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East Sacramento News

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OCTOBER 27, 2023

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Conquering the 'Midnight Express'

Police Officers Range and Curtis Take on Ultra Marathon



EG Police SWAT member Nicholas Range (left) and Sac Police SWAT member Tyler Curtis (right). Photo Courtesy of Warriorz Fitness

Submitted by
Warriorz Fitness

LAKE TAHOE, CA / NV (MPG) - On Saturday, October 14, at 9:00 pm, history was made when SWAT Team Member Nick Range of the Elk Grove Police Department and SWAT Team Member Tyler Curtis of the Sacramento Police Department embarked on the daunting

journey of "The 72 Mile Tahoe Midnight Express." Beginning from the Valet Parking area of the Hard Rock Hotel and culminating at Lakeside Beach, the event tested the duo's self-discipline and mental fortitude. This legendary race has been heralded in books and magazines as one of the top 25 most challenging, yet stunningly picturesque

ultra marathons in the U.S. Notably, the course poses a unique challenge, taking runners 6,200 feet above sea level and guiding them over undulating hills that fluctuate by hundreds of feet within short distances. Before the 2023 race, only 14 racers had completed this formidable race in the past four years. SWAT Team Members Range and Curtis

now join this elite group. They are the first and only representatives from both the Elk Grove and Sacramento Police Departments to ever sign up, take on, and triumphantly finish the race. Their remarkable achievement serves as a testament to their dedication, resilience, and passion for pushing the boundaries of human endurance. ★

Gala Salutes Vets Day at Aerospace Museum



A retrospective on the music of Harry James will feature Tony Marvelli on trumpet and Susan Skinner on vocals. The show is part of a 1940s-style Salute to Service at the Aerospace Museum of California. Photo courtesy of Susan Maxwell Skinner

Staff Correspondent

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Music, fine food and one of Sacramento's biggest fireworks displays are a build up to Veterans Day at the Aerospace Museum of California. The McClellan Park facility will host a

USO-style gala on Friday, November 3. Its "Salute to Service" fundraiser supports the museum with a 1940s theme. Central to décor, flyable WW II aircraft – a P-38 Lightning, a Navy Corsair and a Ryan ST-A – will be eye-popping backdrops for dancing and photo-ops.

Entertainment includes a tribute show celebrating Harry James, a superstar trumpeter whose big band hits contributed to Allied morale during WWII. American River College Professor and trumpet virtuoso Tony Marvelli will take center stage.

Carmichael-based singer Susan Skinner will contribute vocals made famous by beloved 1940s chanteuse, Helen Forrest. Pianist Joe Gilman, bassist Shelley Denny and drummer Tim Metz complete the quintet known as Hey Day.

Continued on Page 2

Sacramento Historical Society Gifts \$500k to Sac City College

On Behalf of the Joan Didion Family; College Library Renamed For Didion

Los Rios College News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento City College (SCC) will be renaming the college's library in honor of renowned author Joan Didion. The building will now be known as the Joan Didion Learning Resource Center, in recognition of a generous \$500,000 gift from Didion family and the Sacramento Historical Society (SHS). The decision was approved by the Los Rios Community College Board of Trustees at their October 18, 2023 meeting. "What a great honor it is to name our college's Learning Resource Center after Joan Didion," says Sacramento City College President Albert Garcia. "We're proud that she started her college career here. Her status as an author of international renown, as a creative and incisive thinker, makes her a wonderful inspiration for our college community."

Born in Sacramento in 1934, Didion attended Sacramento City College briefly in the 1950s. The gift from her family and SHS will support writing scholarships for students as well as faculty research programs that align with the late author's intellectual interests. "Attending SCC was important to Joan, and we believe she would have been thrilled to support the scholarship for promising young writers who may not otherwise have the opportunity to be recognized," says Kelley Didion Peters, Didion's niece. Peters has been handling Didion's estate with her siblings, Steve Didion and Lori Didion Hunt.

It is the family's hope, Peters says, that the Joan Didion Learning Resource Center and the programs being funded by the gift will serve as a "living legacy" to her aunt that will benefit many future generations of students to come. "On behalf of my siblings, I wish to thank the Sacramento Historical Society for not only facilitating this gift to the writing scholarship, but having the vision to bring other promising programs to students at

Continued on Page 3

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'An Evening with Wayne Carini'

California Automobile Museum News Release

SACRAMENTO, CC (MPG) - Plans for the California Automobile Museum and Hagerty's "An Evening with Wayne Carini" event on November 10th are well underway!

Guests can enjoy gourmet food & beverages alongside Wayne followed by a presentation along with live and silent auctions. Those wanting something a little more exclusive can secure one of our limited VIP tickets and get more of a one-on-one experience with Wayne from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Our list of sponsors also continues to grow and so

far includes Comstock's Magazine, Batteries Plus, & Rudy's Hideaway Lobsterhouse. Drinks at the event will be provided by Deep Eddy Vodka, Heaven Hill Brands, and St. Jorge Winery.

