



Good Evening!

This 5 AUG 2020 NEWS UPDATE is longer than most and contains information of interest for just about every reader. Please take a few moments to scroll through the entire Update so you don't miss anything that may be of value to you.

All the best, nanette

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## TEMPLETON NEWS

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### **TCSO says “good-bye” to Chief White, tackles large Recreation budget deficit, and hears draft housing plan for Templeton**

The impacts from COVID-19 have left Templeton Community Services District (TCSO) Parks & Recreation Department 2020/21 budget in tatters – to the tune of a quarter of a million dollars plus.

To date, almost all Recreation programs and services have been cancelled, and many in the community have been deeply concerned that Templeton could lose its Recreation Department.

On Tuesday (Aug 4) night, a decision was made.

"Last evening, the Templeton Community Services District Board of Directors unanimously agreed to a variety of budget cuts, transfers, and new revenue generation options to close a \$250,000 budget shortfall to keep our much beloved Templeton Recreation Department operating for the remainder of the 2020/2021 budget year," said Geoff English, TCSO Board President. "TCSO Board members and the many community members who attended the meeting expressed their

hope that Templeton youth will be back on the sports field as soon the State allows, and it is safe to do so."

In the staff report for the meeting, Recreation Supervisor Melissa Johnson, TCSD General Manager Jeff Britz, Finance Analyst Natalie Klock, and staff members dug deep into the Recreation Department and District budgets to find a number of potential cuts and possible revenue sources that might offset the deficit – outlining several different scenarios for the Board's consideration on Tuesday night.

After review of the detailed staff report, a number of comments and letters from the public, and significant discussion by the Board of Directors, a unanimous decision was reached and the budget for Templeton Recreation made whole – at least for now.

"The TCSD Board of Directors showed great support for their Recreation Department in a lengthy meeting last night that was attended by several community members expressing their support as well," said Recreation Supervisor Melissa Johnson. "Their willingness to get creative in finding solutions to solve the budget deficit caused by Covid-19 was greatly appreciated, and Templeton Recreation is excited to remain whole, fully funded, and get to work bringing the community the programs they deserve."

The icing on the cake was word from the State on Monday afternoon that recreation departments could begin offering limited youth recreation services under specific criteria, and Johnson reported that her staff and the Soccer Advisory Committee would begin work immediately to put together some youth recreation programs that met the State's guidelines.

"The State and County guidelines for Youth Sports were released late Monday and while games, competitions, and tournaments are still not allowed, other forms of training, conditioning, and skill-building can happen with certain restrictions," continued Johnson. "Participants must remain 6-ft apart at all times, be separated into stable pods or cohorts (we call them teams) for the duration of a program, and all equipment must be sanitized between uses, along with a few a few other minor modifications."

"So while this is a departure from our usual league offerings, rest assured we are excited to adapt and bring the youth in our community these much-needed programs that were so swiftly taken away from them in March."

"To this end, our Soccer Advisory Committee is planning to meet on Tuesday, August 11 to discuss the specifics, develop a plan of attack for the education of coaches and families participating, and really get to work on bringing Soccer to the fields of Templeton!"

The agenda also included recognition of outgoing Fire Chief Bill White’s contribution to Templeton Fire & Emergency Services and the Templeton community. Among his many accomplishments during his tenure, White was instrumental in both saving Templeton’s Fire Department and developing the current plan of 24/7 service, despite limited resources.

“Chief White’s dedication to Templeton Fire and Emergency Services has been exemplary,” said TCSD General Manager Jeff Britz. “Even though Bill worked a full-time demanding schedule for the City of Atascadero, and the Templeton position was essentially a second job, he always showed true commitment to Templeton, and supported our team with whatever was needed. Bill’s contributions will not be forgotten.”

Newly hired Fire Chief Tom Peterson will take the helm on August 17.

Two other items of note took place at last night’s meeting. Representatives from the County provided a presentation on the DRAFT Housing Element as it pertains to the town of Templeton and potential impacts to water, sewer, and other services provided by TCSD. The Board also approved lighting upgrades to the District’s facilities utilizing PG&E’s financing loan program and working with EcoGreen Solutions to implement the program.

