



Lifting Target for 15% Water Conservation

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Celebrate Easter



Carmichael Times

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APRIL 7, 2023

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EASTER BLESSINGS
By Mary Jane Popp



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Chamber Honors Champions



Chamber of Commerce Community Award recipients are Community Advocate Linda Martin (left); Dianna Poggetto (American River Parkway Foundation); Educator Holly Olson; Retired Assemblymember Ken Cooley; Business Woman Bonnie Prophet; Businessman Ernest Delgado; Ambassador Betty Bowles.

Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - All Carmichael's elected legislators stood up to cheer retired Assemblyman Key Cooley, named Person of the Year at Carmichael Chamber of Commerce Community Awards last week.

Held at North Ridge Country Club, the gala sold out at 200 attendees.

Accepting his award, Cooley congratulated the Chamber for its diamond jubilee. "You've been invested in the community and focused on its needs for 75 years," said the honoree. "If we can't put shoulders to the wheel to achieve our hopes for the future, then we're in trouble."

"All of life depends on people committed to the future and to

neighbors. In this era, to be that kind of person - that takes gumption. All my fellow honorees have shown persistence in their goals and it's a pleasure for me - and for my wife Sydney - to be among them."

Cooley compared fellow award recipients' efforts to a lesson learned in his Boy Scout career. "They taught us that if you want to put out a fire,

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County Hires New Economic Development Director



Crystal Bethke. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County has a new Economic Development Director. Crystal Bethke, who has worked for Sacramento County's Office of Economic Development since 2007, was officially appointed in her new role on March 26, 2023.

"Crystal is known as a doer, problem solver, and collaborator," said Dave Defanti, Deputy County Executive for Community Services. "I have great confidence in her ability to lead the Office of Economic Development and look forward to working with her in her new role."

In her former role as a Senior Economic Development Specialist, Bethke developed and led a wide range of initiatives in business attraction, retention and expansion, small business and nonprofit support programs, and neighborhood revitalization.

Most recently, Bethke managed COVID-19 business support efforts, including over \$17M in direct grants and business recovery programs through the County's American Rescue Plan Act funding, as well as oversaw Business Environmental Resource Center (BERC) staff activities providing assistance to businesses to promote sustainability, including providing assistance with permitting and regulations. She also coordinated commercial corridor revitalization efforts through cooperative programs, incentives, Property and Business Improvement District support, and direct business assistance.

Along with the aforementioned initiatives, Bethke also managed the Small Business Liaison Program providing assistance to small businesses, large retailers, and entrepreneurs with licenses, permits, funding, business planning, and industry regulations; and participated in the development and administration of the \$104M budget and expenditures, including managing pass-through programs, contracts and grants.

Bethke has a Bachelor of Political Science and Governmental degree as well as a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of San Francisco. ★

Storms Test American River Wildlife

By Susan Maxwell Skinner

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Storms that swelled waterways in recent weeks have challenged river and flood plain wildlife.

Wind has dislodged nests and uprooted trees. In the February-March nesting season, many baby birds have perished. Flood plain inhabitants that retreat to higher ground have ended up competing for reduced food or in unsafe situations.

Even fish seem to have died from too much water. Trail users last week reported scores of dead carp and bass in Lake Natoma. Fish and Wildlife Department sources ascribed the event to water oxygen depletion that can occur when drought is followed by sustained rain. (Coursing down creeks and bluffs, water flow carries huge amounts of organic matter; bacteria burn oxygen to feast on the fermenting soup in ponds and streams; the banquet consumes oxygen that fish need to survive).

Riverbank dwellers have been washed from homes. California Wildlife Encounters capture specialist Ben Nuckolls was recently called to the Folsom Post office to rescue an adult beaver.



Veteran wildlife rescuer Ben Nuckolls and assistant Leslie Ackerman help an injured beaver near the American River during recent storms. Another of the aquatic rodents was relocated after ending up in Folsom Post Office grounds. Photo by Jann Nichols.

The river-dweller's misadventure followed February floods. "He must have negotiated several Folsom streets and intersections to arrive at the Post Office," considered Nuckolls. "Post Office workers found him in a fenced parking lot. When we arrived, he was behind bushes and scared."

Nuckolls and assistant Christina Sullivan netted the 40-pound rodent. After examination for injury, it was released in a nearby waterway. More recently, Fair Oaks

resident Nuckolls and assistant Leslie Ackerman rescued another beaver from Sailor Bar Fair Oaks.

Three baby hawks whose nest fell with an uprooted pine did not survive. "The tree branches were dense," says Nuckolls. "We did our best to get to the nest but the babies did not make it. In the last few weeks, I have been involved with 20 weather-related rescues. When rescues fail, I carry a heavy burden."

"We always see more wildlife displacement

after storms," notes Effie Yeaw Nature Center Director Kent Anderson. "Usually, animals just wait it out and get back to their routines after storms. This year, the weather's been chaotic, with back-to-back storms. Animals tied to the waterways have suffered more."

Wild Animals in distress should be reported to: Gold Country Wildlife Rescue (530) 885 0862; or the Wildlife Care Association (916) 965 9453; Department of Fish and Wildlife (916) 358-2900. ★

California Lifts Target for 15% Water Conservation

By Alastair Bland, CALMatters.org

With the Sierra Nevada smothered in snow, large swaths of the Central Valley underwater and many Californians weary of water, state officials announced today that they are lifting some drought-related provisions on water use.

“Our water supply conditions have improved markedly,” said Secretary of Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot.

The state is rescinding its request for voluntary 15% water conservation statewide, which was issued in July 2021, and instead, Crowfoot said, shifting to an approach of making conservation a “way of life.”

“We need to maintain our vigilance,” he said. “It’s not about going back to normal anymore. It’s really adjusting to a new normal.”

Some of the state’s emergency provisions were ended and some were left in place. Wasteful uses of water, such as hosing down sidewalks and watering ornamental grass on commercial property, remain banned, according to state officials.

The state, however, is ending its requirement that local water agencies implement Level 2 drought contingency plans, which are locally written water use regulations—such as limits on watering lawns—that are invoked during water shortages.

In total, 81 drought-related provisions were enacted since April 2021.



