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Gold River Messenger

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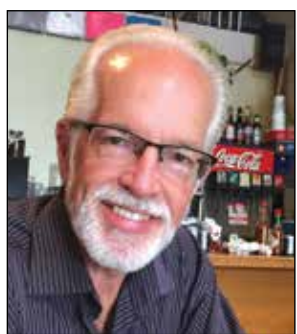
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“TO NEWSOM OR NOT TO NEWSOM”



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Residents Rally for Parkway



Photographed above William B. Pond Park, the American River flows through 23 miles and 4800 acres of public parkway. This regional treasure is endangered by fire, pollution and illegal camping.

Story and photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - A jewel of Sacramento life and leisure, the American River Parkway is closer to destruction than at any time since its establishment in the '60s. In recent months, more than 11 percent of its 4800 acres have burned. The river's flow - drinking water for millions -- is polluted. Wildlife is displaced and suffering. People who might otherwise enjoy the 23-mile stretch of public land are daunted by its increasing homeless population. Garbage accumulates at many tons per month. County and volunteer efforts cannot keep up with it.

An estimated 1000 campers live rough on the Parkway. A perfect storm of circumstances -- drug abuse;

criminal justice "reforms," a scarcity of affordable housing and the COVID pandemic - have caused record levels of homelessness. Displaced people flock to inhabit a once-pristine wilderness and damage to riparian havens is incalculable. "As a kid, I kayaked from Carmichael to Discovery Park and didn't see a single camper," recalls District 3 Supervisor Rich Desmond. "I never expect to see long stretches of campsites and garbage, like we have now. We should be ashamed that our children have to experience nature with this backdrop."

Desmond spoke at a forum recently convened by the American River Parkway Foundation. Attended by more than 200 concerned citizens, the event offered a wake-up call documentary called "Parkway in Peril." Several

volunteer Parkway stewards contributed voice-over.

"The Parkway gets more visitors per year than Yosemite," said Chris Balaan. "Imagine someone throwing a bottle into the Merced River. People don't seem to have a problem doing it to the American River."

Two hours of passionate discussion followed the presentation. Heading the forum, Supervisor Phil Serna related his experience of being stuck by a drug-user's needle during a volunteer river cleanup. He pledged himself and his District 3 colleague Rich Desmond to be "100 percent behind saving the Parkway. It bodes well that we're all sitting here," said the District 1 leader.

The gathering fielded little argument that most Parkway problems - from

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Board of Supervisors Appoints County Executive



Ann Edwards is the new Sacramento County Executive

By Kim Nava, Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Following a Closed Session Board meeting, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors unanimously agreed to appoint Interim County Executive Ann Edwards as County Executive. The appointment is effective Sep. 14, 2021.

Edwards is the first woman appointed to the County Executive position.

"I am pleased to announce that the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to appoint Ann Edwards as County Executive," said Board Chair and Fourth District Supervisor Sue Frost. "Ann has proven to be an outstanding Interim County Executive and has provided stability to the organization, improved communication and built trust within and outside of the organization."

Edwards' accomplishments in her seven month tenure as Acting/Interim County Executive include increasing transparency in the budget process, organizing a process for a spending plan to provide assistance to both the County and the community with the American Rescue Plan Act funds and increasing engagement with local government and community-based organizations.

"I appreciate and thank the Board for the trust and support they have shown me," said Edwards. "I commit to looking at the County organization in new ways, to pursue a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, increase public transparency and engagement and enrich the County's organizational culture."

Edwards' current and upcoming initiatives include the formation of a Public Safety and Justice Agency, increased public engagement in and a new budget process for FY 2022-23 and implementing implicit bias training countywide.

Edwards holds a Master's Degree in Counselor Education and a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from California State University, Sacramento. ★

DA Announces Fentanyl Epidemic and Response



Office of District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert announced the Sacramento District Attorney's Office is taking efforts to address an epidemic increase in fentanyl related deaths, based in large part on counterfeit prescription pills which contain fentanyl.

The national fentanyl epidemic has hit the Sacramento community, and has increased during the pandemic. From January 2020 to July 21, 2021, there have been 140 fentanyl related deaths in Sacramento County. People in Sacramento are now dying from fentanyl

overdoses at virtually identical rates to homicides. These tragic deaths span all age groups from young kids to seniors.

The District Attorney's Crime Lab, which tests all narcotics seized by local law enforcement agencies, found that 92% of oxycodone pills on the street are counterfeit. Of those pills, 75% are straight fentanyl. Counterfeit pills are virtually impossible to distinguish from a prescription pill. The Crime Lab is discovering an alarming rate of not only counterfeit oxycodone, but also counterfeit OxyContin, Percocet, Xanax and Adderall.

DA Schubert is leading the effort to respond to the fentanyl epidemic with an extensive public outreach campaign.

The main focus of the response will be county-wide Public Service Announcements (PSAs) highlighting the theme of "1 Pill Can Kill." Several of the fentanyl related deaths involve teens and young adults targeted on social media who ingested

a pill, or on occasion half a pill. Key messages of the PSAs include: 1) If you didn't get it from a pharmacy - it's fake; 2) A very small amount of fentanyl is deadly - one pill can kill; and 3) Fake pills are being pushed through social media.

DA Schubert has requested funding from the County Board of Supervisors as part of the federal American Rescue Plan Act to pay for guaranteed, premier PSA placements across social media, TV/Radio, billboards, public transit and print publications among other advertising platforms.

Until funding is secured, the DA's Office will roll out the PSAs on the office social media sites and donated advertisement platforms. Clear Channel Outdoors supports the awareness campaign and will donate digital billboard space when available throughout the county. There are additional opportunities for free PSA placements on social media. The Sacramento County

Office of Education and local school superintendents support the fentanyl awareness efforts and will distribute PSA materials to students, administrators, parents/guardians as well as student and parent groups. Other partnerships are being formed across the medical industry.

"I was alarmed as we watched the Coroner Office's statistics on fentanyl related deaths rise and the corresponding rise in counterfeit pills containing fentanyl discovered at our Crime Lab," said DA Anne Marie Schubert. "An epidemic of this magnitude requires a multi-disciplinary response involving schools, public health, community-based organizations, healthcare, the faith-based community and law enforcement. The most powerful tool we have is information, so our efforts are focused on awareness and prevention efforts to save lives."

A website 1PillCanKillSac.com was created for information and resources to get help. ★

Military Jets to Star in New Afterburnin' Drive-In

Story by Shauna Boyd

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The California Capital Airshow (CCA), which is held annually at Mather Airport, will feature a new event this year: The Afterburnin' Drive-In Airshow.

Before the weekend-long aviation festival on September 25 and 26, the 2021 California Capital Airshow will kick off with the Afterburnin' Drive-In Airshow on Friday, September 24. For this new event, attendees will park their vehicles in the largest parking lot on Mather Airport's west cargo ramp for a tailgate party featuring performances by more than 25 military jets. The show is billed as more up close and intimate than the traditional airshow – with three action-packed hours of wild, loud flights by military aircraft from both the United States and Canada.

"Drive-In Airshows were successful across the country last year," said CCA Director of Operations Angela Terry, "so we thought we would give our attendees the option to enjoy the airshow in a new format! It also gives fans who aren't quite ready to gather another way to enjoy the Airshow!"

The format of the Afterburnin' Drive-In Airshow will give every guest an excellent view of the performances and ensure that everyone has their own personal space from which to enjoy it. This new event will be a very different atmosphere, and it might appeal to more people who want a fast-paced, intense experience.

If the event proves to be popular, it could become a regular feature of the Airshow. "We have never done it before so we look forward to getting feedback from our loyal fans," said Terry.

