

10-2-23 LABOR BILL VETOES

California Governor Gavin Newsom angered his allies in the labor movement this weekend by vetoing two bills that would have benefited workers. CapRadio's Nicole Nixon reports.

[CutID: <Cuts> LABORVETOES-1_ARC1279358527.mp3

Time: 59s

Title: LABORVETOES-1

Description: LABORVETOES-1

In-cue: One of the...

Out-cue: SOC]

[BODY :58

One of the rejected bills would have given standard workplace safety protections to domestic workers, including nannies and house cleaners. In a veto message, Newsom wrote that it would require home employers to provide costly updates, like eyewash stations for workers who use bleach.

Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher leads the California Labor Federation. She says the mostly Black, Brown, and immigrant women doing domestic work deserve protections.

GONZALEZ: In an era where we talk about reparations and we talk about the history of slavery, I think it's so important to understand that but for racism, workers that work in a household would be considered the same as other workers. <<:14>>

The governor also vetoed a bill that would have extended unemployment benefits to striking workers on the picket line for more than two weeks.

Newsom cited fiscal concerns, noting California's unemployment fund is still 20 billion dollars in debt after the pandemic.

SOC

10-20-23 THE MAAC-A HIDDEN GEM OF A CULTURE AND ARTS CENTER

[HOST INTRO:]

Local art lovers have access to galleries and exhibits in midtown and downtown Sacramento. But there's one space just east of town that might be the most accessible of all. CapRadio's Paul Conley takes us on a tour of the Mills Station Arts and Culture Center in Rancho Cordova.

[TAG (if time permits)]

The Mills Station Arts and Culture Center is located at the corner of Mather Field Road and Folsom Blvd in Rancho Cordova.

[CutID: <Cuts> MAAC.wav
Time: 3m 52s
Title: MAAC
Description: MAAC
In-cue: Why is the
Out-cue: SOC +:13 of music]

[Why is the Mills Station, Arts and Culture Center or Mac so accessible? First, admission to the gallery is free and second, it's right next to a light rail station and bus hub and has loads of free parking. Getting here is the problem getting in is a different story. People when you look at it, there's literally a door about every 15 ft. They don't know which door and there's seven of them, but there's only one that leads to the inside. So it's the one with the red piece of tape in front of it says you have arrived.

Cheryl Gleeson has been running the Mac since it opened six years ago.

When you come in the gallery, you come into like the foyer and then you enter the gallery space.

The current exhibit when art and poetry collide features pieces like the old man with the beard by fiber artist Penny Hanscom.

But she took a very simple old poem and created this stunning view in fabric of this man with birds nesting in his beard.

Could you read that?
Yes, absolutely.

There was an old man with a beard who said it's just as I feared two owls and a hen
four larks and a wren have all built their nest in my beard.

It's a simple sweet whimsical poem.

And so is the piece of art.

The origin story of the Mac dates back over a decade when Gleeson says art was born
in City Hall.

Rancho Cordova's Art in City Hall program featured four shows a year and became
extremely popular.

City leaders began wondering what if we had a gallery.

We had an art center where we could have more than that.

So Rancho Cordova Regional Transit which owns the land and the nonprofit Cordova
Community Council all came together to establish the Mac in 2018, funded by Measure
H and grants from the County.

Gleeson says her programming philosophy isn't just about art, it's about history and
culture.

Maybe it's us history, world history, maybe it's California or even Rancho Cordova
history.

I like to do something that's social justice being a little edgy and other things that make
people think Gleeson opened this season with a powerful show from the Smithsonian
titled Righting a Wrong Japanese Americans and World War Two.

Mounting it at the Mac made it even more relevant.

This very building used to sit across the street as a grocery store in the twenties and
thirties was built in 1911 and this area was all farmland and many of those farmers
were Japanese Americans.

The Mac does more than exhibit art.

It develops artists on most Saturdays.

We have a workshop that lasts two hours.