California ended its voluntary statewide target, triggering concerns from experts that many water supplies remain depleted. Other drought measures remain in place. Photo courtesy of Marysmn Dreamstime.com

Just 33 remain in place, said Gov. Gavin Newsom at a press briefing today.

State officials also announced today a large increase in the amounts of water that local suppliers will get from the State Water Project, increasing from 35% announced last month to 75% of requested supplies. The water is provided to 750,000 acres of farmland and 27 million people, mostly in Southern California.

The announcements come as some of the state’s reservoirs near capacity, with some of the state’s largest

expected to fill by late spring. And the snowpack of the Sierra Nevada, nearing record levels in the southern portion of the range, continues to grow.

When Newsom issued his voluntary conservation target almost two years ago, many water experts said Newsom should have made it mandatory, as former Gov. Jerry Brown did during the previous drought. They also criticized him for failing to reduce use by farmers, who consume 80% of the state’s delivered water supply.

State officials say

even though the 15% target was voluntary, it worked. However, the data does not back that up: Californians used 6% less water from July 2021 through December 2022 compared to 2020—falling far short of Newsom’s 15% goal.

Heather Cooley, director of research at the Pacific Institute, an Oakland water supply thinktank, said California must not relax its ethos of water conservation.

In spite of wet weather, the state’s largest water supply—its groundwater basins—remain depleted.

“Even though reservoirs are recovering, groundwater aquifers remain depleted. The Colorado River—a major water source for Southern California—is also facing a massive deficit,” Cooley said. “The reality is we don’t have water to waste in California. We need to continue investing in water efficiency to prepare for a hotter, drier future and more intense droughts.”

Californians did cut their average water use by 600,000 acre-feet in almost two years. That’s almost two-thirds the volume of Folsom Reservoir

and enough water to serve 1.2 million households in a year.

Crowfoot stressed that the drought is not over, noting that drought status “is not a completely binary situation.” In some parts of the state, drought conditions have dramatically eased, but not in others. Crowfoot said the Klamath River basin and the region of Southern California that relies on Colorado River water continue to face “acute water shortages.”

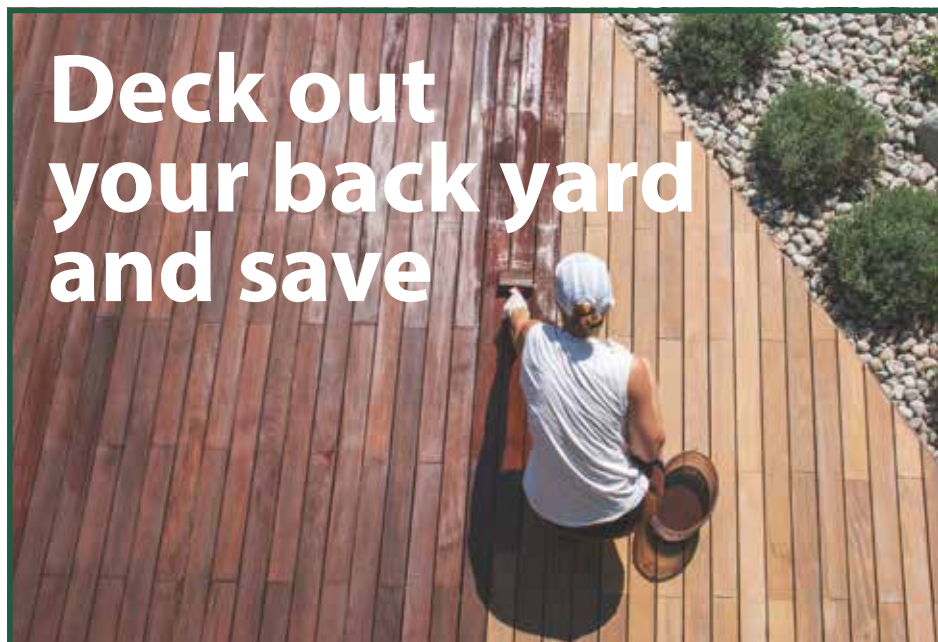
Thousands of households lack drinking water due to depleted groundwater basins, which have been overdrafted for decades and experts agree they will not rebound in a single rainy winter.

Joaquin Esquivel, chair of the State Water Resources Control Board, said the hope is that cities “are not just rebounding” to old ways of water use.

“Conservation remains a priority,” Crowfoot added.

Michael Anderson, a climatologist with the California Department of Water Resources, said snowpack is at 278% of normal, with another storm system expected to hit the North Coast and move inland and south from there, starting Monday. The system, he said, will deliver a relatively cold storm originating in the Gulf of Alaska, unlike some recent blasts of tropical moisture. This means it will drop more snow in the mountains.

“Not massive accumulations, but could be locally heavy,” he said.



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Chamber Honors Champions

Continued from page 1

you separate all its embers. But if you want to build it up, you push its embers back together. It's a good metaphor for life. Our efforts to do good, to bring people together and spur each other along build stronger,

brighter communities."

Other 2023 Chamber of Commerce honorees were:

Businessman of the Year - entrepreneur Ernesto Delgado (owner of The Milagro Centre's Mesa Mercado restaurant).

Businesswoman of the

Year - Bonnie Prophet (who runs one of Carmichael's longest-enduring enterprises: Serritella's restaurant).

Educator of the Year - Holly Olson (representing the third generation of her family to lead Carmichael's El Rancho

Preschool and Elementary).

Community Advocate of the Year - Linda Martin (who served the San Juan School District for most of her teaching career and now volunteers for many non-profits).

Chamber Ambassador of the

Year - Betty Bowles (a Chamber volunteer for 14 years).

Nonprofit of the Year - American River Parkway Foundation.

Learn about the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce at www.carmchamber.com ★



Community Advocate honoree Linda Martin (center with rose) is flanked by friends Barbara Safford (left), Tom Jones, Sharon Ruffner, Jamie Bettencourt and Karen Mogus.



Chamber Ambassador honoree Betty Bowles (third from right) gets congratulations from family and friends Greg and Judy Griffin (left) Judee Shoemaker, Walter Bowles and Betsy Vierra.



Business Woman of the Year Bonnie Prophet (second from left) is supported by her children: Ty, Izabella and Andre Contreras. Prophet owns Serritella's restaurant.



