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## Friday Memo for 6/23/2017

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### Nevada County Unemployment Continues to Decrease

A recent report from the California Employment Development Department shows continued improvement in Nevada County's labor market. Preliminary numbers indicate that the unemployment rate in Nevada County ticked down to **3.8%** in May 2017, an unemployment rate that Nevada County hasn't seen since October 2006. That's down in comparison to the previous month and from May of last year, both of which saw a 3.9% and 4.3% unemployment rate, consecutively. Furthermore, the year-to-year improvement comes even as more people have entered the labor force. In Nevada County the increase in employment has outpaced the increase in people entering the labor force, resulting in a decrease in unemployment.

The improvement mirrors State and National trends, but Nevada County continues to perform better than the rest of California and the nation. Our unemployment rate of 3.8% is lower than the 4.3% national rate, and we rank as the fifteenth lowest rate in California, significantly outperforming the 4.2% statewide average. This represents a marked improvement since the historic "Great Recession" where Nevada County's unemployment rate peaked at 12.2% in 2010. At the time our unemployment rate was on par with the Statewide rate, and significantly above the national unemployment rate, which peaked around 10%. The decreased unemployment shows continued slow but steady improvement for the economic picture in Nevada County.

The May report from the California Employment Development Department [can be found here](#).

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### Skip the Dip! Be Safe at the Yuba River

Earlier today, Nevada County Supervisor Heidi Hall and Nevada County Sheriff Search and Rescue Coordinator, Sergeant Michael Sullivan, joined alongside the South Yuba River Citizen's League (SYRCL) Executive Director, Caleb Dardick, and many community agencies and organizations to speak about Yuba River Safety this summer. SYRCL's press conference was called after a series of tragic deaths in the Yuba River and a need for a united message to our community and visitors of Nevada County. This year alone, three people have drowned in the Yuba River, and seventeen have drowned in rivers statewide. Nevada County officials, SYRCL, and all other agencies and organizations at today's event urge everyone to "Skip the Dip" at the Yuba, and spread the message to our visitors and community.



With record high snow levels this winter and recent hot temperatures, snow melt has caused our rivers to run stronger and colder than previous years. After five years of a drought in California, both visitors and residents are not accustomed to the current river conditions. Janet Walther of PG&E described how conditions are different this year, saying that the Yuba is moving at speeds of 800 to 1,400 cubic feet per second (cfs) compared to 12 cfs in previous years. California Parks Ranger Matt Green added that river conditions will most likely remain extremely dangerous until late July

or early August. Current water temperatures also remain hazardous around 50 to 60 degrees; the [National Center for Cold Water Safety](#) states that "you should treat any water temperature below 70 degrees with caution."

Supervisor Hall encouraged everyone to "Skip the Dip," and to enjoy our beautiful lakes, summer street fairs, farmers markets, excellent restaurants, and vibrant entertainment scene instead. Nevada County Sheriff Search and Rescue Coordinator, Sergeant Michael Sullivan, cautioned visitors and community members that, despite best efforts, response times out to remote locations such as the South Yuba River are not as immediate as town centers or other urban cities, while Karen Hayden from the Tahoe National Forest spoke of many roads and areas within the Park that are still closed due to storm damage.

This season's fast-flowing water makes rescue very difficult. Nevada County Search and Rescue's Jerry Weidler pointed out that a fast-flowing water rescue also puts the lives of our local Search and Rescue teams at risk. In effort to encourage river safety, the North San Juan Fire Protection District offers a free life vest program, but cautions that life vests are not a fail-safe preventative to drowning. Stay safe, and Skip the Dip!

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## Cannabis Conversation: June 27th CAG Meeting Agenda



The Cannabis Regulation Community Advisory Group's (CAG) **third meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>**, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Foothill Events Center at 400 Idaho Maryland Road in Grass Valley. The public is welcome to attend and the meeting will be accessible to watch live on [NCTV](#) or archived on the [County website](#).