The star of our upcoming event is perhaps most widely recognized as the host of the television show "Chasing Classic Cars," which follows Carini as he travels across the country in search of rare and valuable automobiles to buy, sell, and restore. His carefully curated automotive collection includes a diverse range of vehicles, from iconic American muscle cars to elegant European sports cars.

Tickets are on sale

CALIFORNIA AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM



NOW and start at \$95 for Museum members and \$125 for non-members. Those wishing to become members can do so for as little as \$25.

The California Automobile Museum is located at 2200 Front Street in Sacramento, CA. Our hours of operation

are 10am to 5pm with last admission at 4pm and closed on Tuesdays. The cost of admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for vintage (65 & over), \$10 for military & students, \$6 for youth (6-17), and free for children (5 & under).

The mission of the California Automobile

Museum is to preserve, exhibit and teach the story of the automobile and its influence on our lives.

The California Automobile Museum is governed by the California Vehicle Foundation, an IRS designated, tax exempt 501 (c)3 non-profit corporation, Federal Tax ID

#94-2902791. All contributions to the Museum are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable.

Website: www.calautomuseum.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CalAutoMuseum

Instagram: www.instagram.com/calautomuseum ★

Gala Salutes Vets Day at Aerospace Museum

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Hey Day offers a retrospective on James' larger-than-life career: the one-time circus musician discovered Frank Sinatra, Buddy Rich and Doris Day. He married Betty Grable and indulged a legendary Hollywood lifestyle. "With his music, we revisit a special time in American history," says museum director/curator Tom Jones. "During tumultuous times, Harry James made America dance, sing and believe in love."

The museum's massive hangar will house the celebration. Vintage dress is encouraged; Rosie the Riveter lookalikes will serve cocktails.

Following a site tour, guests will dine, dance and be treated to a massive fireworks display. One of the largest

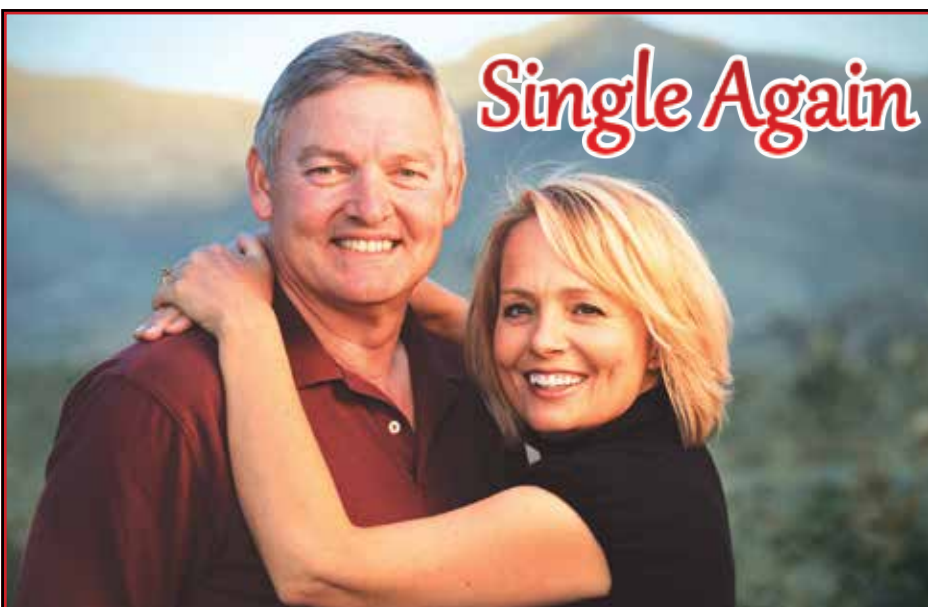
pyrotechnic specialists in the world, Pyro Spectaculars company annually provides this blowout to honor veterans and support the museum. Anyone may view this spectacle from Freedom Park, McClellan.

Gala cost is \$150 per person; \$275 per couple. Table sponsorships are also available. Admission includes dinner, dancing, wine, beer and signature cocktails and fireworks. The Aerospace Museum of California is located at 3200 Freedom Park Drive, McClellan. For information and ticket purchases visit www.aerospacemuseum.org

Sponsors include: Safe Credit Union, McClellan Park, Aerojet Rocketdyne, Boeing, SMUD and Lockheed Martin.



A WW II P-38 Lightning is among iconic aircraft adding to a USO-style Salute to Service event at the Aerospace Museum. Photo courtesy Aerospace Museum of California.



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- Foreclosures
- Unclaimed property
- School Board issues
- Elections/Polling places, initiative petitions
- Tax assessments/proposals

Who Are You When No One is Listening?

they retreated to their break room.

"Do you want to have a little fun?" I whispered to my friend.

