



CapitolAlert[®]

The latest on California politics and government

February 24, 2011

AM Alert: Cuts and corsages

Alert readers might be tempted to christen Sacramento the budget-woe capital of the country. But the city can claim a more historic moniker: **Camellia Capital of the World**.

Volunteers from the **State Capitol Museum** will be handing out corsages cut from Capitol Park's own **Pioneer Camellia Grove** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. -- or until the blossoms are gone.

Camellias, like California's pioneers, weren't native to the state. Find the Asian transplants on the rotunda's first floor.

Odds are a few of those corsages will migrate to the two-house **budget conference committee** meeting, which is set to start at 11 a.m. in the Capitol's Room 4202. **Click here**, then click on "Conference Agenda" in the left-hand rail for more information.

Also migrating to the meeting will be a special guest -- Gov. **Jerry Brown**. The gov's office announced last night that he would take the unusual step of addressing the committee this morning.

Whatever the committee hammers out in the coming weeks, the stance of the new but unofficial **Taxpayers Caucus** essentially means that 30 Republicans will vote no on Brown's budget proposal, as Bee colleague Kevin Yamamura reports in **today's Bee**.

Also under the dome, the **Little Hoover Commission** holds a public hearing on the state's community college system, with Chancellor **Jack Scott** among those expected to appear. That meeting starts at 9 a.m. in the Capitol's Room 437. **Click here** for the agenda and list of witnesses.

The Little Hoover Commission also plans to release its report on **California's public pensions** this afternoon. Colleague Jon Ortiz has details in today's **State Worker column**.

You can try your hand at erasing the \$26.6 budget gap yourself with the 2.0 version of the **Sacramento Bee's online budget balancer**. We've added a few more places to cut and a few more options for dealing with state spending on K-12 schools. **Check out the new version here**.

PROPOSED CUTS: Senior advocates deliver petitions this morning to Gov. **Jerry Brown**, Senate President Pro Tem **Darrell Steinberg** and Assembly Speaker **John A. Pérez** calling on them to spare Medi-Cal's Adult Day Health Care program from the budget ax.

BUDGET FORUMS: Two legislators hold town halls to discuss the state budget: Assemblyman **Richard Pan**, at Folsom Chamber of Commerce, 200 Wool St., starting at 6 p.m.; and Sen. **Mark DeSaulnier**, at Pleasant Hill City Hall, Council Chambers, 100 Gregory Lane, starting at 7 p.m.

ENDORSEMENT: Republican **Mike Webb**, the Redondo Beach city attorney who has thrown his hat in the ring for Rep. **Jane Harman's** seat in the 36th Congressional District, has announced the backing of Los Angeles County District Attorney **Steve Cooley**, who ran for California attorney general last year.