



Gold River Dad's Little League Memories

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HAPPY 4th of July



# Gold River Messenger

VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 07 Serving Gold River and Sacramento County

JULY, 2020

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## Fiercely Independent One Small Step – One Small Miracle



Bald eaglelet "Miracle" launches into flight over the American River.

Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Few experiences could be more life-affirming than seeing birds in debut

flight. When those creatures happen to be two bald eaglelets (fledging auspiciously close to July 4), gasps and tears are among observer reactions. Among very few of their species in Sacramento County, a mated eagle

couple is now completing a fourth breeding season on the American River. Having recorded each of those seasons, I note the 2020 nursery unique for surprise and heartbreak. Continued on page 3

## Protecting Sacramento County Seniors

By Andrea Sandoval, Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - COVID-19 has profoundly impacted all of our lives. As we isolate from those closest to us – family, friends, neighbors and colleagues – for older people living in the community or in long-term care settings, the trials are even greater. Social isolation is one of the greatest risk factors for elder abuse.

In California, elder abuse is significantly underreported. For every case of elder or dependent adult abuse known to agencies, 24 are unknown. June is observed as National Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Awareness Month, a statewide effort to increase awareness of elder and dependent adult abuse and to increase reporting of suspected abuse, not only in the month of June but all year long.

There are numerous forms of maltreatment and abuse, such as: physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse, as well as neglect and abandonment. Elder and dependent adult abuse does not discriminate. Any adult 65 years and older or an adult between the ages of 18 to 65 that requires extra care due to physical or mental limitations can be a victim.

"Social isolation can be difficult for seniors even in the best of times," said Ruth MacKenzie. "We have to help our seniors feel connected especially during COVID-19 and make sure they have access to available local services so they can stay healthy and safe. Staying connected, phoning older adults, checking on an older neighbor, writing a card or letter, can all be positive steps to ensure public safety and social justice."

Seniors are in the highest risk for severe complications from COVID-19, during this challenging time, Sacramento County APS wants to emphasize that there are resources that are available in this time of need and uncertainty.

Sacramento County has a 24-hour hotline for reporting abuse of older adults and disabled adults who may be physically Continued on page 6

## Electronic Caregiver Partners with AlphaOne for Serving Seniors

By Alexia Severson, Electronic Caregiver

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Electronic Caregiver®, a national virtual care and health technology company, has partnered with AlphaOne Ambulance Medical Services Inc. to provide peace of mind and protection for seniors – the portion of the population most vulnerable to COVID-19.

Sacramento resident Dot Boyd, an independent partner of Electronic Caregiver, offers the company's lifesaving technology to those living in the Greater Sacramento Area. Electronic Caregiver's products include telehealth and remote patient monitoring services, which have become vital tools in slowing the spread and



Electronic Caregiver Partners with AlphaOne to Provide Quality Emergency and Non-emergency Services to Seniors in Sacramento County. Photo AlphaOne

impact of COVID-19. The partnership will give Electronic Caregiver clients in Sacramento County the option to connect with AlphaOne as their preferred

emergency medical service at the touch of a button via Electronic Caregiver's technology. AlphaOne specializes in senior care and is trusted by many Sacramento

County seniors as their go-to service.

"Electronic Caregiver's products protect the older adult population and Continued on page 5



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# Women's Empowerment Receives \$10K from SMUD

By Kristin Thébaud, Thébaud Communications

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Women's Empowerment recently received \$10,000 from SMUD's Sustainable Communities initiative to provide workforce development skills, paid job training and housing search assistance for women experiencing homelessness.

"We are grateful to SMUD for recognizing that communities are only sustainable when women and their families have a safe home and a stable income," said Lisa Culp, executive director, Women's Empowerment. "SMUD's generous donation will help us ensure women and their children have homes and jobs, especially during this pandemic."

Women's Empowerment was featured on NBC's The TODAY Show in 2015 for offering the most comprehensive job-readiness program in the Sacramento area designed specifically for women who are homeless and their children. The award-winning organization has graduated 1,681 homeless women and their 3,792 children. Last year, 70 percent of graduates found homes in the midst of the housing crisis,

and 79 percent secured jobs or enrolled in school or training. The program combines self-esteem courses, job training, health classes, support services and paid job training to help homeless women across diverse ages, races and cultures. Women's Empowerment is funded through private donations from the community and grants. To donate: Womens-Empowerment.org.

"Our goal is to enhance the lives of those living in our community, and our Sustainable Communities Initiative focuses on those with the greatest need," said Shiloh Costello, SMUD manager of Sustainable Communities. "We are proud to help an organization that directly impacts hundreds of women and families in our area as they work to become self-sufficient."