It cost \$10.

You bring nothing except an open mind and a creative spirit.

We provide everything the instructor, the materials and you get to learn a skill set in hopes of attracting new visitors.

Gleeson started up an evening concert series complete with tables chairs and food trucks.

This is the classic jazz band orchestra performing earlier this month at the Mac.

We're a culture center.

So I wanted to get culturally relevant music, bluegrass, blues, jazz.

At the heart of all of Gleeson's efforts is the desire to make the Mac as accessible as possible.

Everybody should be able to come and enjoy art for free and that is what we do.

Paul Connolly Cap radio news.

10-25-23 CALIFORNIA SUES FACEBOOK PARENT COMPANY FOR ADDICTING UNDERAGE USERS

California has joined more than 40 states in suing social media giant Meta for deceptive practices and addicting underage users. Cap Radio's Nicole Nixon reports.

[CutID: <Cuts> METALAWSUIT-1.wav

Time: 52s

Title: METALAWSUIT-1

Description: METALAWSUIT-1

In-cue: The lawsuit alleges

Out-cue: SOC]

[BODY :52

The lawsuit alleges that Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, has known that many of its features are detrimental to young users. It names the 'like' button, photo filters, and endless scroll.

BONTA: As a dad of three, I'm angered and I'm horrified by what our investigation has turned up. As California AG, I'm acting today because it's clear the law has been violated. <<:11>>

California Attorney General Rob Bonta accuses the company of ignoring its own research on the harms.

In a statement, a Meta spokesperson says the company is disappointed the states are suing rather than working with the industry to create age-appropriate online standards.

But lawmakers in California passed a law tightening online privacy rules for minors last year, and a tech industry group funded by companies including Meta is currently suing to overturn it.

SOC]

11-1-23 STATE PARK PASS

Being in nature is good for our physical and mental health. And California has been experimenting with ways to make it easier for residents to enjoy state parks and beaches. Cap Radio's Nicole Nixon tried it out for herself.

[CutID: <Cuts> PARKSPASS_ARC3521641740.mp3

Time: 3m 26s

Title: PARKSPASS-

Description: PARKSPASS

In-cue: (Nat) I'm at my...

Out-cue: SOC]

[BODY 3:25

[NAT SOUND]

I'm at my local library. Not to check out a book, but to pick up a pass that grants free entry to more than 200 state parks around California.

[NAT SOUND; "That will be due back in three weeks."]

[NAT POP CAR STARTING]

Now I'm heading to the Auburn State Recreation Area in the Sierra Foothills near Sacramento for a hike and some fresh air.

[NAT POP – hiking footsteps]

With the library pass hanging from the rearview mirror, visitors don't have to pay a day use fee at many of California's state parks and beaches. It started as a pilot program two years ago with 5,000 State Parks passes. But it was so successful it quickly grew. Now there are 33-thousand passes to check out from public libraries all over the state.

NORTON: It just is a great program that is having exactly the effect that we would want it to have, which is getting folks into their state parks.

Rachel Norton is executive director of the nonprofit California State Parks Foundation. The group surveyed more than 36-hundred people who've used these passes this year.

Norton says majorities of the respondents were people of color or had an annual income below 60-thousand dollars.

NORTON: These are two really important groups of people who have not always felt welcome in parks or haven't necessarily felt invited to explore state parks. Those two groups were key targets for this kind of work. And so it's very exciting to see that that it's having the desired effect. <<:18>>

The park passes have been so popular the Sacramento Public Library system is planning to build off the program. Community engagement manager Todd Deck says starting next year, people will be able to meet at a local library where a bus will provide transportation to a nearby state park for free entry...and activities.

DECK: Nature walks, story walks, art activities. Different sort of opportunities to infuse that idea of libraries and parks having a lot more in common than what people would expect. <<:13>>

In some library systems, card holders can also check out gear like backpacks, water bottles and binoculars to use with their borrowed parks pass. Deck says this helps make the outdoors more accessible for people who don't own the equipment, which can be expensive.