Honored as Businessman of the Year, Ernesto Delgado (left) shares a bouquet with his Mesa Mercado manager Dora Robles. Among proclamation presenters are: Honorary Mayor Kerri Mandes and Assembly Member Josh Hoover.

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Meaningful Change for Ourselves and the World



Mark McCurties. Courtesy photo

Christian Science News Release

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - We live in a world where millions of people are striving to make change for the better. So, in a world seeking positive change, how do we make sure that such change actually happens? Speaker Mark McCurties says, "We all have a natural desire to improve ourselves and the world around us. In my own life I've found that letting God, divine Love, guide and direct my efforts brings permanent and meaningful results."

McCurties, a practitioner of Christian Science healing, will present a talk titled, "How God's love can change your life and the world" on Sunday, April 16, at 2:00 PM at First Church of Christ, Scientist at 4949 Kenneth Avenue in Carmichael. Child care will be provided.

"The desire to change ourselves, to improve our character, our relationships, our life prospects can also go beyond just the boundary of our own lives and the four walls of our home. Many men and women around the world have a sincere yearning to improve the collective experience of mankind," says McCurties. "In this lecture, I will explain how God's loving and saving power is the greatest agent for change, and that through a right understanding of God, His power can be seen and felt right here and now, bringing health and peace to the world."

The ideas in this lecture are based on the teachings of Jesus as recorded in the Bible, and as discussed in Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy.

McCurties has had a life-long love of the Bible and its inspiring message of individual triumph over adversity. After graduating from college, he spent a number of years in the field of education where he worked as a camp director, experiential educator, resident counselor, and athletics coach. While working with young people, he had many opportunities to witness the healing power of God, and these inspiring experiences eventually led him into the full-time public practice of Christian Science.

Mark McCurties is a member of the Christian Science board of Lectureship. He travels from his home in Ann Arbor, Michigan. ★



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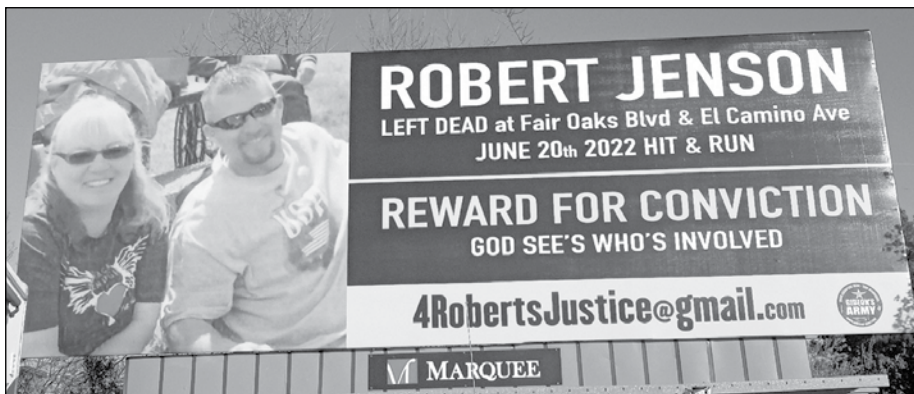
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Numerous fliers were placed around the area, as well as monuments on poles and on a fence where he was killed, but someone kept taking them down. So, I decided to put a billboard up for all to see, hoping to find my only child's killer.

If anyone remembers seeing anything that evening, or has any information about the incident, please contact Lisa Wiley, below:

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Newsom Wins Feud With Oil Industry — or Did He?



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

So, the third time was the charm for Gov. Gavin Newsom's crusade to punish oil companies for what he described as price-gouging — sort of.

Newsom spent six months vilifying the oil industry after retail gasoline prices surged last year to as much as \$2.60 a gallon over the national average, and initially proposed a tax on windfall profits.

However, that didn't wash with enough Democrats in the Legislature to pass, since new taxes require a two-thirds vote. Newsom then exchanged the tax for penalties, but while they would have required only a simple-majority vote, legislators were also cool to deciding what profit margins would be allowed.

Finally — and almost in desperation — Newsom cut a deal that would dump the whole issue onto the California Energy Commission to gather data about refinery operations, establish a reasonable profit allowance and assess penalties for exceeding it.

"Finally, we're in a position to look our constituents in the eye and say we now have a better understanding of why you're being taken advantage

of," Newsom said last week as he signed the bill. "There's a new sheriff in town in California, where we brought Big Oil to their knees. And I'm proud of this state."

It was a characteristic bit of hyperbole on Newsom's part. It will take months, and perhaps years, before the energy commission takes any action to set profit margins, much less enforce them.

"Nothing is going to happen in the short term," Newsom acknowledged. "Gas prices are not going to drop immediately."

Industry officials indicated that they would sue if they consider some of the proposed regulations too onerous, which could tie things up indefinitely.

"We need to wait and see what becomes of this," a spokeswoman for the Western States Petroleum Association said.

Another caveat: The legislation is aimed at regulating "gross gasoline refining margins." However, the state's foremost expert on the subject, Severin Borenstein of UC Berkeley's Energy Institute, told legislators at a hearing for Newsom's second version of the crackdown that most of the sharp hikes in retail prices occurred as gasoline was being moved from wholesalers to the retail level. Thus, limiting profits on refining might not have a major effect on retail prices.

Finally, the last few passages of the legislation, which got almost no media attention, indicate that the energy commission will not only regulate

refinery profits but must strive to ensure the industry's ability to supply enough fuel over the next few decades for a "reliable, safe, equitable, and affordable transition away from petroleum fuels" to battery-powered vehicles.

That could be the trickiest aspect of the whole issue, and one with the greatest potential impact on the motoring public.

The new law essentially transforms the refining industry into a public utility, much like the suppliers of electricity and natural gas. That means not only attempting to regulate prices but making sure the industry earns enough money to keep it in business for two or three decades, while some Californians continue to drive gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles.

Newsom has banned the sale of such vehicles after 2035, but that doesn't mean they will suddenly disappear. Moreover, the technology to replace diesel-fueled trucks that carry freight into and out of the state is still in its infancy, and residents of other states seeking to drive into California will expect that they can fuel their cars.

How will California regulate petroleum fuel prices while simultaneously trying to both eliminate refiners and make sure they continue to produce enough fuel to meet demand indefinitely?