SMUD's Sustainable Communities Initiative aligns with SMUD's core purpose and vision to enhance the quality of life for all customers through innovative energy solutions. The program helps bring environmental equity and economic vitality to communities in SMUD's service area, with special attention given to historically underserved neighborhoods. For more information, visit SMUD.org. ★

# Protesters Topple Statues of St. Serra

Catholic League Press Release

**NEW YORK, NY (MPG)** - Catholic League president Bill Donohue comments on protesters who destroyed statues of Saint Junipero Serra:

Smashing statues of American icons is all the rage among urban barbarians. Ignorant of history, they are destroying statues of those who were among the most enlightened persons of their time. This includes Father Junipero Serra. The 18th century missionary fought hard for the rights of Indians, and was rightfully canonized by Pope Francis in 2015.

A statue of Saint Serra was toppled in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park on June 19, and the next day another statue of the legendary priest was torn down at Placita Olvera in Los Angeles. Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles, who is also president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, singled out Saint Serra for his compassion and his effort to establish rights for Indians and women.

In 2015, I published a booklet, "The Noble Legacy of Father Serra," that detailed his many accomplishments. In light of the attacks on him, it is worth recalling some of his heroics.

Serra got along well with the Indians. His goal, and that of the Franciscan missionaries whom he led, was not to conquer the Indians - it was to make them good Christians. The missionaries granted the Indians



A screenshot from a video showing vandals removing the statue of St. Junipero Serra in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco on June 19, 2020. Photo courtesy Catholic San Francisco

rights and respected their human dignity, quite unlike the condition of black slaves. The Indians appreciated their efforts, drawing a distinction between the missionaries and the Spanish crown: the former treated the natives with justice; the latter did not. The civil authorities were the problem, not the priests.

Contrary to the conventional wisdom, the missionaries did not eradicate Indian culture. Indeed, they learned the native language of the Indians and employed Indians as teachers. Some cultural modification was inevitable, given that the missionaries taught the Indians how to be masons, carpenters, blacksmiths, and painters. The Indians were also taught how to sell and buy animals, and were allowed to keep their bounty. Women were taught spinning, knitting, and sewing.

Archbishop Gomez is right to point out that Serra

fought for the rights of women, as well. It was the missionaries who sought to protect Indian women from the Spanish colonizers. The Friars segregated the population on the basis of sex and age, hoping to safeguard the young girls and women from being sexually exploited. When such offenses occurred, Serra and his fellow priests quickly condemned them.

A total of 21 missions were established by the Franciscans, nine of them under the tenure of Serra; he personally founded six missions. He baptized more than 6,000 Indians, and confirmed over 5,000; some 100,000 were baptized overall during the mission period.

If the truth were told about Saint Serra, he would be heralded as a friend of the Indians, not as their enemy. But truth matters little to those whose hearts are full of hatred and whose minds are closed to reality. ★

# VA NorCal Health Offers 'On-Demand' COVID-19 Testing

By Will Martin, VA Northern California Health Care System

**MATHER, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento VA Medical Center (VAMC) will offer drive-up, elective COVID-19 testing to Veterans registered as VA patients from 9 a.m. - noon each Tuesday and Thursday in Mather beginning June 23. Other VA Northern California Health Care System sites are also offering COVID-19 tests to Veterans and VA NorCal employees inside their clinics, with plans to establish drive-up testing at some sites in the near future.

"An effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic in built on consistent testing," said VA NorCal Director David Stockwell. "By offering accessible testing to our

patients, we're ensuring the Veteran community is at the forefront of coronavirus care in Northern California."

VA NorCal medical personnel will conduct the tests using oropharyngeal swabs with results usually available in a few days.

Northern California Veterans should contact their local VA NorCal clinic for details or to register as a VA patient. To schedule a health care appointment during the COVID-19 pandemic, Veterans should contact the VA NorCal Call Center at 1-800-382-VETS (8387).

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# Fiercely Independent



The female bald eagle hatched three babies in this spring. Two survived to fly in June.

Continued from page 1

In spring, observers were astonished to find three chicks in the eagle nursery. In previous broods, the parents reliably raised only two babies. Judging by its size, the unexpected baby probably hatched 10 days after the alpha we called Courage; and perhaps a week after middle sibling Hope. We named the surprise baby Miracle. "It'll be a miracle if he survives," predicted a riverside wit. But the smallest eaglet escaped bullying often suffered by raptor runts. His parents favored him with plenty to eat. A feisty, competitive personality quickly developed.

The family dynamic was disrupted when alpha Courage fell from the nest before he was old enough to fly. Though the parents fed him on the ground, coyote and bobcats must also provide for their own babies. One day the fallen eaglet simply disappeared. Crisis support arrived in the form of an eagle helper that has assisted the family in previous summers. The parents absented themselves as the babysitter we call "Hunter" dutifully mentored, fed and suffered the remaining two eaglets' ingratitude. Mama and Papa took compassionate leave from months of exhausting hunting and childcare.

In their absence, second eaglet Hope reached 12 weeks old and was poised for flight. Her debut promised a much-needed lift for her kin and for fans who had taken the family to their hearts. Hope did not disappoint. On summer solstice, she scrambled from the nest to a favorite branch. Here she spread massive wings and claimed her sky. An ungainly series of flaps got her 50 yards to an adjacent pine.

