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Friday Memo for 1/27/2017

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Governor Brown Declares State of Emergency in Counties Across California Following Severe Winter Storms

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. today issued two emergency proclamations to secure funding to help communities respond to and recover from severe winter storms that have caused flooding, mudslides, erosion, debris flow and damage to roads and highways.

The emergency proclamations issued due to January and December storms – for the counties of Alameda, Alpine, Butte, Calaveras, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Humboldt, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Lassen, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, Yolo, Yuba and Del Norte – direct Caltrans to formally request immediate assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief Program. The proclamations also direct the Office of Emergency Services to provide assistance to local governments.

The full text of the emergency proclamations is [available here](#).

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Finding a Stable Place to Live and Thrive Can be the Most Challenging for Homeless Families

The California Department of Housing and Community Services recently released a draft report titled "[California's Housing Future: Challenges and Opportunities](#)" which outlines all too familiar housing challenges for Nevada County residents. According to the report, California has built less than 1/2 of the



housing units needed year over year for the last ten years resulting in a housing crisis, felt hardest by low income families.

According to the US Census, housing units increased by less than 2% in Nevada County from 2010-2015 while the rental vacancy rate decreased from 6.9% to 3.7%. Rental costs are on the rise, leaving low income families struggling to find affordable adequate housing. To help address this crisis, the Nevada County Department of Social Services applied for

and received state funding through the CalWORKs Housing Support Program for the last two years. The department partners with the Salvation Army and the Partners Family Resource Centers to provide housing search case management and financial support for homeless CalWORKs families returning to permanent housing. But even with this program's support, many low income families find it nearly impossible to secure a home they can afford. Since July 2015, this program has enrolled over 80 families and has successfully secured permanent housing for 18 of those families. We are on track to exceed our initial estimates of service to this population. Securing housing for families is more challenging than housing individuals. Some families have waited 6-8 months, applying for dozens of rentals, until finally a property manager accepts them out of the stack of rental applications submitted for each unit. Poor credit or a criminal record make it even harder as even the low income apartments have exclusion criteria and private landlords have many less "risky" applicants to choose from.

The Housing Support Program tries to follow HUD's best practice model of "rapid-rehousing" which focuses on permanently re-housing homeless families as soon as possible, without caveats such as employment status, sobriety, credit or completion of any program. Research shows stabilizing a family's housing situation first allows the family to address their other barriers and increases the chances the family will not return to homelessness. However, with the housing shortage in California creating such extreme competition for rental units, finding a place to move into is often a frustrating and long process.

For this reason, the program also provides temporary shelter in some cases until permanent housing is found. This is particularly important for children's consistent school attendance, and for parents to be able to focus on employment and housing searches. Temporary shelter is the most expensive housing model but it is crucial, especially for the safety of families fleeing domestic violence, or for medically fragile family members. Temporary shelter is also difficult to find as our local shelters are overfull. Many of these families end up living in their vehicles or small motel rooms for long stretches of time compounding the stress of poverty and making it more difficult to return to self-sufficiency.

This week, two notable events occurred related to this topic. The Bi-annual Point in Time Homeless Count took place on Tuesday and the Board of Supervisors approved the addition of \$100,000 of CalWORKs Housing Support Program funds to the Department of Social Service's contract with the Partners Family Resource Centers bringing the FY16-17 total budget for this program to \$263,000.

For more information, contact Mali Dyck, CalWORKs Program Manager at (530) 470-2631 or mali.dyck@co.nevada.ca.us.

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Sales Tax Update

The Nevada County Sales Tax Update for Q3 2016 from the HdL Companies [can be found here](#). The information represents Third Quarter Receipts for Third Quarter Sales (July - September 2016).

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Public Input Needed on Library Services

In order to plan for enhanced library services after the passage of Measure A, the Nevada County Community Library needs feedback from the public on a variety of subjects. Next week, the Library will launch the first of a series of mini-surveys, each focused on a different aspect of the library. The first mini-survey will concern library hours and days of service. Links to the surveys will be found on the [Library website](#), the Union website, and Yubanet. Paper copies of the surveys will be available in Library branches.