DECK: Communities are happier and healthier by utilizing our beautiful outdoor spaces and recreational equity is a really important thing to ensure that everyone has access to spaces that belong to all of us. <<:14>>

There are other ways Californians can snag free entry into state parks. The state provides free passes to every 4th grade student and to needy families that get government assistance.

The State Parks Foundation is asking the state for 9 million dollars in annual funding to keep these pilot programs going into the future.

[NAT SOUND UP]

Behind each of these numbers is an experience in nature and a moment to find some peace. On the banks of the American River, the foliage is just beginning to turn yellow. After a hike in the foothills, I paused for a moment to drink it in. In the Auburn State Recreation Area, Nicole Nixon, CapRadio News.]

11-3-23 RACIST FLOAT

[INTRO:]

A homecoming float representing the junior class at Bella Vista High School has raised some concerns about the culture of racism at the school.

The Black Student Union at Bella Vista has stepped up to provide solutions.

CapRadio's education reporter Srishti Prabha [srish-tee prubha] reports.

[CutID: <Cuts> RACISTFLOAT-1_ARC3379266345.mp3

Time: 1m 26s

Title: RACISTFLOAT-1

Description: RACISTFLOAT-1

In-cue: The homecoming float...

Out-cue: SOC]

[ANCHOR TAG:]

Srishti is an education reporter in partnership with The Sacramento Observer.

[BODY:

The homecoming float, which was voted best float by staff at the school, was on the theme of 'cops and robbers' AND featured a young, Black man behind bars.

Bella Vista High senior Dominique Edwards was right behind the float.

Edwards: Once I saw it, I felt like a little bit stunned because, like, you're seeing a black male in an orange suit, also him handcuffed to it. So it's like, why is he there? Whose idea was this? Like, it was just a constant, confused state of confusion.

Edwards added that all the cops were white students and all the robbers were students of color.

Edwards and other Black students voiced their concerns to the school's Black Student Union president Jayha Buhs-Jackson.

Buhs-Jackson: I know that people in the Black Student Union, LGBTQ plus other cultural groups have felt culturally insensitive instances have impacted them.

San Juan Unified school district concluded a month long investigation of the incident last week.

The district wrote in an email that they are working with the Black Student Union and engaging in professional learning.

Black student union representative Buhs-Jackson says she's not heard anything from the district after seeing the union's list of solutions.

Buhs-Jackson: That's why I'm concerned that the resolutions are empty words, empty promises.

The Greater Sacramento NAACP has offered its services to staff and students at the school.

CapRadio reached out to the school but has yet to hear back.

Srishti Prabha, CapRadio News

11-6-23 CHECK UP ON SACRAMENTO'S X STREET SHELTER

Sacramento's X Street homeless shelter opened two years ago ... near Oak Park ... with the goal of getting people off the streets ... and connecting them with housing. CapRadio's Chris Nichols takes a look at how the shelter has performed.

[CutID: <Cuts> XSTREETSHELTER 6 45_Clip_1_ARC3304464540.mp3

Time: 4m 9s

Title: XSTREETSHELTER 6 45

Description: XSTREETSHELTER 6 45_Clip_1

Out-cue:]

Chris will be on Insight tomorrow [Tuesday] to talk more about this story.]

[Sacramento's X Street homeless shelter opened two years ago ... near Oak Park ... with the goal of getting people off the streets ... and connecting them with housing. CapRadio's Chris Nichols takes a look at how the shelter has performed.

[BODY 3:44

A giant pot of soup simmers on the stove ... inside the X Street homeless shelter ... It'll feed the nearly 100 men and women who call this place home ...

Dave BITE talking about soup: Bell pepper, mushrooms, tomatoes, carrots mixing of soup, clanging of utensils, (:07)

That's Pitbull Dave Chapman. The Vietnam Veteran spent decades living unhoused on the American River ... but now works at the shelter. He says the city and the nonprofit that operates the facility ... are doing the best they can ...