For more information on the above items – particularly the DRAFT County Housing Element as it pertains to the town of Templeton – please [CLICK HERE](#) to download the Board packet for August 4.

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## EDUCATION NEWS

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### **Templeton schools tackle multiple challenges related to COVID-19**

Templeton Unified School District (TUSD) has had to be fast on its feet as continually changing COVID-19 restrictions, changes to restrictions, and significantly reduced funding due to closed businesses and tough economic times is impacting schools all over California and the U.S.

The working budget adopted in June by the Board of Trustees will have to undergo a number of substantial changes in 45 days after its adoption. The State budgetary

deficits – and their impacts on local school district budgets – are expected to become somewhat clearer mid-August. And, as time progresses, it is highly likely that more adjustments will have to be made due to the economic fallout from COVID-19, and what resources will be provided by the Federal government, becomes even clearer.

“Basically, we’re working with a ‘throw-away’ budget,” said TUSD Superintendent Aaron Asplund in a short interview on June 30. “We will have to substantially revise it as it was almost immediately rendered invalid when the State budget was adopted.”

Asplund went on to say, “[The new] California budget was somewhat better for schools [than the Governor’s earlier proposed budget], but not great. We’ll need to readopt a new one for TUSD in 45 days.”

In the meantime, Asplund has been working with school administrators, staff, and community input in a number of ongoing meetings to prepare a multi-tiered Back-to-School plan featuring different scenarios depending on the state of the pandemic in CA and San Luis Obispo County (SLOC).

In July, TUSD’s Board of Trustees reviewed the plans to re-open Templeton schools and chose a ‘middle-of-the-road’ plan in which all students had the opportunity to come to school for in-class teaching every other day, alternating with distance learning.

But the very next day, SLO County was put on the Governor’s Watch List due to rising COVID-19 numbers and the District had to ditch the chosen plan. The State chose for Templeton schools. It ordered the District to provide distance learning only.

After putting distance learning in place the last few months of the 2019/20 school year, and having gleaned a great deal through trial and error, TUSD has developed a plan to provide a top-notch educational experience for students – in spite of having to stay at home to learn.

But parents are looking for what they consider to be better options – options that include everything from participating in Templeton’s home school or Independent High School programs to developing “pandemic learning pods” or in some cases leaving TUSD for charter, private, or faith-based schools.

And that will create even more challenges for the budget – because every student lost negatively impacts the general fund. In the meantime, recent CA legislation has guaranteed that teachers can all keep their paid positions with benefits for the entire 2020/21 school year.

And what of the students? There is great concern from parents, teachers, and the community that too many will drop through the cracks in a number of possible ways – educationally, developmentally, emotionally, sociologically, and physically.

Believing that students at the primary levels are most negatively impacted by distance learning, the State has provided a ‘waiver’ program to allow elementary school students to attend school under specific circumstances. Applying for the ‘waiver’ requires a great deal of paperwork and input from all applicable groups – including but not limited to teachers, parents, and community.

Despite the difficulty and time involved, TUSD is actively pursuing a primary schools waiver. And if SLO County’s COVID-19 numbers drop enough to take the County of the Governor’s ‘watch list’, Templeton has the necessary plans in place to bring students back to school on alternating days.

For much more information, please [CLICK HERE](#) to visit TUSD’s “Reopen Templeton Schools” special website where you can find almost anything that you want to know about the subject.

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## **EDUCATION IN THE NEWS**

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### **“Waivers, lawsuits, pandemic pods and school choice legislation”**

**CA Policy Center – July 28, 2020**

**By Larry Sand**

Last week the school wars intensified on many fronts.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to read the article.