Before setting a course for the home tree, the debutante gave a "here I come" squeal. She flew with greater confidence to achieve a high limb. Though Hunter had just delivered a trout, she ignored his celebratory offering and chose flight over food. Off she winged to partly loop the river and descend on a new branch. Thence she sped to a new tree, then another. Alone for the first time in his life, sibling Miracle was beyond consolation. He screamed and screamed. An hour passed before Hope made a clumsy, talons-splayed touch-down in the nest. Hers was a text-book fledge that would have made absent Mama proud.

By last week, brother Miracle had also

reached fly-by date and was jumping aggressively on branches outside the nest. Mama and Papa returned, bearing fish and a small rodent as gifts. Unplacated, their runt screamed from noon till sunset, seemingly demanding maternal permission to fly. Perhaps fearing an evening fledge and the risk another of baby on the ground, Mama endured his awful cacophony and kept the wannabe pilot under her yellow thumb. By dawn, the reunited family and faithful Hunter watched Miracle's brave first step into the abyss.

His 250-yard flight achieved a leafy bluff oak. Then he ventured a longer spin to a low, rotted stump. Papa and sister Hope perched encouragingly in a nearby pine. On an aborted relaunch, they saw him plummet over the bluff. Human observers groaned at the memory of Courage's ill-fated fall, but rookie Miracle did not tumble far. His eager little face soon reappeared and he regained his stump. His next flit—to a mockingbird nesting tree—brought on fierce harassment by its tiny occupants. Off he flew to join sibling Hope on a more hospitable pine. Though the older fledgling tried to bully him into takeoff, the new aviator stood firm.

When Miracle swooped to his next destination, his talons grabbed flimsy pine needles. This common rookie error flopped him upside-down and bat-like till he lost hold and fell to a solid branch. Here he quickly perceived a second error: he was back in the mockingbird tree and under renewed attack. Fleeing over the river, he soon returned to claim familiar cliff pines.

All morning and afternoon of a triple-digit day continued his thrilling adventure. Miracle's fledge was a roller coaster of takeoffs, landings, a trapeze act, a tumbling turn and battles with wee birds. A fish dinner with the family would later crown his debut.

Days before a July 4 historically curtailed by COVID restrictions, the safe launching of new national bird generation came as a balm to nature lovers. May the spirit of Courage—Hope and Miracle's lost brother—forever be the wind beneath their wings.

*Footnote: To protect the eagles, their nest location is not published. Susan Maxwell Skinner's American River Nature Blog can be followed on Facebook. ★*

## United Way Offers Virtual Free Tax Help

By Kristin Thébaud, Thébaud Comm.

### SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- With the tax deadline extended to July 15, households throughout the Sacramento region are still eligible for free virtual help preparing taxes and claiming credits this year, saving an average of \$200 in preparer fees and earning up to \$6,500 in credits. United Way California Capital Region's Free Tax Prep program is partnering with GetYourRefund.org to provide virtual assistance. More households are eligible to participate through the partnership—those earning \$66,000 or less in 2019. Qualified households can upload documents online and a United Way IRS-certified volunteer will call them to help claim the maximum tax credits for which they are eligible before submission, including the federal and state Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC and CalEITC). To get started: GetYourRefund.org/?s=UWCCR.

Age qualification for CalEITC expanded last year to include ages 18-24 and working adults ages 65



United Way's Free Tax Prep program volunteers prepare to assist a local family with filing their taxes for free last year. Photo courtesy: Thébaud Communications

and up, giving more taxpayers the opportunity to earn credits, including those who are self-employed. Many CalEITC-eligible households are not legally required to file taxes due to low income; however if they file, they can claim state and federal credits.

This tax year, California introduced the new Young Child Tax Credit. To qualify for the credit, taxpayers must be able to claim a child under age 6 on their 2019 tax return and have earned less than the \$30,000 for the year. The Young Child Tax Credit can increase the state refund by an additional \$1,000.

More than \$11 million in refunds were claimed across

the Sacramento region in 2019 through United Way's program, up more than \$1 million from the previous year. More than 9,000 local households received free help from nearly 500 volunteers in 2019, saving a total of \$1.8 million in tax preparation fees. Last year, \$18.6 million was received in Sacramento County from CalEITC refunds. With new increases to CalEITC and the Young Child Tax Credit, Franchise Tax Board estimates that Sacramento County could receive up to \$40 million this coming tax season.

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# 'FOOL'S GOLD'

## Gold River Dad's Little League Memories

**By Gold River Resident David Dickstein**

Stick a forkball in the Little League season – it's done.