Survey responses will be incorporated into a five-year strategic plan for the County library system, completion of which is targeted for May 2017.

For more information, please contact Laura Pappani, County Librarian, at (530) 265-7078.

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Best Practices for Snow and Ice on Buildings



The County of Nevada Building Department strongly encourages residents and businesses to have snow and ice cleared from roofs before the next storm cycle. This is particularly important in the Eastern Nevada County areas that are experiencing heavy snow fall.

Homeowners, tenants and businesses should be cognizant of the danger posed by heavy snow loads on roofs, and the importance of recognizing the warning signs of potential structural weaknesses. In many instances, the risks posed by accumulated snow can be mitigated by safely removing snow from roofs. Flat and low-pitched roofs (most often found on industrial buildings, but also used in certain home designs) are at the greatest risk of buckling under heavy snow and ice accumulations.

We are still early in winter and removing snow now could help avoid the need for emergency snow removal down the road, when there may be a lot of others who also need it. We typically has the highest roof snow loads in March, and there is the potential for many more heavy storms this winter.

How to Recognize Problems with Roofs

- Sagging roofs
- Severe roof leaks
- Cracked or split wood members
- Bends or ripples in supports
- Cracks in walls, drywall, and foundations
- Sprinkler heads that have dropped down below ceiling or ceiling tiles
- Doors that pop open
- Doors or windows that are difficult to open
- Creaking or popping sounds

Tips on How to Safely Remove Snow from Roofs

- Use a snow rake for pitched roofs (available at most hardware stores) to remove snow from your roof.
- Start from the edge and work your way into the roof.
- Try to shave the snow down to 2 or 3 inches on the roof instead of scraping the roof clean, which will risk damage to your shingles or other roof covering.
- Keep all ladders, shovels and roof rakes away from utility wires
- Plastic shovels are usually best. Metal tools may cause damage to your roof.
- Shovel snow from flat roofs, throwing the snow over the side, away from the building.
- Remove large icicles carefully if they are hanging over doorways and walkways. Consider knocking down icicles through windows using a broom stick.
- Protect utility meters and piping from falling snow, icicles and melting water.
- Wear protective headgear and goggles when performing any of these tasks.
- Consider hiring professionals to do the job. The combination of heights plus ice makes this one of the more dangerous house chores. If you choose to do the task yourself, have someone outside with you to assist.
- Keep gutters and drains clean, free of ice and snow, and keep downspouts clean at ground level.
- **Do not** use blow torches, open flame, or electric heating devices like hair dryers or heat guns to remove snow and ice.
- **Do not** try to remove ice or icicles from utility wires or meters. Call your utility company for assistance.
- Clear snow away from all exhaust vents to prevent the buildup of carbon monoxide (CO) and the potential for dangerous CO level buildup in your home or business.
- Check that you have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. In general, smoke alarms shall be located in each sleeping area, hallways leading to sleeping areas, and on each level. Carbon monoxide alarms shall be installed on each level and adjacent to hallways leading to sleeping areas.

The County of Nevada Building Department would also like to remind citizens to be cognizant of

the dangers associated with clearing snow from solar panels (photovoltaic systems). Always consider solar panels as being energized and remember to **NEVER** use metal objects or tools on or in the immediate vicinity of them. Most experts strongly recommend leaving a solar panel as is.

If you have any questions and/or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the Nevada County Building Department at (530) 265-1222 or at BuildingDept@co.nevada.ca.us.

