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Carmichael Times

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APRIL 14, 2023

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Bunny Hops in for Park Brunch



Easter Bunny enjoys edible gifts during a pancake breakfast in Carmichael Park. Among 350 customers were Cooper Harrison (standing back, left) Brooks Raulinaitis (lower left) Axel Walker, Tinsley Winter, Charlie Walker and Paige Harrison.

Story and photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Many years and thousands of pancakes after Carmichael Kiwanis Club hosted its first Easter breakfast, veteran club member Hal Snow joined griddle volunteers last Saturday.

Carmichael Recreation and Park District last year replaced its rough-and-tumble egg hunt with family-friendly breakfasts in the community club house. In three seatings almost 350 children and adults were served this year.

"It warms my heart to work this

event," said Snow. "The kids are happy; parents and grandparents are happy, and the Easter Bunny always has a smile on his face." A 45-year Kiwanis member, retired State worker Snow has been flipping pancakes for his club since the 1980s. "In the early days of the club, the Easter breakfast was our only fundraiser," he says.

These days, the industrious club has many bigger and better events, like January crab-feeds and the Taste of Carmichael festival (coming up on May 12) to fund widespread community giving. A calorific feast of pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee and orange juice, says Snow, makes little

profit at \$5 a head.

"We don't mind that," he says. "We regard our pancake events as a community service. And that's what we're all about."

Last Sunday's Breakfast with the Bunny event assembled a volunteer army of CRPD staffers, Kiwanians, Girl and Boy Scouts - to keep up with cooking, serving, craft activities and inevitable cleanup chores.

"It was a stunning success," says Snow. "The weather was good and people were in a joyful mood. The food was excellent. We're looking forward to heating up the griddles and doing it all again on July 4th." ★

Improvement District Announces State of the PBID 2023

CID Special Release

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Showcasing the ongoing revitalization and its effect on local businesses within the area, the Carmichael Improvement District (CID) board of directors invites you to our 'State of the PBID-2023,' dinner & special presentations on April 27, 2023, at the Carmichael Elks Lodge, 5631 Cypress, in Carmichael.

"How does our PBID increase property values? Fundamentally, the answer lies in our success in maintenance and security, economic development and special events," says Executive Director, of the CID, Rebekah Evans, "The CID uses multiple tools, and we are excited to share this information with our Carmichael business community, at the State of the PBID dinner with special guest speakers."

Networking 'cocktail hour,' is set for 5:30 pm, with the event starting at 6:15 pm. Presentations from speakers, such as 'Tracey Flaningam, with Community Strong Strategies,' a Sacramento County leading expert in economic development, for business attraction and retention efforts. Speakers include Senator Roger Niello, representing District 6, Sacramento County Sheriff UnderSheriff Mike Ziegler, and Tracey Flaningam, Partner with Community Strong Strategies.

"This beautiful sit-down dinner has 'Table Sponsorships' available for your company, with individual reservations at a discounted investment of only \$45 through March 31," Chair of the event, Rosie Buck explains, "we encourage your reservation soon, as it's a limited selection!" Reservations are available on Eventbrite. We will also be celebrating our 'BRIGHT STAR AWARD WINNER' for 2023!"

The Carmichael Improvement District is a Property Business Improvement District (PBID) formed in 2016 through a collective effort among property owners in the area, consisting of commercial properties along the greater Fair Oaks Boulevard corridor and more. The organization seeks to lead the transformation of Carmichael to a prosperous, engaged, and desirable community. They work every day to keep the community safe and clean in order to attract businesses and customers to the area.

Continued on page 11

Board Approves \$1.7 Million to Keep Homeless Housing

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors approved at its March 28, 2023 meeting \$1,000,000 in General Fund dollars to preserve housing supports for individuals currently sheltered in the County's Scattered-Site Shelter Program. The Board also approved a redirect up to an additional \$700,000 to preserve housing for households currently housed in the County's Flexible Housing Pool (FHP) program, for a total of \$1,700,000.

These two programs have been funded by the County, but operated by Sacramento Self-Help Housing (SSHH). SSHH is a local, community-based nonprofit that serves people experiencing homelessness through outreach services, shelter, supportive services, and permanent housing. As one of their main services, SSHH leases or facilitates direct leases with landlords of properties on

the open market to provide 'scattered site' housing and sheltering for people experiencing homelessness.

The Problem

County staff were made aware of significant financial issues at SSHH that led to landlords not being paid in full for rent, in both the housing and sheltering programs, which puts program participants at risk of losing their housing or shelter. County staff have been working in coordination with SSHH staff to improve their processes, invoicing, landlord relations and audited their financial practices. In spite of this work, rents went unpaid and SSHH invoiced the County for funds they have not paid landlords and for costs they have yet to incur.

The County's number one priority is keeping folks housed or sheltered, despite the significant issues the unpaid rents caused with the landlords.

Flexible Housing Pool Program

SSHH was a provider of Property Related Tenant

Services (PRTS) as part of the Flexible Housing Pool (FHP) program.

In the spring of 2022, SSHH reported funding shortfalls in their PRTS contracts under the FHP program to County staff, which was scheduled to end June 30, 2022. County staff worked with SSHH to improve their invoicing processes such that rental payments to landlords would not be delayed. However, SSHH continued to fall behind in payments to landlords, and in August of 2022, the Department of Human Assistance (DHA) augmented SSHH's budget by \$370,000 and extended their contract through the end of 2022 to stabilize the clients in rental units.

However, the back rent owed and damage assessments required up to an additional \$700,000 to cover, which was approved by the Board on Tuesday, March 28.

The extended contract for PRTS with SSHH expired on December 31, 2022 and the County hired a new provider, through the

competitive bid process, for both PRTS and the Intensive Case Management Services. Consumer Self-Help Center (CSHC) took over the 38 clients and units in the PRTS program and has been working with both tenants and landlords for nearly three months.

Scattered Site Shelter Program

Sacramento Self-Help Housing has also been experiencing financial issues with its County-funded scattered-site shelter program. This shelter model, which master-leases single-family homes, provides a 24/7 on-site house monitor and can shelter up to five unhoused individuals at one time, has historically been successful in transitioning people off the streets and into more stable housing situations. The intent of this model is a short stay in the shelter home and a more seamless move into traditional or supportive housing.

This program has been funded for a capacity up to 160 beds at any given time,

Continued on page 3

Scouts Collect 55,000 lbs of Food for Foodbanks



The Golden Empire Council of the Scouts of America collected food for local foodbanks during their "Scouting for Food" drive on March 11, 2023. Photo courtesy of Boys Scouts of America

Boys Scouts of America News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Golden Empire Council of Scouting BSA, hosted the annual "Scouting for Food" drive on March 11, 2023, with more than 3,000 scouts and family members participating. The food collected was distributed amongst 16 counties in Northern California.

The program "Scouting for Food" has been operated by the local council for at least 20 years. Every year, scouts and their families coordinate to pick-up food in their neighborhoods and drop-off at local foodbanks. These efforts provide seniors, children, and low-income families with nutritious food in their time of need.

"The annual Scouting for Food is a fantastic event which our scouts can help many families across Northern California. Once again, I am proud to be part of this organization and see the amazing work our scouts and their families are doing to make an impact in their communities," said Scouting for Food Director



Food collected by the Scouts was distributed amongst 16 counties in Northern California. Photo courtesy of Boys Scouts of America

and District Executive, Jose Zavala.

Golden Empire Council's 2023 Scouting for Food drive collected more than 55 thousand pounds of food as well as \$3,162 in monetary donations.

"Scouting for Food is such a wonderful opportunity for scouts in our area to come together and make a direct positive impact on the community. While partnering with food banks across the state, thousands of youths and adult volunteers work cheerfully to help those in need, even in the rain!" said James Rhodes-Dreyer, Scout Executive, "It is the

commitment to the 'Scout Law' which includes being helpful, friendly, kind, and cheerful that enables the Scouts to be successful."

GEC has been providing leadership development for youth and their families since 1920 while serving over 7,000 youth in 16 counties. Their mission is to prepare young people to make moral and ethical choices over their lifetimes, by instilling them with the values of the Scout Oath and Law. Their program hosts camps, events, and many exciting activities for boys and girls. For more information, visit www.gec-bsa.org and join Scouting today. ★

Kitten Season Begins, Fosters and Donations Needed

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Animal shelters around the country are gearing up for what is known as "kitten season," when cats begin to give birth to countless kitten litters. Typically beginning in late spring and continuing throughout summer, kitten season stretches the already-thin resources animal shelters and rescues have when the influx of unwanted cats and kittens crowd shelter and kennel space.

