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Springtime photos from years passed!

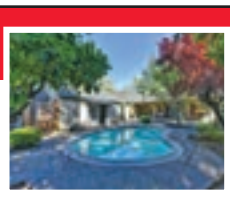
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This single story 2/1 beauty has been meticulously maintained and features a sunny entryway with skylight, curved picture window in spacious living room, bright kitchen with hidden laundry and pantry, refinished original hardwood floors, pleasing neutral palette throughout, huge attic for possible 2nd story, ample storage, 1/4 basement, tankless water heater, lovely covered patio and sparkling pool, newer landscaping, large remote guest room with seprate entrance, full bath and large walk in closet.



Door to Door

HOMEBOUND

By Pat Lynch

Easter Sunday. This marks three weeks of Sheltering in Place. Three weeks. It feels like months. More. The days blur together, the numbers of dead climb, the shape of the plague grows daily more grisly. Now it's personal. Our dear friend Theresa's, brother, Steve, died of Coronavirus a few days ago at Sutter Hospital in Davis. He was a bright, funny guy.

Mostly, this virus, this beast, seeks out the unwary, or people crowded together. In the US African Americans are disproportionate victims. It wants the unlucky who have heart problems, Diabetes, or lung disease. Or immune deficiency, like Steve. It wants you if you're over 60. Like all predators, it prefers a victim that can't struggle that much. But it will take the young and fit, and has. There's no magic bullet for it. All we can do is hide.

We're lucky in our isolation. Good house. Fenced in back yard. But what's it like in apartments where space and privacy is scarce? What's it like when you can't work from home? What's it like when you lose your job? When you're that one paycheck away from crisis? Or when you're a grocery clerk with poor health coverage? And what's it like to be a nurse, or MD, or respiratory therapist?

Anita, a neighbor, walks her dog. She's a college counselor, working from home. She pauses to chat, keeps ten feet away. Everyone here observes social distancing protocols, our one and only defense. Anita says she has a roommate now, her 87-year-old mother. She and her sibs decided to remove their mom from a senior living facility because they saw how virulently the beast swept through such places. "Now she and I watch Jeopardy together," Anita says, laughing. "She gets all the literature questions right. I know sports and college drinking songs." It's fun talking to Anita, and we look forward to meeting her mom (from the requisite ten foot distance, of course). Like us, Anita is highly conscious of good fortune in a career that lets her work from home, a reliable income, a nice neighborhood. She worries about people who lose their jobs and have to scramble. "We're lucky," she says. Her family did Passover on Zoom.

Later Joan pops by. Joan has braved the markets and brings Hagen Dass and a back yard broom. Emergency supplies. She wears a mask she designed herself. Joan is one of those upbeat, social people who don't like being shut in and is willing to pick up things for others. She's a rescuer. But she's no gadabout. Sophisticated about social distancing, she talks through the closed window as she displays the broom. What's not to love about someone like this? Joan says she thinks Governor Newsome is doing a great job here in California. I agree. We're lucky California shut down early, lucky our governor and mayors heeded the scientists.

Today the USA death toll reached over 21,700. There's still no national policy, some states still haven't ordered social distancing. This is stupefying. Over half a million Americans have this thing. Last week 17 million citizens applied for unemployment. We're 44th behind other countries that have tested their citizens. Because we didn't test early enough and adequately enough, we have more virus than other populations. A Second Wave could devastate us. In 1918 a second wave killed 195,000 Americans in just the month of October. These were "W curve" deaths—not just the young and old died, but a spike in the middle killed 25 to 35 year olds. Nature had no mercy.

Neighbor Jo phones. "We won't be safe till we have a vaccine." She and husband, Volden, dislike being housebound, but he is particularly vulnerable, having had heart disease and cancer. "We miss everybody," she says. "The golden years aren't so golden lately." She adds quickly that she's not complaining. "He's alive," she says. "We want to stay that way."

Barbara comes down with cookies, leaves them on the porch. "I love to bake," she says. "We love that you love to bake," we say. My sister, Eileen, lives five houses down, next door to Barbara, and we used to hang out at her place, but now we are observing fourteen days apart because twice people have crowded in on Eileen, gotten too close. She's afraid to get it and pass it on. We miss her.

Having sickened and slaughtered so many in the cities, the beast heads into the country now. Absent centralized government coordination, rural hospital infrastructure is collapsing. Yet some still wanted to keep churches open for today. This is so insanely misguided it shocks you, or should. Local news says that a full third of our own new cases come from people congregating in places of worship. So why allow this? Why let the few imperil the many?

Trump daily exhibitionistic briefings underscore that we have no workable national policy and further undermine hope of avoiding a massively lethal Second Wave. But business interests prevail: "We don't want a cure worse than the disease." Trump says this. His sycophantic twittersphere doubles down on it.

A cure worse than the disease. This phrase seems obscene to me. I don't think Theresa thinks there's anything worse than the disease—it killed her brother. Who would invoke a cliche like this at a time like this? What is worse than a world-wide murderous virus? A wobbly economy? Canceled ball games?

Yet Trump, eager to disarm us, wants business (and his re-election prospects) to bustle again. He says it's

see HOMEBOUND page 4

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Cover photo by: Steve Crowley

The new normal: Homeschooling during the pandemic

By Monica Stark

So many tears and a roller coaster of feelings. Coronavirus death tolls continue to rise nationwide, while people are coming together like I have never seen in my lifetime.

Same is true within the school community my daughter is a part of, despite not seeing those same friendly faces each day.

As a single mom to a second grader, named Sophie, I've had to keep my emotions in check and not let out a good cry until after she falls asleep.

The stress of her not seeing her friends or her beloved teacher on a daily basis wanes on her precious soul and on mine as a result. We miss our community. We've video-chatted with friends and have engaged in distance learning. As I am sure all of you parents out there whose children attend school outside of the home, you all agree we've had to adapt to a new normal, a new routine. With grace and serenity are always the goals, but breakdowns happen. Some assignments and video lessons are between chores or television breaks. At least that's how it's been at the Stark household. Besides writing lifestyle stories for the Elk Grove Citizen, I am the editor at Valley Community Newspapers in Sacramento. So, it's full-time work on top of the tasks of homeschooling.