Dave BITE 2 Can't Complain: "There's a couple things they can fine tune, but all in all, you can't complain about nothin." (:06)

The shelter opened while Sacramento was still in the thick of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, it's served nearly 800 people ... many of whom had lived in tents along Broadway and the W/X corridor, in the surrounding neighborhood.

[for CPRN ... many of whom had lived in tents in the surrounding neighborhood]
But the city's goal ... isn't for people to stay at the shelter long-term ... it's to link them with housing. So far ... about 35 percent have received some form of housing, either permanent or temporary.

That's just short of Sacramento's initial goal of 40 percent ...says Sarah O'Daniel with the city's housing authority ...

Sarah BITE Very Proud of Number Housed: "There are just so many different factors and so many challenges, and I think we're very, very proud of the number that have actually been housed, whether it's temporary housing, transitional housing, permanent housing." (:12)

More than three-quarters of the people who entered the shelter reported having a disability ... more than half had a mental health disorder ... and 30 percent were addicted to drugs or alcohol, according to the city.

Case managers work with guests to find treatment .. and to sign them up for disability income ... and other public benefits ... so they can eventually pay for their own housing.

FREEWAY AMBI

Speaking outside the facility ... which is located 'underneath the Highway 50 and 99 junction' ... shelter director Amanda Bayard [BUY-erd] ... says the challenges aren't permanent ... but some ... can take years to overcome.

Amanda BITE 1 "Everyone's path is different getting into housing." (:03)

City Councilmember Caity Maple ... says there's one more big barrier:

Sacramento ... doesn't have enough affordable housing ...

Maple BITE 1: "It's just a fact ... That's a challenge that we have to address by building more housing and being more intentional." (:06)

Maple lives two blocks from the shelter and represents the neighborhood.

Late this summer, she spoke out ... about the dozens of homeless camps that had formed right outside the X Street shelter ... saying the city had 'broken its promise to the community' ... to keep the area clear ...

Earlier this fall, the city removed those camps ... Bayard [BUY-erd] ... the shelter director ... said the majority of people living in them accepted the offer of space at local shelters.

AMBI AT SHELTER'S DOG KENNEL

54-year-old Stephanie Hoffman has been at the X Street shelter with her dog U Nique since July ... after living more than 10 years unhoused.

She's now on a waitlist for housing ...

Stephanie SHORT BITE: What would be your ideal picture be for the next six months? ... That tomorrow I get a call for a place ... an ideal place." (:11)

After that ... Hoffman says she'd like to open a nonprofit ... one that cares for animals left behind when homeless people can no longer care for them.

Stephanie BITE 2: "Homeless dogs, like people go to jail, they go to the hospital, they die — and there's all these homeless dogs that are like left, where? (:07)

Those at the shelter have at least one more year at the facility ... to turn their lives around.

The City Council in September agreed to spend 4.6 million dollars ... to keep it open ... for another year.

Chris Nichols, CapRadio News.

– END –

11-27-23 ALZHEIMERS INITIATIVE (5)

An initiative to decrease rates of dementia and Alzheimer's is moving forward in Sacramento County.

The program has identified nine neighborhoods in the region that could benefit from an assessment and targeted interventions to improve brain health.

CapRadio healthcare reporter Kate Wolffe sat down at the county office with Public Health Officer Dr. Olivia Kasirye [Kuh-SEAR-ee-yay] to find out more.

[CutID: <Cuts> ALZHEIMERSINITIATIVE-2WAY.wav

Time: 3m 36s

Title: ALZHEIMERSINITIATIVE-2WAY

Description: ALZHEIMERSINITIATIVE-2WAY

In-cue: Kate: When we first...

Out-cue: Kasirye: with the selection.]