The Bradshaw Shelter's Foster Care Program helps save lives and space during this hectic season.

"We call our foster care providers 'life-saving heroes' because they give animals who are too young, sick, or injured to be available for adoption a second chance," said Annette Bedsworth, Director of Sacramento County Bradshaw Animal Shelter. "Fosters provide safe and loving temporary homes where animals can thrive until they are ready for adoption."

Residents interested in becoming fosters should submit a foster application to foster@sacounty.gov. The shelter provides all



The Bradshaw Shelter's Foster Care Program helps save lives and space during this hectic season. Photo by Jan Mallander from Pixabay

food, bedding, supplies, toys and more at no cost to the foster. Fostering is a great way to help alleviate the impact of kitten season at your local shelter and can provide temporary companionship for those still working from home.

The shelter is most in need of fosters for bottle babies: kittens who have been orphaned or abandoned and are too young to eat on their own. If you've never fostered a bottle-fed kitten before, the foster team will teach you everything you need to know. Fosters are also needed for kittens that just have a little bit of growing left to do, as well as for sick or injured kittens and cats. The time commitment for fostering can be anywhere from one to eight weeks, depending on the kitten's size at the time of fostering.

For more information about fostering, including fostering FAQs, visit the Sacramento County Bradshaw Animal Shelter website. To learn more about what to do if you find a kitten or litter of kittens, visit the feral cat information webpage.

Donations of essential kitten season supplies are also needed, including: Small litter pans, Heating pads, Small nursing bottles, Miracle nipples, Kitten dry food and wet food.

Donations are accepted at the Sacramento County Bradshaw Animal Shelter's Animal Admissions Door at 3839 Bradshaw Road, Tuesday through Sunday, between 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. For a complete list of supply needs, visit the shelter's Amazon Wishlist or the donation website. ★

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Fantastic Opportunity for multi-generational housing or an investment property that will cash flow! This spacious 2,500 square foot house has 4 bedrooms and 3 full baths. This home has a separate living room, family room and huge sunroom. The kitchen/dining combo offers plenty of storage space. Attached with a separate entrance is a 2 bedroom and one bath home. Each home has its own 2-car garage and backyard. Zoned Rd-10, it is possible to convert this home into a triplex. Great location just minutes away from excellent shops, restaurants and schools. Convenient access to freeways.

4922 Thor Way, Carmichael | \$689,000

Tucked away in a tree-lined neighborhood in Maddox Ranch, this Carmichael home has it all! Meticulously cared for by its longtime owners, this home shows pride of ownership at every turn. Enjoy great curb appeal with a beautifully landscaped front yard, complete with a mature oak tree that provides natural shade for those warm summer days. Step inside to a spacious floor plan with five bedrooms and three full baths. Relax and unwind in the bright and airy living room with a cozy fireplace and large bay windows. The roomy kitchen is appointed with double ovens, a brand new dishwasher, and plenty of storage space! There is room for everyone with a separate family room and dining room. The large master has its own sitting area that looks out to the private backyard. Additional highlights include two fire places, brand new heat and air units, Eagle Shield attic insulation, a 2-car garage, and RV access. The backyard features low maintenance landscaping, a patio area, and a tool shed for your hobbies. Just steps away from Maddox Park, Raley's and fabulous shopping and restaurants. Centrally located to Highways 50/80, The American River, parks, cycling/running trails, and excellent schools. Must see!!

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Artists Debut Health Center Gallery Board Approves \$1.7 Million to Keep Homeless Housing



Map creator Tricia Ramon and Paul Ng (center) are among artists showing work at the Baratta Holistic Center in Carmichael. Chiropractor Tony Baratta (right) and office manager Monica Bellamine host an open house to spotlight the show.

Story and photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Carmichael artist Trisha Ramon has come up with a way to put California on the map – literally. Her wood and resin maps of California are selling like hot states through a gallery recently opened in a wellness center.

Established in 1999 in Carmichael, the Baratta Holistic Center recently revamped interior design. “We decided our walls needed something, too,” says chiropractor Dr Tony Baratta. “So we reached out to local artists.”

Trisha Ramon was among the first to respond.

“My husband and I visited my mom in Oregon for years,” says the artist. “We noticed how popular ocean art was there. When we came back to Carmichael, I started making items to sell at Carmichael Farmers Market.”

Using resins, inks, shells and recycled wood, Ramon experimented with turtles, whales and dolphins. “Mermaids were an instant hit,” she notes. “Moms wanted them for bathrooms and bedrooms. Disney’s ‘Little Mermaid’ inspired a love for these creatures, and I guess moms wanted the same sense of magic for their daughters. I’ve been asked to create mermaids using little girls’ favorite colors.”

Magic aside, plain geography inspired her most popular item. “I also work for

State for California,” she explains. “I was born in Germany and my grandfather told me stories about America’s Great West. For many immigrants, there’s something inspirational about the shape of their state.

“My husband (music teacher Paul Ng) cuts our ‘Great State’ outline from wood. Then I take over. I paint and color resin to capture the Pacific’s fluidity. No two pieces are the same. I love aquas, blues and greens to convey that wonderful live-ocean feel.

“Lawyers and legislative workers have bought the piece for their offices,” she says. “People who work for our Government take great pride in that iconic shape. Their visitors admire the pieces, so we get lots of referrals. Realtors like them as client gifts. I’ve also had people commission other states – usually coastal states – for their walls. California’s my biggest seller.”

The 3.5-foot-tall ‘Great State’ sculpture carries a price tag of \$250. Ramon is also experimenting with coastal-themed tempered glass mosaics. “It’s a vibe I like in my home,” she says. “My mom and I emigrated to America in a boat. I get a big sense of renewal being near the ocean.”

Baratta Holistic Center is currently showing original pieces – from aerospace photos to mixed-media creations on six-month terms – throughout its clinic. Artists pay no commission for sales. Anyone may visit the center at 6728 Fair Oaks Boulevard, suite 300. Contact the office at (916) 979-0716 ★

Continued from page 1
but County staff learned that there were unpaid rental balances to landlords and that the program had not been working at capacity for some time. There are currently 80-90 clients in this shelter program.

The Solution/Next Steps

In addition to the Board’s action to preserve housing, the County has conducted a thorough audit of SSHH’s financial management and cash flow issues and the results of that audit will be made public in the coming weeks. The County is also aware that SSHH holds contracts for similar services with other jurisdictions and organizations that are experiencing similar issues with SSHH and are also dealing with funding shortfalls. The County is working in partnership with those

jurisdictions and organizations to help find a resolution that will protect their clients and units.

Due to the overwhelming and ongoing issues with SSHH’s management of both these programs, the County has opted to let their contracts expire and move forward with alternative providers. CSHC has already begun its work and the County is in final talks with another provider that will take over the scattered-site sheltering program. Once that provider is under contract, the County will release more information and work directly with both the new provider and SSHH to transition all units and clients over.

For more information about what the County is doing to address homelessness, visit our website. ★

Shredding for a Great Cause



Many happy and eager volunteers, will be on hand to help you unload your vehicle if you need help. MPG file photo.

MPG Staff

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - The Society of St. Vincent DePaul is holding another shred event on April 22nd at their parking lot in Carmichael. The proceeds of the fundraiser are dedicated to “Help Us Help the Poor” and is a continuing effort within our community.

Many happy and eager volunteers, as you can see in the above photo from their last event, will be on hand to help you unload your vehicle if you need help.

Bring all your old records you would much rather have shredded than around your home or in storage. You can even stay to watch the records being shredded if you wish.

The suggested donation is \$5 for each paper grocery shopping bag or \$10 for each standard file box.

The event is Saturday, April 22nd from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The location is 5057 Cottage Way (parking lot) off Walnut Avenue. See their ad inside this issue. ★

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Stars & Stripes Dog Rescue is an Inspiration



Susan Aimes of Stars & Stripes Dog Rescue trains dogs that would be otherwise euthanized in shelters. After training the dogs are certified for various service tasks supporting veterans. Photo courtesy of Ken Friedman

By Ken Friedman, OV/FO Community Foundation

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Susan Aimes and I first met at a Chamber of Commerce event, and I was extremely impressed by what she was doing. The following is an interview that I did with her and one of her dogs that she is training.

Susan and her son Dustin had for years been interested in rescuing dogs that were going to be euthanized. Her son also wanted to be in the service and be there for his country. In 2021 her son, while in the service, passed away unexpectedly and after the initial grief, Susan decided to fulfill the dream that they both had.