Sophie attends a public Waldorf school in Sacramento where technology isn't stressed, but rather engagement in the natural world and innocent childhoods are cherished. The school's motto, found on the webpage is a well-known quote from Rudolf Steiner, the founder of Waldorf education: "Receive the children in reverence; educate them in love; let them go forth in freedom."

An anonymous Facebook post has been circulating that stresses a change in attitude toward homeschooling during this pandemic. "Our students are missing 3 months of classroom instruction. Many people are concerned about students falling behind because of this. Yes, they may fall behind when it comes to classroom education... But what if... What if instead of falling 'behind,' this group of kids are advanced because of this?" The answers, the author contends, include having more empathy for others, enjoying family connection, expression through writing, sitting in their own backyard or near a window, quietly.

While social media, namely Facebook, has been a wonderful resource for some sort of human connection and direction for me while I have been looking for answers as to how to create some sort of class schedule while trying to work full-time. So, rather than a schedule, we have a rhythm illustrated in the form of a pie chart. Sophie can spin the needle and pick an activity – whether it's math, writing, movement, art, walking the dog, helping me cook. She can spend as much time as she wants on each thing and whatever order she wants. It's something that works for us, since she is rather self-motivated and can entertain herself. She is working on a collaborative story with one of her friends. Sophie started the story, sent it to her in the mail. Her friend wrote the next part, sent it to us in the mail. And repeat. It's been a fun way to work on her writing while having some sort of contact with her friend. She has also written letters to other friends and her teacher.

Since my daughter is only in second grade, the demands are not too taxing. Her wonderful teacher sends out math instruction videos via ClassDojo, a social media website for teachers, students and parents. They are only about 10 or 15 minutes a day, but are accompanied with worksheets that she provided to us all. Additionally, handwork class (knitting, sewing, crocheting) is a cornerstone in Waldorf education and our wonderful handwork teacher has created her own YouTube channel. Students are creating quarantine quilt with each other. My daughter has worked on her square and looks forward to the fall when all the squares will come together and the beloved teacher will sew them all together.

The community of the school is what is keeping us sane.

Parents have dropped off care packages on our porch. I received a 25-pound sack of flour from one parent friend when I asked where he found flour. Another friend had her children make me hankies because my allergies have been up the wall.

I am truly grateful that we have a home to shelter in and a community that has come together to take care of its own. The homeschooling thing is just part of the new normal and it's only temporary. We will get through this stronger, wiser and more resilient.

When this is all over and a rainbow blankets the sky with her healing and serenity, we will certainly be at a point for great change. My daughter's school community has weathered the storm thus far with courage, beauty and love. Our school family has given me strength and my daily life has become better because of this community. A ceremony has been proposed when the quarantine is lifted. Folk songs, maybe a campfire (depending on location), a sharing of our experiences...



Photo by Monica Stark

My second grade daughter Sophie has been my coworker and student. We have set our backyard as an office and classroom. Part of her "movement class" has been tree climbing. She has been practicing her cursive and has been writing her math facts in chalk on rocks in the backyard and playing the ukulele.



Homebound:

continued from page 2

true that opening up the economy too soon could lead to death, but "staying at home leads to death also… it leads to a different kind of death, perhaps." A different kind of death. This juvenile doggerel should not be the predicate for more absurd decision making, but I fear it will.

An ideal American family, the Carlsons, live right next door. The Dad, Chuck, is an engineer, Mom, Beth, is a post-surgical nurse, and they have a daughter, Ella, 5, and a son, Theo, 2. The kids are wonderfully bright and cute and I miss seeing them. Ella used to visit and we'd watch cartoons on my laptop. But now we keep apart. The other day as evening fell the street was empty, a bit forlorn. I stepped out for a solitary stroll. Vivid green chalkmarks on the sidewalk by the Carlson house caught my eye: Ella often draws pictures--hearts, cats, flowers. But this was lettering, tall and firm. "Have Courage," it said. "And Be Kind." There were little green hearts. I took a picture. To the right was was another chalked message. It said, in tall white letters, Be Cool, Honey Bunny." I took another picture.

Could there be a better Easter greeting? I would add, for Steve, and all we have lost, Rest In Peace. And for our leaders, Listen to the Scientists. And for our news people, Tell the Truth. For the rest of us: Stay In, Stay Safe, Have Courage and Be Kind. We really are all in this together. Be Cool Honey Bunnies.