[ANCHOR TAG:]

Sacramento County's Public Health Officer Doctor Olivia Kasirye [Kuh-SEAR-ee-yay] talking to CapRadio Health Care Reporter Kate Wolffe about a new initiative to lower Alzheimer's rates in the county by focusing on key neighborhoods.

[

[Prerecorded:

When we first spoke, I remember you highlighting Alzheimer's Disease - a type of dementia - as a major issue in Sacramento County. Can you tell me more about how this disease is affecting the region? (Why is it so important to you?)

Nationwide, communities of color suffer from Alzheimer's disease and dementia at far higher rates than white people. Black people develop the disease twice as often as white people, and Latino people are affected 1 and a half times more often. What contributes to this, and is this a pattern we also see in Sacramento?

So there's a partnership that's aiming to improve the situation for people with dementia- can you tell me what Sac is hoping to achieve with the Blue Zones Initiative?

Tell us about the places that were identified - Robla, Del Paso Heights, Hagginwood [HAGAN-wood], Woodlake, Arden-Arcade, Lemon Hill, Parkway, Meadowview, and Florin. Why these specific spots?]

Dr. Olivia Kasirye is Sacramento County's Public Health Officer - talking to CapRadio Health Care Reporter Kate Wolffe about a new initiative to lower Alzheimer's rates in the county

12-15-23 SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL MEMBER INDICTED (6)

Sacramento City Council member Sean Loloee was arraigned in federal court this afternoon on 25 counts related to the four Viva Supermarkets he owns. Viva general manager Karla Montoya was also charged in the indictment handed down by a federal grand jury last night. CapRadio's Mike Hagerty was on hand as both Loloee and Montoya pleaded not guilty.

[CutID: <Cuts> LOLOEEINDICTED-1-RB.wav

Time: 30s

Title: LOLOEEINDICTED-1-RB

Description: LOLOEEINDICTED-1-RB

In-cue: The Department of Justice...

Out-cue: questioned by investigators.]

Montoya is also accused of using the Social Security card of an American who died in 2007 in order to work in the United States.

Loloee was released on his own recognizance. Montoya on a 25-thousand dollar bond.

[The Department of Justice says Looi and 42 year old Carlo Montoya have been falsifying the immigration status of Viva Supermarket's employees since 2008 and obstructing investigations in a variety of ways including making false statements to investigators listening in on an employee interview with an investigator for the purpose of influencing that employment to make false statements, telling an employee to lie to an investigator about higher date and directing certain workers to hide, to prevent them from being questioned by investigators.]

12-19-23 MUSIC PRACTITIONERS (7)

A program that brings music to the bedsides of people in Sacramento County hospitals is expanding....by popular demand.

Leaders say now more patients will benefit from this unconventional therapy.

CapRadio's Health Care Reporter Kate Wolffe tagged along with a group of music practitioners as they made their rounds:

[CutID: <Cuts> MUSICPRACTITIONERS.wav
Time: 3m 34s
Title: MUSICPRACTITIONERS
Description: MUSICPRACTITIONERS
In-cue: (Music) Sunlight streams into...
Out-cue: SOC]

[Carol of the Bells (10 secs then fade under)

Sunlight streams into the large chapel at Mercy San Juan Medical Center in Carmichael.

Four musicians are performing Christmas carols to a small crowd of nurses and staff.

The concert is being broadcast over the hospital's TVs, into the rooms of patients.

[music fades]

Between songs, musician Mary Superak - stage name: Music Mary - looks toward the camera

We are so blessed and honored to be here with you and to start this program. So we wanted to offer you a gift during this holiday season to start out our time with you.

Possibly start up some more concert music to run underneath up until the Chaplain's quote... or possibly even under that?

Today is the first day a few of the musicians have been to San Juan. The program has been operating at Mercy General for about 16 years and it's in high demand.

Superak and her colleagues are all Certified Music Practitioners. Normally their playing is a bit more intimate, at the bedside of patients.