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If You Share Walls, You Share Air



The Nevada County Public Health Department is kicking off a "Healthy Housing for Healthy Living 2017" campaign. Our goal is to increase the number of Nevada County multi-unit housing locations that voluntarily adopt 100% smoke-free policies. Nevada County has approximately 5,000 families living in multi-unit housing and drifting secondhand smoke in a home can cause significant illness, including asthma, heart disease, and lung cancer and can impact residents who don't even smoke themselves. For instance, one non-smoker told us that the problem is so bad in her apartment that she tries to hold her breath coming and going from the front door of her home.

Exposure of secondhand smoke, a known carcinogen, can lead to disease and premature death in nonsmoking adults and children. Research has shown that smoke from a single cigarette can drift 25 feet or more in every direction. In the case of multi-unit housing, the smoke not only drifts out of a unit, but also into neighboring units through shared ventilation, under doorways, and electrical outlets.

Public Health works directly with apartment complexes to provide them with technical assistance and the tools they would need to create smoke-free living environments. We can also support tenants if they want to advocate for smoke-free complexes. If you know of anyone that would like to initiate a smoke-free policy, please contact Shannon Glaz, Health Education Coordinator, at (530) 265-1451 or Shannon.glaz@co.nevada.ca.us.

Pictured Above: Nevada County Tobacco Use Prevention Y.O.U.T.H. Advocates, Sierra Dellugge and Astha Adhikari, help Public Health survey tenants at Cedar Park Apartments.

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Fire Safe Council Executive Director Receives National Recognition



The Wildfire Mitigation Awards committee has announced the 2017 Wildfire Mitigation Award winners. Established in 2014, the awards are the highest commendation for innovation and leadership displayed by individuals and organizations committed to wildfire mitigation.

The Wildfire Mitigation Awards are sponsored by the National Association of State Foresters (NASF), the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the USDA Forest Service (USFS).

Recognizing the comprehensive challenges posed by wildfires, these awards applaud the outstanding dedication to wildfire mitigation across a broad spectrum of activities and among a variety of individuals and organizations. By honoring their achievements, the award sponsors seek to increase public recognition and awareness of the value of wildfire mitigation efforts.

Executive Director of the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County, Joanne Drummond, was honored for her efforts to mitigate catastrophic wildfire in the community. She was one of three Californians selected to receive this prestigious recognition. Only 17 awards were presented nationally. California routinely experiences large wildfires due to homes being developed in the Wildland-Urban Interface and the dry Mediterranean climate. Drummond has utilized the National Fire Protection Association's *Firewise*

Communities/USA^(R) program to engaged residents to address the wildfire hazard well beyond the minimum 100 feet of defensible space required by law, with great success. Beginning in 2007, she has assisted 20 neighborhood communities in achieving and retaining the prestigious *Firewise Community* recognition.

"The real credit for the work being done in Nevada County goes to the countless volunteers who make the mitigation on the ground possible and our dedicated partners who help fund the Firewise Communities program. The Nevada County Board of Supervisors, local fire districts and the Allstate Insurance Foundation have generously funded the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County's wildfire mitigation programs," said Drummond. "We rely on these partners to make our mission a reality in our community."

Awards will be presented at the International Association of Fire Chief's [Wildland-Urban Interface Conference \(WUI\)](#) in Reno, Nevada in March 2017.

Pictured Above: Fire Safe Council of Nevada County Executive Director, Joanne Drummond, graduates from the National Fire Academy's Wildland-Urban Interface, Fire Adapted Communities Course.

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Sierra Nevada Conservancy Funding Opportunities



Sierra Nevada Conservancy would like to announce various grant funding opportunities available in February - March 2017.

Upcoming grants that might be of interest:

The [Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Phase II Grants](#) (due February 15) provide up to \$100,000 to address critical water supply needs, water quality, and ecological resilience. The purpose of this program is to support established watershed groups in implementing on-the-ground watershed management projects.