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

Why Should a Non-working Spouse be Entitled to Social Security Benefits?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: Why can a non-working spouse claim half of their working spouse's benefit even though they have not contributed to the Social Security system? This doesn't seem right or fair to those of us who have contributed for years from our paychecks. **Signed: Inquisitive**

Dear Inquisitive: This is a question which needs a bit of historical background to properly explain: Social Security's original purpose when it was enacted in 1935 was to prevent America's seniors from living in poverty (remember, Social Security was enacted during the "Great Depression"). Even before the first Social Security check was sent to a retired worker in 1940, Congress had already changed the original Social Security law to, as well, provide anti-poverty benefits to non-working spouses of a worker (a

predominant family reality at that time) and surviving spouses, as well as to their minor children. Social Security's fundamental goal has always been to lift eligible Americans out of poverty, which it still does very effectively.

It's important to note that this change did not (and does not) detract in any way from the benefits provided to those who work and contribute to Social Security thus earning their own SS retirement benefit. In other words, those who receive their personally earned SS retirement benefit are not at all penalized if their non-working spouse also receives a benefit (albeit a considerably smaller amount) on the worker's record. Living expenses for two people are, simply, higher than for one, which was/is the rationale for also paying benefits to a dependent not eligible for Social Security benefits on their own work record. In the end, it all comes down to avoiding poverty.

Although the numbers vary somewhat by state, gender, and ethnicity, without Social Security about 38% of all Americans over age 65 would be living below the poverty line, whereas with Social Security only about 9% of Americans over 65 live below the poverty line. But that 9% number would be significantly higher if

non-working spouses and survivors of eligible workers were also not entitled to Social Security benefits.

While it is true that Social Security is facing future solvency issues, the thought of restricting benefits to only those who have worked and contributed to the program (and not to their non-working spouses or minor children) is not something being considered by anyone with Congressional influence, regardless of political affiliation. Doing so would be devastating to a large segment of the American population, severely increasing poverty — the very thing that Social Security is designed to prevent.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★

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Carmichael Times

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"Help Us Help The Poor"

5057 Cottage Way, at the Walnut Avenue Parking Lot

Saturday, April 22nd
9:00 a.m. - Noon

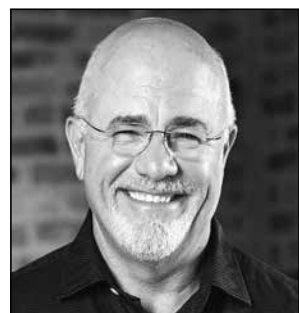
On-site Shred Truck ♦ You Can Watch!!

- ✓ Bring all old or new tax records and/or any other old dust-gathering confidential documents for professional shredding
- ✓ Staples & paper clips OK
- ✓ All shredded paper is recycled

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\$500 for each paper grocery shopping bag
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Dave Ramsey Says

didn't have a mortgage at all, would you take out a loan against your home to buy a rental property? Let me give you a hint. The answer should be a big, fat no.

The shortest distance between where you are right now and a high-quality financial life – including wealth building – is getting your home and other debt paid off. Then, use the cash flow that's freed up, and the increased peace of mind, to rapidly pile up a bunch of money and buy another rental property.

There's nothing wrong with owning rental properties and other kinds of real estate, Valerie. I love real estate, and today, I have several rental properties of my own. The difference is I bought all of mine with cash. I didn't go into debt for them. I learned my lesson about debt the hard way over 30 years ago, and I don't want you to take a chance

on suffering through all that crap too.

Use the money from the sale of the cabin to pay off your home and other debt, and to make sure you've got a solid emergency fund of 3–6 months of expenses set aside. After that, if you want to start saving aggressively for another rental, go for it. Just make sure it's a smart buy when the time comes and that you pay for it in cash!

– 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. ★

Pay Off My Home, or Buy a Rental?

Dear Dave,

I'm going to sell a rental cabin I own, and the sale should bring me about \$388,000. Should I take the proceeds from the sale and use it to pay off my home and other debt or use the money to buy another, similar rental property where I could collect about \$1,500 per month in rent? Right now, I owe \$200,000 on my home, and I have just under \$50,000 in miscellaneous debt.

– Valerie

Dear Valerie,

Let me start by asking you a question. If your home were paid for and you



Easter Blessings

Christian or not, Easter is a special time. History can attest to the many traditions and rituals. But what is most important in all of them is that it is a time for renewal...of life...of hope...and especially after we have lived through three years of a pandemic we never dreamed of...a look at the future and not the past. Perhaps it is time to just enjoy the little things that make Easter so special and put a smile on our faces and food for our soul. But there is fun too. Ever wonder where some of the symbols of Easter originated. It's a mixed bag, but here are some theories.

Peter Cottontail will come hopping down the bunny trail once again. He is universal and secular, but I found some interesting history about this funny bunny. Here's one that surprised me. Perhaps the hare and not the rabbit should be the leader of the pack. Since ancient times the hare has been the symbol of the moon. Legend has it the hare never closes its eyes, not even for a single blink. Maybe it's because of the fact that hares, not rabbits are born with their eyes open. Rabbits are born blind. Fertility might have some bearing on the picture since rabbits beat hares in being more prolific. So many more bunnies can hop down that bunny trail.

How about those colored eggs? Some historical reasons for them too. At the Passover Seder, a hard-boiled egg dipped in salt water symbolizes both new life as well as the Passover sacrifice offered at the Temple in Jerusalem. The ancient Persians painted eggs for

Nowrooz, their New Year celebration falling on the Spring Equinox. In Christian tradition, the egg was a symbol of new life as a chick might hatch from the egg. In Medieval times, eggs were forbidden during Lent, and then eggs were on the menu after the strict Lenten fast. Wonder if they were scrambled or sunnyside up?

And oh those lovely Lilies. They came from Bermuda. Goes back to the 1880's when Ms Thomas P. Sargent fell in love with their beauty blooming in Spring. She brought back bulbs to her home in Philadelphia from Bermuda. Bet you can't bring plants past customs these days. But today, they are a permanent symbol of Easter too.

Can't leave out chocolate. Chocolate eggs began in 19th century France and Germany and soon spread to the rest of Europe and eventually the United States. Children were told to make nests or baskets so the Easter Bunny could leave them there. I'd go on an Easter egg hunt for chocolate any time! So after the Lenten time sacrifice, what a treat. Bring on the chocolate in any form anytime!