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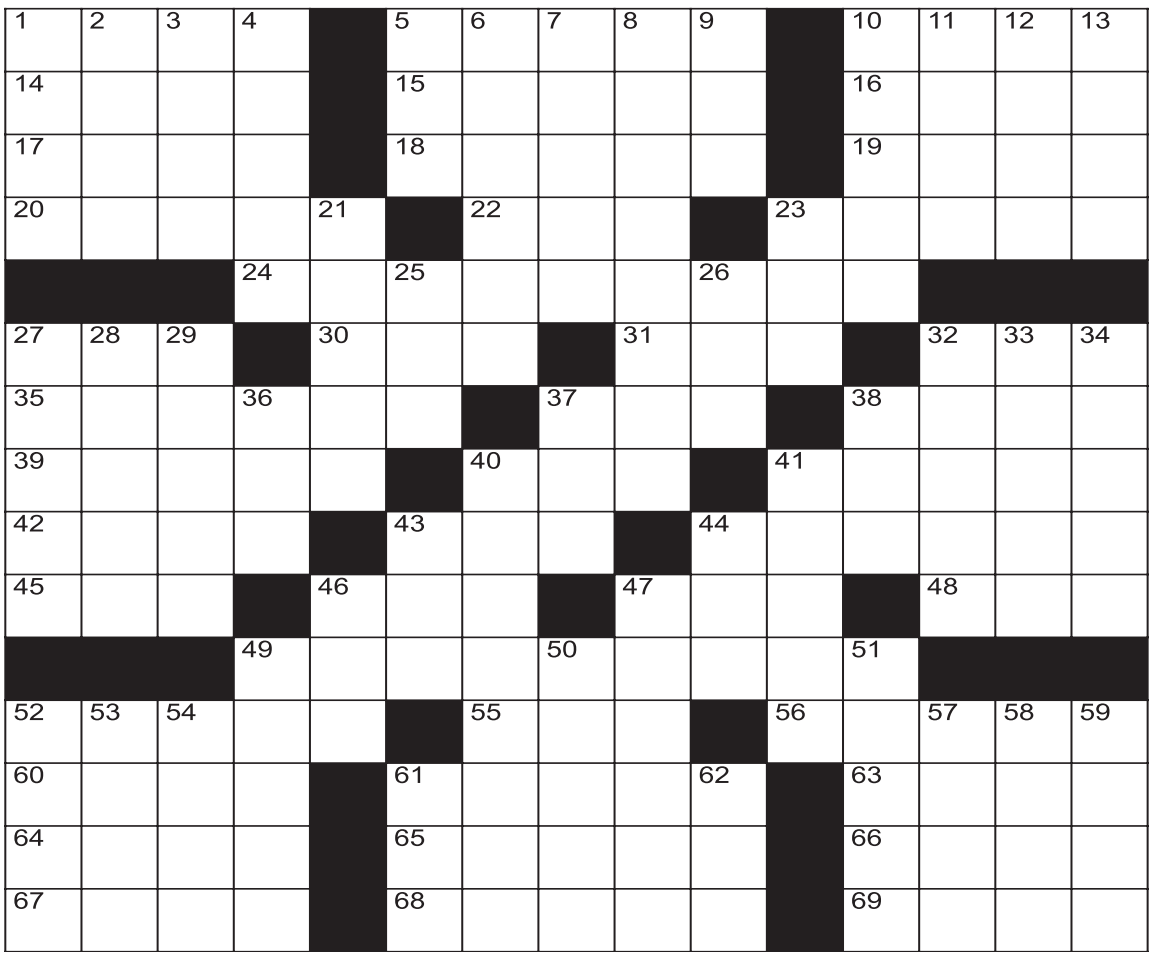
1. What former U.S. Men's National Soccer Team goalkeeper plays for and partly owns the USL Championship league's Memphis 901 FC?
2. In 2004, then Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig declared April 15 to be celebrated as what?
3. In 1980, Rosie Ruiz was stripped of her title eight days after it was discovered that she cheated at what event?
4. What former NFL player and TV sportscaster — announcer of 16 Super Bowls and 26 Masters golf tournaments — died on April 16, 2013, at the age of 82?
5. What basketball great became the first African-American head coach in the NBA when he took over the Boston Celtics in 1966?
6. The 2011 Animal Planet TV series "Taking on Tyson" was about boxing legend Mike Tyson's involvement in what sport?
7. Though he played his entire career with the New York Giants, quarterback Eli Manning was selected No. 1 overall in the 2004 NFL Draft by what team?

Answers

1. Tim Howard.
2. Jackie Robinson Day.
3. The Boston Marathon. Ruiz entered the race about a half-mile from the finish.
4. Pat Summerall.
5. Bill Russell, who won two NBA championships as player-coach from 1966-69.
6. Pigeon Racing.
7. The San Diego Chargers.

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CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Common request
5. Department in France
10. Fungi cells
14. Famed inventor
15. Hillsides
16. Cold wind
17. La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood
18. Resembling a doddering old woman
19. Geological periods
20. Assists
22. Comedienne Gasteyer
23. Jewish spiritual leader
24. English soccer club
27. Body art
30. No (Scottish)
31. Clumsy person
32. Swiss river
35. Belittled
37. Luxury car
38. Single sheet of glass in a window
39. Monetary units
40. Supervises flying
41. Indian term of respect
42. Breezed through
43. The bill in a restaurant
44. Flower cluster
45. Moved quickly
46. Shooters need to do it
47. High schoolersÕ test
48. Split pulses
49. Salts
52. Breaking Bad actor __ Paul
55. Set ablaze
56. Semitic Sun god
60. Nervous system cells
61. Tourist destination Buenos __
63. A way to bind
64. Behave uncontrollably
65. Feels concern
66. Sportscaster Andrews
67. Subway dwellers
68. Astrological aspect
69. You may take one

CLUES DOWN

1. Swedish rock group
2. Serbian
3. Away from wind
4. Actor Oliver
5. Helps little firms
6. Intricately decorative
7. American state
8. Type of tumor
9. Midway between east and southeast
10. On a line at right angles to a shipÕs length
11. Fruit of the service tree
12. Grouch
13. Romanian city
21. Units of loudness
23. British Air Aces
25. Small amount
26. HemÕs partner
27. Turkic people
28. Member of the banana family
29. Liam Neeson franchise
32. Expressed pleasure
33. Inward-directed part of psyche
34. Insurgent
36. Unhappy
37. Gateway (Arabic)
38. Fundraising political group (abbr.)
40. Well-known
41. Satisfies
43. Ô__ death do us part
44. Jailhouse informant
46. French river
47. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
49. Drenches
50. Clouds
51. Companies need to make them
52. Created from seaweed
53. OneÕs school: __ mater
54. A type of act
57. Member of Russian people
58. Neutralizes alkalis
59. Monetary unit
61. Play a role
62. Midway between south and southeast

Sacramento Zoo Director Discusses Temporary Closure; Future Plans

By Dominic J Larsen

Jason Jacobs, Director of the Sacramento Zoo, discussed the recent changes to the zoo's daily operations following the institution's decision to temporarily close its doors on March 14 due to the viral outbreak of COVID-19.

Prior to receiving the position of director, and shaking things up at the Sacramento Zoo, Jacobs had already defined his guiding principles and leadership credentials by dedicating his life to a career in the zoological community.

His fascination with it all began when he was 13 years old, and started to volunteer at Zoo Miami. He would eventually work his first job with the same zoo. Throughout his career he would continue working for zoos around the country including interning for Walt Disney World's Animal Kingdom during its development, the Potawatomi Zoo in South Bend, Indiana, and the Los Angeles Zoo.