Chaplain William Ferguson helps run the program:

They play to the Natural rhythms of the body breathing the heart and they could affect many different clinical outcomes.

Research shows music can lower blood pressure and reduce pain.

Ferguson says the musicians often put people to sleep and help premature babies relax, among other things..

They even have a key to help people...well, they call it the poop key, to help them void when they can't and actually they can do that.

Certified Music Practitioners are different from music therapists.

Music therapists normally have a bachelor's or master's degree in the field, and they work long-term with a patient to achieve a specific physical or psychological goal.

Music practitioners are there to provide tailored relief, for patients and often their families. Mary says that's what keeps her coming back:

I was playing in the ICU for an end of life patient. There must have been 50 family members and they were all being moved because they begin to experience what they're going through because the music is allowing that.

Ambi of moving

After the concert, Suprak and founding member harpist Carol Ng wheel their instruments up to where the patients are

we're going to go to the oncology floor

There, they meet Woodland resident Juan Teran. He's on his tenth day of a hospital stay. His adult daughter Veronica Diaz sits by his side. They've been in and out of the hospital for months for Teran's cancer treatment.

Teran doesn't speak much English, and the musicians, not much Spanish.

Turns out, Mary doesn't need either.

3:27 - 3:47 [fade out]

Clapping and saying bye

As the musicians file out, Diaz says she appreciates the visit - and her dad does too

it really helps his Spirit they lived. his spirit
/ Yeah, he said he fell a lot of relief on his soul.

The father and daughter are hoping Teran gets discharged today.

For Mary and Carol, it's on to the next - they'll try to meet the patient wherever they are, with whatever they need.

Kate Wolffe, CapRadio News.

12-26-23 SACRAMENTO FLOOD PREPARATION

[INTRO :11]

Crews are putting the finishing touches on a major project meant to alleviate flood risk in the Sacramento region. It's just in time for what could be another wet winter in California, as CapRadio's Nicole Nixon reports.

[CutID: <Cuts> SACFLOODPREP.wav

Time: 2m 6s

Title: SACFLOODPREP

Description: SACFLOODPREP

In-cue: (Nat) David Pesavento parks...

Out-cue: SOC]

[AMBI OPEN

David Pesavento [PRO: Pes-uh-VEN-tuh] parks his truck on top of a big new levee and steps out. (He's an engineer with the ...

PESAVENTO: We're in at the lower Elkhorn basin levee setback project right now, just north of West sac, and just to the west of Natomas. this is along the Yolo bypass and the Sacramento bypass.

These bypasses serve as a **sort** of overflow for the Sacramento River during high water events. When the river level rises, flood managers can open the Sacramento Weir. That's like a giant gate that allows water to flow from a swollen river into the bypass – instead of **flowing** into neighborhoods downstream.

This project widened the bypass, making it a bigger overflow space with upgraded levees, which are man-made embankments to contain water. **Pesavento is the lead engineer here for the California Department of Water Resources.**

PESAVENTO: This project in conjunction with the Sacramento Weir expansion project, will reduce the water surface elevation in the Sacramento River by up to two feet. So that's a tremendous difference.

The Lower Elkhorn Basin project is a decade in the making and it marks a new chapter in the Central Valley's flood control strategy.

In the past, levees were fixed **here are there** as they aged or degraded. **Now**, officials are **now** looking at "system-wide" strategies to take huge amounts of water out of rivers when that get too high.

PESAVENTO: By enhancing the system, we are reducing flood risk Natomas, for downtown Sacramento, for the Pocket area, all the way down to Courtland, all the way up to Verona by reducing the surface of the water during high water events.

He says expanding the bypass mimics the natural landscapes that existed here for thousands of years before settlers arrived. It also provides ecological benefits for birds, fish and plant species.

Climate change is driving more intense winter storms, like the ones that battered California last winter.

And officials like Pesavento hope this new strategy will help Californians better prepare for floods and unpredictable weather in the future.

SOC