So there. Got some traditions of your own? Dig them out from the past and share them. Caring for each other is so important in our times of war, disease, hate and crime. The bottom line is we can make it through these times with that blessing of new life and rebirth that is the promise for a better tomorrow. ★

HAPPY BUNNY DAY!!!

CLG NEWS UPDATES

Provided by Citizens for Legitimate Government (CLG) See legitgov.org

Nashville School Shooter who Killed Three Children was Transgender Woman, Police Say Audrey Elizabeth Hale, 28, was Killed by Police at the scene and has since Been Confirmed as the Shooter who Killed Six People at the Covenant School in Tennessee

27 March 2023 | Police searched her house and found a detailed map of the school, including potential entry points, and evidence she had clearly done surveillance before the shooting. Authorities also described her as a "lone zealot," who had written a manifesto ahead of the attack. Hale is believed to be a former student at The Covenant School in Nashville, where used two assault rifles and a pistol to kill six. Metropolitan Nashville Police Chief John Drake said: "We have a manifesto, we have some writings we're going over that pertain to this day, the actual incident. We have a map drawn out of how this was all going to take place."

Ukraine: Soldiers Storm Orthodox Monastery, Arrest Priest During Service, Cut Off Access to Sacred Caves, Close Three Orthodox Churches

24 March 2023 | Your tax dollars at work. The Zelensky Regime continues its war against Orthodox Christian Church in Ukraine. Zelensky cut off access to the sacred Kiev Caves Lavra National Reserve, additional caves, and three other Orthodox churches... In another incident last week a Christian man lost his fingertip when raiders tore open the doors of his Orthodox Church with a crowbar. And an Orthodox Church in Western Ukraine was raided during mass and the priest was arrested.

Adam Kinzinger Linked to Pro-Ukraine Organization Which Allegedly Scammed People Out of Millions of Dollars

26 March 2023 | RINO Adam Kinzinger might be in serious hot water because a Ukraine-centered non-profit he is a board member of is being accused of scamming people out of millions of dollars. As reported by the Post Millennial, the story starts with a man named James Vasquez who formerly worked for Ripley's Heroes. Vasquez boasted about joining the Ukraine army in 2022 to fight the Russians and bragged about his supposed exploits, including "taking out seven Russian tanks." This caught Kinzinger's attention and he started promoting Vasquez. He urged Twitter to verify his account and posed together with the supposed hero. There was just one problem: Vasquez lied about everything. Now Ripley's Heroes is being investigated by the federal government.

Arizona Supreme Court Breathes New Life Into Key Part of Kari Lake's Election Lawsuit

23 March 2023 | The Arizona Supreme Court has sent a key part of Kari Lake's election lawsuit back to trial court for review, breathing new life into the former gubernatorial candidate's legal challenge to the outcome that she says was unfair. In an order issued on March 22, the Arizona Supreme Court directed the trial court to review a key claim related to signature verification procedures on early ballots in Maricopa County, reviving Lake's hopes in her election challenge. "The signature verification process in Maricopa County is a house of cards. Thanks to this ruling, my team will get the chance to topple it," Lake said in a statement expressing satisfaction with the ruling... In her complaint to the Arizona Supreme Court, Lake raised seven legal issues with the request for review, including the allegation that 35,563 "unaccounted for ballots" were intermingled with other ballots at a processing facility and that procedures on testing tabulating machines weren't followed, and so the results of the election were at the very least "uncertain."

Federal judge blocks key parts of California handgun law

21 March 2023 | A federal judge on Monday blocked key provisions of a California law that drastically restricts the sale of new handguns in the state, saying parts of the legislation violate the Second Amendment. A lawsuit challenging the law was filed last year by the California Rifle & Pistol Association and other gun rights supporters following a landmark 2022 decision from the U.S. Supreme Court that set new standards for evaluating firearm restrictions. The ruling left many laws aimed at regulating and limiting the sale and use of guns -- in California and nationwide -- at risk of being struck down. U.S. District Court Judge Cormac Carney, sitting in Santa Ana, wrote Monday that California's requirements for new handguns are unconstitutional and cannot be enforced.

With His First Veto, Biden Puts Woke Capitalism Before American Workers and Retirees

27 March 2023 | Joe Biden issued his first veto against a bipartisan bill that sought to protect millions of Americans' retirement plans from woke investments. His action shows he prioritizes politics over Americans' financial security. Early this month, the U.S. House and Senate passed a bipartisan resolution to prevent fiduciaries of retirement plans from subordinating financial returns to woke causes. Biden chose to ignore all the concerns and warnings, including those from his own party. Instead, he used his first veto to preserve a so-called environmental, social, and governance, or ESG, rule that his administration adopted last year. His action confirms that despite his rhetoric of bipartisanship, he is an inflexible politician. ★

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Claims Clinic

Saturday, April 8, 2023
8am to 3pm

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) will hold a Claims Clinic at the Veterans Community Center in Citrus Heights.

This is a FREE Service. No charge for claims filings and consults.

VBA Public Contact employees will be on hand to assist all military veterans, family members, and the community on VA benefits. This will include filing claims, checking the status of pending claims, adding dependents, and answering questions on the claims process. Veterans should bring valid picture ID so that they can be verified in the VBA system.