Gates will open at 2:00 PM on September 24, with opening ceremonies scheduled to start at 3:30 PM. Only 2,000 tickets are available for this unique event. Tickets are purchased per vehicle, with up to six people included in each ticket.



The California Capital Airshow is offering guests a new way to experience the excitement, with the Afterburnin' Drive-In Airshow on Friday, September 24. The show will feature three hours of flight performances by more than 25 military jets. Photo by Mark Loper courtesy CCA

The ticket covers a parking spot and an area right next to the vehicle for tailgating where guests can set up their chairs. There will be portable restrooms and handwash stations positioned throughout the area, and the restrooms will be cleaned throughout the event.

No food will be sold on-site, so guests are encouraged to bring food, drinks, and coolers. But grills and BBQs aren't allowed, due to the presence of jet fuel vapor.

CCA is also partnering with local restaurants – Zak's Bar & Grill, Tacoa Tacos, Petali, BurgerIM, Straw Hat Pizza, Mr. Pickle's Sandwich Shop, Taqueria La Bonita, and Wing Stop – so guests can order food ahead of time and pick it up on the way to the show.

Tickets are only available for purchase online ahead of the show. For more information about the Afterburnin' Drive-In Airshow, visit <https://californiaairshow.com/friday-afterburnin-drive-in-airshow/>. ★



Come see the amazing F35 perform. Photo by Mark Loper, courtesy CCA

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Sen. Nielsen Responds to Hyatt Powerplant Shutdown



Office of Senator Jim Nielsen

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Senator Jim Nielsen, R-Red Bluff, issued the following statement in response to the shuttering of the Hyatt Powerplant

at Lake Oroville for the first time because of record low water levels: “Governor Newsom and the Democrats running this state should be ashamed.

“Rather than planning for the future, they kowtowed to environmental special interest groups and stalled the construction of Sites Reservoir.

“They fast track through environmental regulations to build sports stadiums, but refuse to do the same when it comes to

infrastructure projects that would protect the livelihoods, health and safety of Californians.”

When there’s adequate water in Lake Oroville, Hyatt can generate up to 900 megawatts of electricity. Typically, it produces 450 megawatts – enough to power 800,000 homes. However, due to the record low water levels, only 10 megawatts of electricity were being generated, which is why the decision was made to take it offline. ★

California Gubernatorial Recall Voter Guide Mailed



Registered voters can expect the CVIG to arrive in their mailboxes in the next week. It will include Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations. MPG file photo.

Sacramento County Office of Registrar of Voters

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Voter Registration and Elections (VRE) Office has begun mailing the County Voter Information Guide (CVIG) for the September 14, 2021 California Gubernatorial Recall Election to Sacramento County registered voters. The VRE Office printed more than 800,000 Guides in English, Spanish and Chinese.

Registered voters can expect the CVIG to arrive in their mailboxes in the next week. It will include Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations. Voters that have ‘opted out’ of receiving a paper version of the CVIG may view it on the VRE website beginning August 16, 2021.

For more information about the Recall Election and voting in Sacramento County, visit the VRE website at www.elections.saccounty.gov, contact VRE at (916) 875-6451, email voterinfo@saccounty.net, or call the toll-free voter assistance hotline at (800) 762-8019. The hotline has the ability to connect voters with disabilities with TTY (Text Telephone).

Key Election Dates:

Monday, August 16 - Mailing of ballots to all registered voters begun; Voted ballots may be returned by mail (no postage needed) or in any of the Ballot Drop Boxes located throughout the County

Monday, August 30 - Close of voter registration for the September 14, 2021

California Gubernatorial Recall Election. Voter registration forms must be post-marked by this date or delivered to the VRE Office at 7000 65th Street, Suite A, Sacramento 95823 by 5:00 p.m. Online voter registration must be completed before midnight on this date at www.registerto-vote.ca.gov

Tuesday, August 31 - Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) begins

Saturday, September 4-11 Day Vote Centers open

Tuesday, September 7 - Last day a Vote by Mail (VBM) ballot can be mailed to you. After this date, VBM ballots are only available at the VRE Office or Vote Centers

Saturday, September 11 - All Vote Centers open throughout the County

Tuesday, September 14 - Election Day

Logic and Accuracy Testing on Tabulation Equipment

Voter Registration and Elections will begin logic and accuracy testing of ballot tabulation equipment on Monday, August 16, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Testing will run continuously until completed. If you are interested in observing this process please contact our office at the number above to schedule an appointment.

For more information visit our website at elections.saccounty.gov, contact VRE at (916) 875-6451, email voterinfo@saccounty.net, or use the toll-free voter assistance hotline at (800) 762-8019. The hotline has the ability to connect voters with disabilities with TTY (Text Telephone). ★

Medi-Cal Members Can Get Help with Internet Costs

Sacramento County Press Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Registration is now open for an emergency broadband program that will help Medi-Cal members and other low-income residents receive up to \$50 a month to cover their internet costs. All Medi-Cal members qualify, and it will not affect their health coverage. Funds are limited, so act quickly.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program that provides a temporary discount on monthly broadband bills

during the COVID-19 pandemic for qualifying low-income households.

To qualify you must have:

An income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medi-Cal, or Lifeline;

Been approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year;

Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current

award year;

Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020 and the household had a total income in 2020 at or below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers; or

Met the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

The program will end once the program funds are exhausted, or six months after the Department of Health and Human Services declares an end to the pandemic, whichever comes first. ★

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Local Artists Recognized for Lifetime of Three-Dimensional Works

By Elise Spleiss

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - During the month of August Valley Sculpture Artists (VSA) has been partnering with Allied Ceramics Art Institute Studios and Gallery (ACAI) to offer a three-dimension sculpture art show, entitled "Sculptural Diversity" to the community.

On Saturday, August 21, two Herberholz Awards for Sculpture were presented to two locally renowned artists, recognizing their body of work in three-dimensional (3D) art and service to the community. VSA president, Sue Anne Foster presented the awards at a reception with over 100 family, friends and fellow artists in attendance. Phill Evans received the award for 2020, as there were no art shows during that year, and Del Swanson was the 2021 recipient.

Don Herberholz was a prolific sculptor, instructor and author. A professor of Art at Sacramento State University, he created and taught Art for over 50 years. His sculptures can be found at many locations throughout Sacramento County including the Carmichael Library, and Crocker Art Museum. He and his wife Barbara, also a former Sacramento State professor, had resided in both Carmichael and Gold River. She said in a 2007 article in the Sacramento Bee, "He was just born inspired." Herberholz passed away in 2006 at the age of 83.

In 2004 VSA featured a retrospective of his work and set up an annual award to honor the life and work of this dedicated artist. Herberholz selected the first three recipients. Today former recipients and board members continue this legacy. The Herberholz award "acknowledges exemplary work and celebrates extraordinary contributions to our club or the community," according to Foster.

The 2020 award winner, **Phill Evans** says of his art, "I interpret people, places and things utilizing stone, metal, glass, wood and kinetic energy. Stones and rocks have shape, color and are tablets of geophysical history. Metal's malleability forms structures with a permanence. Wood has a broad spectrum of utility and beautiful versatility. Kinetics propelled by wind, electrical force or physical contact expands the visual experience and heightens the excitement developing weight and balance solutions.