The meeting objectives for this meeting include: review basic County land use and zoning concepts, review and discuss current land use and zoning parameters that apply to cannabis cultivation in the County, and to identify potential adjustments. Residents will be able to submit a [comment card](#) to the facilitator, MIG, during the meeting or via email at [cagmeetingcomments@migcom.com](mailto:cagmeetingcomments@migcom.com). Access the full [agenda](#) for the upcoming June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting is posted on our [Cannabis Conversation: Scheduled Events](#) site along with previous meeting agendas, meeting summaries, submitted comment cards, and supporting documents from meetings thus far.

The Cannabis Regulation Community Advisory Group (CAG) was formed by the Board of Supervisors to advise the Board on the development of a permanent Cannabis Ordinance for Nevada County. This inclusive process will take into account the input of all community stakeholders. Nevada County has contracted with [MIG](#) as a consultant during this process. MIG is providing facilitation services for the Cannabis Regulation CAG to ensure a fair and equitable process while advising and drafting a new Cannabis Ordinance.

Please visit the [Cannabis Conversation webpage](#) for up-to-date information.

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## "Solarbration" Celebrates our Solar Generation and Energy Efficiency Program



On Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, Nevada County celebrated the solar power generation of two of the five solar sites that are part of the County's Solar Generation and Energy Efficiency Program: the Eric Rood Administrative Center, and Wayne Brown Correctional Facility. The program is projected to save \$7 million in energy costs over the next 20 years, which will increase to \$1.3 million annually in year 21 and beyond. In addition to the program's five solar sites that include over five thousand solar panels, the County also accomplished \$1.7 million in deferred maintenance costs with the replacement of HVAC units, lighting, and energy efficient building controls at seventeen different County sites.

Nevada County received the 2017 Exemplary Renewables Award from their local Climate Change Coalition and Sierra Club organizations for their efforts with the program. Nevada County's new solar panels will be producing 4.4 million kWh per year, meeting around 80% of the County's energy needs. This is the equivalent to removing the greenhouse gas emissions of 653 cars or 981 tons of waste that is recycled instead of landfilled.

"When the Solar Generation and Energy Efficiency Program came to the Board of Supervisors I was ecstatic, because I always believed and wanted solar at Nevada County," said Supervisor Chair Hank Weston. "This is monumental because it follows Nevada County's 2012 Energy Plan and goals to reduce our carbon footprint."

Nevada County would like to thank the County departments that played integral roles in this program, Information & General Services; the Community Development Agency; County Executive Office; County Counsel; and the Auditor-Controller, as well as the contractors Climatec, SunPower, and Teichert Construction.

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## Upcoming Nevada County Mosquito Fish Giveaway Dates



There are two upcoming mosquito fish giveaway dates:  
June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Nevada County Fairgrounds, located at the corner of Brighton and McCourtney.

July 13<sup>th</sup> at the Eric Rood Administrative Center located at 950 Maidu Avenue in Nevada City.

Giveaways will take place from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Containers will be provided and the operation is "Drive-Thru" style, so we ask that you please remain in your vehicle.

For more information about Vector Control please call (530) 265-

1500.

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## Upcoming Events at the Library!



The Nevada County Library's Summer Reading Program is in full swing! Next week's activities include:

*Mermaid Magic:* Join us on Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. in the Madelyn Helling Library Children's Room where families can enjoy a mermaid story, mermaid crafts, and a drawing for free tickets to the Sierra Storytelling Festival!

*Conservation Ambassador's Animal Show:* Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup> has two shows! First in the backyard of the

Grass Valley Library at 11:00 a.m. and again at the Madelyn Helling Library Outdoor Amphitheater at 2:00 p.m.

*Appreciation Party:* For those looking to show someone some love or appreciation join us at the Grass Valley Library Children's Room on Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. to create appreciation cards.

*Number Ninjas:* Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at the Bear River Library Join us for math games and shape collages that will "add" up to a lot of fun. Can't make it on Wednesday? Come on Thursday June 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at the Penn Valley Station for more Number Ninjas!

For more information please call (530) 265-7050.

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