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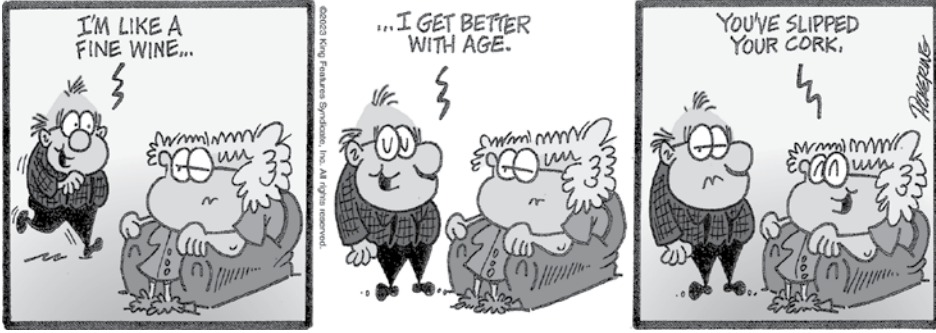
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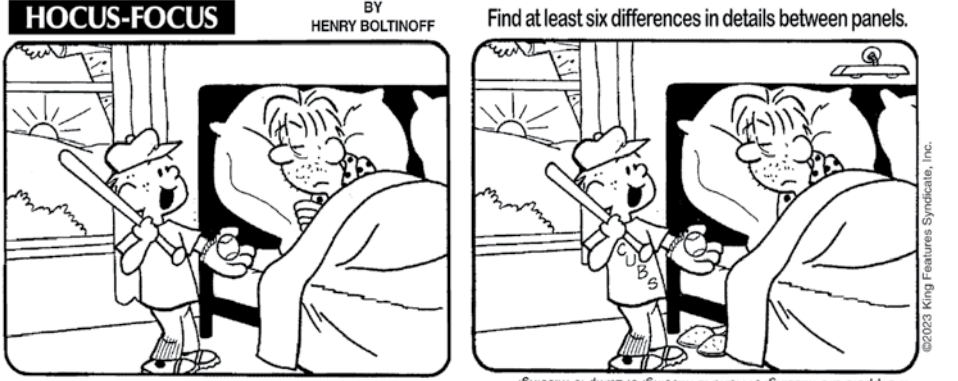
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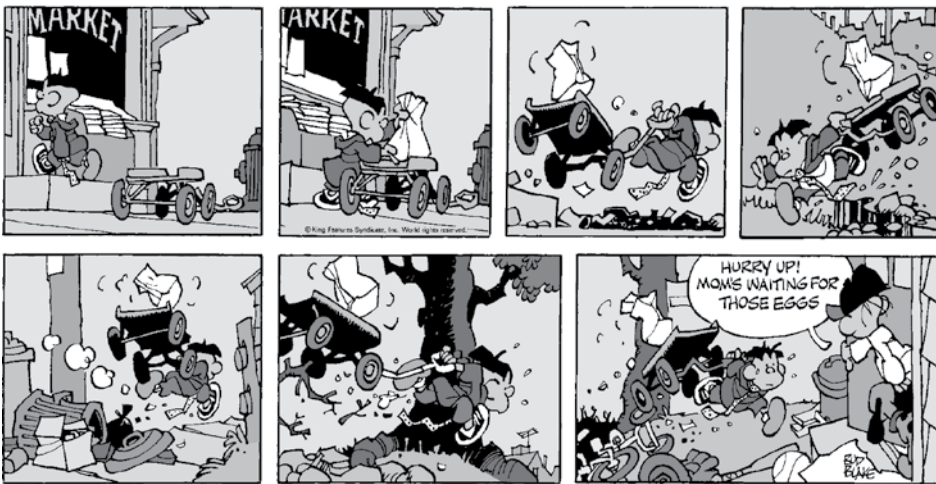
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Out on a Limb

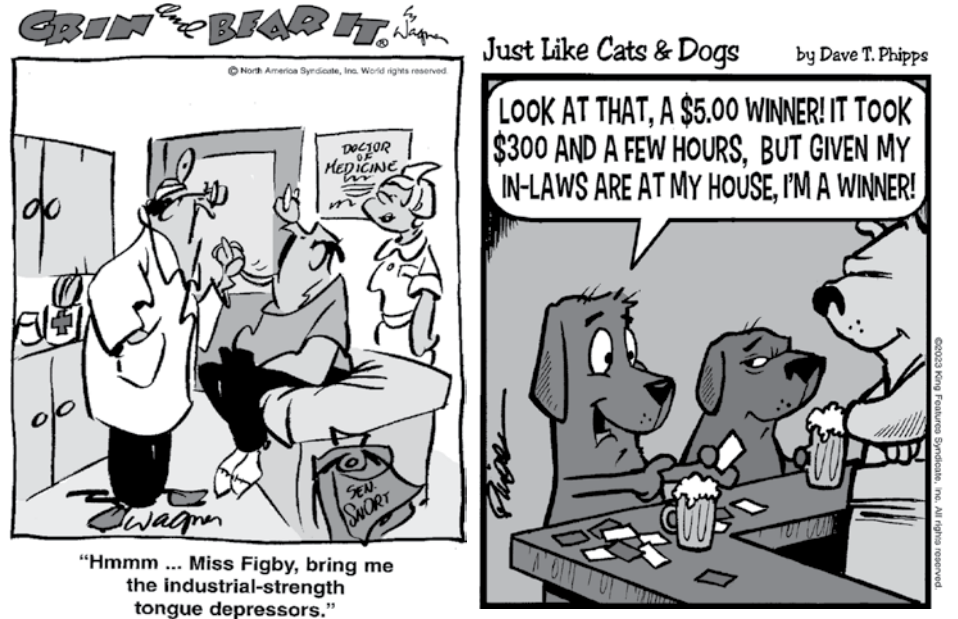


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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • ANATOMY 101

CLUES

ACROSS

- Emir, alt. sp.
- Comic book cry
- *One of 27 in hand
- Dhaka, formerly
- Half man, half goat
- Pressure ulcers, e.g.
- Type of wrap
- Old fashioned "before"
- Do like ivy
- *Smooth, skeletal or cardiac
- *"Gray's ____"
- Gardener's tool
- Detected by olfactory system
- Acronym-named sandwich
- Sore throat voice
- Retires from military service
- Steak option
- Place at angle
- Double, in French
- *Certain apple's namesake
- Fork pokers
- Heavy metal's Quiet
- *Pelvis bone
- *Hardened keratin plate
- Wedding promise?
- Mandela
- *Part of eye, not flower
- Tokyo, formerly
- Alpine transport
- Cuckoo
- *Vein to "go for"
- *Cell body, axon and dendrite
- Use the other side of pencil
- Caviar alternative
- Mafia's top dogs
- *The best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft
- Fuss
- Modern correspondence
- Opposite of want
- Japanese currency
- Pep gathering