Susan and her daughter started Stars & Stripes Dog Rescue, a non-profit. They wanted to do this for Dustin and for the veterans that are many times overlooked. Susan acquires medium and large dogs from both Stockton and Modesto pounds as they have an abundance of dogs that are going to be put down. Most people prefer the smaller canines.

They then train these dogs to be companion dogs and after they are trained and

certified, they are donated to veterans that need these animals for comfort and companionship. If the dogs have the right temperament, they are then trained to be service dogs and donated to veterans who need this level of help.

Susan and her daughter have now started a foster program, where veterans can obtain a dog and learn to train it by themselves, using online guidance. This is done in such a way that there is little or no stress on either the veteran or the dog. Susan and her daughter have been working with the Veterans Administration on this project.

For the Stars & Stripes Dog Rescue to have a larger impact, they need more volunteers to assist in the training and more donations to provide the medical care and other provisions for both the dog and the veterans. Every cent of the donations goes to the dogs and veterans.

You can make your donations or for more information to the website: <https://starsandstripesdogrescue.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/starsandstripesrescue>
Email address: starsandstripesrescue@gmail.com ★

Important, Costly Lessons for California Taxpayers from the COVID Pandemic



Commentary by Jon Coupal

As it did with citizens throughout America, the pandemic caused massive disruption to the lives of virtually every Californian.

Tens of thousands lost their lives, many now have long-term health problems, and countless others lost their jobs or businesses. Moreover, the disastrous handling of the pandemic for school-aged children will likely leave a scar on an entire generation that may never heal.

More unique to California, however, is the extent of government waste associated with the pandemic. Outright fraud, mismanagement, opportunistic consultants, ineffective media campaigns, and simple incompetence put California way ahead of all other states in felony-level stupidity with the spending of taxpayer dollars.

Because this is a column, not a book, we can only review a few of the most egregious examples.

Of course, the big Kahuna is the jaw-dropping amount of fraud in the Employment Development Department

(EDD). Originally thought to be “only” \$11 billion in “improper” payments, we now know that the fraud exceeded \$31 billion. To put that in perspective, that is 10% of the entire budget for the state of California. More insulting is where the money went. Transnational organized criminal groups from China and Africa have made off with billions of dollars, with who knows how much of it used for child trafficking, drugs, and terrorism.

A close second, the waste and incompetence of California’s public education establishment probably engendered more anger, especially among parents, than even the EDD debacle. Taxpayers were obligated to continue paying their full taxes as though our public schools were fully open with students attending in person. The public employee unions were running the show during the pandemic, and that was bad news for both taxpayers and students.

According to a report last July, California school districts had spent \$40 billion in COVID-related funds, but very little went to addressing learning loss. That may be due in part to the failure of the federal government to specify with more particularity how the money should be spent.

According to EdSource, “Most districts appear to have listed most of the money they spent in [an] all-but-the-kitchen-sink category, which could include raises and bonuses to retain staff.” Finally,

there remain billions more in unspent funds at the same time public school enrollment has plummeted in the state.

Not all of the waste was the result of fraud or negligence but rather a simple miscalculation of the severity of the pandemic.

One example of COVID spending “overkill,” was the conversion of Sacramento’s professional basketball facility, then called Sleep Train Arena, into a COVID hospital in April 2020. According to the L.A. Times, the conversion cost millions of dollars and yet only nine patients were treated there.

Far less justifiable than an arguably good-faith response by sending a massive hospital ship to L.A. “just in case,” was Gov. Gavin Newsom’s decision to spend almost \$1 billion in taxpayer funds to purchase masks from a sketchy Chinese company known for building electric cars. Two years after the fact, there remain many unanswered questions.

Finally, California had a golden opportunity to use some of the billions in federal COVID relief to pay down its debt to the federal Unemployment Insurance Fund. That is precisely what virtually all other states did. But California’s failure means much higher costs to the state’s business community.

Taxpayers would like to hope that government agencies learned much from the pandemic. So far, there’s no indication of it.

Jon Coupal is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. ★

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4RobertsJustice@gmail.com

MARQUEE

On June 20, 2022, my son, Robert Jenson, was left for dead at the corner of Fair Oaks Blvd. & El Camino Ave. after being struck by a hit-and-run driver around 9:10 p.m.

Numerous fliers were placed around the area, as well as monuments on poles and on a fence where he was killed, but someone kept taking them down. So, I decided to put a billboard up for all to see, hoping to find my only child's killer.

If anyone remembers seeing anything that evening, or has any information about the incident, please contact Lisa Wiley, below:
5150 Fair Oaks Blvd., Ste. 100, Box #243, Carmichael, CA 95608
Phone 916-223-1421, Email 4robertsjustice@gmail.com

Trailer Bills: A Sneaky Way to Make a Big Change in California Law



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

California's governors and legislators have, as often noted in this space, developed a bad habit of using the state budget to make sweeping changes in state law while minimizing or ignoring traditional legislative procedures.

They do it with so-called "budget trailer bills" that are often passed in batches coincident with the budget each June after minimal hearings and debate. Like the budget, they take effect immediately and are shielded from being challenged via referendum.

It can take weeks or even months for those outside the Capitol to figure out the real-life impacts and decipher the dense legalese of trailer bills, which often run hundreds of pages.

The Legislature is once again plowing through the latest budget, this one proposed by Gov. Gavin Newsom for the 2023-24 fiscal year, prior to the last frantic – and largely secret – negotiations on a final version.

Dozens of would-be trailer bills are kicking around, some of them legitimately attached to the budget, and some just using the process to minimize scrutiny.

One of the most complex, potentially important trailer bills, not yet formally

introduced, would overhaul how electrical energy is procured. It would make the state Department of Water Resources the state's central purchaser of power, citing the need to construct or acquire enough non-polluting generation to meet the state's self-proclaimed goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2045.

What could possibly go wrong? California's track record on managing the state power supply is, to say the least, spotty.

A quarter-century ago, California experimented with what was termed "deregulation," but really wasn't, of electricity, and it quickly became one of the worst human-caused disasters in state history. It allowed power suppliers to game the system, pushed costs through the ceiling, drove one utility, Pacific Gas & Electric, into bankruptcy, almost did the same to another, Southern California Edison, and was a major reason voters recalled a governor, Gray Davis.

The Department of Water Resources became, for a time, the state's central power buyer because its water supply system was, and is, a major generator of electricity and a major purchaser.

After the experiment was repealed, California returned to its previous system, based on purchases by utilities such as PG&E and SCE and regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission. But a few years later, the state embarked on its quest for carbon neutrality, greatly complicating the situation.

Simultaneously, the state is trying to phase out power from generation by

hydrocarbons, such as natural gas, while increasing the overall supply in expectation that demand will grow as other activities, such as transportation, make the same transition to electricity.

It hasn't gone smoothly. The state has flirted with blackouts on hot days when air conditioning imposes huge demands and has been forced to keep the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant and several gas-fired generators, which had been scheduled for closure, online to avoid shortages.

So would making the state water agency the electric power czar again be the solution to meeting deadlines for decarbonization?

The Legislature's independent budget analyst, Gabe Patek, is one skeptic. His office issued a report urging lawmakers to take enough time to analyze such a major change and questioning its necessity and its potential effect on California consumers, who are already paying some of the nation's highest power rates.

Patek's report also questions the need to use a fast-track budget trailer bill for such a momentous change, saying "Ultimately, ensuring it (the Legislature) has the time and opportunities for developing a greater understanding, sufficient input from stakeholders, and thoughtful deliberation will be vital to ensuring it can make an informed decision on these important proposals."

Amen. Dan Walters has been a journalist for nearly 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers. ★

Social Security Matters

Retired Public Servant Feels Government Pension Offset is "Unjust"



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I'm a retired firefighter and live in Ohio. I earned Social Security from my side employment, but the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) hit my Social Security very hard. My wife worked in the school system and earned a state "SERS" pension. I understand the WEP offset and that doesn't bother me as much as the fact that my wife doesn't get my Social Security benefits when I die - her state pension is above the monthly limit for her to receive my Social Security. I earned that benefit by working extra jobs and being away from my family, and it seems unjust that my benefits expire with me. Thanks for letting me vent. **Signed: Retired Public Servant**

Dear Retired Public Servant: The provision you deem as "unjust" isn't the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) which affects SS retirement benefits for those who also have a "non-covered" pension (a pension earned without contributing to Social Security); rather it is the Government Pension Offset (GPO) which also affects those who have a pension earned

without contributing to Social Security. Though I know it is no consolation, your frustration about the Government Pension Offset (GPO) is shared by nearly a million other Americans in a similar situation. The GPO has been law since 1983 and is intended to "equalize" how spousal and survivor benefits are paid to all beneficiaries. I'm certainly not defending it, but I've researched why the GPO was enacted decades ago.

