 2/9/22 - 2/15/22

PENGUIN 200B PENGUIN 350B

AQUEON BOXED 10 GALLON TANK With Economy Kit Just add Heater For Tropical Fish **\$48** Limit 1 Per Family

KORDON WATER CONDITIONERS | MARINELAND PREMIUM FISH FOOD ALL VARIETIES

•Goldfish •Cichlids
•Tropical •Wafers

BONUS COUPON **FANCY FEAST GOURMET CANNED CAT FOOD**

3 Oz - All Varieties Except Elegant Medley Limit 1 Case Per Family Limit One Coupon Per Family
Price Valid Only With Coupon
Effective 2/9/29 Price Valid Only Williams Effective 2/9/22 - 2/15/22 Everyday CHM PLU 361

BONUS COUPON **JONNY CAT** PREMIUM CAT LITTER 10 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags Per Family

BONUS COUPON WHISKAS

TEMPTATIONS CAT TREATS •All Varieties 3 Oz. Limit 2 Pkgs with Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon Effective 2/9/22 - 2/15/22

20% OFF

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Nielsen Endorses Lanhee Chen for State Controller



Lanhee Chen

Lanhee Chen for Controller Press Release

RED BLUFF, CA (MPG) -California State Senator Jim Nielsen, Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review and one of the authors of Proposition 2, which created the state's Rainy-Day Fund for fiscal emergencies, endorsed Lanhee Chen for California State Controller.

"Californians need a State Controller who will be a watchdog, not a rubber stamp on the hundreds of billions of dollars our state spends each year," said Nielsen.

"Lanhee Chen will be a tireless fiscal advocate for all Californians. More importantly for our state's future needs, he will make sure that the money allocated for everything from water infrastructure to wildfire prevention is actually spent as we are told it will be."

Nielsen continued, "I believe Lanhee is someone we can trust to keep a watchful eye over our tax dollars and state spending. I am proud to endorse him and look forward to helping him get his message out across California."

A successful farmer and rancher, Senator Jim Nielsen grew up on a small farm in the San Joaquin Valley and graduated from Fresno State with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business. After college, Jim worked as a ranch foreman and operated the family cattle, field, and row-crop ranch. He later founded a company that utilized rice hulls and rice straw for fuel. Elected to the State Senate in January 2013, Senator Nielsen proudly represents the citizens of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Tehama, and Yuba counties.

Chuck Smith Announces Candidacy for US Senate



Chuck Smith (R)

Chuck Smith for US Senate

SUTTER COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Veteran, retired law enforcement professional and Northern California resident, Chuck Smith (R), has announced his candidacy for U.S. Senate. A husband, father and grandfather, Smith will challenge an appointee for the seat vacated by Kamala Harris in the upcoming June 7th Primary Election.

Smith felt called to run after witnessing the weakening of the United States Constitution and the gradual destruction of the 'American Dream'. "It is our duty as Americans to stand up to injustice and irresponsible government," said Smith. "To restore the principles upon which our forefathers founded our great nation, we must replace corruptible politicians with incorruptible patriots," Smith continued. "I will combat the current trend of saddling the American people with unfair taxation without representation and will fight for America-first policies," stated Smith.

"It's time for the American people, average citizens, to run for office and take back our Nation," said Smith. "I cannot imagine the intense pressure felt by those who are currently immigrating into the United States both legally and illegally," Smith said. "With our current economy and inflation, home ownership which is part of the American Dream, is out of reach," he finished.

Smith supports the Constitution, freedom of speech, the 2nd Amendment, law enforcement, a robust economy, strong military, secure borders, term limits, smaller government and reduced taxes.

Smith served on the Sutter County Grand Jury in 2020 and was Foreman of the Sutter County Grand Jury in 2021. Smith volunteered for the Trauma Intervention Program (TIP) in 2021. Smith and his wife Linda reside in Yuba City, California, north of Sacramento. Together they have three children and three grandchildren.

Smith graduated from Rio Linda High School and attended American River College before joining the Marine Corps. Following his military service, Smith returned to American River College where he secured his Associate Degree. Smith began his law enforcement career with Yolo County Sheriff's Office in the late 1970's and was later hired as a Patrol Officer with Sacramento Police Department. Smith's 15-year law enforcement career was ended by an on-the-job injury. Smith spent 25-years working security detail for the Federal Courthouse in Sacramento before his retirement in 2017.

Citrus Heights Councilman **Bret Daniels Enters Race for Congress**



Bret Daniels

Bret Daniels for Congress

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Citrus Heights Councilman Bret Daniels officially entered the race for California's 6th Congressional District.

"Americans are suffering under the weight of Joe Biden's policy failures," Daniels stated. "The Sacramento region is in desperate need of experienced leadership in Washington – someone who will stand up to the Biden agenda and fight to turn things around. That's my pledge."

Bret Daniels was a strong advocate for developing the first Citrus Heights Police Department and has served on the City Council for 11 years. He has served on numerous regional boards including the Solid Waste Authority, the Sacramento Transportation Authority, and the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality District.

Elected to his current term on the City Council in 2016 and reelected in 2020, Bret had previously been elected in 1999 and reelected in 2002. He served as Vice Mayor in 2004 and as Mayor in 2005. He successfully helped to defeat the City's efforts to raise the utility tax in 2012 and the sales tax in 2020.

Bret enjoyed a twenty-year law enforcement career including stints in the United States Air Force in Torrejon, Spain, and Cheyenne, Wyoming, the Laramie County Sheriff's Office in Cheyenne, Wyoming, and in the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department.

He is a Founding Member and President of Badges Supporting Fallen Officers' Families (Fallen), a non-profit charitable organization that provides immediate financial support to the survivors of law enforcement officers killed

Japanese-Style

Panko Breaded

Oyster • 12 oz

throughout the nation and is a Founding Member and President of Toys for the Troops' Kids, a non-profit charitable organization that provides toys to the kids of our military service members during Christmas.

Bret lived in the North Sacramento area until the age of 12 where he attended Hagginwood Elementary School and Del Paso Jr High School before he moved to Citrus Heights in 1973 when his father took a job at the then recently

opened Sunrise Mall. The newly-drawn 6th Congressional District comprises most of the entire northern portion of Sacramento County as well as some of the northeastern portion of the county. Communities include North and South Natomas, North Sacramento, Rio Linda, Elverta, Foothill Farms, North Highlands, Antelope, Citrus Heights, Gold River, Rancho Cordova, Rosemont, Arden/Arcade, Carmichael.



PRICES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 12 - JANUARY 18, 2022