To the surprise of no one, youth baseball can be added to the long list of victims of COVID-19. Rancho Cordova Little League, which includes Gold River's children, held out until the start of summer to do the inevitable and bench the entire season for all its divisions. Leagues in states with low levels of coronavirus cases managed to salvage a shortened schedule, but for most of the world, including our little corner of it, chants of "Hey, batter batter" and "Good eye!" are muzzled like an investigative journalist in China. Driving past the fields on Zinfandel this time of year is depressingly quiet. Ironic that one bat in Wuhan may be the reason for millions of bats being silenced around the world.

One silver lining is thanks to the governing Rancho Cordova Athletics Association and current leadership of RCLL, members of the latter and Cordova Girls Softball will get a full refund on dues paid in the spring with a commitment to play in 2021.

From the diamond to the pitch, it looks like COVID-19 hasn't infected the Rancho Cordova Soccer Club. So, unless our lovely governor has a bad hair day and takes it out on youth soccer with

restrictions almost impossible to follow, many of the neighborhood's kids will be playing for kicks starting in October.

That's good news for the children and parents. Team sports are excellent ways for youths to develop physically, combat obesity,

unethical coaches, childish dads and smart-alecky brats who got away with bad behavior because they were either star players or the coach's kid.

Here are those lowlights from our Little League days that still stick in my craw:

- The league's star pitcher

My son stood there crying and not a coach or umpire did a thing. Either did the punk's parents. My kid was clearly upset, and likely in pain. My wife and I were shocked no one did anything. So I did. I ran on the field to check on my son, and, bless his heart,

the third pitch, the pompous (blank) abruptly and rudely removed me from my duties. This was very early in the season and it wasn't until the last game when he apologized for the ugly scene.

- In his final game of the schedule, a Rancho

everyone but his father cheered. After the game the big, brutish dad pulled me aside and said in a threatening tone, "Don't ever touch my son again." That would be the last time I coached baseball.

- Soccer also had its ups and downs, but I'll keep things to the one incident that was truly disgusting. Our Rancho Cordova Soccer Club team was playing an infamously dirty team from Folsom. Being the biggest on the team, my son was instructed by the coach – unbeknownst to anyone else – to hit the Folsom team's top player hard enough to cause an injury. This was a rec team, for crying out loud, and crying out loud is what my son did when Folsom's star goon intentionally kicked my boy's ankle so hard he had to leave the game for us to take him to the walk-in clinic for x-rays. Fortunately, they came back negative. Found out later that the Folsom thug didn't even get a yellow card on the play. We gave the team and league a red card, however. That wound up being the last youth soccer game either of our boys ever played. Hoping the quality of coaches, players and officials has improved since then.

*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. ★*



COVID-19 claims another victim: the 2020 Rancho Cordova Little League season. Photo by David Dickstein

improve endurance, build character and discipline, boost self-esteem, strengthen perseverance, teach teamwork skills and deal with competition.

As a supportive dad whose boys played recreational baseball and soccer, I learned a lot, too. Not all was good, however, and it's those sour memories that selfishly make me wish that one or two of those seasons would have been canceled, too. My boys are now double the age of when they stopped playing organized youth sports, and yet it feels like yesterday when I felt we were wronged by cowardly league officials,

beamed my youngest with a fastball, and later that game the Rancho Cordova kid admitted he did so to take the bat out of my heavy-hitting son's hands. Our team's manager did nothing even after being told the little (blank) admitted to intentionally hitting the batter. The league also took no action, supporting my assumption that there was prejudice against Gold River families by the Rancho Cordovan leadership.

- After my son ran to second base after hitting a double, the infielder punched him smack in the face.

he wanted to remain in the game. Well guess what? I'm the one who got a lecture from the league commissioner. No other disciplinary action was taken regarding the matter from what I understood. Was total you-know-what.

- When an umpire was a no-show, the opposing coach, also a board member, asked if a parent could volunteer. I was the only one who offered. My only instruction was to make the kids swing. "Only mailmen walk," he told me. Doing what he asked, I called the first two outside pitches as strikes. Before

Cordova kid who had never got a hit finally did. A double, in fact. It was fantastic, but as he had done the entire year, the child's dad just sat like a big lump on the bleachers. Not a clap or yell of encouragement to his son, ever. The kid, the puniest on the team if not the entire American league, was over the moon until he looked at his dad in the stands. The little guy went from elated to despondent. As I was coaching near second base, my paternal instincts kicked in and I lifted the kid and said, "Great job, Johnny!" The boy got his smile back and

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CHM PLU 361

# Electronic Caregiver Partners with AlphaOne for Serving Seniors

*Continued from page 1*

activate paramedics in medical emergencies,” said AlphaOne Business Development Manager Mike Ryder. “Our partnership will allow them to activate paramedics trained in geriatric Emergency Medical Sciences (GEMS) providing a level of care our older adults prefer.”

AlphaOne provides assessments at no charge, which can be a huge value to seniors who often live on a fixed income. The company also specializes in dementia care and works with many of the county’s memory care communities.