Historically, ever since spousal and survivor benefits became part of Social Security's benefit structure in the late 1930s, if a spouse also has their own personally earned SS benefit, any spousal/survivor benefit they also became entitled to was offset by their personally earned SS retirement amount. The prevailing opinion in the 1983 Congress was that because regular spousal and survivor benefits are normally offset by the spouse's own earned SS benefit, it was unfair that a spouse who had a "non-covered pension" didn't incur the same offset as those who had no such non-covered pension. Thus, GPO was enacted in 1983 to "equalize" how spousal and survivor benefits were paid. It is the GPO which will affect your wife's benefit as your surviving spouse because she earned her state pension while not contributing to Social Security.

To give you a more personal perspective, if your wife had, instead, worked outside of the OH school system and was entitled to a full Social Security benefit based on her own earnings

from which she contributed to SS, any survivor benefit she might become entitled to from you would still be offset by her personally earned SS retirement benefit. If her own SS retirement benefit was more than her entitlement as your widow, she would get no additional amount as your surviving spouse. Or if her own SS retirement benefit was smaller than yours, her survivor benefit would still be offset by her own benefit (her benefit would be paid first and only a supplement added to bring her payment to the higher amount she was entitled to as your widow). The purpose of the Government Pension Offset is to equalize how spousal, or survivor benefits are paid to those with, and to those without, a non-covered pension. Indeed, because the GPO only offsets the potential spousal/survivor benefit by 2/3rds of a spouse's non-covered pension, the GPO is actually a bit more forgiving.

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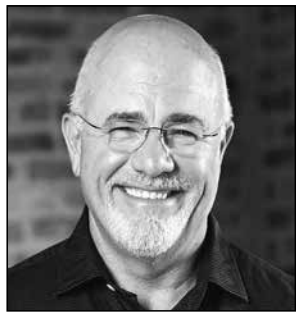
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Don't Buy A Home When You're Broke And In Debt

Dear Dave,

I'm thinking more seriously about buying a home in the next year or so. It seems like the housing market has cooled off a bit, so I am also planning to get a secured credit card to help me rebuild my credit score in the meantime. I make \$60,000 a year, and I have about \$15,000 in debt and \$3,100 in savings. Is this a good idea and a good start toward getting my credit back on track and taking control of my finances?

– Martin

Dear Martin,

In a word, no. I want you to become debt-free before you buy a home. I also want

Dave Ramsey Says “Reckoning Day – Part II”

you to have an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses set aside, and have a down payment – preferably of at least 20%, so you can avoid having to pay private mortgage insurance – before buying a home.

Let me tell you a couple of things. Number one, your income is your most powerful wealth building tool. If you don't have any payments, you have the ability to build wealth and be generous. When you have debt, all you do is send money out the door to make payments. So, being in debt is a guaranteed way to stay broke. That means getting a secured credit card is not a good idea, either.

Also, did you know you can get a home mortgage with no credit score through a process called manual underwriting? All you have to do is make sure you have a good, long history of paying other things, like your utilities and rent, on time. Most mortgage lenders who

do manual underwriting would also require that you have all your debts paid off completely and the accounts closed for at least six months.

Buying a house when you're in debt and broke is a really bad idea, Martin. It's the fastest way I know to turn something that should be a blessing into a financial and emotional curse. Just be patient, get out of debt and save up. Getting control of your finances is the smartest thing you can do before buying a home!

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of “The Ramsey Show,” heard by more than 18 million listeners. He has appeared on “Good Morning America,” “CBS This Morning,” “Today,” Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, He also serves as CEO of Ramsey Solutions. ★



Commentary by Bruce Lee

After reviewing my previous column, hopefully the reader has a better understanding of our national debt and that you now personally owe at least \$90,853 (and growing) for our government's spending habits. Today, let's look at the history of our debt.

During our Revolutionary War of Independence the states spent \$75 million and the US government assumed this debt in 1790, which began our National Debt. That was paid down, then came the war of 1812 and by 1866 the US Civil War brought US Debt to about \$3 billion – which was still not fully paid by World War I. However, throughout this period the ratio of Debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was reasonable.

GDP is the total of goods and services created by the US economy annually; and the Debt to GDP ratio should normally be 30-40%. Everyone may have to borrow at times, such as when purchasing a home. However, debt should be taken on carefully and credit worthiness (debt) scores exist to guide us.

Just prior to World War I, the debt ratio was about 5%; and during World War I, it grew to about 28%, then back to 17% by 1930. The highest it reached was

114% during World War II when the USA was saving the free world; but then back to about 32% by 1980. Then in the last thirty years the debt has grown steadily with Congress exercising little spending control. Lots of lip-service, but little control. Since 1960 Congress has raised, extended, or revised the definition of the debt ceiling at least 78 times with our debt ratio now being 129% and rising rapidly. The World Bank found that when the debt-to-GDP ratio exceeds 77% for an extended period of time that it hinders economic growth. This is what you would expect in a third world country.

So our debt is currently \$30.2 trillion, plus another \$100 trillion of unfunded liabilities. In the opinion of retired Admiral Bill Owens (former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff), our debt “is our greatest threat to national security.”

There are short-term consequences of our decades of extravagance as mentioned in the last column, including slower growth and increased taxes, etcetera. But there are long-term consequences as well.

Famed 1970's Secretary of State Henry Kissinger once commented to me and others that there are three types of national global power – moral, economic, and military. As our economic power is at risk, so is our military influence. And, our moral influence also wanes as we become a second-ranked “has been” – much as what happened to the British Empire.

Diligence is required today to maintain a positive global influence for tomorrow! As Paul Volcker, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve (1979-1987) said,

“We'll see if a democracy can deal with an obvious problem.”

But, rather dwelling on how bad the picture is for ourselves and future generations, let's explore WHY we got ourselves into this situation and HOW we might resolve it – because there are proven solutions.

Lack of maintaining accountability over the federal government and the government's inability to set priorities, along with the lure of shiny new programs certainly are part of the WHY we got ourselves into this mess.

Furthermore, everybody wanting a free lunch and not taking personal responsibility for our own lives can lead to a lazy, undisciplined culture – perhaps much like lazy, undisciplined children. You know the ones who whine and pout when they don't get their way and complain when asked to take out the trash.

We'll explore more of the WHY and the solutions of HOW next.

W. Bruce Lee is an educator and speaker (WBruceLee.com) with a career in government as an elected official and fiscal advisor, who has worked at the local, state, and federal levels. He authors the “We the Government” column as a community service. He is president of the Sacramento Taxpayers Association (SacTax) - promoting efficient, economical government; fair and equitable taxation which permits a strong, healthy economy; as well as sensible balance and rational control of government expenditures. His private message telephone is 916-624-6476. Copyright W. Bruce Lee, 2023 ★

Suspect Arrested for Homicide on Garfield Avenue

Sacramento County Sheriff's Dept. News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Just before 1 A.M. on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, Sacramento County Sheriff's deputies responded to a residence on Garfield Avenue to assist the fire department with a call of a male not breathing. An update in the call indicated that the injury resulted from an assault, and the suspect was still on scene. When deputies arrived, they discovered a 65-year-old unconscious male who was not breathing. They began life-saving measures as the fire department arrived, but the victim

was ultimately pronounced deceased at the scene.

Simultaneously, responding deputies detained 33-year-old Trenton Snider, who was also at the residence. Sheriff's Homicide Detectives and Crime Scene Investigators responded to the scene a short time later, interviewed witnesses, and gathered evidence. Based on their investigation, Sheriff's Homicide detectives arrested Snider.

Snider was transported to the Sacramento County Main Jail, where he was booked for several charges, including PC 192(a) – Voluntary Manslaughter. Snider is being held on \$125,000 bail. ★

Suspect Apprehended by Sheriff's K9 after Shooting at Deputies

Sacramento County Sheriff's Dept. News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - At approximately 10:00 P.M. on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, Sacramento County Sheriff's deputies responded to an apartment on 34th Street in North Highlands regarding a welfare check.

The caller stated they heard a big blast and found a bullet in their closet. As deputies arrived on scene, they located another shell casing and then began to hear gunshots.

Deputies quickly determined the shots were coming from a male in apartment #511, later identified as 45-year-old Daniel Murphy.