DOWN

- Annoying pop-ups
- *Yes, ____!
- Beige
- E-wallet content
- Resentment
- Musketeer's sword
- *Smallest bones location
- Work the dough
- Diamond in a cutting tool
- *"Wonderfilled" cookie
- a.k.a. Indian Lilac
- Grammy of sports
- Like a Haunted Mansion visitor?
- Minimum
- Endorsement
- Alfresco
- *It contains cerebellum and parietal lobe
- Big Dipper shape
- Hiker's path
- *Largest organ
- Fogginess
- Speak one's mind
- *AB+ or B-
- Vigorous fight
- Outback birds
- Dam-like structure
- Snail trail
- Like certain Crüe
- Giannis' league
- Cup holder
- Orderly arrangement
- Popular movie genre
- J in B. J. King
- Serve as motive
- Em's and Dorothy's last name
- CPD, in auto industry
- Glowing gas
- Iridescent gem
- Byproduct of wool combing
- Percy Bysshe Shelley's poem
- Canny

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SUMMONS

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) CASE NUMBER: 34-2022-00326853 NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: Corvette Connections, Inc.; Philip Edward Van Every aka Philip Vanevery; CA Corvettes LLC; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: Red Target, LLC. NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program.

Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro.

que la corte pueda desechar el caso. The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es): Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, 720 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

The name, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Ferns, Adamas & Associates, 2815 Mitchell Drive, Suite 210, Walnut Creek, CA 94598; 925/927-3401.

Date: (Fecha) September 19, 2022 Clerk (Secretario) V. Bloxson, Deputy (Adjunto) Publish March 24, 31, April 7 & 14, 2023 FERNs 4-14-23

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.

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.

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.

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.

This Magic Wall Heals



American Legion Post 637 Riders make their presence known as they visit the Memorial Saturday. Riders in other cities the Memorial visits arrange and carry out an elaborate escort to the Wall Memorial site.



It was a powerful moment as the grandson of Gary Lee Strouse and his girlfriend experience the power of the Wall as they complete the rubbing of his grandfather's name and touch black granite in which his name is engraved for posterity.

Story and photos by Elise Spleiss

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - "If you had not come home to insults and jeers, I would not have come home to hugs and handshakes." These words from the Education Center at the replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial which came to Citrus Heights from March 29 to April 2, express perfectly the reason for the creation of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. and the traveling Wall That Heals replica.

More than 8,000 residents of Sacramento County and beyond came to Rusch Park in Citrus Heights to view and experience that magic for healing and closure, about a previously never spoken of event in history.

Also known as 'The Magic Wall,' this wall of shiny black granite from India consists of 140 numbered panels with 58,281 names including eight women, who died in Vietnam from 1975 to 1968.

Tim Tetz, with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF), arrived along with five other staff members to direct all operations and make sure visitors had all their questions answered. Tetz gave powerful and inclusive tours to the community volunteers and later to visitors during the event.

The 53-foot semi-truck arrived in downpouring rain and wind at its destination at 11:30 a.m. on March 28. At 8:30 a.m. Wednesday dozens of members of the California State Guard and other volunteers began the monumental task of assembling the over 140 granite panels into the 375-foot-long memorial.

The semi then unfolded into the mobile Education Center which gave the complete back story from 1959 to 1968 and how and why the undeclared war began and ended. Visitors saw the Hometown Heroes panel with the rotating photos of those whose home of record was Sacramento, Citrus Heights, Carmichael, and Fair Oaks.

Visitors came to the Wall 24/7. Many veterans who have never spoken of their experiences and their pain came at night. The magic came for loved ones and



Family members and loved ones make rubbings of the names of the fallen to take home and remember those who made the maximum sacrifice for freedom.

those assisting them by looking up a name on the wall, helping them find the name, and showing them how to do a pencil rubbing of the name of their loved one.

Upon finding his grandfather late at night, who was a second-generation soldier, one young man and his girlfriend did the rubbing and touched his name on the black granite. Never knowing his grandfather, tears welled up in his eyes as it all became a reality for him. Looking at a photo he had, he now noticed, "I have his eyes, I have his nose."

This story of healing and closure was repeated hundreds of times over the five days and nights for veterans and relatives of lost ones.

Many items were left at the Wall including flowers, toys, photos, and letters to and from their loved ones. Some tell a whole story such as that of John Carl Guenther, Jr. from Fair Oaks. John graduated from Bella Vista in 1965 and was killed in 1969 after serving two years. His sister placed a collection of memorabilia that told her son's story, including a plastic roadrunner as John's favorite cartoon had been Wile E. Coyote and the Roadrunner.

Another poignant story told by Tetz was of a blind veteran who had come to the Wall hoping to find his friend who had died in his arms after being shot by enemy fire decades ago. He could not remember his name or the year. Tetz took his hand and after helping him run it over seven panels, the man finally said, "I know he's here; I can feel him."

Tetz said, "It was as if his hand was possessed, it was electrified." When his name was finally found the veteran said, "This is the closest I've felt to him on over 50 years. That is the power of the Wall."

Another component of the Education Center is to show how things have changed in many ways since the 1960's. The creation of the "In Memory Honor Roll invites loved ones of [those] died from war related illnesses after they came home, to nominate them to be included on the online memorial. Because of the unfair way these men and women were received when they returned home, those returned and are returning do to respect and honor for their service. And Vietnam veterans are hearing "Welcome Home" more often."

Over 20 sponsors helped bring the Wall here including the City of Citrus Heights, Sunrise Marketplace, Stone's Gambling Hall, Rotary of Citrus Heights. Volunteers and helpers from all over gave from a few hours to working every day to help where needed.

Lori-Michelle Willett from Petaluma said in a text, "It was an honor and a privilege to visit The Wall That Heals. The historical guide, Tim (Tetz) shared true events in such a way to respectfully pass on the personal stories of so many while engaging visitor participation, demonstrating the bonds that tie Veterans over the span of decades. The Wall That Heals is an incredible display of love and respect for those who gave their lives, brought right to you.