Del Swanson, the 2021 award recipient was born in Stockton, California and grew up in North Sacramento. He says, "Art has been a passion since early childhood. From wood carving in Boy Scouts to model making and



The 2020 Herberholz Awards for Sculpture winner, Phill Evans (left), Sue Anne Foster President of Valley Sculpture Artists and 2021 award recipient Delbert Swanson stand in front of an image of prolific sculptor Don Herberholz and the recipients of the award since 2004. Photo by Elise Spleiss



The 2020 award winner, Phill Evans, was awarded this year since the event was canceled last year. Photo provided by VSA

sketching as a young child, it led me to graduate from Art Center College of Design with honors in 1968. From there it was on to designing cars for Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan and working on abstract painting for pleasure. After having

to relocate back to California and starting a business with my wife Carol, I started to use multiple mediums such as oil paint on canvas, foam wrapped with canvas and metal, sometimes mixing them."

As a collector of Hopi Native American

carvings (kachina dolls) Swanson wanted to make his own sculptures out of metal to honor these traditions. His first is *Crow Mother* and various others are on the way to being finished soon.

The gallery exhibition features more than a dozen artists, showing their 3D pieces in often-surprising combinations of wood, metal, pain, clay, fiber, stone, and bronze.

More and more sculptures are made out of 'found objects', and mechanical parts. One young artist in the show, PJ Kennedy, who does not see his art as work, creates his pieces from scrap metal of all sizes and shapes. Many of his pieces in the show are



2021 award recipient Delbert Swanson from Valley Sculpture Artists (VSA) honors Hopi Native American (kachina dolls) with his sculpture *Crow Mother*. Photo provided by VSA

welded from discarded car engine parts. In his YouTube video he challenges his viewer to try it, "just weld two pieces together, then weld another one on it, and someone will call that art. Anything can be art."

Sculptural Diversity, showing at the ACAI Studios and Gallery at 7425 Winding Way, Fair Oaks, will conclude on August 30. Hours: Thursday the 26th and Friday the 27th 1-4 p.m. and Saturday the 28th 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The art of Phill Evans and Maureen Gilli will be featured at ACAI in October. For ACAI art show schedule call 916-966-2453. For VSA contact Sue Anne Foster at 916-342-4293.

Sources: ACAI: acaistudios.com; Phill Evans website: phillevans.com; ACAI Gallery curator Sandee Hancock; VSA president Sue Anne Foster. ★

Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District Presents:



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 - Cluck n' Crow Contest 5:30PM
 - FBI Band 6PM-8PM

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Larry Elder's Critics may be Helping Him Succeed



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

"The enemy of my enemy is my friend" is an ancient proverb thought to date from a 4th century BC Sanskrit writing on statecraft.

The most graphic example of its application occurred in World War II, when Soviet Russia, which had a "nonaggression" pact with Nazi Germany, was suddenly attacked by its erstwhile ally.

Overnight, the Soviet Union's dictator, Joseph Stalin, was transformed from enemy to a partner of the U.S. and Great Britain in their war against Germany and its dictator, Adolf Hitler. Militarily, it was the best thing that could have happened for the Western allies because had it not happened, Hitler might easily have triumphed.

Something like that is happening in California as Gov. Gavin Newsom fights off a campaign to oust him from office via a September 14 recall election.

With voting underway, Newsom's campaign has shifted from defending his gubernatorial record to attacking the leading Republican candidate to succeed him, talk show host

Larry Elder. Pro-Newsom editorialists and the second place Republican, former San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, have joined Newsom's assault on Elder.

The overall theme of the attacks is that Elder's extreme right-wing views make him unacceptable as an officeholder, and the drumbeat quickened last week when Elder's former girlfriend accused him of being verbally abusive and even, at one point, waving a gun at her.

"I, for one brief moment, believed that he intended to shoot me. I was in fear for my life," Alexandra Datig said, adding: "At the same time, I'm also very fearless and, having grown up around guns, I didn't take it seriously."

Elder, of course, denied the gun allegation, but immediately, his critics turned from saying he shouldn't be governor to demanding that he drop out of the contest.

The Sacramento Bee declared that Elder's "misogynistic attitudes toward women and the damning allegations revealed this week about how he treated his ex-fiancée Alexandra Datig are disqualifying, and make him wholly unfit to be California governor. Elder must drop out of the race immediately."

"Elder's backwards positions harm women's rights and the livelihoods of California families," Faulconer said in a late Friday afternoon statement. "Elder's lack of judgement and character flaws threaten the success and credibility of this historic recall

movement — Californians will not vote to recall one dysfunctional governor if it means replacing him with another."

So what effect will this barrage of criticism from Newsom, Faulconer and pro-Newsom media have on Elder and the recall drive?

Newsom obviously hopes that focusing on Elder and the supposedly terrible fate that would befall California should he become governor will not only change the subject but motivate Democrats to vote against the recall. Democratic voter apathy is, polls indicate, the prime reason Newsom is in danger of losing his office.

However, the focus on Elder could also make it more likely that he would, in fact, become governor should the recall succeed. Voters who favor the recall could easily conclude that if Newsom, the media and Faulconer are ganging up on Elder, perhaps he's just the man to lead the revolt against the political status quo.

That's what happened in 2016 when Donald Trump emerged from the Republican pack to become the GOP's presidential nominee. The more Trump was attacked for his many personal shortcomings, the more attractive he became to angry Republican voters. The rest, as they say, is history.

Elder may be, as his critics say, unfit to be governor. However, like Trump, he probably loves the attention because his enemies are making him more friends.

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



By County Supervisor Sue Frost

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

Over the years, the main concerns of my constituents have remained fairly consistent, occasionally with one receiving more attention than others. At the current forefront is the issue of homelessness. It seems nearly impossible to go anywhere in the County these days without encountering at least one homeless person or going past an encampment. That is not surprising given a 19 percent rise in Sacramento County's homeless population from 2017 to 2019. We don't even know what that number has grown to since 2019 as the 2021 Point in Time count was cancelled due to COVID-19. The concerns around these encampments are numerous and legitimate. The number one question my office gets is: "why aren't you doing anything about them?" The truth is we are doing what we can, working our way upstream against a powerful legal current, and I am happy to share more on the realities of Sacramento County's response to homelessness.

Many people who have reached out seeking to have a homeless camp moved are undoubtedly familiar with the decision out of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in Martin v. Boise. Put simply, that decision made it unlawful to punish people for the act of being homeless when they do not have access to shelter. Because of this, we are unable to cite for illegal camping on public property. The challenges of the Boise decision were compounded during most of the pandemic as the public health order further restricted when and how homeless camps could be moved, even if that meant an illegally parked RV on a public street.

This is frustrating, because to me it is evident that the best way to work to improve the homeless situation is to focus on drug treatment and

GOLD RIVER COMMUNITY UPDATE

If We Build It, Will They Come?

mental health treatment. But legally, the only way we can get back to cleaning up homeless camps is to add more housing.

While the COVID-19 restrictions on moving homeless camps were lifted on June 15th with the other restrictions, I am pleased to say that some of the resulting solutions are in place.

The Board of Supervisors approved the creation of the Homeless Response Team (HRT) in 2020 to combat the spread of COVID-19 among the homeless population. The HRT was a collaborative effort of county departments, Sacramento City, and non-profit organizations to get the homeless access to shelter, sanitation materials, and COVID-19 preventative measures. Still, even with the HRT actively deployed and public health order restrictions lifted, we still have a homeless population that seems to be growing faster than ever before. And still, my office hears the concerns about homeless camps contributing to fires, public disturbances, and negative environmental impacts and what more can be done to restore our communities to safe and clean environments. While my priority, and I think what will have the most impact, is increasing access to mental health services and drug treatment, the most simple and legal solution still remains as an increase in shelters and housing.

Some have pointed to Los Angeles as a beacon of hope as they have passed a new ordinance restricting where homeless people can and cannot camp overnight. When people ask how they can do it and Sacramento County cannot, there are many reasons why. 1.2 billion reasons, in fact. LA voters approved a \$1.2 billion bond initiative to fund a massive homeless housing project that is large enough to enable the enforcement of anti-camping ordinances.