He gave me a hesitant nod, so I filled him in on the conversation I'd overheard. Then I asked him to introduce me to his fellow officers assembled around the donut box. (Apologies for the cliché.)

The sergeant and I entered the break room wearing matching grins.

Each officer gave me a hearty greeting.

I recognized the distinctive voice of the Taurus officer as I sensed his unspoken question, "How long have you been here chaplain?"

That's when my friend and I began our recruitment drive. "The chaplain thinks some of you might want to join him for chapel service."

Even with the police officers' sixth sense, they still did not surmise they were in the crosshairs of an incoming practical joke. Their answers focused on their excuses.

"I'm Catholic," one said.

"My wife's out of town," said the other.

"I don't have a car," said a third.

And with that divinely ordained cue, it was "Bombs away."

"Well, I understand that one of you has a nice big car you can use for church carpool."

They exchanged puzzled looks, but the eyes of the storied officer widened in fear. He knew we had him in "target lock."

"Yeah, I was sitting behind your supervisor's cubicle when you all walked into the office."

"You couldn't see me, but I could sure hear you. Which one of you has that Ford Taurus?"

Suddenly, my "smart (aleck) bomb" found its target in the one telling the car stories and he doubled over in excruciating embarrassment, retreating into his cubicle. From the noises he was making, I wondered if he was about to lose every donut he'd consumed on shift.

Pointing to the donut box, I said, "You know, I think it might have been Jesus who mentioned that it's not the things that go into a man's mouth that defile a man, but it's what comes out of the mouth that really messes him up." (Matthew 15:11 The Norris Paraphrase)

For a moment, the officer fancied himself the envied Casanova – but in the next moments, the exposure of his words melted him into shame.

In an effort to recruit friends, this officer had tried to be a different person to everyone he met. On his patrol beat, the officer was the protector for his community but to his friends he was the conqueror. And to his chaplain, he was a shy boy ashamed of what he'd said.

Recruiting friends and followers at the expense of who you are can get awfully expensive to one's integrity. My guess is that it's much easier to just be the same person to everyone we meet – which makes it much less likely we'll forget who we are.

My pastor gig starts at 10:30 on Sunday. Will any of you be joining us?

You can buy my new book "Tell It to the Chaplain" on my website, Amazon, or by sending me \$20. Send comments to comment@thechaplain.net. Leave recorded comments at (843) 608-9715 or write 10556 Combie Rd Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602. ★

SAFE Hosts Interactive Financial Literacy Workshop at Sac State



SAFE Credit Union Community Relations team at CSUS Budget Cents event. Photo courtesy of SAFE Credit Union

SAFE Credit Union News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - With fewer than 1.5 percent of California students receiving any guaranteed financial education in schools, SAFE Credit Union is stepping in to fill the gap with a new program that lets teens and young people learn firsthand the sort of financial decisions they'll make as adults.

SAFE recently brought its new Budget Cents program to California State University, Sacramento students. The college's Associated Students Incorporation (ASI) partnered to host the event.

"The lack of financial education can lead to young adults making mistakes that can impact them for years," says SAFE Credit Union Vice President of Community Relations and Financial Education Rebecca Delmundo. "Helping young people learn positive spending and budgeting practices can position them for a better future, especially when it comes time for those major life milestones like buying a house, new car, or starting a family."

"It's just those sort of insights that Sac State students could benefit from," said Sasha Margulies, marketing coordinator with ASI. "I think it's a wonderful opportunity for students to come learn how to manage their finances, what they should be doing to prepare for the real world while in college and set themselves

up for success after they graduate."

Budget Cents is targeted to teens and young adults learning to become financially independent. The simulation provides real-life scenarios giving students a better idea of financial decisions they'll make when living on their own. Students are given a persona that includes a job, income, family size, and debt level. They then visit various stations that represent major expenses, including housing, vehicles, childcare, and entertainment.

SAFE representatives help students with their budget and provide feedback to the students at the end of the simulation. The goal is to see whether students successfully budgeted their money while ensuring they are not overdrawn and have money left for savings.

"What surprises students the most during the simulations without a doubt is how much things cost," SAFE Credit Union Financial Wellness Manager Hector Madueno said. "When we built this program, we looked at data for the Greater Sacramento area. So, when they are running through it, they're going to see actual housing costs, the actual costs of food or dining out."

SAFE established this program to foster financial literacy and education in the Greater Sacramento region. "We believe that providing individuals with the knowledge and skills to make informed financial



SAFE Credit Union Financial Wellness Manager Hector Madueno

decisions is essential for achieving financial security and prosperity," Madueno said.

The event attracted participants from diverse backgrounds with the university's ASI program. ASI offers services such as a food pantry, childcare services, a safe ride program and no-cost education events such as Budget Cents. Many attendees expressed their appreciation for the insights they gained during the event.

"The information to pay extra on the amount due to your credit card was very helpful," said Sacramento State student Lorena Rodriguez. "I did not know that before."