He would first become director of a zoo by taking the job with the Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona. During his time there, the community and the team with the Reid Park Zoological Society worked to convince the city council of passing a sales tax dedicated solely to raise funds for the zoo. Proposition 203, wittingly coined "Future of Your Zoo", passed and resulted in $8-10 million coming into the zoo's coffers annually for conservation efforts and renovations.

It was at this point in his career that Jacobs saw great potential in the Sacramento Zoo. As of January 2018, Jacobs has served in the directorial position, and his tenure has been largely defined by the dynamic change of pace noticed by guests and staff alike. In the short two years and four months that he has served in the position, the zoo has seen tremendous growth.

Membership sales have jumped, and resulted in the largest amount of members ever. Over eleven thousand households hold a membership to the zoo. Head of the membership department, Brenda Gonzalez shared her thanks for the support of members and explained the accommodations that will be made for members, stating "We know that our members are missing out on visiting the zoo right now and we will be extending memberships to cover the duration of our closure so they won't miss out on any of their great benefits". For as long as the zoo is closed, an equal amount of time will be added onto the memberships, thus pushing back their expiration dates.

Infrastructure changes have been notable with the zoo erecting a new playground structure, hosting a temporary animatronic dinosaur exhibit, adding a walking path, and viewing area intersecting the flamingo lagoon. The zoo also expanded the existing lion exhibit to encompass the area previously dedicated to the exhibit that housed the last tiger to call the Sacramento Zoo home. With the recent addition of the expanded lion exhibit, the zoo has also introduced lion feedings conducted by animal care staff daily at 11 am.

Changes in exhibits and attractions have not been the only improvements made to the zoo in recent months. A mob of meerkats were brought into the Sacramento Zoo family as well as a pair of okapis, the only of their species to be housed at a Northern California zoo in more than 45 years.

The zoo also has plans to introduce a menagerie of biological marvels such as the endangered Galapagos tortoise, the amphibious axolotl, the hairless naked mole rats, and the ever energetic squirrel monkeys. Days before the decision to close four weeks ago, the zoo welcomed a pair of ostriches and six bull alligators, who have taken up residency in the pond next to the flamingo lagoon.

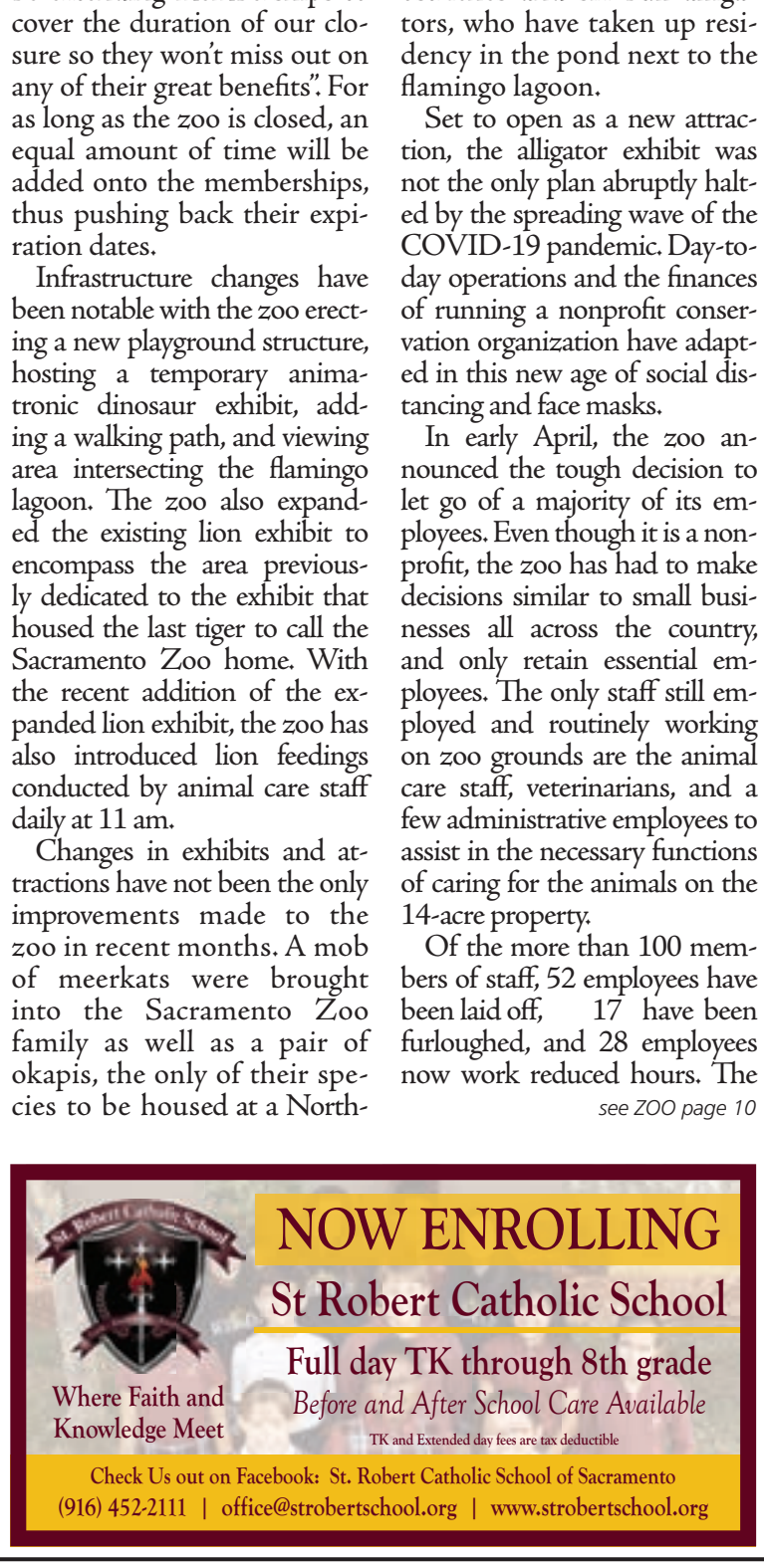
Set to open as a new attraction, the alligator exhibit was not the only plan abruptly halted by the spreading wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Day-to-day operations and the finances of running a nonprofit conservation organization have adapted in this new age of social distancing and face masks.