“Taking the time needed to properly evaluate our residents with advanced needs is a great tool in providing specialized care,” Ryder said. “Oftentimes older adults prefer to not have all the unnecessary apparatus show up in a medical emergency and trust our staff to treat them with dignity and respect while providing the care they need. We are often the preferred provider to many of the assisted living, independent living, skilled nursing communities in our area.”

Electronic Caregiver clients in Sacramento County can have the added benefit of AlphaOne when they subscribe to the Premier, a mobile security and care support system, or the Pro Health, a chronic care and remote patient monitoring system. Clients who need urgent medical care can push the emergency button on either of these devices to directly connect with AlphaOne, saving them valuable time in looking for their phone or having to manually dial a number.

“In the independent living communities where people may not have a personal emergency response system (PERS), every individual is on their own,” Boyd said. “And so, for them to know that when they push their button AlphaOne will be dispatched gives them a lot of peace of mind.”

Along with 24/7 emergency response, the Premier includes care plan reminders, activity monitoring, geolocation and pocketMD telemedicine. PocketMD provides clients with remote access to not only a licensed physician, but also a psychologist, pharmacist, dentist, dietician, sports medicine specialist, alternative medicine specialist, pediatrician, and ophthalmologist.

Electronic Caregiver client Joann Charamuga, who lives in an independent living community in Sacramento, said she enrolled in the AlphaOne program via her Premier subscription. She enjoys the sense of security and reduced financial costs that come with using AlphaOne as her primary emergency response service.

For those with chronic conditions or who would like access to remote patient monitoring services, Electronic Caregiver’s Pro Health is ideal. The smart health hub is easily set up in the home and can be paired with several Bluetooth devices, including a glucometer, spirometer, blood pressure cuff, pulse oximeter, weight scale and non-contact thermometer. Both the pulse oximeter

and thermometer have been identified by the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) as tools patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 can use to monitor their condition and help guide them on important medical decisions.

The Pro Health also includes 24/7 emergency response, medication reminders and pocketMD.

“Right now, because of the COVID-19 scare, people are ignoring serious or chronic health issues because of their fear of picking up the virus at their doctor’s office or at the hospital,” Boyd said. “Sadly, the reports are in that they’re waiting until it’s too late and too many are dying from non-COVID-19 illnesses as a result.”

“With the push of a button, any time of the day or night, my clients can consult with a doctor, and avoid sitting in a waiting room with other sick patients who may have virus symptoms,” she said. “I wish we had this when I was my mom’s primary caregiver because we could have avoided trips to the emergency department when there were no other options on a Friday night or over the weekend.”

In addition to seniors, Electronic Caregiver’s technology can benefit patients of all ages. For information about Electronic Caregiver and services offered in the Greater Sacramento County Area, contact Dot Boyd at 916-799-1660 or dot@dotforseniorsafety.com. ★

# District Attorney Announces Crime Lab Youth Shadow Days



District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert

Office of Sacramento County District Attorney

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert announces open registration for the 3rd Annual Crime Lab Youth Shadow Days. This program is being offered virtually for the first time this year.

The Crime Lab Youth Shadow Day was launched in 2018, and quickly exceeded capacity. A second day was added to meet the high demand, resulting in a total of 120

student participants from approximately 50 high schools across the county.

Participating students will visit the District Attorney’s Crime Lab virtually and meet criminalists who are experts in the various fields of forensic science and crime scene investigations (CSI). They are provided a virtual learning experience in several areas including blood spatter analysis, bullet trajectory, trace evidence, firearms and tool comparison, and drug analysis.

There will be two virtual Crime Lab Youth Shadow Days this year:

**WHEN:** Friday, July 17, OR Friday, July 24, 2020 ~ 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Virtually – broadcasted live from the District Attorney’s Crime Lab

The program is open to current Sacramento County high school students. Priority will be

given to senior high school students.

Students will need to submit completed registration forms and a signed permission slip, which can be downloaded at [www.sacda.org](http://www.sacda.org).

The deadline to apply is July 10, 2020. Space is limited to 60 students each day and on a first come, first served basis. Please register early.

DA Anne Marie Schubert states, “Our goal with all of our youth programs is to engage and educate our youth as well as inspire them to pursue a career in the criminal justice field, including forensic science which is a critical factor in most criminal cases. I am pleased we are able to continue this program virtually – keeping students, our staff and their families healthy and safe in this time of social distancing.”

For questions, please email [YouthPrograms@sacda.org](mailto:YouthPrograms@sacda.org). ★

# Cause Unknown in Motorcycle Fatal Collision

By A.J. McTaggart, California Highway Patrol

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - On June 21, 2020 at approximately 12:23 am, The California Highway Patrol (CHP) received a call of a collision involving a motorcyclist in the area of I-80 westbound just west of Greenback Lane. CHP officers responded to the collision scene and learned that a 25-year old female out of Sacramento, was riding her 2011 Kawasaki Ninja motorcycle. The female rider was immediately transported to Mercy San Juan Medical Center (MSJMC) for major life-threatening injuries sustained in the collision. At approximately

1:50 am, MSJMC advised CHP units at the scene that the rider had succumbed to her injuries sustained from the collision. It is unknown at this time how many vehicles are involved in the collision and the cause is still under investigation. The #1-4 westbound lanes of I-80 west of Greenback Lane were closed for approximately two hours for investigative measures.