Deputies requested the Special Enforcement Detail (SED) respond to assist as they attempted to call Murphy out of his residence. SED Deputies utilized an armored Bearcat vehicle and the Rook as they attempted to facilitate evacuations and contact Murphy in efforts to arrange his surrender. Over the course of several hours, Murphy fired over 20 rounds toward Sheriff's deputies, striking the armored vehicle and near a patrol vehicle.

These armored vehicles are designed to withstand heavy fire and provide protection for those inside. The ability of local law enforcement to quickly and effectively use these tools is paramount to public safety. The Sheriff's Office's use of the armored vehicles undoubtedly saved the lives of deputies at the scene and civilians forced to evacuate.

As the night went on, the Sheriff's Office Critical Incident Negotiations Team (CINT) continued their dialogue with Murphy, despite Murphy refusing to cooperate and shooting toward deputies.

Deputies learned a woman was inside with Murphy and were able to evacuate her to safety. As Murphy continued to demonstrate a grave threat to the public and law enforcement personnel on scene, SED began to take steps to take Murphy into custody. A Sheriff's K9 unit was deployed and successfully neutralized Murphy. SED units quickly moved in and took Murphy into custody. He was transported to a local hospital for treatment from the K9 bite, then booked into the Sacramento County Main Jail.

Murphy is currently being held for attempted murder and other charges. He is ineligible for bail. Murphy is scheduled to appear in court on April 4, 2023, at 3:00 P.M.

Without the swift action of our K9 deputies and their ability to deploy against armed and dangerous suspects, this incident could have likely ended with an unnecessary loss of life. Sheriff K9 units are highly trained as a tool to deescalate the use of force, particularly against violent felons who pose a threat to public safety. Without K9s as a force option, law enforcement will be forced to rely on other types of force, likely leading to a higher incidence of law enforcement shootings.

Proposed California State Assembly Bill 742, which recently just advanced out of the Public Safety Committee, aims to ban the use of law enforcement K9s for arrest. It is essential to consider the potential drawbacks and unintended consequences of any ban on these invaluable K9s. AB 742 is misguided and places the public and law enforcement at greater risk. Please consider speaking to your local state representative about this bill and ensure our community remains a safer place to live, work, and thrive. ★



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We publish ten local newspapers in the Sacramento Region. Our main office is in Carmichael. We have been publishing for fifteen years and are seeking new qualified employees.

CURRENT WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Office Administration – We are seeking a full-time administrative support person for our newspaper group. This position works in the Carmichael office and works directly with the Office Manager. Work hours are between 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Previous office management experience is required.

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Copy Editor – We are seeking a part-time copy editor for our newspaper group. This position works in the Carmichael office and works directly with Editor. Work hours are flexible between 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Previous editing experience is required.

City Reporter – We are seeking a part-time City Reporter for our newspaper group. This position may be assigned to work in the Carmichael office or another area office and works directly with the Editor. Work hours are flexible depending on assignments. Previous reporting experience is required.

Advertising Services Support – We are seeking a part-time Advertising Services Support person for our newspaper group. This position works in the Carmichael office and works directly with the owner of the company and the advertising/graphics staff. Work hours are flexible between 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Previous office experience is required.

Delivery Driver – We are seeking a part-time Delivery Driver for our newspaper group. This position would transport newspapers from our Carmichael office to our offices in Marysville and Gridley. Work hours are from 8:30 to 4:00 every Thursday. Must be able to lift and move bundles of newspapers without assistance. Must have your own reliable cargo van. This is an independent contractor position and pays a flat rate for your service.

Newsstand Delivery Driver – We are seeking a part-time Newsstand Deliver Driver for our newspaper group. This position works from the Carmichael office and delivers to our locations in the West Sacramento/Sacramento Region. Work hours are from 8:30 to 5:00 Thursday and/or Friday. Must be able to lift and move bundles of newspapers without assistance. You must have a reliable vehicle. This is an independent contractor position.

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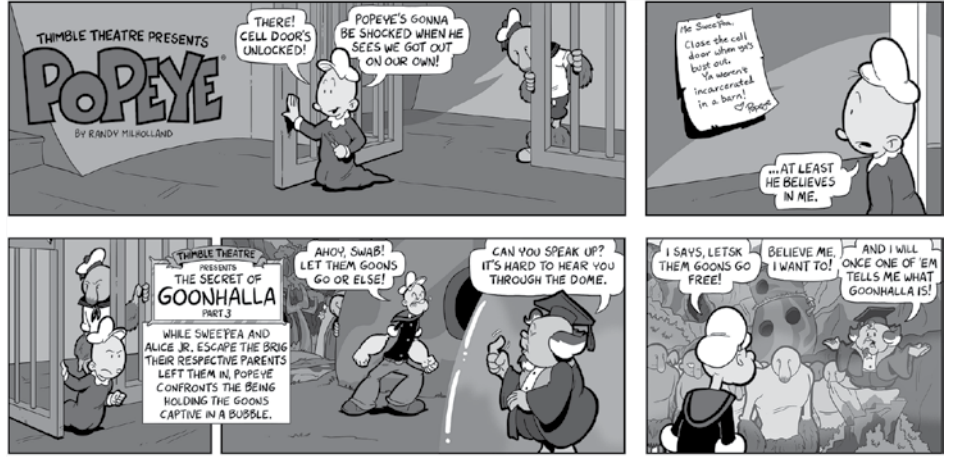
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The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

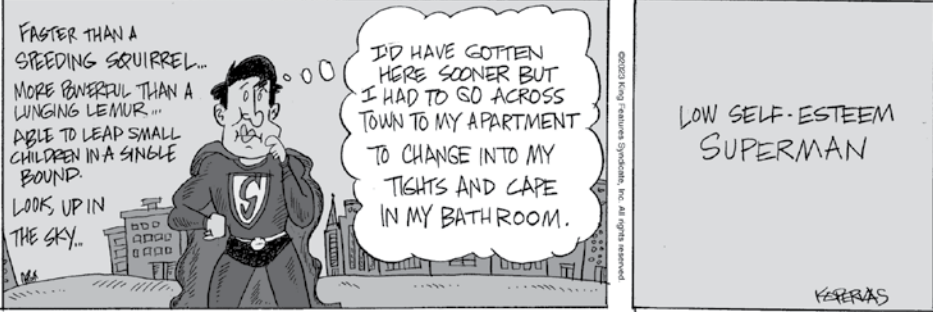


Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

Out on a Limb

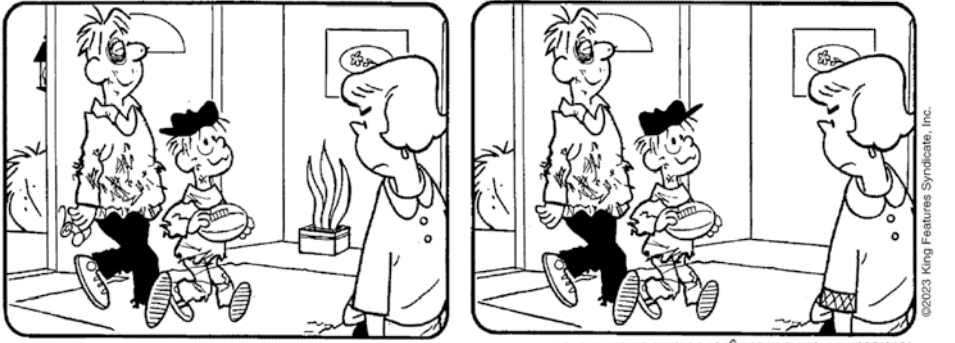


by Gary Kopervas

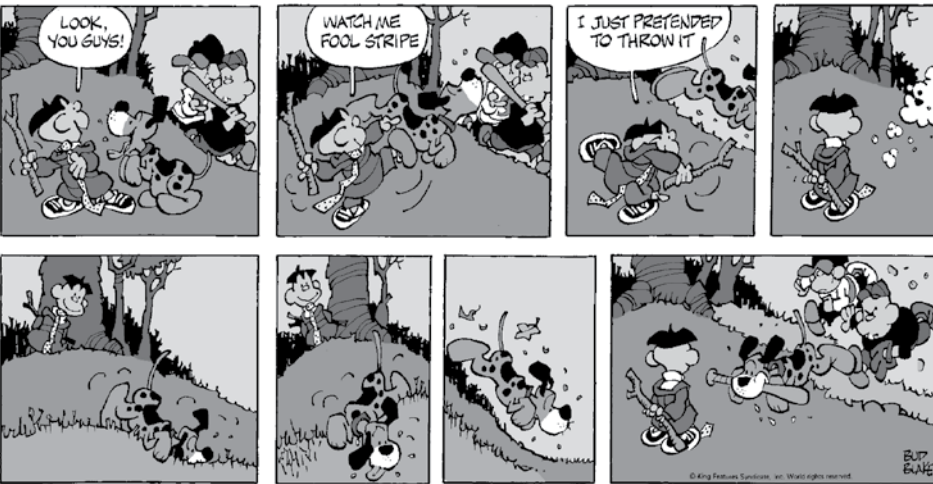
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