Budget Cents programs are free to schools and other participants. Those interested in booking a Budget Cents workshop can email financialwellness@safecu.org for more information.

For more information about the Budget Cents event or for video from the event, contact mediainquiry@safecu.org ★

Help us Build a More Equitable Parks System



Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - In an effort to better serve all the residents in our diverse region, the Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks has put out an equity survey, and residents are encouraged to participate to let us know what we can do to make their parks experience better.

"Sacramento County is home to such a wonderful mix of people from all different backgrounds," said Liz Bellas, Director of Regional Parks. "We want to make sure that we are creating spaces and services in which people from all different backgrounds and abilities can feel welcome and safe."

The purpose of this survey is to help the department:

Understand how people and communities throughout Sacramento County use, access and experience the Sacramento County Regional Parks, including identifying to the degree possible what users want in their parks; Identify, reach out to and engage people, communities and stakeholder groups throughout the County in order to hear from diverse voices regarding Sacramento County's Regional Parks and its management; Ensure that our regional parks and park events are welcoming to people and communities of many different backgrounds, including various races, genders, ages, socio-economic status

and level of ability.

You can help us improve your park experience in Sacramento County by completing this survey today! The Parks Equity Survey will be open through the end of the year. For those who participate in the survey and leave their contact information, we will be hosting monthly drawings for free annual passes. Responses without contact information will remain anonymous.

This survey is currently available in English, Arabic, Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese and Simplified Chinese and can be translated into additional languages upon request. To request additional languages or a paper copy of this survey, email parksinfo@saccounty.gov. ★

Tenth Annual Gala for Kids Helping Kids Sacramento

Kids Helping Kids News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Kids Helping Kids Sacramento fights pediatric cancer by hosting its Tenth-Annual Benefit Gala at The Harris Center on Saturday, January 20th. At previous galas hosted by Kids Helping Kids, they have had amazing performances by Grammy-nominated band Switchfoot, singer-songwriter Andy Grammar, successful touring artist Ben Rector, and many more. Along with the benefit concert, the gala includes silent auction bidding on fantastic baskets and experiences you won't find anywhere else. Proceeds raised by this event will go towards improving conditions for children battling pediatric cancer, and helping out with

any financial burdens that may appear during a child's treatment.

Kids Helping Kids is an entirely student-run, non-profit organization made up of juniors and seniors from Del Campo High School. In 2016, Kids Helping Kids was recognized as the number-one student run non-profit in the United States, and as of this year, they have just been recognized as the number-one student run non-profit in the world according to the Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship (SAGE) competition earlier this year. They put on their Signature Gala, along with several other events, to raise money for the populations they serve. Since 2012, Kids Helping Kids has raised over \$1.4 million to give back to the underserved

both locally and globally. They support children battling pediatric cancer and their families by providing financial resources during their medical treatment. Kids Helping Kids aids families in paying for expenses which are directly caused by the massive cost of treatment for their child. Each year, they raise \$50,000 to help 100 families battling pediatric cancer, and this year they hope to generate even more so they can reach even more children.

More information to come soon about who our headline artist will be and what kind of unique baskets and experiences will be offered, which their team is currently striving to secure.

For more information on Kids Helping Kids, go to www.kidshelpingkids-sac.org. ★

A Veteran
Thank Today

ABOUT TOWN

California Museum to Host Free “Lowrider Block Party” on Sun., Oct. 29

Free car show, live music, food trucks and more, plus the opening of the “Boulevard Dreams California” exhibit, on view for a reduced \$5 admission

Sacramento, Calif., — Oct. 18, 2023: The California Museum will host a day of free festivities on Sun., Oct. 29, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. commemorating the opening of “Boulevard Dreams California,” a groundbreaking temporary exhibition celebrating the rich history, artistry, and profound impact of lowrider culture in California. Featuring a lowrider car show, live music, food trucks, pop-up shops and kids’ activities, the event will also offer participants the opportunity to view the exhibit on its opening day for a reduced \$5 admission. Festivities are presented in partnership with the Sacramento Lowrider Commission and Sol Collective.

Media are invited to cover the event on Sun., Oct. 29, 2023 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., or from 11:00 a.m. by special request.

WHO: California Museum

WHAT: “Lowrider Block Party”

• Car show featuring over 100 lowriders from across the state (pre-registered vehicles only)

• 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.: Lowrider oldies by the Sugar High band with special musical guests from the Midnight Players

• Kids’ activities including paper lowriders and Día de los Muertos crafts

• Pop-up shops from local small businesses

• Free limited-edition posters from Sol Collective’s bicycle-powered screenprint press while supplies last

• Food trucks

• Reduced \$5 admission to the Museum, including the new “Boulevard Dreams California” exhibit

• Free street parking

WHERE: 11th Street between O and Q Streets (car show & food trucks); 1020 O Street (exhibit & courtyard activities)

WHEN: Sun., Oct. 29, 2023, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

VISUALS: Downloadable press kit and images available at californiamuseum.org/about/press-room/media-kits/temporary/boulevard-dreams-california/

NOTES: Due to limited cabling opportunities through the Museum’s front doors, wireless backpack units are strongly recommended for live feeds.