Any persons who may have witnessed this collision or who can provide any additional information regarding this collision should call Officer A.J. McTaggart at the North Sacramento Area CHP office at (916)348-2300 by cell phone at (916)798-0975. ★

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## California Unemployment Insurance Claims Increase by 20 percent

**California Center for Jobs and the Economy**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)**

- After a relatively stable level in the prior 4 weeks, total California initial claims (regular UI plus PUA claims by the self-employed) jumped 20% for the week of June 20. As suggested in the separate WARN Act analyses, most layoffs continue to be temporary but an increasing percentage is now shifting to permanent, an indication that the recovery period will face additional difficulties in returning to previous job and employment levels.

Nationally, actual claims (not seasonally adjusted (NSA)) for regular UI were essentially level at 1,457,373, while the seasonally adjusted (SA) level used for trend analysis is being reported as a decrease at 1,480,000. Combined with PUA claims, the national NSA numbers eased 2%.

California showed 287,354 initial UI claims (NSA) along with 86,130 initial PUA claims (NSA). As with last week's employment and job numbers, the initial claims data is another indication that the economic downturn has been more severe in California and continues in many sectors, while the US on average appears to be in the initial stages of a recovery.

Combining both the regular UI and PUA initial claims, California had the highest number of initial claims among the states. Total initial claims for California for the week were 2.0% of the May labor force, moving up to the 8th highest among the states. To date, total initial claims of 6.6 million since the beginning of the state's shutdown represent over a third of the labor force. This level, however, does not translate directly into the unemployment level. Not all claims are

necessarily approved, filers may have secured employment after submitting their claim, and individuals may have filed more than one claim in this period.

Although not included in the table above, claims under the new Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program continues to show significant numbers. This new category allows an additional 13 weeks of coverage for persons who have exhausted their regular benefits, including eligibility for the additional \$600 a week. California claims were at 296,831 or 35% of total claims nationally. Rather than newly unemployed persons, claim rates for this category are an indicator in the growth of long-term unemployment, a major problem during the shallow recovery from the 2008 Recession that had a depressing effect on wage and longer-term employment prospects for the affected workers. ★

## Legislative Democrats Pass Legislation to Legitimize Racial Discrimination

**By Jacqui Nguyen, California Senate Republicans**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)**

- Senate Republican Leader Shannon Grove (R-Bakersfield) and Senator Ling Ling Chang (R-Diamond Bar) released a joint press release denouncing the passage of Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 5. Legislative Democrats

passed ACA 5 and its purpose is to repeal Proposition 209.

"Prop. 209 states that California shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin. For Sacramento Democrats to pass legislation that does the exact opposite is appalling," said

Senate Republican Leader Shannon Grove.

"We need to come together as a state and country to stand against racial injustices," said Senator Ling Ling Chang. "But the answer to discrimination is not more discrimination. I support and will continue to support laws protecting minorities and women from discrimination, not encouraging it." ★

## Newsom Signs Legislation to Fortify General Election for the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Office of California Secretary of State Alex Padilla**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)**

- Governor Gavin Newsom has signed AB 860 – authored by Assemblymember Marc Berman with Senator Tom Umberg as a joint author – which codifies that county elections officials must mail a ballot to every registered, active voter ahead of the November 3, 2020 General Election.

"California is moving in a swift, bipartisan manner to fortify our democracy in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic," Secretary of State Alex Padilla said. "Expanding vote-by-mail statewide is a necessity to protect our right to vote and our public health. Voting by mail has worked safely and securely in California for decades. Mailing every voter a ballot for this election is simply common sense."

"A few simple measures in AB 860 will further strengthen and complement the expansion of vote-by-mail. Providing vote-by-mail tracking options to all California voters will improve voter confidence. Allowing lawfully cast vote-by-mail ballots to arrive to elections officials 17 days following the election will protect against any disruptions in the postal service. And affording

elections officials more time to process vote-by-mail ballots will help with the efficiency of the vote count process for this unprecedented election."