In early April, the zoo announced the tough decision to let go of a majority of its employees. Even though it is a nonprofit, the zoo has had to make decisions similar to small businesses all across the country, and only retain essential employees. The only staff still employed and routinely working on zoo grounds are the animal care staff, veterinarians, and a few administrative employees to assist in the necessary functions of caring for the animals on the 14-acre property.

Of the more than 100 members of staff, 52 employees have been laid off, 17 have been furloughed, and 28 employees now work reduced hours. The

see ZOO page 10





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What are we missing?

By Devin Lavelle

Dealing with COVID-19 has left us missing a lot. I recently asked neighbors what they miss most. Surprisingly, the highest profile cancellations didn't rate a mention. No one mentioned the NBA season or March Madness; Michelle Obama's visit or any of the other major performances at Golden1. Delays to the Little League season seems to have impacted us more than the Major League season (although our beloved Oakland A's did rate a mention).

The worst thing people have missed out on is being with family after the loss of a loved one. Perhaps the worst part of COVID-19 is not just the loss of life, but that it forces people to die alone. That tragedy isn't limited to those with the virus, but all too often, extends to others forced to isolate as age or other health problems come to bear. Hearts broke across the internet as neighbors described losing loved ones and not being with them and then not being able to be with family to comfort one another in times of grief.

Luckily, most of us are still healthy and most of the things we miss seem to be the simplest things, like time spent with family. Pat Aguiar misses "Holding and babysitting my now 5 month old granddaughter. I could not have imagined not being able to interact with our first grand." Kate Killian wrote, "I miss snuggling my grands most of all. They're only 5 minutes away. It is heartbreaking. I can't even do a drive-by because my little granddaughter would be too upset."

My family experienced the same feeling. We couldn't explain to our two-year-old why we couldn't go inside when dropping groceries off to Grammy.

Diane Brazillo is missing her grandkids, but reminds us how lucky we are to live in an age with so much electronic connection. "Mine are in Jackson, ages 9 and 5, and they give Grandma the best hugs. We're talking, texting and emailing a lot. That helps."

She isn't alone in mentioning hugs. Whether with family, friends, clients … we all seem to be missing that close contact. This has to be hardest for people who live alone, "What I miss most is hugs from my friends and family. I'm sheltering alone and that's tough ..." Kim Gardner wrote.

It is a great reminder to think of our friends who may be feeling most alone these days. That can include folks whose age or health mean they are most vulnerable. It can also mean younger folks who just haven't meant that special someone yet. Parents may joke about yearning for social distance from the kids, but we're also lucky to never be alone, especially if we have the blessing of sharing a room with our best friend.

One Greenhaven neighbor wrote about the challenge of having, "no one to give comfort or to bounce things off of or just for company during these difficult times. Being alone with your worries and fears makes them so much harder to deal with."

Olivia Alvarez says, "I miss dating!! Being single and quarantined with my kiddos is making me want to pull my extensions out of my head, already ripped off the fake nails, fake lashes... all gone!!!! I neeeed a man!!!!! Uuuggghhhhhhhh!!!!!!"

I've been enjoying having beers with neighbors across the street and just restarted an online poker game with friends I used to play with regularly. Especially for the extroverts among us, the ability to get together with friends is very missed. Tracy Madeleine Knighton wrote about missing, "Laughing until my stomach hurts with a bunch of my girlfriends! I love my family but sometimes a gal needs her pals!"

Whether for fun, or perspective, friends are such an important part of our lives. "I especially miss my friends' typically mellow, positive outlook. Everyone is freaking out and I can't get on board. I know this is real but can't get caught up in the stress," wrote Sioux Enos.

I bet many of us are surprised how much we miss going into work and, especially, how much we miss the commute.

Teachers seem to be missing work most of all, as Karen DeLodder relates, "I'm missing hugs and high fives from my students, and miss seeing their sweet smiles every day."

But it's not just teachers missing the sound of children's laughter. Tobah Ealey writes, "I miss seeing and hearing the little tater-tots (aka: little kids) walking to school each morning."

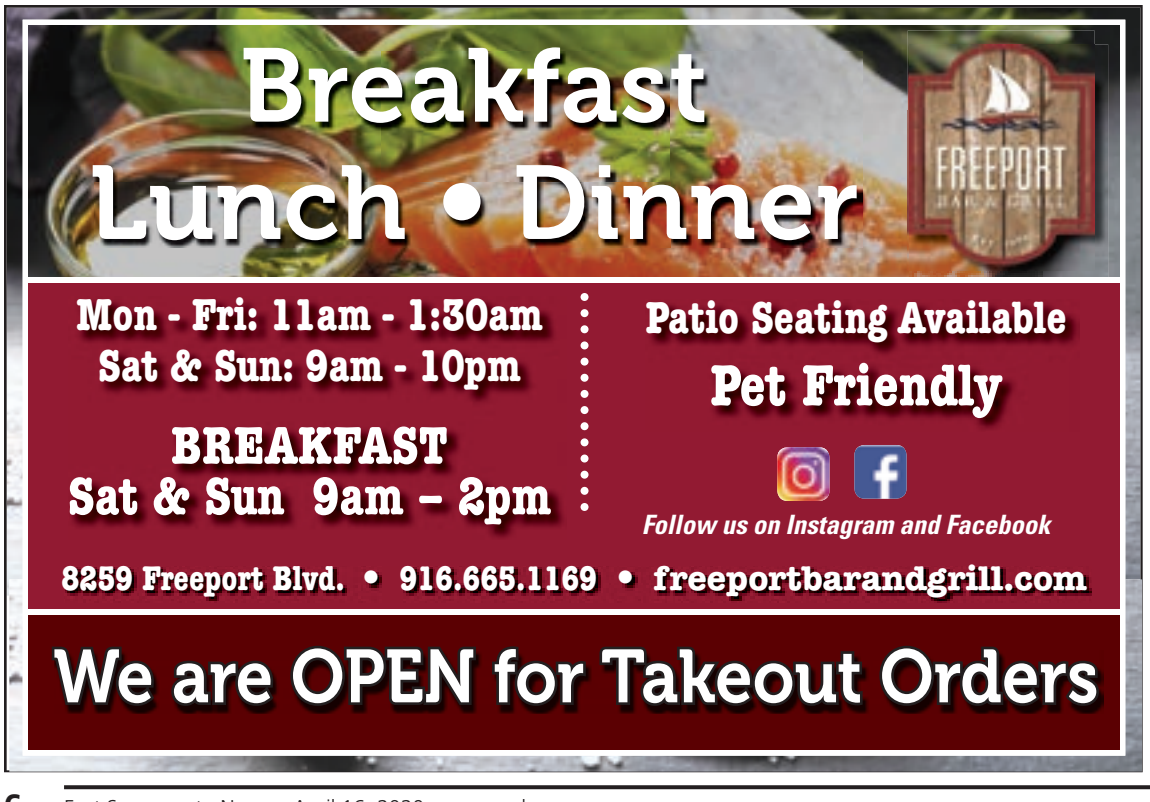
We parents very much miss the world being able to enjoy time with our children. It's made all the harder that our kids favorite places are all closed. As I write this on a rainy day, it would be great if that kids could burn off some energy at the Railroad Museum or Chuck-e-Cheese, or our all-time favorite, the Robbie Waters Library. It has been such a wonderful place to take the kids and to connect with other parents.