- The [Rose Foundation California Wildlands Grassroots Fund](#) (due February 15) provides funding to grassroots conservation organizations advocating for the permanent protection of intact wildlands to help preserve California's wilderness and native biological diversity. The Fund's program includes support for restoration and stewardship.
- [Strong Foundation](#) grants (due February 15) support efforts that instill an ecological ethic in individuals and communities, and that encourage grassroots environmental action.
- The [California Arts Council Local Impact Grant Program](#) (due February 17) provides project and partnership support for small arts organizations reaching communities that have limited access to the arts, including rural areas.
- The [Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Programs](#) (due March 6) provide funding for planning, development, maintenance, and restoration of motorized recreational trails.
- The [Farmers Market Promotion Program](#) grants (due March 27) support the development, improvement, and expansion of farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, and agritourism activities.
- The [Federal Lands Access Program](#) (due April 7) develops transportation and infrastructure projects (roads, parking, bike trails, etc.) that provide access to federal public lands, particularly those with high recreation use.
- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation [In-Lieu Fee Program](#) helps fund on-the-ground wetland restoration, establishment, and enhancement projects in priority service areas. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Your SNC Area Representative can help you set up an individual consultation with the SNC Funding Team to get advice about specific funding opportunities or general fund development strategies. To take advantage of this resource, [contact your Area Representative](#).

Congratulations to the Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation, which raised funds from Audubon California (Jay J. and Sigrid E. Wimberly Wildlife Fund), the CA Natural Resources Agency, and the community to acquire the 189.26-acre Hot Springs Valley Wetlands Project property near Lake Isabella. The wetland will be a preserve for waterfowl and rare/endangered plants, and will include a visitors center, trails, and interpretive signage. The SNC provided an initial planning grant for this project in 2012.

Grant Writing Workshops are available to help build the capacity of organizations that serve the Sierra Nevada Region. If you are interested in organizing or attending a workshop, [contact your Area Representative](#).

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Madelyn Helling Library Hosts: Rural Gateways-Pushing the Limits Book Discussion Series

The Madelyn Helling Library will host the first of four events in the Rural Gateways-Pushing the Limits Book Discussion series on January 31, 2017. Pushing the Limits is a science café and book club hybrid for adults funded by a National Science Foundation grant from the Califa Group.

The series consists of four one-hour events co-hosted by a science advocate. Each event is organized around a different theme – nature, survival, connection and knowledge. Each theme will provide a context for showing how the story of humankind is a story of people pushing their own limits every day and the ways in which science is part of that effort.

The program kicks off on Tuesday, January 31 at 11:00 a.m. in the Collaborative Technology Center at the Madelyn Helling Library. Participants will enjoy a book discussion of *Thunderstruck* by Eric Larson along with a free light lunch, door prizes, and a talk from guest speaker Shelly Covert, spokesperson for the Nisenan Tribe. Each participant that attends a discussion will be registered for a chance to win a National Park pass at the end of the series.

Space is limited. Sign up online through the events calendar at mynevadacounty.com/nc/library or call (530) 265-7050. Limited copies of all the featured books are available at the Nevada County Community Library or through the Library to Go/Overdrive app on the Library's website.

For more information, contact Yolande Wilburn, branch manager of the Madelyn Helling Library, at (530) 265-1539.

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Nevada County Reads & Writes Announces 2017 Book Selection

The book selection committee for Nevada County Reads & Writes has announced that the community read selection for 2017 will be *The Martian* by Andrew Weir. *The Martian*, made into a popular movie starring Matt Damon, follows an American astronaut as he attempts to survive on Mars with few supplies and the efforts of a team of scientists to rescue him and bring him home.

An exciting and diverse schedule of events related to *The Martian* is being planned by the Committee and will be announced soon. Events will include programs on astro-gardening, survival skills, and astronomy, as well as lively book discussions.

Copies of *The Martian* are available at all Nevada County Community Library branches and through the Library To Go/Overdrive link on the Library's home page.

Nevada County Reads & Writes is a collaboration between the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools and the Nevada County Community Library.

For more information, please contact Crystal Miles, branch manager of the Grass Valley Library - Royce Branch, at (530) 470-2692.

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