AB 860 provisions for the November 3, 2020 General Election:

Requires county elections officials to mail every active registered voter a ballot; Requires every county elections officials to adopt a vote-by-mail ballot tracking system. Californians can sign up for the Secretary of State's "Where's My Ballot?" tool to receive automatic updates about the status of their vote-by-mail ballot by text (SMS), voice call, or email. Californians can sign-up at [wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov](http://wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov); Requires that county elections officials process and count ballots that were postmarked on or before Election Day and arrive to elections officials no later than 17 days after Election Day. Under current law, vote-by-mail ballots that arrive more than three days after the election are not counted; Allows county elections officials to begin processing returned vote-by-mail ballots 29 days before Election Day. Under current law, counties can begin processing vote-by-mail ballots 10 business days before an election. Results will still not be released until after all polls close on Election Night. ★

## North Sacramento CHP Welcomes New Area Commander



Captain Aaron Goulding

**California Highway Patrol Press Release**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)**

- On June 1, 2020, a new commander was assigned to the North Sacramento Area of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to fill the vacancy left by the recent reassignment of Captain Andy Williams. Captain Aaron Goulding, who had been serving as the Ventura CHP Area Commander, has been assigned as the

North Sacramento CHP Area Commander.

Commander Goulding was raised in the Inland Empire of Southern California. He is a graduate of California State University, Bakersfield. He is a 28 year law enforcement veteran and has spent the last ten years working CHP assignments in both northern and southern California.

The CHP is a family tradition for Captain Goulding, as he was the first of several family members who now work for the CHP, which include his brother and oldest son; serving in the Bakersfield and Napa CHP Areas respectively. Goulding's career in law enforcement began in 1992 with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, where he served as a Deputy Sheriff and

worked both jail and patrol assignments. In 1994 he attended the CHP Academy, after which he was assigned to the Fort Tejon CHP office. His career has included a variety of field, specialized, and headquarters assignments as an officer, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. These assignments included working at CHP offices located throughout California.

As it relates to his new assignment, "I am excited to serve the communities within the greater Sacramento area." Captain Goulding is committed to making our area the safest place to live and travel. He appreciates the trust the Department has shown towards him by allowing him this opportunity and assignment as Commander of the North Sacramento CHP. ★

## Protecting Sacramento County Seniors

*Continued from page 1*

or financially abused, neglected or exploited. The local APS number is (916) 874-9377. To report suspected abuse

of an elder in a nursing home, residential care facility for the elderly or assisted living facility, contact the State CRISIS line: 1-800-231-4024.

To report abuse in all long-term care facilities, call: Ombudsman Services of Northern California at (916) 376-8910. ★

## Tax Initiative for Certain Commercial and Industrial Real Property is Withdrawn

**Office of California Secretary of State**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)**

- Secretary of State Alex Padilla announced that an initiative eligible for the November 3, 2020 General Election ballot has been withdrawn by the proponents.

The Attorney General's official title and summary of the initiative is as follows:

**REQUIRES CERTAIN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL REAL PROPERTY TO BE TAXED BASED ON FAIR-MARKET VALUE. DEDICATES PORTION OF ANY INCREASED REVENUE TO EDUCATION AND LOCAL SERVICES. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.**

Taxes certain commercial and industrial real property based on fair-market value—rather than, under current law, the purchase price with limited inflation. Exempts agricultural property and certain small businesses. Dedicates portion of any increased revenue to local services and to supplement, not replace, state's minimum-funding guarantee to schools. Provides tax exemption for \$500,000 worth of tangible personal property used for business and all personal property used for

certain small businesses. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local government: **Net increase in annual property tax revenues of \$6.5 billion to \$10.5 billion in most years, depending on the strength of real estate markets. After paying for county administrative costs and backfilling state income tax losses related to the measure, the remaining \$6 billion to \$10 billion would be allocated to schools (40 percent) and other local governments (60 percent). (17-0055.)**

The measure previously became eligible for the ballot on October 16, 2018, through a random sample verification of signatures.

Pursuant to Elections Code 9604(b), proponents may withdraw an initiative any time before the Secretary of State certifies it as qualified. The 131-day qualification deadline for the November 3, 2020, General Election is June 25.

The proponents of this initiative, Anthony Thigpen, Helen Hutchison, and Benjamin McBride did not provide any contact information.

For more information about how an initiative qualifies for the ballot in California, go to [www.sos.ca.gov/](http://www.sos.ca.gov/) ★

## One Tick Bite Can Change Your Life Forever

**Lyme Fight Foundation Press Release**

**CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG)**

- Melissa Moya, Lyme disease survivor and fighter, launched Lyme Fight Foundation in an effort to provide support and advocacy for Lyme disease patients. The foundation's goal is to develop and strengthen partnerships so that we can work together and establish a strong support system for those suffering from Lyme disease. Our mission is to provide support to those diagnosed with Lyme disease, provide education to the community, prevention education, and make much needed

change in medical coverage and government research funding. We are dedicated to Lyme patient advocacy through awareness, education, and support. Lyme Fight Foundation is fully funded by generous donors and partners vested in finding a cure for this pervasive, yet under researched disease. Ultimately, we will save lives, change ways of thinking, and find a cure.

We hope you will consider joining us in spreading the word about the foundation.