That is something I do not think Sacramento County residents are ready to take on, but we can and are working to expand our shelter space. As part of this year's budget cycle, we approved \$5.9 million to fund a new homeless camp initiative (HCI). This initiative will fund two encampment sites

serving 100 individuals each, three encampment teams to connect individuals with services, three scattered site shelters and increase nightly bed capacity by 15. Possibly most important, the initiative includes navigators to connect people with housing services and temporary financial assistance to get people into permanent housing.

Permanent housing is, of course, the ultimate goal but we cannot simply create permanent housing. Getting homeless individuals into shelters and camps where professionals can make contact and try to connect them with services is how the process of getting them into permanent housing begins. The efforts of the HRT, the HCI, and the implementation of assisted outpatient treatments (aka Laura's Law), combined with the efforts of Sacramento City to expand shelters has us well on our way to making a noticeable impact on homelessness in Sacramento County. I anticipate that we will continue on this trend of expanding shelters and services and working with community organizations to make all types of housing more accessible to the point that we are no longer concerned about overnight camping.

Ultimately, this all depends on the willingness of the unhoused to come to the shelters and campsites being created and to accept whatever services they may be offered. And while I wish we could immediately address the underlying causes of homelessness directly, like mental illness and drug addiction, increasing the number of beds available is what is going to get us back sooner to cleaning up our neighborhoods.

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

Sue Frost represents the 4th District, which includes all or part of the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, Rio Linda, Elverta, Gold River, Rancho Murietta, North Highlands, Carmichael, Foothill Farms and Fair Oaks. ★

Social Security Matters

Does Paying SS Tax Now Increase My Benefit?



By Russell Gloor,
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor



used to originally compute your benefit, that benefit will be recomputed and increased as appropriate. And just in case you're wondering, studies have shown that, on average, SS beneficiaries usually recover everything they paid into the system within about 5 years. Said another way, over your lifetime you'll almost certainly get back much more in benefits than you paid in FICA SS taxes. The pay-back time is more for those who are self-employed (because they must pay both employee and employer portions of FICA), but Social Security is, nevertheless, a pretty good deal which pays a guaranteed retirement benefit for as long as you live after benefits start.

So, what you were told is correct. Paying FICA taxes now won't help increase your monthly benefit amount. But high earnings now, which are more than any in those 35 inflation-adjusted years used to compute your SS benefit, will.

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Dear Rusty: I started drawing my benefits at age 62 due to being laid off from my job at age 60. I have continued working part time and been paying Social Security and Medicare taxes ever since. I am now 66. I have been told that even though I continue to pay these taxes, it will not help increase my monthly social security benefit. Is that true? **Signed: Working Beneficiary**

Dear Working Beneficiary: Paying into Social Security and Medicare through "FICA" taxes withheld from your paycheck doesn't change your Social Security (SS) benefit amount. Those taxes aren't held in a separate personal account for you; rather they are used to pay benefits to all those who currently collect SS benefits, and to help offset healthcare costs for current Medicare enrollees.

From its inception decades ago, Social Security has been a "pay as you go" system where all those working help pay for all those currently collecting benefits. And if you happen to work even after you start collecting Social Security benefits, the FICA tax you pay still goes to help pay benefits for you and for millions of others also collecting Social Security.

Of the 7.65% FICA tax you pay, 6.2% goes to Social Security and 1.45% helps fund Medicare (your employer pays the same amounts). The 6.2% SS tax you pay to Social Security isn't deposited into a personal account which determines your benefit payment. Instead, your benefit is determined using your earnings record for the 35 years over your lifetime in which you earned the most (with early years adjusted for inflation). Your average earnings in those 35 years are what determines your benefit amount, not how much you paid in FICA tax.

Thus, continuing to pay FICA taxes because you are still working won't affect your Social Security benefit amount. And because of the way the program is structured, you don't need to worry about how much you contributed to Social Security in taxes; you will continue to receive Social Security for as long as there are people working and contributing to the program (for the rest of your life) - those now working pay for Social Security benefits now being paid.

What could, however, affect your personal SS benefit amount now is your earnings level while working. Even after you start collecting Social Security benefits, if your current earnings from work are more than any of those in the 35 inflation-adjusted years

iVoterGuide Provides Key Information about Recall and Candidates

Hamilton Strategies Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California gubernatorial recall election is underway and voters across the state are eager to make their voices heard. This special election is being held to answer two important questions: Should Gavin Newsom be recalled from the office of Governor? If so, who should replace him? How voters answer these two questions could transform the political landscape of both California and the U.S. for years.

For Debbie Wuthnow, president of iVoterGuide, this recall election provides a unique opportunity. "An opportunity like this hasn't occurred in California in years. Recent polls indicate that the state is evenly split over the effort to recall Governor Newsom, with the majority of California voters still undecided. This is exactly what iVoterGuide is for – equipping voters with facts about each candidate so they can cast an informed vote."

While Republican voters may have already decided whether Governor Newsom should be recalled, iVoterGuide provides the well-sourced facts that California voters can share with their family and neighbors who need a reminder of Governor Newsom's policies and actions that led to the recall effort. If the vote to recall exceeds 50%, then the candidate who receives the most votes will become California's governor until the November 2022 election. The toxic political climate and recent global events

underscores the urgency for voters to choose the candidate most likely to respect personal freedoms and govern with integrity.

Voters asked for iVoterGuide to cover this election and provide research to assist them in choosing between the dozens of contenders, and iVoterGuide quickly compiled all the necessary information about the current candidates. iVoterGuide gathered links to candidate websites and social media accounts, as well as listed important ideological donations either given to or by the candidates. For those who have held office, iVoterGuide lists any vote ratings earned. Additionally, each candidate received an issue questionnaire.

iVoterGuide is a one-stop resource for candidate ratings and election information. In 2020, iVoterGuide's expert researchers gave an in-depth analysis – and overall rating – from the perspective of unchanging truth for 8,000+ candidates in more than 3,300 races nationwide. Additionally, iVoterGuide offers election dates, registration deadlines, polling locations, and other information needed to help Americans vote wisely and identify candidates on the ballot who share their values. Related tools are also available to inform family, neighbors, and business associates about getting their own personalized ballots. iVoterGuide is helping to restore the principles of limited government, free enterprise, and traditional American values.

For more information on the iVoterGuide at hamiltonstrategies.com/ivoterguide/ ★

Regional Project to Receive Grant

By Sharon Sargeant, Regional San

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) recently announced that Regional San will receive \$1.7 million to help fund Regional San's Harvest Water Program. This additional funding adds to the previous \$4.2 million received from USBR and \$287.5 million in Proposition 1 funding. Harvest Water was established to meet Regional San's goal of increasing the use of recycled water by providing tertiary-treated wastewater for farmers—demonstrating Regional San's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship.

Harvest Water represents one of the largest agricultural water reuse projects in the United States. Once complete, it will provide up to 50,000 acre-feet per year of drought-resistant, Title 22 water to irrigate up to 16,000 acres of permanent agriculture and habitat conservation lands near the Cosumnes River and Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Sacramento County.

"Securing these funds helps Regional San in our efforts to

increase recycled water use in the Sacramento region," said Prabhakar Somavarapu, Regional San's General Manager. "Recycled wastewater provides a safe and sustainable water supply for agriculture, irrigation and habitat restoration. It also reduces the need for groundwater pumping."

Next steps include continued planning efforts with local farmers and development of designs for pumping, transmission and distribution systems to convey recycled water from the wastewater treatment plant near Elk Grove to farmers in southern Sacramento County. The first phase of the recycled water delivery system is expected to be operational by late 2024.