As Amanda Sol puts it, "I really miss story time at the library. We just moved here and that's how we were making friends." It doesn't replace the connectivity, but our libraries have recently launched a series of virtual programs for all ages: https://www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Virtual-Programs

Similarly, as the weather gets nicer, what we wouldn't give to be able to visit Fairytale Town. I do so miss having a safe, fun, creative place for my boys to run free and enjoy themselves with other kids their age.

Like many of her Pocket neighbors, Linh Truong really misses the gym, especially "24 hour senior fitness classes. I met some really nice people there. After working out, the class would eat lunch at a different local restaurant once a month." What a great way to connect to the community. Hopefully we are all still supporting our local restaurants and, in doing so, working up a little extra motivation for once the gyms reopen!

see MISSING page 7





What are we grateful for?

By Devin Lavelle

Alongside the question of what we miss, it's important to also think about what we're grateful for.

My family is healthy, we have a wonderful, loving home to share and my wife and I have good, stable jobs that we can do from home (to the extent the boys allow it). Our parents remain healthy and are committed to keeping it that way, saving us that burden of worry. We are so very grateful for having such a blessed life. I am also grateful for all the positivity people are putting into the world. It's such a refreshing change. I especially enjoy the new YouTube show, "Some Good News with John Krasinski". Seriously, check it out. It will have you laughing, crying and singing along. All in a quick 15 minutes.

I also wondered about some of the things our neighbors are grateful for. Here's what I found.

There are many neighbors who expressed their thanks for the people who are keeping us going in these difficult times.

Jean Corson reminds us, "I'm grateful for the health care providers who take care of our communities. They are so over worked and putting themselves in danger. To honor the medical community by clapping, a few neighborhoods are coming out of this their homes at 8 pm. It just takes a few minutes and you can still keep your distance from others. What a nice thought!" Another nice thought shared by our neighbor Mayor Darrell Steinberg is to decorate our homes with the color blue (blue lights, ribbons, signs, etc.) in recognition of healthcare providers.

Kathi Windheim is grateful for "the men & women of SacPD tirelessly keeping our streets & neighborhoods safe!"

GariRae Gray says, "I'm grateful for all the people keeping the global internet kicking, maintaining the electrical and communications grids, the shopkeepers and their staff, the municipal and special district employees keeping our water pure and our sewage processed, and ... ALL the folks at Amazon, UPS, and FedEx who are supporting billions of people with home deliveries. Millions of hidden people keep our global societies functioning. I can't imagine the chaos if these people gave up."

She adds, "Also, the laughs of Stephen Colbert's home shows."

Sally Ravas is grateful for, "Doing more random acts of kindness. Why does it take something like this to make us more thoughtful of helping others?"

Hopefully all of the kindness we're spreading is what proves the most contagious as we all realize, "Our greatest joy is when we seek to do good for others," (Archbishop Desmond Tutu) and it continues long after this tragedy ends.

Louise Einspahr is grateful for the benefits that come from a slower pace of life. "I am grateful for more time that has helped me slow my pace and have time to look at the beautiful green trees budding out, and other everyday things we take for granted. I couldn't sleep the other night and decided to look out the window at the night sky. The stars were bright and spectacular. With fewer cars on the road some of our pollution is going away and so the atmosphere is clearing a bit. How I wish this part of our horrible virus ordeal could last. I am also grateful for warm sunny days so my husband and I can sit on the patio after doing yard work and share a moment with small talk and a wee small glass of wine."

Alycia Humphrey goes beyond the clouds, "I'm grateful for the blessed hope we have in Christ Jesus. That no matter what happens or comes our way we have the promise of Eternal life in Him."

Many neighbors were grateful for the people in and around the place they call home.

Linda Avalos says, "I'm grateful to live in a neighborhood with good neighbors. A government who will send out emergency money and unemployment checks to citizens to try and keep the economy going. Most of all I am grateful for my faith in God and the loving children He gave me."

Paul Freeman has "really enjoyed my afternoon dog walks and seeing people out walking or riding bikes with their pets or their kids, all while practicing good social distance. Aside from the obviously unfortunate circumstances, it feels like the active and pleasant neighborhood you want to live in. I've enjoyed the "hellos" and semi-awkward smiles we give to each other as we pass by and one person (or both) go out of their way to create space. We're all in it together."

Amy Toy keeps it even closer to home, "I am grateful for spending more time with my kitty and with my mom." I'm sure they're also grateful for Amy!