To find a loved one on the Wall and information on what is available to the public go to vvmf.org

NOTICE OF SALE OF ABANDONED PERSONAL PROPERTY Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Cal Civ Code §§1980-2003, the property listed below believed to be abandoned by Quintin Steen, whose last address was 5100 Garfield Ave., #82, Sacramento, CA will be sold at public auction at the above-referenced address on April 13, 2023 at 8:35 a.m. Description of property: sofa, end tables, 2 TVs, turntable, 2 speakers, 3 lamps, dinette set, kitchen countertop appliances, bed, dressers, pots, pans, dishes, linens, Ikea desk, chair & table, sm bookcase, bike, laptop, PC, printer, 3 jackets, misc supplies, assorted home furnishings, clothes, closed boxes. All items sold "as is". Purchases must be removed at time of sale and must be paid for by cashier's check or money order. Carmichael Times 3-31, 4-7-2023

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Thank A Veteran Today

EDD Deemed 'Non-Responsive' by Congressional Committee

By Thomas Buckley, CaliforniaGlobe.com

Reprinted by permission. A person in a coma is considered to be non-responsive.

Unironically, also considered to be non-responsive is California's Employment Development Department (EDD) when it comes to answering Congressional questions.

The House Committee on Oversight and Accountability – which is looking into various aspects of the pandemic response, including its financial impacts – has deemed the EDD's answer to a January information request as not nearly good enough.

"The EDD has not provided documents requested by Chairman (Kentucky Republican James) Comer," said a committee spokeswoman. "We intend to have additional follow up on the document request."

When asked by the Globe for a comment, the EDD provided a copy of a letter it sent to Comer's committee in late January and did not address the current issue of their failure to provide the requested documentation.

Non-responsive, indeed.

The committee is attempting to get to the bottom of the massive fraud perpetrated against the EDD during the pandemic. The current estimate is that the EDD lost about \$40 billion to illegitimate claimants, including prisoners (and not just from California prisons,) garden variety local scammers, and international fraud rings, all of whom simply walked right in to the department's completely unprotected system.

While the EDD has claimed it did the best it could, it should be noted that the EDD – even though it could have purchased basic fraud protection software that would even work with its antiquated IT systems for about \$5 million- had no way to prove if an applicant was who they said they were until the end of 2020, months after the pandemic began.

The EDD also had no system to check to see



California has 12% of the nation's workforce, but had more than 20% of the country's unemployment benefit fraud. MPG file photo

if people in prison, people from out-of-state, and people from overseas – all ineligible for benefits – were getting benefits in the form of a chipless debit card pre-loaded with up to about \$15,000 – each.

The EDD did not even cross-reference addresses to notice and potentially flag as fraudulent when a single home received dozens, if not hundreds, of cards (they used to have one but stopped paying for it when a federal grant ran out a few years ago.)

Particularly telling is that California has about 12% of the nation's workforce, it saw more than 20% of the unemployment benefit fraud in the country, meaning that word spread very quickly in the fraud world that the state was an especially easy mark.

In January, the committee requested the following:

1. All processes and procedures related to the disbursement of unemployment insurance benefits during the pandemic, including policies and procedures intended to ensure payments are made to the proper individual, and to ensure that the individual is a qualified recipient of unemployment insurance;
2. All documents and communications between employees of

the California EDD and employees of the U.S. Department of Labor regarding the state's UI benefit program;

3. All documents and communications related to efforts to prevent payment of fraudulent UI claims;

4. All documents and communications related to efforts to recoup UI claims paid improperly;

5. All documents and communications related to identifying the total number of improperly paid UI benefits and documents sufficient to show whether those funds remain in the United States or were transferred to entities outside the United States.

The committee spokeswoman would not specify exactly how the EDD was "non-responsive" – for example, was the information missing or unrelated or gibberish – but stressed the agency remains very prominently on Congress' radar.

In the January letter to the committee – the one that was re-provided to the Globe – department chief Nancy Farias blamed the Trump administration for the massive fraud, stating, in part, "... we object to the Chair's mischaracterization of California's response to the UI fraud attacks and the Chair's failure to acknowledge the inadequate response by the

Trump Administration, which left neglected state UI systems fighting domestic and international criminal enterprises effectively on their own."

In other words, the feds didn't hold their hand tight enough.

Either way, this claim flies in the face of a California State Auditor's report that states flatly that the feds "warned the state at least three times in the early months of the

pandemic to beef up its fraud protections."

The date for the next response deadline is not yet clear nor is exactly when Farias and other EDD employees will have to testify in front of Congress.

As of midnight Wednesday, the EDD – which, again, suffered a very preventable loss of \$40 billion – still owed the federal government a principal amount

of \$18,735,210,647.41 in addition to interest of \$142,361,804.80.

Finally, the state has increased unemployment insurance taxes on California businesses to make up the shortfall and it is not clear if anyone at the EDD has been fired for the failure; in fact, the person in charge at the time, Julie Su, could become, the next Secretary of Labor in the Biden administration. ★

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Chips Down for Charity



Sacramento District 3 Supervisor Rich Desmond (center) joins a poker table as co-sponsor for Arden Arcade Rotary Club's casino-night at Niello BMW.

Story and photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner


SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Rotarians rolled the dice and raised more than \$100,000 at a casino night last weekend.

The "All in for Arden Arcade" tournament is a fundraiser for the Arden Arcade Rotary Club. The money benefits community projects, scholarships and the Sacramento Firefighters Burn Institute.

Playing poker at Niello BMW's showroom, gamblers racked up chips for prizes that included a big-screen TV, computer accessories and a custom poker table. In its 12th year, the club's biggest fundraising event included a barbecue dinner for 160 guests.

Sponsors included: Niello BMW; Supervisor Rich Desmond; Huber/Fox Law; Walmart/Sam's Club; WIZIX Technology; Inter-State Oil. ★

INDOOR PICKLEBALL



Come join us at the La Sierra Community Center for indoor pickleball. Our Johnson Gym has 5 indoor courts for drop-in play.

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
- Purchase passes/punch cards at the La Sierra Community Center Recreation Office (5325 Engle Rd, Suite 100)

Chambers Teamed Up for Power Lunch




"Build your business network" was the theme at a Power Lunch held at the Carmichael Elks Lodge on March 3. The event was hosted by the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce and attended by about 100 members from five communities in the Sacramento region. Power Lunches are a great way for local Chambers to expand the networking reach available to their members. In the image from left to right: Chamber executive directors Kimberley Pitillo (Fair Oaks), Diane Ebbitt (Citrus Heights), Julie DePrada-Schott (Carmichael), Kim Bayne (Orangevale). Front row: Business Development Manager Pam Garcia (Rancho Cordova). Photo by Judy Andrews

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