GRIN THE BEAR IT



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



I	N	A	P	T	F	D	A	B	A	A	S	
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W	E	R	E	S	T	S	C	O	O	T		

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • CARTOON CHARACTERS

- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Unsuitable
 - Agency behind food labels, acr.
 - Pastoral sounds
 - More painful
 - "Maggie May" singer
 - Secret storage
 - Hajj destination
 - Inflated feeling
 - One in a quiver
 - "Scooby-Doo's best friend"
 - "Stone Age Fred's best friend"
 - Zip
 - Type of wave
 - "Mangia!"
 - Apple leftover
 - Unlike Pinocchio
 - Law school test acronym
 - Tiger's forte
 - Jack Black's Libre
 - For ___ kitchen counter
 - Jewish folklore creature
 - Singer Whitman of "Secret Love" fame
 - Formerly known as dropsy
 - Spanish Surrealist
 - Stay out of its way!
 - Make a remake
 - Shawm
 - Yoda: "Do or do not. There is no ___"
 - Like hard times
 - Tube in old TV, acr.
 - Jessica or Peter
 - "Anthropomorphic squirrel's last name"
 - Small and elegant
 - Mozart's "L___ del Cairo"
 - Like a whistle?
 - Optical illusion creation (2 words)
 - "Time," e.g., colloquially
 - Hint of color
 - "The Way We ___"
 - Farm pen
 - Skedaddle
- DOWN**
- What hedonism and idealism have in common
 - Rejections
 - Flatfoot's lack
 - Pie option
 - Calamitous
 - One of the Eagles
 - *Pluto or Snoopy
 - Acrobat maker
 - Rural building
 - Homesteader's purchase, sing.
 - Nabisco's "Chips ___"
 - To use a Singer
 - Dairy industry missing person-seeking prop
 - Nordic glühwein
 - Ooh and ___
 - Troublemaker
 - *Fudd's first name
 - Line to the audience
 - "It is silent," in sheet music
 - Living space
 - Don Johnson's Bridges
 - Plaudit and pomp
 - Bake an egg
 - *One of the Pickles
 - Like a broken horse

CROSSWORD											
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TRUSTEE SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. CA-22-950500-BF Order No.: 8781120 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 9/13/2012. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 to the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor(s): GEORGE MYERS III AND SYLVIA TAFOYA-MYERS, HUSBAND AND WIFE Recorded: 9/14/2012 as Instrument No. XXX in Book 20120914 Page 1761 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of SACRAMENTO County, California; Date of Sale: 4/21/2023 at 2:00 PM Place of Sale: At the main entrance to the County Courthouse, located at 720 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$157,559.31 The purported property address is: 2653 PALO VISTA WAY, RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670-3428 Assessor's Parcel No.: 076-0173-010-0000 NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to

free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 916-939-0772 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-22-950500-BF. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 916-939-0772, or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-22-950500-BF to find the date on which

the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE OWNER-OCCUPANT: Any prospective owner-occupant as defined in Section 2924m of the California Civil Code who is the last and highest bidder at the trustee's sale shall provide the required affidavit or declaration of eligibility to the auctioneer at the trustee's sale or shall have it delivered to QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION by 5 p.m. on the next business day following the trustee's sale at the address set forth in the below signature block. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders rights against the real property only. Date: QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION 2763 Camino Del Rio S San Diego, CA 92108 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 916-939-0772 Or Login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com> Reinstatement Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION. TS No.: CA-22-950500-BF IDSPub #018472/3/31/2023 4/7/2023 4/14/2023 QLSC 772 4-14-23

Credit Union SACTOWN Run' Raises \$210,800 for CMN Hospitals



The Annual Credit Union SACTOWN Run held on Sunday, April 2, 2023, raised over \$210,800 for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMN) and included 69 credit unions and 1,800 runners. Photo courtesy of California and Nevada Credit Union Leagues

California and Nevada Credit Union Leagues News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Annual Credit Union SACTOWN Run – which took place Sunday (April 2) in Sacramento – raised more than \$210,800 for the 11 Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMN) to help local kids across California and Nevada.

More than 1,800 runners participated in this year's Credit Union SACTOWN Run, including nearly 1,200 credit union employees and members from across California and Nevada. The event, which started and ended on the Capitol Mall in front of the California State Capitol, featured a 10-mile race, 5K run, and "Miracle Mile Fun Run and Fitness Walk."

The run was hosted by the Sacramento Running Association (SRA) and also served as the USA Track and Field (USATF) Masters 10-Mile National Championship.

"Once again, we were honored to work with the Sacramento Running Association to host such a great event to raise much needed funds for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals throughout California and Nevada," said Diana Dykstra, president and CEO of the California and Nevada Credit Union Leagues (Ontario, CA). "These donations will help kids receive the care and treatment they need, thanks to a number of credit unions and businesses in both states."

John Pamer, chair of the Credit Union SACTOWN Run and CEO of Diablo Valley Federal Credit Union (Concord, CA), said the annual race has become a cherished rite of Spring for credit unions and business partners. "Each year since 2012, we run, jog or walk our course on the first Sunday in April," Pamer said. "But the real benefit is that the \$210,800 we raised this year – and the \$2.5 million we've raised since day-one – brings healing and hope to patients and their families every day of the year. Credit unions and our business partners are committed to helping people in our local communities, and the Credit Union SACTOWN Run is a strong demonstration of this commitment."

Larry Palochik, executive vice president of the Leagues (Ontario, CA), said that every child deserves the chance to live a happy and healthy life. "Supporting Children's Miracle Network hospitals in our two states is our

opportunity to help make that a reality," Palochik said. "Together, with our credit unions and sponsors, we are helping provide hope and healing to children and families in need."

Joe Franklin, vice president of brand and experiential marketing for Co-op Solutions (Rancho Cucamonga, CA), thanked all of the runners who participated in this year's Credit Union SACTOWN Run. "The partnership between CMN Hospitals and credit unions is a truly synergistic one," Franklin said. "The two things that determine physical and mental health are access to health care and solid financial wellness. When members of society and their children are physically healthy or have access to quality care, and they feel financially secure, it builds a stronger community."

Kevin Miller, president and CEO of Travis Credit Union in Vacaville, Calif., said his credit union believes in "people helping people" – and the annual race is just one more example of this unique industry philosophy. "I'm proud of our staff and their families who are running and volunteering with that spirit to benefit the Credit Union SACTOWN Run," Miller said.

Bill Cheney, chief executive officer of SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union (Tustin, CA), said his credit union's team looks forward to participating in the race each year. "They're eager for the physical challenge of the race while supporting a cause that aligns with our credit union values," Cheney said. "We are proud to participate and support children and their families in local hospitals, including UC Davis Children's Hospital. Thank you to our team and all runners and volunteers – you make a difference in the lives of others."

Amanda Merz, community impact manager for SAFE Credit Union (Sacramento, CA), said her leadership and team are pleased to be a part of the Credit Union SACTOWN Run. "Seeing all of our fellow credit union employees and leaders come together to help raise money for children's health is so inspiring," Merz said. "Credit unions are all about 'people helping people,' and it is so rewarding to see all of us working together for a greater cause while also having some fun." ★

Improvement District Announces State of the PBID 2023

Continued from page 1

"Table Sponsorships are available for your company, with individual reservations at a discounted investment of only

\$55 through April 17, 2023," Evans explains, "we encourage your reservation soon, as it's a limited selection of seats. Go to www.discovercarmichael.com for more details. ★

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Walgreens Refuses to Press Charges against Thieves

Sac County Sheriff's Dept News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Just after 1 pm on Saturday, March 11, 2023, North Patrol deputies responded to Walgreens near Arden Way and Howe Avenue regarding the report of a robbery in progress. An employee called 911 and advised our communications center dispatchers that two subjects walked out with stolen merchandise, then physically hit an employee when confronted. Additionally, the caller described a vehicle in which the subjects fled.