By special request only, media may tour the exhibit beginning at

11:00 a.m.

Attending media must R.S.V.P. no later than 3:00 p.m. on Fri., Oct. 27, 2023 to (916) 653-0399 or ameeker@californiamuseum.org.

CONTACT: Amanda Meeker, California Museum Executive Director

(916) 653-0399 or ameeker@californiamuseum.org.

On view October 29, 2023 through April 14, 2024, “Boulevard Dreams California” celebrates the rich history, artistry, and profound impact of lowrider culture in California, offering a comprehensive view of the cultural, social, and artistic significance of the lowriding tradition. Lowrider vehicles, custom artwork, photographs, and historic artifacts reveal the vibrant world of lowrider culture and its deep-rooted connection to the local and statewide community.

Part of a dual exhibition curated by the Sacramento Lowrider Commission and presented in partnership with Sol Collective and the Center for Sacramento History, the California Museum display takes a statewide focus, while a companion at the Sacramento History Museum highlights local lowrider history.

For downloadable press kit including exhibit and event materials, visit californiamuseum.org/about/press-room/media-kits/temporary/boulevard-dreams-california/.

Elks Membership Special in October

Visit the Elks Membership Booth at GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market any

Saturday in October and learn about our indoor swimming pool and

athletic facilities. The application fee to join the Elks is \$1 until

the end of October. Normally it is \$30. You save \$29.

Elk’s Lodge October Calendar of Events

Elks 6’s Annual Arts & Craft Festival and GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market.

Arts & Crafts on Saturday, October 28, from 9 A.M. ~ 3 P.M.

Quality crafts by local artist from 9 A.M. ~ 3 P.M. Vendors both indoors and outdoors along with our GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market Vendors. For more information please go to our Elks 6 site and click on the Crafts Fair flyer, <https://www.elks6.com/events.html>

The GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market will open at 8 A.M.

Free Raffle at GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market every Saturday until November

11th

Come by Membership Booth and fill out a raffle ticket for a chance to win a free farmers market tote bag filled with fresh farmer products and other goodies. The winning ticket will be drawn at 1 P.M. at the close of each market day until Saturday, November 11th. The winner need not be present to win.

Can you stay too long at the GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market?

Vic Cima, manager of the GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market, said, “Juan Flores thought he had to shop from 8 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at the GHP Farmers Market. His dog got so tired that he had to take a dog nap! Juan will be back every Saturday. We hope his dog also comes.”

Elks Lodge Halloween Bash

Live music – FBI band

October 28, 2023

6 – 10:30 pm

Pork Tenderloin

Risotto, Vegetable,

Salad and Dessert

Costumes Optional but encouraged.

Prize for best costume!

\$40.00 tax included

Advanced tickets only

Contact the Lodge

office 916/422-6666 (9 –

3 Monday – Friday)

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Fund

Elk’s Lodge Karaoke

Nov. 2 Thursday

7:00pm & Nov. 4,

Saturday 7:30pm

Come Join the fun

- your friends will be

there! Talk this event up

to friends and family.

You don’t need to sing

to enjoy the evening.

Project Hope

First in our series of

our free community

events

Saturday, October 28,

2023 10 ~ 11

ELKS LODGE #6

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more information

Every Sunday

Sunday Breakfast

8:30 - 11

Bring your friends

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\$15 tax included

Best deal in town

Made to order

Omelets or eggs any

way you want. Bacon,

sausage, potatoes,

biscuits and gravy, pan-

cakes, waffles, coffee.

Large parties should

call for reservations.

Guest are VERY

welcome!

The GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market will have a Halloween Costume contest

The GreenHaven Pocket Farmers Market will have a Halloween Costume contest on Saturday, October 28, at 10:30 A.M. Prizes will be given for the best child veggie or fruit costume. A total of three winners will be chosen. Each of the three winners will receive three tickets for a free Elks Sunday breakfast.

Canal Holiday Lights Community Pocket News Event

Hi friends and neighbors!

Costco has had Christmas decor for a month, so winter must be coming soon! With it comes the return of our Pocket Canal Holiday Lights!

I hope you’ve enjoyed this great tradition as much as I have. I love

the beautiful show as the lights reflect off the water, but most of all, I enjoy how much it gets our community out, enjoying it together, being with friends, being with family.

We need your help to keep it going and continue to grow this great community tradition.

Can you make a donation to support the effort this year? Any amount helps!

Donations are tax deductible, please donate here:

<https://giftstoshareinc.ejoinme.org/donate>

(select “District 7

Canal Holiday Lights”)

If your business is interested in sponsoring, please let me know!