Learn more about Harvest Water at regionalsan.com/harvestwater.

Regional San owns the regional wastewater conveyance system and the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant located near Elk Grove. We provide wastewater conveyance, treatment and disposal service to about 1.6 million people throughout the Sacramento region. Learn more at regionalsan.com. ★

Watch out for Airfare Scams When Booking Flights

Better Business Bureau of Northeast California

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - With the availability of COVID-19 vaccines, travel is coming back! That's great news for summer vacation plans... and scammers. BBB Scam Tracker is receiving reports of con artists creating fake airline ticket booking sites or customer service numbers. If you are buying airfare, use caution and double-check the URL or phone number before providing your credit card information.

How the Scam Works

While doing an online search for cheap flights, you come across what seems like a great deal with a major airline. You book the flight – either through the website or by calling a customer support number – and receive a confirmation message. However, when you look more closely at the email, you notice that you never actually received your ticket.

In another version of this scam, you book a flight on a travel website offering deals on airfare. You pay with your credit card like normal. But shortly after making the payment, you receive a call from the company saying that there's been a sudden price increase or an extra charge to finalize your booking. This is something a legitimate company would never do!

In either case, you call the airline to follow up about your flight. After talking to an agent, you find that they have no

record of your booking. It turns out you accidentally purchased tickets through a scam website or a phony customer service number. One victim told BBB Scam Tracker: "I received a phone call right after [I booked the flight] stating that they wanted \$100 per passenger to finalize my flight." Then, after calling the airline to complain, the victim discovered that "the flight wasn't available to begin with. The flight was never booked... this company just charged my card."

How to Avoid Travel Scams

Do your research. If you come across a company you haven't dealt with before, research it before making any purchases. Look on BBB.org for reviews and feedback from previous customers;

Double-check the URL before you enter personal and payment information. It can be easy to click on a sponsored ad or imposter website without noticing. Before you enter any sensitive information, double-check that you are on the right website and that the link is secure. Secure links start with "https:///" and include a lock icon on the purchase page. Learn more at BBB.org/BBBSecure;

Be wary of third-party websites. Some websites appear to offer a legitimate service but are only fronts for a scam. Be suspicious of websites with no working customer service number and no physical address. Typos and grammatical errors can be indications of a scammer's handiwork, too;

Make online purchases with your

credit card. Fraudulent charges made on a credit card can usually be disputed, whereas that might not be the case with other payment methods. Unfortunately, there is no way to get back the personal information you may have shared.

To learn more about planning a getaway during COVID-19, check out this tip from BBB. For ways to protect yourself from travel scams, go to BBB.org/TravelScam. Read more about customer service number scams.

Stay one step ahead of scammers by subscribing to BBB's weekly Scam Alert emails.

If you've been a victim of an airline ticket or other travel scam, please report your experience at BBB.org/ScamTracker. By doing so you can help others to avoid falling prey to scammers.

The Better Business Bureau is a non-profit, business-supported organization that sets and upholds high standards for fair and honest business behavior. For more than 100 years, the Better Business Bureau has been helping people find businesses, brands, and charities they can trust. BBB provides objective advice, free BBB Business Profiles on more than 5.3 million companies, 11,000 charity reviews, dispute resolution services, alerts, and educational information on topics affecting marketplace trust. There are over 100 local, independent BBBs across the United States, Canada, and Mexico. BBB of Northeast California was founded in 1937 and serves 24 counties throughout the region. Visit bbb.org for more information. ★

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 7

S	T	A	R	S		A	T	E		T	B	A	R	
C	R	E	E	P		L	E	X		S	U	R	G	E
A	I	O	L	I		O	D	E		T	R	I	A	L
T	O	N	I	G	H	T		C	O	U	N	T	R	Y
			T	O	O		R	S	V	P				
C	A	P		T	U	P	I		A	I	R	S	A	C
H	O	O	P		S	O	O	T		D	E	M	U	R
E	R	S	E		E	S	T	O	P		T	A	R	O
S	T	I	N	T		E	A	R	L		D	R	A	W
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F	A	V	R	E	A	U		H	A	L	S	T	O	N
U	N	I	O	N		E	M	U		D	I	A	N	A
S	T	O	A	T		D	O	G		A	D	L	I	B
S	I	L	D			E	M	S		M	E	E	T	S

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Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 7

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12		
13						14				15					
16						17				18					
19						20			21	22					
			23					24							
25	26	27			28		29			30	31	32	33	34	
35			36			37			38		39				
40						41				42		43			
44						45				46			47		
48						49				50		51		52	
						53				54		55		56	
57	58	59	60							61			62	63	64
65										66	67			68	
69										70				71	
72										73				74	

CLUES

ACROSS

- *Emmy Awards attendees or celestial bodies
- "He ___ and drank the precious words..."
- Skier's transport
- Move like ivy
- What Alex and Lexington have in common
- Power glitch
- White condiment
- Schiller's "___ to Joy"
- Movie "The ___ of the Chicago 7"
- "Last Week ___ with John Oliver"
- "Lovecraft ___"
- Excessively
- Invitation request
- Part of graduate's ensemble
- South American indigenous people
- Lung pouch (2 words)
- Giannis Antetokounmpo's target
- Stain on Santa
- Take exception to
- Highland tongue
- Bar, legally
- Tropical tuber
- Time on the job
- Grey tea
- Make a picture
- Satellite Navigation System, for short
- Mr. Eugene Krabs, e.g.
- X
- *Compilation of nominees, e.g.
- Uh-huh
- "Swingers" actor turned "The Mandalorian" director
- "Ewan McGregor's role
- Soviet entity
- Flightless bird
- Princess of #34 Down
- Type of weasel
- Lady or Tramp, e.g.
- Improvise
- Young herring
- Printing unit, pl.
- '90s TV sitcom "Boy ___ World"

DOWN

- Sing like Ella Fitzgerald
- Jack, Janet and Chrissy from "Three's Company," e.g.
- Long time
- Rekindled
- Faucet
- Loads (2 words)
- *Jason Sudeikis' role
- Golden parachute recipients
- U, on the road
- One from Great Britain
- Culture-growing turf
- Bank on
- Like an ignoramus
- *Hugh Laurie's medical drama, nominated 25 times, that ended in 2012
- Egg cells
- Great Britain's anti-mob law (2 words)
- *"The Queen's Gambit" game
- Blood carrier
- Suggest
- *Drag ball culture drama
- Retired, shortened
- *"Get ___," Outstanding Comedy Series winner in 1968 and 69
- Saintly glows
- *Royalty chronicles, with The
- Philadelphia's Ivy
- Millimeter of mercury
- "Vamos a la ___"
- *What one needs to be nominated
- Itinerary word
- Old crone
- Like Elvis's famous shoes
- Digestion
- Much ado
- Against, prefix
- Violin's Renaissance predecessor
- One less traveled
- Os in XOXO
- *"The Handmaid's "story" top of ___
- Captures
- *Allison Janney's show

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7

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

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

Solutions on Page 7



It's the Annual Goldie Awards!

By David Dickstein, Gold River Resident

It's time to hand out my annual Best of Gold River Awards, better known as the Goldies! Can't afford Ricky Gervais to host, so here you go without further ado:

Best Eyesore – The tent city adjacent to the Chevron station on Hazel – the one that welcomes you to Gold River beyond the westbound 50 offramp.

Best Health Hazard/Proof We Need New Leadership – See above.

Best Surprise – Driving past the fire station on Coloma and not seeing the other tent city hurting our property values and local businesses. Now, we need to do something about the one growing on the south side of Coloma.