Responding deputies quickly located the vehicle and detained both subjects without incident. They discovered hundreds of dollars in stolen items and eagerly contacted Walgreens to return the items and complete their felony investigation.

When they spoke to the employee, deputies learned the subjects never actually hit the employee as they reported when they called 911; but rather spit on them (while arguably worse, it is only a misdemeanor under California law absent other articulable circumstances).

Despite our deputies' best efforts, Walgreens and their employees refused to press charges. Furthermore, they would not confirm if all the items stolen were in fact theirs or if they totaled enough to warrant a felony arrest. Lack of cooperation from large retailers such as Walgreens makes our duty of enforcing laws far more complicated than it should be. Rest assured, the men and women of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office remain steadfast in our commitment to keeping the public safe and criminals off the street. ★

Golden 1 Center and Partners Seek to Improve Access to Sacramento Events

Disability Rights Advocates Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As Sacramento's Golden 1 Center welcomes increasing numbers of visitors back to the stadium to enjoy Kings games, concerts, and other events, community members who are blind or have low vision will notice improvements to the stadium's online ticket purchase platform. These improvements are thanks to collaboration between the Golden 1 Center, non-profit law firm Disability Rights Advocates (DRA), the ACB Capital Chapter of the California Council of the Blind (CCB), and other community members.

DRA reached out to the Golden 1 Center on behalf of the ACB Capital Chapter, Kings season ticket holder Leslie Thom, and community member Margie Donovan to notify the stadium of difficulties that individuals who are blind had experienced attempting to purchase tickets using the Golden 1 Center's online ticket purchase platform. Due to programming barriers, the ticket purchasing website was incompatible with the software that many customers who are blind use to navigate and interact with websites, called screen readers. Because this online platform is the only way to purchase tickets without going to the box office in person, it is important that the process be accessible for individuals who are blind or have low vision.

When notified, Golden 1 Center got to work to fix the problems by hiring a web access consultant to assess not only the ticket purchase platform, but the entire Kings and Golden 1 Center websites. They also worked with vendors to implement

the recommended modifications. These improvements follow the Golden 1 Center's recent addition of audio description services for eventgoers who are blind or have low vision so that they can enjoy all aspects of performances at the arena.

"To my knowledge, Golden 1 Center is the first arena with audio description and a fully accessible ticket purchasing system. Being fully accessible to people who are blind or visually impaired is something Golden 1 Center can be proud of," said Capital Chapter member Margie Donovan.

"It is always great when businesses invest in a relationship with local advocates," said Meredith Weaver, a senior staff attorney at DRA. "The Golden 1 Center has done just that with the Capital Chapter, and we are encouraged by the company's recognition that increasing access is good for the community and good for business."

During the Kings' February 23 home game against the Portland Trailblazers, Golden 1 Center and the Kings highlighted their dedication to the blind community in Sacramento by featuring DRA and CCB at the arena's Do Good Corner, which provided the opportunity to spotlight Golden 1 Center's commitment, share the importance of accessible technology, and connect individually with interested fans.

If you experience barriers to accessing the Golden 1 Center's website or ticket purchase platform via screen reader, please reach out to Golden 1 Center directly at 888-91-KINGS. To request audio description for an event, contact 1-888-91-KINGS (1-888-915-4647) or email ADAServices@kings.com at least two weeks in advance of the scheduled event or as soon as possible. ★

Californians Spring into Action to Remove Litter, Beautify Neighborhoods



Volunteers pick up trash along the beach at a Clean California Community Days event in the City of Ventura on March 25. Photo courtesy of Caltrans

Caltrans News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Thousands of Californians took part in more than 600 "Spring into Action" Clean California Community Days events throughout the state during an 11-day period to clean up roadways, local streets and public spaces.

The series of events from March 17-27 were part of the Clean California initiative, Governor Gavin Newsom's \$1.2 billion, multiyear cleanup effort led by Caltrans to remove trash, create thousands of jobs and engage communities to transform public spaces.

"Clean California is empowering communities and restoring pride in our shared spaces up and down the state, and I thank the thousands of Californians who banded together for the Community Days events to beautify and transform their neighborhoods," said Governor Newsom. "By making a difference at the local level, we are helping create a cleaner, more beautiful California for all."

Clean California Community Days included: Hundreds of local events including: 58 tree planting/gardening events with 363 trees planted; 265 community trash collection events; 202 public community cleanups; 39 educational and entertainment events; and six temporary public art installations;

1.64 million pounds of trash collected during the

11-day period – five times the weight of the Statue of Liberty;

More than 10,500 volunteers participated in community beautification efforts.

"The overwhelming response and participation from Californians throughout the state to transform community spaces demonstrates the power of Clean California," said Caltrans Director Tony Tavares. "With the support of Governor Newsom and the commitment of our communities, we are reducing litter and making lasting positive change."

"Californians are looking for ways to engage in their communities to green and beautify neighborhoods, and Clean California is a powerful way for them to take action," said California Chief Service Officer Josh Fryday.

Clean California will continue to engage communities and raise awareness on the negative impact litter has on natural resources, waterways, public safety and public health, driving a cultural shift of shared responsibility and instilling community pride for the cleanliness of our roadways and public spaces. The recently launched "Zero Litter is the Goal" campaign focuses on volunteerism, community activation and grassroots partnerships to maintain the positive momentum of Clean California Community Days.

To encourage local-level

engagement, Caltrans is also developing a program in which communities throughout the state can earn a special Clean California designation by meeting criteria centered around preventing and cleaning up litter, promoting recycling, and greening or beautifying neighborhoods.

To support communities with tools and resources, Caltrans will be providing downloadable public education materials on topics such as litter prevention, volunteer recruitment, and K-12 materials. Additionally, members of the community are encouraged to continue to organize their own cleanup events and can get started by visiting CleanCA.com.

Since launching Clean California in July 2021, Caltrans and local partners have removed 1.45 million cubic yards of litter from state highways – the equivalent of more than 24,400 tons or enough trash to fill the Rose Bowl over 3½ times. Caltrans has hired more than 850 team members as part of Clean California. Clean California grants have funded 231 projects to revitalize and beautify underserved communities, some of which are already complete and now sources of community pride. In February, Governor Newsom announced a new round of \$100 million in grants for local beautification projects. ★

Swan Lake Ballet



A male mute swan appears to walk on water as he lands near his smaller mate at Lake Natoma. Photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

By Susan Maxwell Skinner

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - A pair of mute swans have made a seasonal home on Lake Natoma (Orangevale).

Cyclists and trail walkers are enjoying sightings of these visitors in the portion of the American River that stretches between Nimbus and Folsom dams. Named for their vocal quietness, the non-native

species is widespread in North America.

These large waterfowl feed on river vegetation and small aquatic creatures. They nest on islands and river banks. Swans are not dangerous to humans but – being greatly protective of territory and family – they can become aggressive and should be allowed their space. All American River Parkway wildlife is protected from hunting and harassment. ★



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DAYS AND TIMES:



- Starting November 29th
- Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

LOCATION:

- La Sierra Community Center (5325 Engle Rd)
- Johnson Gymnasium

FEES:

- \$5 for a day pass or \$40 for a 10-day punch card
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Effective 4/12/23 - 4/18/23

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<p>TASTE OF THE WILD GRAIN FREE DRY DOG FOOD • Wetlands • Sierra Mountains • Pacific Salmon • High Prairie • Southwest Canyon 28 Lb Limit 2 Bags per Family \$43.99 Effective 4/12/23 - 4/18/23</p>	<p>CANIDAE DRY DOG FOOD FOR ALL LIFE STAGES • Multi-Protein • Chicken Meal & Rice • Large Breed 44 Lb Bag As Marked (Multi Protein • Chicken & Rice • Lamb & Rice • Less Active 30 Lb Bag) 25% OFF Our Regular Prices! Effective 4/12/23 - 4/18/23</p>	<p>SCIENCE DIET DRY DOG FOOD 28.5-33 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags • Lite \$65.99 • Active Maturity \$69.99 • Sensitive Stomach \$71.99 • Perfect Weight Effective 4/12/23 - 4/18/23</p>	<p>SCIENCE DIET FELINE MAINTENANCE DRY CAT FOOD 16 Lb Bag • Adult • Lite • Maturity • Indoor • Kitten Limit 2 Bags \$49.99 Effective 4/12/23 - 4/18/23</p>
<p>9 LIVES CANNED CAT FOOD 5.5 Oz All Varieties Limit 2 Cases Per Family 59¢ Effective 4/12/23 - 4/18/23</p>	<p>FUSSIE CAT PREMIUM CANNED CAT FOOD 2.8 Oz. • Black Label • Gold Label Limit 2 Cases Per Family ON SALE Effective 4/12/23 - 4/18/23</p>	<p>JONNY CAT PREMIUM CAT LITTER 20 Lb Bag • Regular • Multiple Cat Formula Limit 2 Bags Per Family \$5.39 Effective 4/12/23 - 4/18/23</p>	<p>FELINE PINE HEALTHY CAT LITTER 20 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags \$11.99 Effective 4/12/23 - 4/18/23</p>