And save the dates, December 2nd, hanging holiday lights & December 3rd, lighting ceremony with Santa.

Thanks so much for your support!

Your partner in building stronger communities,

Devin Lavelle devinlavelle@gmail.com

Sacramento Area Museums Showcase Region’s Farm-to-Fork Roots All Year Long

SACRAMENTO,

Calif. (August 28,

2023) – The Greater

Sacramento region is

rich with popular museums and destinations

that offer diverse and

enriching experiences

for individuals, families,

residents, and visitors

alike. Given the critically

important role agricul-

ture continues to play in

the region, many local

museums offer special

exhibits, experiences and

activations that highlight

ever-enduring Farm-

to-Fork connections. A

sampling of some of the

Farm-to-Fork offerings at

local museums includes

the following:

California

Agriculture Museum –

Woodland is home to an

entire museum focused

on agriculture, filled

with a unique collection

of harvesters, wheel and

crawler-type tractors,

combines, trucks, art,

artifacts, rotating inter-

active exhibits and much

more. In all, the museum

tells the history of Farm-

to-Fork, dating back to

the Gold Rush era and

how the industry evolved

from horse drawn to

steam driven to fuel

powered machines to

harvest and transport

California’s bounty.

California State

Railroad Museum &

Foundation – A Fruit

Growers Express refrigerated rail car is on permanent display inside the Museum’s Roundhouse. Museum visitors can explore this historic rail car and exhibit, “Farm to Fork: A Public History,” and learn about how refrigerated rail cars enabled California farmers, growers, and producers send farm-to-fork freshness all over the country. Visitors can step inside the historic Fruit Growers Express rail car to see how the ice-cooled rail cars transported produce and built an agricultural system that exports more wealth than the California Gold Rush. Plus, the popular weekend excursion train, Sacramento Southern Railroad – currently on pause due to an important rail repair project – runs on the historic Walnut Grove Branch Line. This rail line transported pears, asparagus, celery, seeds, and other products from the Delta communities to markets nationwide.

Sacramento

Children’s Museum

– Young visitors hun-

gry to learn about fresh

food have a variety of

options at the Children’s

Museum, including at

the miniature Leo’s

Market and Leo’s Food

Court (a miniature mar-

ket of food carts),

about bees and honey

with the in-house bee-

hive, and an interactive

train table highlighting

Sacramento’s agricul-

tural landscape in

miniature, complete with

mini livestock. Plus,

the Children’s Museum

will be at the Farm-to-

Fork Festival (September

22-23) sharing vegeta-

ble stamp printing with

visitors.

SMUD Museum of

Science & Curiosity –

MOSAC’s interactive

exhibits bring the story

of water to life, demon-

strating how our region

is working together

to conserve this natu-

ral resource for now

and future generations.

The “Water Challenge”

exhibit lets museum

visitors actively shape a

watershed’s flow, cre-

ate a tune for saving

water at home, and

choose between local or

non-local foods to buy

based on how everyday

decisions impact con-

servation efforts — all

while learning about the

environmental footprint

along the way.

Utility Exploration

Center – The City of

Roseville’s Utility

Exploration Center

(UEC) is a testament

to the region’s commit-

ment to sustainable

living and resource con-

servation. Nestled in the

heart of a region renowned

for its Farm-to-Fork

movement, the UEC

acts as an educational

hub, encouraging

residents and visitors

alike to delve into the

intricacies of energy

and water conservation,

waste reduction, and

sustainable practices.

By fostering an understand-

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The Insurance Fiasco



Can This Plan Fix California's Insurance Crisis? MPG Courtesy Stock Photo

By Ben Christopher,
calmatters.org

A week after negotiations to rescue California's floundering home insurance market stalled out in the Legislature, the state's top insurance regulator put out his own rescue plan that effectively amounts to a trade for the state's major insurers.

Under proposed regulations, Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara announced this afternoon, major insurers will be required to cover a certain share of homeowners in the state's most wildfire-prone areas. In exchange, the Department of Insurance will allow companies to charge more to cover the rising costs of doing business in a fire-ravaged state.

Lara called the package of new proposed regulations "the largest insurance reform" since 1988, the year California voters passed a proposition requiring insurance companies to get prior approval before raising premiums.

The plan is meant to reverse what has amounted to a slow-motion exodus of private home insurers from the state. In the last year and a half, seven of the top 12 property insurers operating in California have either placed new restrictions on where they do business or stopped selling new policies here entirely.

The biggest player

of all, State Farm, announced a freeze on new policies in May, kicking off a fresh round of panic among homeowners scrambling to find affordable insurance policies and lawmakers eager to tackle the crisis.

For years, insurance companies have complained that current rates and the existing regulatory process don't allow them to recoup the cost of doing business in the state's most at-risk regions. By easing some of those restrictions, while requiring the companies to expand their coverage, "it's the department calling the bluff of insurers," said Rex Frazier, president of Personal Insurance Federation of California, a trade group.