Others focused on the most tangible aspects of their homes.

Kay Chow focuses on the little things, sharing that she is, "grateful for having: a home; running water to wash my hands nonstop; a stable job that allows me to work remotely; family and friends to look after each other; and sanitizer and tp."

Jan Luppino agrees, "I am grateful for good health, food, water, power and this beautiful place we call 'Home.'"

Tamara Dawn really says it all, "I am very grateful to be a long term neighbor in our wonderful and caring community! Thank you all for being there for each other."

Thank you all, indeed!

Missing:

continued from page 6

Jim Guida doubles down on the gym recommendation and offers some wisdom, "There are three places you may not want to go but never regret having gone - to the bathroom, to the gym, and to church. Worship can - and should - be done anytime and anywhere, but the fellowship of friends and loving members of the church family can't be duplicated."

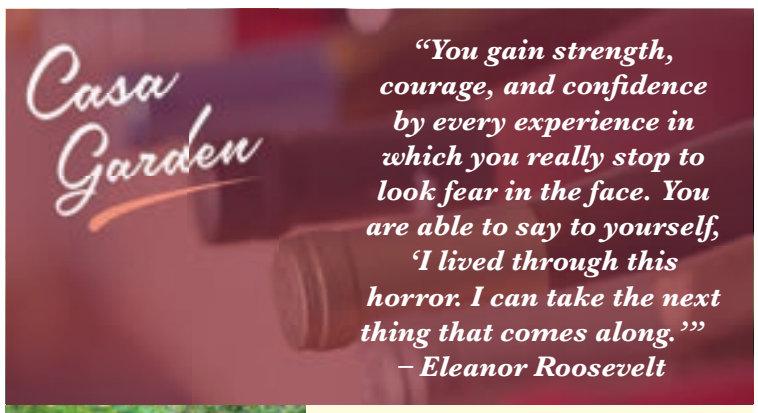
Mike Sweeney agrees, writing, "I miss being able to go to church and be nourished and uplifted. Not just for the content and services, but to be with the people in the pews." Amen to that, brother.

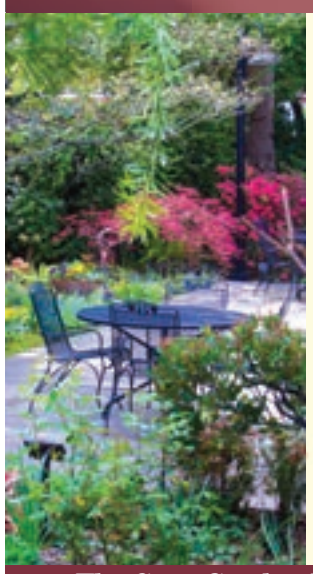
There were so many more activities mentioned, fun things like Volunteering; Wine Tasting; Bowling; and Movies. Favorite dining options like Brunch; Taco Tuesdays; Buffets; and Pie. Day-to-day activities like haircuts; and shopping: "The ease of walking into a grocery store and picking up necessities for whatever project or recipe that came to mind, or simply toilet paper when we're down to our last roll. Now everything requires a plan," shared Fay Saephan.

We also miss normalcy. Not living with fear. Being able to have conversations about anything but the crisis.

While we're all missing normalcy and favorite activities, it's clear that what we miss most of all is each other. While the hugs are going to have to wait, phone calls, emails and Zoom chats are just a few taps on a keyboard away.

Who are you missing? Maybe give them a call? They probably miss you, too.





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Zoo:

continued from page 5

zoo has the intention of rehiring all of the employees that they have lost during this time. In addition, the company that the zoo has contracted out to operate their gift shop and two eateries, SSA (Service Sales Associates) has let go of fifty three employees.

Changes to the staff has been only one of the ways that the zoo's board have decided to keep the zoo viable during these financially difficult times. Ninety-seven percent of the zoo's budget is raised through admission sales, new members joining the zoo, concessions, and donations made by generous community members. The additional 3% is provided by the city of Sacramento due to a few members of the staff remaining on the city payroll following the zoo's transition from a city run entity to a private nonprofit in the nineties. Every month for the zoo to maintain animal welfare through care and feeding, they spend $250,000, and right now no funds are making their way to the zoo.

Without their mainstay source of revenue, the Sacramento Zoo is shifting towards a model of collecting donations to maintain the faculties and care for the well-being of the animals. Much the same as the overwhelming support for small businesses during this time, the zoo is hoping that the same kind of generosity can be extended by the community.

In discussing the need for donations, Jacobs stated: "I am thankful for our donors and the support we have received from our community," and went on to explain how those interested could help out.

For those that are capable and willing, they can donate to the zoo's emergency fund on the zoo website, saczoo.org, with a direct hyperlink on their homepage. Donations have already been generously made, and the zoo is more than happy to receive more. The zoo is hoping to raise $500,000 in donations to lessen the financial strain that is the lack of guests in the zoo. For those who cannot give financially, there is still a way to help. For those gardening with the extra time at home, the zoo website has a list of tree species that trimmings are acceptable and can be donated for the animal's feed.

Not only has the financial situation of the zoo changed, but daily operations have also evolved to meet safety standards for both staff and the animals. The director shared that the zoo had begun preparing to the best of their ability to face the challenges of the novel coronavirus as early as late February.

The Sacramento Zoo was the first zoo that closed in California, and the rest of the institutions in the state followed suit quickly following this decision. A fact that made him proud translated into a swift, decisive transition between closing time at the end of the day on March 13, and the next morning when quarantine kicked in. A mask requirement and social distancing measures implemented as soon as the gates were closed.

Rather than the typical morning meetings behind the scene in the zoo's commissary, animal care staff opted to meet outdoors and with well more than six feet in between keepers to reduce any risk. Separate shift teams and break areas littered all throughout the zoo were established in order to protect the health of all involved.

In regards to how interactions with the animals changed, procedure was quickly developed by the animal care staff and the veterinary hospital, which cooperates directly with the world's foremost veterinary university U.C. Davis. Working side by side, the veterinary and animal care staff developed measures to be taken with animals, especially with those that share genetic similarities with humans, such as our closest relatives, the non-human primates, bats, and carnivores.