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### **“Should I quit my job? California parents grapple with education in a pandemic”**

**CalMatters – July 27, 2020**

**By Ricardo Cano and Lauren Hepler**

As the majority of schools across the state prepare to start the school year teaching remotely, parents have started investigating their options for how they can maintain

their child's education while still holding down a job.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

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## ROADS AND TRAFFIC

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### **Drivers are speeding and lives are being lost**

#### **Templeton Area CHP to deploy extra patrol officers thru Labor Day**

[Templeton CHP Area] Despite ordinary CHP enforcement efforts, California has seen a significant increase in vehicles traveling at very high rates of speed. The increased prevalence of speeding has been followed by an increase in injury and fatal

accident collisions statewide.

When COVID-19 precautions forced thousands of Californians to stay home from work, the roadways suddenly became less congested and more open for travel. Some drivers took this as an opportunity to drive incredibly fast as they were the only ones using the roadway. Now that many are heading back to work, the roadways are becoming more and more congested, but too many are still driving at excessive speeds.

Unfortunately, speed and other collision causing violations such as distracted driving, unsafe turning movements and driving under the influence continue to increase here along the Central Coast and in Northern San Luis Obispo County.

From March 1, 2020 through July 30, 2020, nine (9) people have died in traffic collisions in Northern SLOC. Speed has been a contributing factor in the majority of these tragic events – and this has to stop.

As a result, the Templeton CHP area will be doing everything possible to slow drivers down and protect motorists from any more tragic losses – and the CHP needs the public's help to accomplish this.

In an effort to encourage motorists to slow down and drive safely, the Templeton CHP division will be utilizing grant funded overtime to deploy additional uniformed officers on patrol from now until after Labor Day.

These officers will be specifically looking for those drivers who are committing traffic violations that are considered Primary Collision Factor (PCF). These are violations that are known to be the primary cause of collisions – speeding, unsafe lane changes, distracted driving, following too close, and DUI. In addition, seat belt violations will continue to be strictly enforced.

How can you help save lives? Please slow down, put away your distractions, wear your seatbelts, and designate a driver if you are drinking. And if you see a vehicle driven in such a manner that you feel is unsafe, please call 911 to report it.

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## WATER

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### Online Community Forum: Adelaida Area Groundwater Study

The San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District is coordinating with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (US-LT RCD) to conduct a groundwater study in the Adelaida area west of the City of Paso Robles.

The goal of this study is to provide a better understanding of the groundwater conditions in the Adelaida area so that informed decisions can be made about managing local water resources.

The US-LT RCD will be hosting an online (ZOOM) community meeting on Thursday, August 6 at 4 pm where the USGS will provide an update on the study and detail how the community can participate in the initial collection process.

Data of interest for the study includes well construction information, groundwater level data, water use information, groundwater chemistry data, and geological data.

All members of the public who can provide information regarding current or historical groundwater conditions in the Adelaida area are encouraged to attend.

For more information on the Adelaida area groundwater study, to view an interactive map of the preliminary study area, and how to join the ZOOM meeting, please visit [www.slocounty.ca.gov/AdelaidaStudy](http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/AdelaidaStudy).

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## **Governor Newsom releases final Water Resilience Portfolio today**

**Maven – July 28, 2020**

This water policy blueprint will guide state actions and support regional efforts while making safe drinking water, groundwater recharge, healthy waterways, and progress on the Salton Sea its major priorities.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and access the report.

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## **“Water rights permitting options for groundwater recharge: Avoiding unintended consequences”**

**Legal Planet – July 27, 2020**

**By Kate Fritz and Nell Green Nylan**

Efforts to boost groundwater recharge are critical to making California’s limited, and increasingly volatile, water resources go further. But there can be challenges.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

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## **COVID-19 NEWS**

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## **“Moderna, Pfizer coronavirus vaccines begin final-stage testing”**

**Wall Street Journal – July 27, 2020**

**By Peter Loftus and Jared S. Hopkins**

Drug makers to enroll 30,000 subjects across the U.S. in separate trials to determine whether their vaccines prevent symptomatic COVID-19.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

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## “Mask Facts”

**From the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons – June 1, 2020**  
**Curated by Marilyn M. Singleton, M.D., J.D.**

The facts, science of, and studies regarding the efficacy of face masks in combating COVID-19.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to review the information.

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