In principle, that's trade-off insurers are willing to make, he added, though it will ultimately depend on how the specific regulations are crafted in the coming months.

Amy Bach, executive director of the consumer group United Policyholders, struck a similar note.

Lara "did not sell out to the industry here, in my opinion, he struck a deal," she said. "Whether it's going to manifest positively overall...the proof will be in the premiums."

But Consumer Watchdog — an advocacy group that Lara all but called out by name during his presentation as "bombastic"

and a group "materially benefiting" from the current regulatory system — came away with a difficult conclusion.

"He's basically capitulated to the industry," Jamie Court, the group's president, said of Lara. "There's not really much coming back for the consumer in here."

Despite mounting public angst and calls for action from top lawmakers, the politics of addressing the problem in the Legislature proved too thorny this year.

In the final weeks of the legislative session that ended a week ago, lawmakers scrambled to bridge the demands of insurers — who called for higher premiums to cover more of their costs and for a more flexible rate-setting process — and those of consumer groups, who resisted calls to add to the financial burdens of homeowners. After negotiations floundered, Gov. Gavin Newsom hinted that his administration and Lara's Department of Insurance might be willing to act on their own.

In a statement, Sen. Bill Dodd, a Napa Democrat involved in the unsuccessful negotiations, cheered Lara's announcement. "Given that the Legislature is not in session right now, utilizing the commissioner's regulatory authority makes good

sense," he said. "I know there is work that still needs to be done and I'll be supporting these efforts any way I can."

Insurance companies have pointed to three main reasons that doing business in California is increasingly a losing proposition: Escalating wildfire risk, ever-rising construction costs and the global price of reinsurance — insurance companies, themselves, take out.

While costs have increased, the amount the companies are allowed to charge homeowners is tightly capped and closely regulated in California, making home insurance policies relatively cheap by national standards. In order to raise rates, major insurers need a sign-off from the Department of Insurance.

Currently, insurance companies are not allowed to factor in the cost of reinsurance into those applications. They are also prohibited from using forward-looking models to predict future costs — something insurers say they desperately need as a warming climate and residential development encroaching into fire-prone areas results in fire seasons that are longer and more catastrophic than they have been in the past.

Lara proposed giving companies both of those tools, though

companies will apparently only be allowed to itemize the cost of reinsurance as it pertains to California. It's unclear how this calculation will be made.

Bach with United Policyholders said allowing companies to use predictive models isn't inherently a bad idea — "Are these models nefarious tools of Satan? No," she said — but hopes there will be transparency about which models are used and how they work.

In exchange for these new tools, companies will be required to cover homeowners in wildfire-prone parts of the state at 85% of their statewide coverage. For example, if a company provides 10% of the homeowner policies across California, they would be required to provide 8.5% of the coverage in areas deemed "at-risk."

Court, with Consumer Watchdog, said 85% is 15% too little. "It's a really sh—y deal," he said.

California homeowners currently unable to get insurance on the private market can currently turn to the FAIR Plan, a last resort issuer of fire coverage backstopped through a levy on regulated insurers. Between 2018 and 2022, the number of homeowners covered by the FAIR Plan more than doubled to roughly 3% of all homeowners.

But the FAIR Plan

policies are expensive and limited. And if the FAIR Plan runs out of money, it's legally required to refill its coffers by levying a surcharge on major insurers. The prospect of the FAIR Plan running out of cash and slapping the industry with the bill has also encouraged insurance companies to scale back their coverage.

Consumer Watchdog regularly challenges the applications for higher premiums that insurance companies submit to the state, an intervention allowed for under the 1988 ballot measure. Today, Lara also said he wants to make it easier for the public to see who intervenes and how much they are compensated for doing so.

"One entity is involved in nearly 75% of all interventions for rate approvals, materially benefiting from a process that is meant for a broader public participation," he said, referring to the nonprofit.

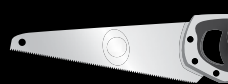
Lara also said that "throwing bombs is easy and putting out bombastic statements from entrenched interest groups doesn't benefit anyone."

Court said his organization would continue to fight back as the department drafts the detailed regulations. "We'll be battling over this stuff for many months to come," he said. ★

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Fatal Collision with Pedestrian on Highway 99

CHP News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On October 19th, 2023, at approximately 8:02 p.m., CHP-South Sacramento units responded to a vehicle versus pedestrian traffic crash that occurred on southbound Highway 99, north of 12th Avenue.

Upon arrival, preliminary investigation indicates that a 2003 Dodge Ram pickup, driven by a 47-year-old male from Sacramento, was observed by a witness weaving in multiple lanes on southbound Business 80 from Arden Way to E Street. The driver of the Dodge was then seen to sideswipe a large- or medium-size truck towing a car-hauler/trailer in

the number-two lane just south of N Street, causing minor damage to the left side of the Dodge. The witness stated that the impact was so minor that the truck/car-hauler driver may not have felt it as he continued southbound on Highway 99.