Best New Sandwich – Baguette Up's French dip.

Best Old Sandwich – The Santa Cruz from Bel Air's deli counter.

Best Coffee Drink – Scooter's Super Skinny Iced Mocha.

Best Wine and Cocktail – No clue since I stopped drinking, but send me your votes using the email address at the end of this column.

Best Build-Your-Own-Salad – Blaze Pizza. Really!

Best Pizza (Gold River) – Anywhere but Blaze Pizza. Really, really!

Best Pizza (outside Gold River) – Chicago Fire's deep-dish with Italian sausage. I can't eat that anymore for reasons explained later, but have a slice or two for me at Palladio in Folsom.

Best Proof that Gold River Town Centre Needs a New Owner – Empty spaces that once had a Hallmark store, Outback Steakhouse, Applebee's and Western Feed & Pet Supply.

Best Inefficient Village Board Move – Sending fix-it notices to nearly all the homeowners in my Powell village, to which many abided with a \$500 deposit, only to be told by the contracted exterior



Our elected officials have made it virtually impossible to do anything about this health, safety and aesthetic problem next to the Chevron on Hazel, which workers told me has seriously hurt business for many months. Photos don't capture the vermin and odor detected on my recent visit. Photos by David Dickstein

painting company weeks later that there's additional work needed to be done, requiring another round with the GRCA and village architectural committees and another \$500 deposit per project.

Best Giving of the Royal Finger – By those who continue to park in their driveway overnight despite repeated village board notices that they are in violation of the CC&Rs. When did Gold River become a sanctuary community?

Best Unverified Rumor – That the former Outback will become a Mexican restaurant. If so, please let it be a better version of Carmelita's, which has gone downhill since before the pandemic.

Best Controversial Issue that Seems to have Disappeared – The once-planned Highway 50 interchange that had Eureka Village and all of Gold River in an uproar. Or maybe they still are, and I've been living under a rock.

Best Pet Warnings – The daily posts on Nextdoor from neighbors who have sighted bobcats, mountain lions, coyotes, boars, hawks, rattlesnakes, grizzlies, lions, rhinos, Brahma bulls, ill-tempered sharks with laser beams on their heads, velociraptors and Lord knows what else.

Best Neighborly Gathering – Our village fireworks show over Fourth of July weekend. Dozens of appreciative

neighbors had a great time safely celebrating America's birthday in our cul-de-sac, and with live music! Although big fun, it was a scaled-down version of the show we did for years in Gold River when hundreds of people had a Yankee doodle dandy of a time.

Best Patriotic Jerks – Whoever still thinks it's the Fourth of July by lighting off illegal fireworks on the trails between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. on random nights.

Best Getaway – By the guy I followed for a minute after he was caught stealing a bag of snack chips from inside Bel Air, and no doubt other things undetected. Despite my giving him the third degree, the dude kept on walking until I realized I shouldn't be caring more about shoplifters than Bel Air, itself. They won't do a darn thing – other than raise prices for the rest of us who do believe in paying for what we want.

Best Nerve – Bel Air for letting shoplifters do their thing without consequence and yet asking paying customers to donate to the company's favorite charity with every transaction. I have an idea! Do a better job minding your store and enforcing the law, and then donate the additional profits to your own darn charity and leave us alone.

Best (Fairly) New Book Penned by a Neighbor – Get passed the bulky title and "The Story of E: Book 1 – Buried but Never Forgotten, a Journey Through Earth" (2020) is a fantastical and spiritual page-turner by Elisa Chastaine. The Gold River author truly struts her adventurous imagination in the first of a planned trilogy of novels.

Best Recent Personal Decision – Even more than getting vaccinated so I can travel more, it's having the gastric sleeve surgery in February so I can live more. Down 100 pounds and counting.

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. ★

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<p>9 LIVES CANNED CAT FOOD 5.5 Oz All Varieties</p> <p>Limit 2 Cases Per Family 39¢</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Effective 9/1/21 - 9/7/21</p>	<p>FANCY FEAST GOURMET CANNED CAT FOOD All Varieties except Elegant Medley 3 Oz</p> <p>Limit 2 Cases Per Family ON SALE Everyday</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Effective 9/1/21 - 9/7/21</p>	<p>JONNY CAT PREMIUM CAT LITTER 20 Lb Bag •Regular •Multiple Cat Formula</p> <p>Limit 2 Bags Per Family \$4.19</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Effective 9/1/21 - 9/7/21</p>	<p>FELINE PINE HEALTHY CAT LITTER 20 Lb Bag</p> <p>Limit 2 Bag \$7.99</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Effective 9/1/21 - 9/7/21</p>

<p>PURINA PRO-PLAN CANNED CAT FOOD •Selected Varieties 3 Oz Can (Focus & Selected Varieties \$9.99) Limit 2 Cases</p> <p>89¢</p>	<p>PRECIOUS CAT CAT LITTER 20 Lb Box Limit 2 Boxes Cat Attract \$12.99 Touch of Outdoors \$8.49</p>	<p>WELLNESS CANNED CAT FOOD Full Case •Pate •Gravy Selected Varieties Also •Signature Select •Core 5.3 Oz Limit 1 Case 20% OFF REGULAR LOW PRICES</p>	<p>SCIENCE DIET SMALL BITES DRY DOG FOOD 15 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags •Adult •Light •Mature (Puppy Small Bites \$25.99) (Sensitive Stomach \$29.99) (Lamb & Rice Small Bites \$30.99)</p> <p>\$24.99</p>	<p>SWHEAT SCOOP NATURAL WHEAT LITTER (12 Lb Bag - Original \$10.99 Multi Cat \$11.99)</p> <p>36 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags Original \$29.99 Multi-Cat \$31.99</p>	<p>CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL CANNED DOG FOOD As Marked Dog Cans 13.2 Oz (Reg & Grain Free) All Varieties Cat Cans (3 Oz Grain Free & 5.5 Oz) Limit 1 Case 10% OFF OUR REGULAR LOW PRICES</p>	<p>CAREFRESH PET BEDDING 60 Liter (Ultra Not Included) \$16.49</p>	<p>WELLNESS DRY DOG FOOD 24-30 Lb Bag •Chicken •Senior •Healthy Weight •Grain Free Adult (Lrg Breed Adult \$58.99) •Grain Free Lamb •Grain Free White Fish \$53.99 •Grain Free Lamb •Grain Free White Fish \$56.99</p>	<p>MEOW MIX CAT FOOD Market Select 2.75 Oz Cup Limit 1 Case 53¢</p>	<p>MERRICK'S WHOLE EARTH FARMS DRY DOG FOOD •Grain Free Chicken/Turkey •Grain Free Pork, Beef & Lamb 25 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags per Family \$7 OFF OUR REGULAR LOW PRICES</p>
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<p>ADVANTAGE FLEA CONTROL & TREATMENT Dog Small (Green) Dog Extra Large (Blue) Dog Medium (Teal) Cat Small (Orange) Dog Large (Red) Cat Large (Purple) Limit 2 Per Family. Cannot be combined with any other offer. OUR REGULAR LOW PRICES</p> <p>REDBARN NATURAL DOG TREATS •Bully Treats •Filler Bones •Bully Nuggets All Varieties except Mammoth Bone \$7.99 20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES</p> <p>PETSAFE GENTLE LEADER •Head Collars •Easy Walk Harnesses •Come With Me Kitty 20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES</p>	<p>MAMMOTH PET PRODUCTS TIRE BITER PAW TRACKS •Squeaky Frenchie •Soft Pet Toys All Varieties 20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES</p> <p>PET AG ESBLAC Puppy Milk Replacer Weaning Food 20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES KMR Kitten Milk Replacer Weaning Food 20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES</p>
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<p>HAGEN FLUVAL FILTER SALE</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>MODEL.....TANK.....PET CLUB SALE</td> <td>MODEL.....TANK.....PET CLUB SALE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>107...25 GAL.....\$87.99</td> <td>307...70 GAL...\$131.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>207...40 GAL.....\$99.99</td> <td>407...100 GALL...\$169.99</td> </tr> </table> <p>AQUEON BOXED 10 GALLON TANK With Economy Kit Just add Heater For Tropical Fish \$44.99 Limit 1 Per Family</p>	MODEL.....TANK.....PET CLUB SALE	MODEL.....TANK.....PET CLUB SALE	107...25 GAL..... \$87.99	307...70 GAL... \$131.99	207...40 GAL..... \$99.99	407...100 GALL... \$169.99	<p>TETRA FISH FOOD SALE</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Tetrafin Goldfish 7.06 oz.....\$9.49</td> <td>Tetra Color 7.06 oz.....\$12.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TetraMin Staple 7.06 oz.....\$12.99</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>KORDON CORAL SEA 50 GAL SALT MIX WITH AMQUEL \$14.99</p>	Tetrafin Goldfish 7.06 oz..... \$9.49	Tetra Color 7.06 oz..... \$12.99	TetraMin Staple 7.06 oz..... \$12.99	
MODEL.....TANK.....PET CLUB SALE	MODEL.....TANK.....PET CLUB SALE										
107...25 GAL..... \$87.99	307...70 GAL... \$131.99										
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Tetrafin Goldfish 7.06 oz..... \$9.49	Tetra Color 7.06 oz..... \$12.99										
TetraMin Staple 7.06 oz..... \$12.99											