Normally the animal care staff wear masks and use disinfectant when working with the primates, now they have increased the amount of protective care equipment and increased the rate of sanitation to further prevent the risk of transmitting disease between the animals and their keepers.

Across the country Bronx Zoo confirmed that one of its tigers had tested positive, and a few other lions and tigers in their care showed symptoms. At the same time Sacramento Zoo and other zoos around the country had already received medical data from the Bronx Zoo to further prevent additional cases. Head veterinarian and professor of zoological medicine at U.C. Davis, Dr. Jenessa Gjeltema recently participated in an interview with CAPRadio to discuss how the Sacramento Zoo has used this information to protect their animals. Precaution is being taken with animals, especially with those that share genetic similarities with humans, such as our closest relatives, the non-human primates, bats, and carnivores.

Now that a mode of operating smoothly during quarantine has been established, the director has insisted that the zoo have two main focuses. The first is to maintain the zoo; continue to keep all at the zoo healthy, make repairs to the ninety three year old establishment where needed, and work with the community to raise funds for the animals. The second focus is to prepare for reopening. No date is known for when that is to occur, all that Jacobs could say is that once the zoo can ensure the health and safety of its guests, the zoo would gladly open its gates.

When guests return to the Sacramento Zoo, they will be welcomed back to a zoo full of memories that is spruced up and ready to provide the next generation with memories of their own. Fresh paint, gardening with fresh spring flowers, and repairs will be only the start of the zoo that welcomes all back. All new exhibits such as the alligator pond and the ostrich pair will be ready to greet guests.

"We cannot wait to greet our guests and see their smiling faces," remarked an inviting Director Jacobs, ready to see the zoo filled with delightful neighbors and animals just as curious as their on-lookers.

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Happy Easter: Springtime photos from years passed



File photos by Stephen Crowley

Because large Easter egg hunts and brunches with extended family and friends should not be taking place this year, memories of years passed seem ever stronger. Missing what we're used to having surely is a sobering feeling. Photographer Stephen Crowley has provided a walk down memory lane with photos from previous years' Easter events. Enjoy! -Monica Stark























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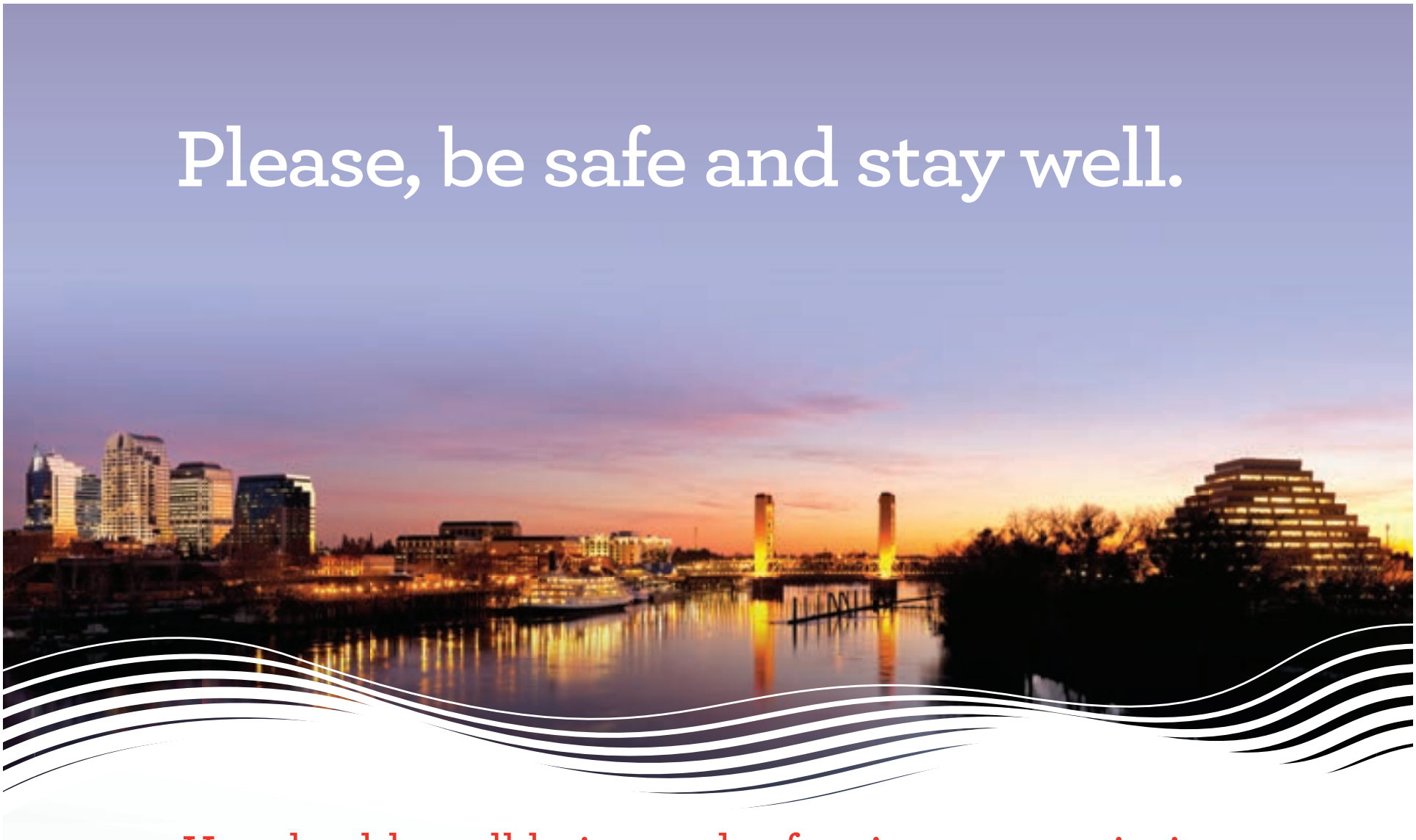
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