<p>BLUE BUFFALO CANNED CAT FOOD Tasteful • Pate • Flaked Limit 1 Case 3 oz. \$1.19 5.5 Oz. \$1.45</p>	<p>FUSSIE CAT PREMIUM DRY CAT FOOD Market Fresh Recipe • Selected Varieties 2 Lb, 4 Lb, 10 Lb bag As Marked 10% OFF OUR REGULAR PRICES</p>	<p>MERRICK'S GOURMET CANNED DOG FOOD • Selected Varieties 13.2 Oz Limit 1 Case ON SALE</p>	<p>NATURAL BALANCE CANNED CAT FOOD Selected Varieties 5.5 Oz Limit 1 Case (Platefuls 3 Oz) 15% OFF OUR REGULAR PRICES</p>	<p>CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL DRY DOG FOOD Limit 2 Bags • Adult • Mature • Large Breed • Weight Control \$54.99 • Puppy (Reg & Lrg Breed) • Grain Free \$57.99</p>	<p>SWHEAT SCOOP NATURAL WHEAT LITTER (12 Lb Bag - Original \$12.99 Multi-Cat \$13.99) 36 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags Original \$33.99 Multi-Cat \$35.99</p>
<p>WELLNESS DRY DOG FOOD 24-30 Lb Bag Large Breed Adult • Chicken • Healthy Weight • Senior • Grain Free Adult • Grain Free Lamb • Grain Free White Fish \$5 OFF OUR REGULAR PRICE</p>	<p>PRECIOUS CAT CAT LITTER 20 Lb Box Limit 2 Boxes Cat Attract \$12.99 Touch of Outdoors \$8.99</p>	<p>CAREFRESH PET BEDDING 60 Liter (Ultra Not Included) \$17.99</p>	<p>NUTRO MAX ADULT RECIPE DRY DOG FOOD • Adult • Large Breed • Mini Chunk 25 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags \$31.99</p>	<p>HEINZ PUP-PERONI DOG TREATS • Beef • Lean • Bacon • Prime Rib 22.5 Oz Pkg Limit 2 Bags \$10.99</p>	<p>MERRICK'S WHOLE EARTH FARMS DRY DOG FOOD • Grain Free Chicken/Turkey • Grain Free Pork, Beef & Lamb 25 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags per Family \$10 OFF OUR REGULAR PRICES</p>

<p>CAT FURNITURE • Preware Pet Products • Wane Assorted Styles 20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES</p>	<p>HAGEN FLUVAL FILTER SALE</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>MODEL.....TANK.....</td> <td>PET CLUB SALE</td> <td>MODEL.....TANK.....</td> <td>PET CLUB SALE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>107...25 GAL...</td> <td>\$104.99</td> <td>307...70 GAL...</td> <td>\$159.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>207...40 GAL...</td> <td>\$119.99</td> <td>407...100 GAL...</td> <td>\$189.99</td> </tr> </table>	MODEL.....TANK.....	PET CLUB SALE	MODEL.....TANK.....	PET CLUB SALE	107...25 GAL...	\$104.99	307...70 GAL...	\$159.99	207...40 GAL...	\$119.99	407...100 GAL...	\$189.99
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<p>REDBARN NATURAL DOG TREATS • Bully Treats • Antlers • Bully Sticks All Varieties except Mammoth Bone \$8.99 20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES</p>	<p>Brantton SIMPLE SOLUTION TRAINING PADS 23" x 24" 50 Pads (Extra Large 50 Ct. \$22.99) \$13.99</p>												
<p>RUFF DAWG TOUGH DOG TOYS All Varieties 20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES</p>	<p>RELIANCE BIRD CAGES All Varieties Stock On Hand 20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES</p>												

<p>BONUS COUPON</p> <p>FRISKIES BUFFET CANNED CAT FOOD 5.5 Oz All Varieties Limit 1 Case With Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon Effective 4/12/23 - 4/18/23 ON SALE Everyday CHM PLU 367</p>	<p>BONUS COUPON</p> <p>WHISKAS TEMPTATIONS CAT TREATS • Selected Varieties - 3 Oz Limit 2 Pkgs with Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon Effective 4/12/23 - 4/18/23 \$2.19 CHM PLU 569</p>	<p>BONUS COUPON</p> <p>JONNY CAT CAT LINERS Jumbo Drawstring - 5 Ct Limit 1 Box with Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon Effective 4/12/23 - 4/18/23 \$2.39 CHM PLU 449</p>
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CARMICHAEL ELKS LODGE #2103

CLASSIC CAR SHOW

CARS, TRUCKS, VANS '75 & OLDER
WIN ONE OF OUR CUSTOM MADE TORPHIES

Registration form available on our website
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SAME PRICE AS LAST YEAR!

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TICKET \$20

TICKET WILL INCLUDE WINE & APPETIZERS, AND RAFFLE TICKETS TO BE ENTERED IN A RAFFLE

PERSONALIZED SUCCULENT PLANT

NATURAL HANDMADE LIP BALM

SATURDAY APRIL 22 2:00-4:00 PM

SUCCULENT PLANT POTTING WILL BE FROM 2-3 PM
LIP BALM MAKING WILL BE FROM 3-4 PM

Please RSVP by April 18th
916-330-1300 or volivarez@summersetsl.com
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FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Smoked Salmon Fillet 1lb
REG. \$16.99/lb **\$9.99/lb**

Antartica Tilapia Fillet 2 lbs
REG. \$9.99/ea **\$7.99/ea**

WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS

Beef Rump/Bottom Round Roast - Bnls \$3.99/lb

Beef T-Bone Steak \$5.49/lb

Beef Porterhouse Steak \$5.99/lb

Pork St. Louis Ribs - Single Pack \$2.99/lb

Boneless & Skinless Chicken Thigh Meat \$1.79/lb

Pork Chop Bone-In \$1.69/lb

Pork Cushion Meat - Boneless \$1.99/lb

FRESH PRODUCE

Yukon Gold Potato 99¢/lb

Yellow Squash \$1.49/lb

Rainbow Bellpepper \$3.49/ea

Gala Apple 99¢/lb

Jicama 69¢/lb

Jalapeno Pepper 79¢/lb

Yellow Onion 3 lb \$1.79/bag

Murcott Tangerine 4 lb \$2.99/bag

AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY

Nutella Hazelnut Spread \$3.99/ea

Jarritos Drink 1.5 liter \$1.99/ea

El Mexicano Ice Pops \$9.99/ea

Banaroo Wafers \$1.29/ea

ASIAN GROCERY

Shelley Senbei Rice Crackers \$2.99/ea

UFC Sweet Filipino Spaghetti Sauce 2/\$3.00

Excellent Ribbon Rice Stick \$3.99/ea

Dragonfly Bamboo Shoot \$3.99/ea

Fuchi Prawn Crackers 2/\$0.99

EUROPEAN GROCERY

Best Tea \$10.99/ea

Floria Cinnamon \$2.99/ea

Floria Cinnamon 240 gr \$3.29/ea

Vero Eggplant Spread \$1.99/ea

Vero Green Peas \$1.09/ea

KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY

Wing Hoangpa Rice 2.2 lbs \$15.99/ea

Seaweed \$12.99/ea

Seaweed \$2.49/ea

Beef Stock \$1.99/ea

Beef Stock \$3.99/ea

Beef Stock \$9.99/ea

HOUSEWARES

HAIR DARKENING SHAMPOO \$19.99/ea

ELECTRIC BBQ GRILL \$39.99/ea

ELECTRIC RICE COOKER \$3.99/ea

ELECTRIC RICE COOKER \$4.99/ea

ELECTRIC RICE COOKER \$4.99/ea

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Swaii Fillet 2 lbs \$7.99/ea

EUROPEAN DELI

Curran Ham \$5.49/ea

Village Soyle Ham \$5.69/ea

Sicilian Olive \$4.89/ea

Advertised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE APRIL 12 - APRIL 18, 2023.

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