<p>BONUS COUPON FRISKIES BUFFET CANNED CAT FOOD 5.5 Oz All Varieties Limit Case With Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon ON SALE Everyday Effective 9/1/21 - 9/7/21</p>	<p>BONUS COUPON WHISKAS TEMPTATIONS CAT TREATS •Selected Varieties - 3 Oz Limit 2 Pkgs with Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon \$1.39 Effective 9/1/21 - 9/7/21</p>	<p>BONUS COUPON JONNY CAT CAT LINERS Jumbo Drawstring - 5 Ct Limit 1 Box with Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon \$2.09 Effective 9/1/21 - 9/7/21</p>
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‘To Newsom or Not to Newsom’



**Commentary
by W. Bruce Lee**

Governor Newsom’s recall election concludes September 14, and the rhetoric is heating up, so it’s important to carefully evaluate what’s being said! We will see more political advertisements bombarding us!

The first ad I saw was the rapid-paced Newsom’s “Roaring Back” blitzkrieg. It starts with, “Newsom is delivering money to your pocket!” It continues ... \$1,100 in your pocket, plus \$500 if you have children (Covid relief). It then proclaims he delivered \$4 billion in small business grants (again Covid). A couple projects by Newsom are mentioned and it ends with “Free Pre-K” for every child!!

Honestly, my first reaction was that Newsom is paying us to vote for him. Money for everyone! However, most of that money is federal money and all of that money is taxpayer money.

The other ad I viewed was US Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts) “Here’s the Deal” declaration. “Republicans across the country are attacking the election results and the right to vote.” And, she asserts, these same evil forces are attacking California in a power grab. This “Partisan Recall” is “abusing the recall process,” Warren declares!

How so, I wonder? How

is the process being abused? The process was laid out in state law for anyone to use since 1911.

Since 1913, eleven recalls have qualified for the ballot (of 179 attempts) and six were successful per the Secretary of State. Of those six, three republicans and three democrats were recalled. That doesn’t seem too partisan. And, if this is such a partisan power play, why is Warren from Massachusetts doing the ad and not one of our two US California Senators (both democrats)? Other Newsom ads speak of “anti-science republicans” and other guilt by association smears.

And, by the way, if you ask who is funding the Warren ad, it’s Reed Hastings (Netflix founder/CEO) who was also on the board of Facebook; the Service Employees International Union #215 (state employees union); and the California Democratic Party.

Newsom blasts the \$276 million cost of the recall, which is a lot of money. However, that pales with other state expenditures, such as the proposed \$1 billion being foisted by the legislature to tear down and rebuild the Capitol annex so legislators can have new luxury offices! The recall is a legitimate expense of citizens exercising ownership over their government. The Annex is just the legislators padding their own chairs!

There are approximately 22 million registered voters in California. About 24.2% are republicans, 46.1% are democrats, and 24% have no party preference. To gather the 1.5 million signatures to qualify the recall (1.6 million were collected), I am confident that there were a few democrats mixed in the petitions. And, last spring

when Newsom touted the 30 day period when people could retract their signatures ... less than 50 did so. How embarrassing!

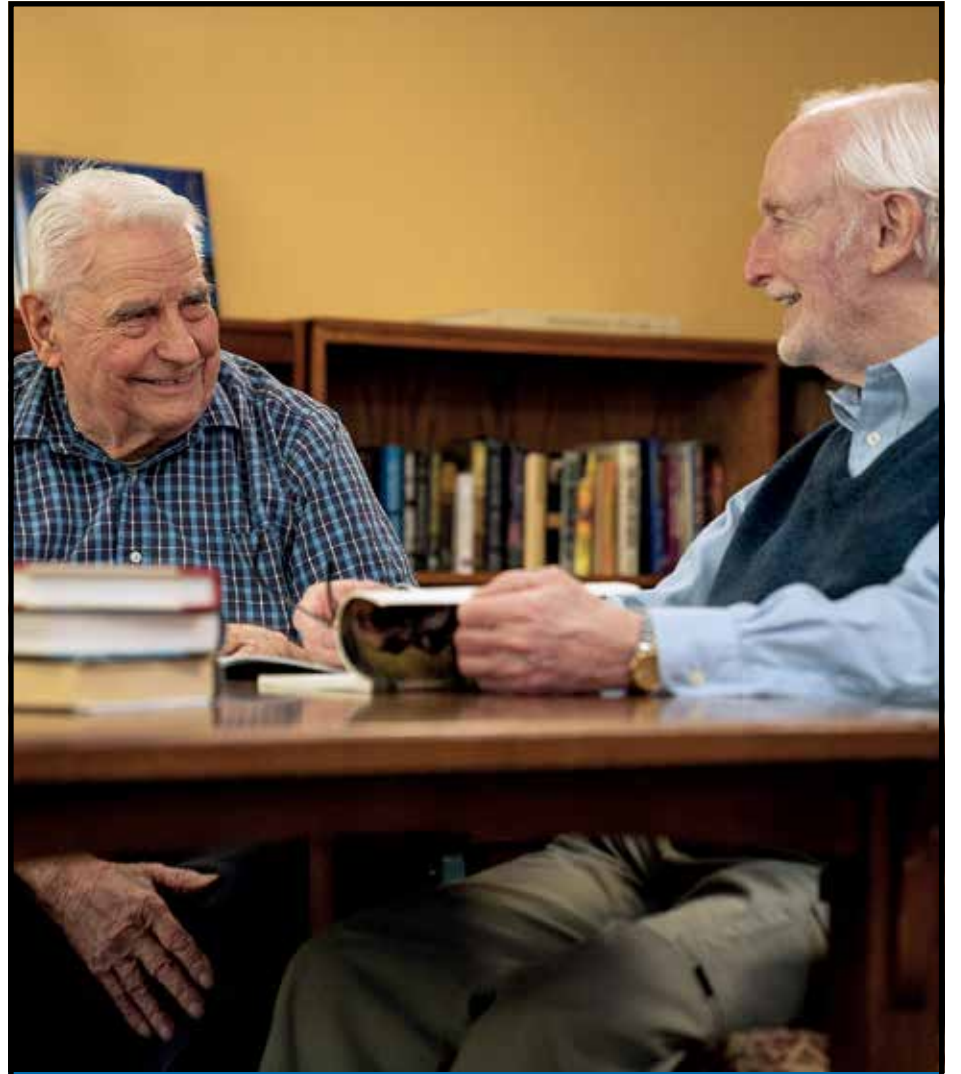
In an August 2-4, 2021 statewide poll for the San Diego Union, 51% favored recalling Newsom (up from 36% in May). Only 40% wanted to keep him (down from 47% in May).