The driver of the Dodge followed the other truck and came to a complete stop in front of it on southbound Highway 99, north of 12th Avenue in the middle of the number-two lane. The witness reported that the driver of the Dodge, who was the solo occupant and driver, got out and confronted the other driver at his driver's-door window. The witness then saw the truck/car-hauler accelerate rapidly to go around the Dodge, knocking down and running over the driver/

pedestrian of the Dodge with its rear trailer tires.

The witness was not able to obtain a license plate on the other vehicle as he stopped to help the struck driver/pedestrian. The driver of the Dodge was conscious and alert at the scene and transported to a local hospital. The Sacramento County Coroner notified CHP-South Sacramento that the driver had succumbed to his injuries during surgery. The name of the driver of the Dodge will be released by the Sacramento County Coroner's Office when next of kin is notified. The CHP-South Sacramento office asks if there were any witnesses to this traffic crash/incident, to please contact the office at (916) 897-5600. ★

Grant Fuels the CHP's Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Efforts

CHP News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Motorcycle-involved crashes continue to be a major concern for the California Highway Patrol (CHP). The CHP has implemented a year-long, federally funded program, Get Educated and Ride Safe VI (GEARS), with the goal of increasing motorcycle safety and awareness throughout the state.

The GEARS VI goals are designed to reduce the number of motorcycle-involved crashes and crash victims. Based on provisional data, there were 7,639 motorcycle-involved crashes, resulting in 381 deaths and 6,969 injuries, within CHP jurisdiction in

federal fiscal year 2021-22 – an 8% increase from the previous year.

“Motorcycle riders are statistically more likely to be injured or killed when involved in a crash,” said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. “The GEARS VI grant will support the Department's efforts to improve safety for motorcycle riders and other road users through focused education and enforcement.”

During the grant period, the CHP will increase motorcycle safety activities in regions with a high number of motorcycle incidents and participate in traffic safety education campaigns such as “National Motorcycle Ride Day” on October 14, 2023. The campaign

will promote the use of U.S. Department of Transportation-compliant helmets for all riders and raise driver awareness of sharing the road with motorcyclists. The CHP will also increase enforcement in areas with a high number of motorcycle-involved crashes, which resulted from speed, improper turns, and driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security. ★

One Community Health Acquires New Location in Sacramento

One Community Health News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On October 23, 2023, One Community Health announced its acquisition of a new building in Sacramento as part of its expansion. The building is located on Kings Way in Arden.

“We are thrilled to be able to grow with the needs of our community,” said Chief Executive Officer, Michelle Monroe. “This expansion allows us to continue our mission to create a healthier Sacramento by increasing access to care for all

members of our community, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, orientation, or ability to pay. This new property will add 42,000 square feet of health center and support services space, allowing us to better address the growing unmet needs of the community.”

One Community Health is a private, nonprofit community health center serving the greater Sacramento area. Founded in 1989 in response to the AIDS crisis, they devoted themselves to the care of people with HIV/AIDS for more than two decades. In 2015,

they became a Federally Qualified Health Center, providing coordinated and comprehensive primary and preventive services to the whole community, with an annual growth of nearly 7%.

The acquisition of the building and construction planning is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2023, with construction on modifications and improvements beginning in early 2024. For more information about One Community Health's expansion, please visit OneCommunityHealth.com. ★

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County employs more than 13,600 full-time individuals. Of those staff members, some have disabilities, including but not limited to: hearing, vision, physical, and cognitive. Despite all their differences, each employee has showcased the indisputable ability to help our County community succeed.

Each October, Sacramento County celebrates National Disability Employment Awareness Month to highlight the positive impacts that our County employees with disabilities have had in the workplace. This year's national theme is “Advancing Access and Equity.”

“Employees with disabilities can offer employers a competitive edge because they often have strong perseverance and problem-solving abilities, often a result of overcoming barriers people with disabilities face throughout their lives,” said

Sylvester Fadal, Director of Personnel Services.

Aside from problem-solving skills, Fadal adds that having a diverse staff can promote an inclusive work environment while bringing a level of empathy, respect, and belonging to our customers and clients.

To ensure the success of our employees, the Sacramento County Department of Personnel Services provides guidance and support to all County departments in providing reasonable accommodations for job applicants and employees with disabilities. This guidance is showcased through every stage of employment from application, testing and interviews, the hiring and onboarding process, and on the job when needed to assist in performing their duties.

To learn more about Sacramento County's programs, services and accommodations for County employees with disabilities visit the Sacramento County Disability Compliance Office (DCO) website. <https://personnel.sacounty.net/Pages/DCOHome.aspx> ★

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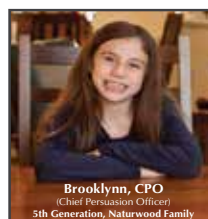
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