Contact Melissa Moya, Executive Director and Founder at [info@lymefightfoundation.org](mailto:info@lymefightfoundation.org) call (916) 628-6692 or [www.lymefightfoundation.org](http://www.lymefightfoundation.org) ★



**Publisher, Paul V. Scholl**

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By County Supervisor Sue Frost

## GOLD RIVER COMMUNITY UPDATE

### Defunding Police isn't the Answer

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

The killing of George Floyd was horrific - and the officers responsible have been arrested and will stand trial. But now politicians and activists are blaming everyone in a uniform. "Defund the police" has become the rallying call for protesters.

Activists want to strip money from law-enforcement, disband police, close jails and prisons, then divert public funds to community groups, counselors, and social workers for "community empowerment." What does that mean? It means instead of police and sheriffs enforcing the law, taxpayer funds will go to private non-profits run by activists and programs like "Advance Peace" which pays gang members \$500 a month not to shoot each other.

How will reducing the number of police officers make the community safer? In 2018, police officers arrested 11,970 murderers, 495,900 violent criminals, and more than 1 million drunk drivers. In February of this year, a months-long investigation resulted in 518 arrests when police smashed a human trafficking ring and rescued hundreds of children who were being sold into prostitution. Do activists think that councilors and community groups are going to detain violent gang members, break human trafficking rings, or get drunk drivers off

our roads? No alternative to an organized, well-funded, and well-trained police force offers enforcement ability on such a high level.

In Los Angeles, Mayor Eric Garcetti recently announced that he was going to "defund police" by cutting \$150 million from the LAPD budget. Cities like San Francisco, Portland, Minneapolis, and Baltimore have announced that they will pursue efforts to "defund police." Political "leaders" in Congress and State Houses have echoed the call and introduced legislation to cut funding for law enforcement - or punish jurisdictions who refuse to do so.

The vast majority of police budgets go to personnel, so the budget cut means one thing: firing police officers. Which officers will be fired? A common practice for addressing mass budget reductions through layoffs and that has been used by the LAPD in the past is LIFO (last in, first out). That means that Garcetti's "defund" policy will result in firing recent recruits - young black, Asian and Latino officers who were recruited from, and reflect, the very neighborhoods who are underrepresented and suffer the most from crime.

Sadly, this movement is not new. In 2015 Camden New Jersey pushed a "defund police" measure. They dismantled their department and disbanded the police officers' union. They placed some activists in oversight positions and hired most the police back - at a lower salary. Some believe the effort was really more about breaking the union than reforming the system. Today, many of the same complaints have returned.

Eliminating law

enforcement is the opposite of a solution - we cannot abandon our communities to the whims of gangs and criminals who prey on neighborhoods. We do need to encourage investment in poor neighborhoods where crime is rampant, schools are failing, and hope is abandoned. Empowerment zones, school choice, and incentives for investment have seen tremendous success.

Communities that partner with police, rather than fight with them, have seen a marked improvement in crime reduction, complaints against police, and more recruitment of people from the community into law enforcement - community members who have relationships and earnestly want to make lives better - and have the training to enforce the law.

This rush to respond to "defund police" activists is not reform - it is retribution and appeasement. And it is dangerous. The result will be every community and every resident will be less safe.

We need more community engagement and understanding, not less. We should be investing in more training, recruiting, and community engagement, not eliminating prisons and defunding police.

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 Murieta, North Highlands, Carmichael, Foothill Farms and Fair Oaks. ★



### COVID-19 Temporary Outdoor Dining Permit

#### Overview

Due to social distancing requirements of the Governor's executive order, the County understands that some restaurant establishments will seek alternatives to their existing indoor and outdoor configurations by extending operations to new outdoor areas including walkways, parking lots, landscaping or other required open space areas. On May 19, 2020, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors Adopted a Resolution (Resolution No. 2020-0309) finding an Overriding Public Interest to allow the Planning Director to issue temporary permits to restaurants to allow for temporary outdoor dining areas.

#### Purpose of the Temporary Outdoor Dining Permit:

- Allow businesses and shopping centers to meet requirements for social distancing while facilitating restaurant establishments to resume operations.
- Prevent conflicts with other adjacent businesses or residential uses and ensure outdoor dining area will not significantly interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic or otherwise constitute a health and safety risk.
- Provide flexible outdoor operations allowances where they may not be otherwise permitted by County Code.

#### Expiration

Upon approval, the initial permit is good for a maximum of 90 days and so long as the emergency order is in effect. The permit may be extended upon request so long as the emergency order is still in effect and no complaints regarding violations of the permit conditions have been reported.

#### Fee

The application and permit is free of charge. County costs are being reimbursed through COVID-19 Recovery Funds.

#### Procedures

Fill out the application form available at: [www.planning.saccounty.net](http://www.planning.saccounty.net)

Under the "What's New" section on home page (right side of page) click on the "COVID-19 Temporary Dining Permit (May 2020)" link.

Please send a complete application form to: [planning-applications@saccounty.net](mailto:planning-applications@saccounty.net)



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