Now, you may like or dislike Newsom, and I’ll keep my opinion to myself, but I can confidently predict the recall is not about partisanship, but perceived performance by the voters.

If voters do recall Newsom, we have 46 replacement candidates, most of whom are useless, “vanity candidates” who clutter the names of the six or seven serious candidates. Yes, with \$4,200 and 65 friends, you, too, could have run for governor! Please don’t waste your vote on a lost cause candidate, the issues are too important. Just be glad we don’t have the 135 candidates as we did in 2003 with the Gray Davis recall.

Be skeptical of advertisements. Beware of what is promised but unproven! Come to events, such as our SacTax (Sacramento Taxpayers Association) interviews with Governor candidates this year. Be informed and intelligent. Exercise ownership over our governments. These recommendations will make each of us better citizens!

W. Bruce Lee is an educator and speaker (WBruceLee.com) with a career in government as an elected official and fiscal advisor, who has worked at the local, state, and federal levels. He authors the “We the Government” column as a community service. He is president of the Sacramento Taxpayers Association (SacTax). ★



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Kelly Brothers Speaks on Investment, Cryptocurrency, and the Financial Climate

Photo and story by Margaret Snider

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)

Financial expert Kelly Brothers had a lot to talk about at the Rancho Cordova Luncheon on August 20. “Financial literacy should be required in every school in the country,” Brothers said. “Forty years ago if you retired you got a gold watch, you probably got a pension whether you were a state employee or whether you were private sector. You had a social security check that was fully funded, you had Medicare that was fully funded. You took three cruises and you died at 72 . . . the average length of retirement back then was about 8-9 years.”

Now, financial planning is largely being handed off to the individual. With longevity often extending into the 90s and the uncertain state of Social Security and Medicare, “Financial literacy is more important than ever,” Brothers said, “to understand how markets work, to understand where the risks are.” Don’t be afraid of the stock market. The market will come up and go down, but if your timeline is 10, 15, 30 years, that’s where you need to do it. Bonds won’t do it, cash won’t do it, gold won’t do it. You need to be able to invest with confidence and endure the short-term bumps for the long-term goal . . . if you’re undereducated on the subject, there’s a chance you’ll make an emotional decision at the wrong time.”

Paul Keefer of Pacific Charter Institute, who was at the luncheon, is also a board member on the Sacramento County Office of Education.



Kelly Brothers (center) with Karen Shahhosseini, relationship manager at SAFE Credit Union (left) and Diann Rogers, President and CEO of Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce.

“I would echo what Kelly Brothers said about the importance of investing and really rounding out a person’s future as much as they work on their everyday expenses . . . His point about schools offering financial literacy and adults understanding financial literacy is very important.”

Kelly said statistics show 61 percent of the people in the country did not pay a penny in income tax, which means that 39 percent are pulling the freight. People are leaving California because of the high level of taxation, among other things. “These are people who have been contributors, not just in terms of tax dollars, but contributors in terms of philanthropy, contributors in terms of being supporters and boosters and advocates

for local business . . . It’s sad to me that we have the highest taxes in the nation – income taxes – and even in a year when we have a 75-billion-dollar surplus . . . it is not considered to be polite conversation in California to talk about maybe lowering taxes or fees and making us more competitive. It’s not even discussed.”

The Federal Reserve System has two mandates, Brothers said: full employment and price stability. They are prioritizing full employment. With enhanced unemployment benefits going away in 24 states in October, people will be more likely to take some of the thousands of jobs that are sitting there. Attention will turn to inflation, with a look at raising interest rates at the end of next year. “If you’re

thinking of refinancing,” Brothers said, “you have about 6 months left at anywhere near the levels we’re at right now.” For people who are ready to retire, they should keep in mind it is way easier to get a mortgage when you’re working, if you have W2 income. Income is what matters.”

Eventually cash will be like pennies in your pocket, still of value, but not really in use. “I think it’ll all become digital one way or another,” Brothers said. As far as cryptocurrency, he is still formulating an opinion. “A currency that is not tied to a sovereign government that can spend its way into debasing a currency is a good thing . . . I think cryptocurrencies will kind of replace gold as being that safe haven place to stick money and retain value. But they’re in a startup phase . . . I think there is a future in it, I think it’s real, but it’s going to be a bumpy ride to get to a place where it’s accepted.”

Brothers grew up in East Sacramento and attended Jesuit High School. His first job was a Sacramento Bee paper route at the age of 11. He achieved a Bachelor of Arts degree and Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Notre Dame and did post-graduate work at the London School of Business. He is a principal and financial advisor with CAPTRUST and has anchored the number one evening newscast on KCRA and the number one morning news on KFBK and is well known as a financial expert. He and his wife live in Carmichael and have four children. ★

Residents Rally for Parkway

Continued from page 1

fire, to drug presence, garbage pollution, and fears for recreational safety – resulted from unauthorized campers. Recent statutes, prevent Rangers from ousting Parkway dwellers if they have nowhere else to sleep. Other activities can nevertheless be prosecuted: littering is illegal; hunting and threatening behavior is illegal. Fires outside designated picnic spots are illegal.

Deputy Metro Fire Chief Niko King confirmed that nearly all parkland conflagrations this year originated in encampments.

Trash and sewage dumping is another issue. Higher than acceptable E.coli readings are not all camper-related but much riverside garbage is. Said Parkway steward Don Hall: “We’ve got hoarders and tweakers (meth users) bringing things into parkway encampments that destroy aesthetics, sanitation and safety. We are the voice of the Parkway. We need to speak out on the issue of illegal camping. . . it can’t be allowed to continue.”

Volunteer Leigh Rutledge said formerly pristine river areas were now landfills. “We are so fortunate that a group of people had the foresight to save this land for all of us,” she said. “We’re going to let it become one giant garbage dump. And a burned garbage dump. We’ve got to do what it takes to stop this.”

A nature-lover advocated for wildlife. “Imagine

what losing 11 percent of your range means to animals” said the speaker. “Flood plain parks are not just for human leisure. Our Parkway was set aside as a habitat for hundreds of animal species. What protection do they have when we allow it to be burned, polluted and filled with garbage?”

Supervisor Serna said Sacramento County was resource-challenged but not guilty of letting grass grow under its feet. Sites were being considered for a triage center – with support services – for the homeless. When taxed to recommend how the public could help save the Parkway, Serna and fellow panelists urged:

Volunteer for trash clean ups; Report illegal fires; Write letters to officials; Attend Supervisorial meetings and call the County to task.

Explained Supervisor Rich Desmond: “Showing up and complaining achieves progress in our creating alternative places for homeless people to go. When we have these places, there will be no excuse for us not enforcing ordinances and stopping the destruction of our Parkway.”

Volunteers may assist The Great American River Clean Up project on September 18.

Learn about this and other American River Parkway projects at www.arpf.org

Write to your County representative at: 700 H Street, Suite 1450, Sacramento, CA 95814. ★

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