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OCTOBER 6, 2023

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Our Fascinations Celebrated in Film

International Festival Draws Documentaries from 23 Countries



Producer James Sweigert (front) and some of the cast of the documentary history N-Men, which portrayed the history of skateboarding in the Sacramento area from the 60s and 70s onward. Photo by Rick Sloan

By Margaret Snider

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - The second International Documentary Film Festival, September 29 – October 1, received 150 entries winnowed down to the 59 accepted, from 23 countries. The reception at Rancho Cordova City Hall began the event at 5:30 p.m. on the 29th. Dignitaries and their guests enjoyed food, drink and the showing of N-Men, a documentary about the history of skateboarding in the Sacramento area. Festival director

Charles Lago and Rancho Cordova Film Office marketing director Sidney Stipanovich guided the evening's events.

The Festival was also a contest, with two panels of judges and four categories. "We hope to announce the winners by mid to late October," Lago said. Rancho Cordova Mayor Linda Budge will announce the winners. The Belka & Hagan Families award for Best of Festival Documentary is \$1,000; KP International Market

Award for Best Foreign Film, \$500; Comstock's Award for Best Short Documentary and California Capital Arts Foundation Award for Most Interesting Documentary Subject, each awarding \$250.

Lago came to the Sacramento area in 2020 to produce a film, then realized there was a need for a film office in Rancho Cordova. "They liked the idea of having their own film office, and that's how we ended up," Lago said. They are now in their fourth year. *Continued on page 3*

County Executive Announces Retirement



Ann Edwards

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - County Executive Ann Edwards has announced her retirement, effective Jan. 26, 2024.

"It has been an honor of a lifetime to serve as County Executive for the last three years," said Edwards. "My primary goals from the beginning were to provide stability to the organization, build trust within and outside the organization and transform the County's organizational culture."

"I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the incredible leadership team that has stood by my side throughout this journey. Together, we have tackled numerous challenges and worked tirelessly to make our county a better place for all its residents. Their efforts have not only made my tenure as County Executive successful but have also positively impacted the lives of countless individuals."

"I also extend my deepest gratitude to the Board of Supervisors for their trust and unwavering support throughout my tenure as County Executive. Serving this community has been an incredible journey, and it would not have been possible without the collaboration and dedication of these esteemed individuals."

"The Board of Supervisors has played a vital role in shaping our county's policies and initiatives, and their commitment to our shared vision for a better future has been truly inspiring."

"Ann took on significant responsibilities during a critical period in our County's history when she began her tenure in 2020," said District 3 Supervisor and Board Chair Rich Desmond. "I speak on behalf of the entire Board when I say that Ann's steady leadership and unwavering commitment to the well-being of the County's organization and residents was instrumental in navigating the challenges we faced."

The Board of Supervisors will announce the appointment of an interim/acting County Executive. *Continued on page 5*

A Journey from Homelessness to Hope and Stability

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Amelia reaches to gently pet the fluffing feathers of her baby parrot Sunshine. Her brilliant orange, yellow and green feathers puff up in happiness as she moves her head around, signaling her content.

Amelia maneuvers around her one-bedroom cottage in a push wheelchair. Her bedroom has enough room for a twin bed, Sunshine's cage and perch and a vanity that is strewn with makeup and lotions. The living room has a couch, a kitchen table and a corner shelf filled with paints, brushes, and a few painted canvases. Every canvas has a flower scape – beautiful colors and symmetry. The bathroom is also covered in painted canvases – except for the shower, which is



Amelia and her brightly colored, feathered friend, Sunshine, make the best of their lives thanks to the support they get at Quinn Cottages. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County.

filled with a shower chair to accommodate Amelia's needs.

Quinn Cottages is tucked away on a forgotten street

just north of downtown Sacramento, between Women's Empowerment and the North A Street shelter. It is fully fenced

and secure, but when you walk into the unassuming community, the colorful bungalows are beautiful. *Continued on page 2*

A Journey from Homelessness to Hope and Stability

Continued from page 1

and eye-catching. Flowerpots and windchimes cover tiny porches and patches of grass. Residents lounge around in the communal spaces – one person totes a laundry basket to the machines near the front of the compound. Another puts a dollar into a soda machine. A small black dog barks protectively at each person who walks by while perched on his owner's lap.

The cottages are clustered in a series of small neighborhoods, each oriented around a shared common space. The perimeter is fenced, monitored with a security system, and has controlled front gate access. A central community building houses a computer room, a library/small conference room, a multipurpose room, and a community kitchen. Residents participate in a rigorous and comprehensive two-year program from which they graduate. The campus is funded through Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA), which is partially funded by Sacramento County, and operated by Mercy Housing.

To qualify for a referral to Quinn Cottages, residents must have a disability – either physically or mentally. In Amelia's case, she is mostly wheelchair-bound – from a car accident that nearly took her life, but instead, drastically changed everything about her and her future.

Amelia came to Sacramento when she was 15 – placed out of San Francisco into a group home for foster children. Amelia is a self-described jack of all trades. She was a singer, a bartender – she loved to goldmine. "I gave those boys a run for their money! I always find gold." Her favorite spot is up near Bear River.

She had a dream to be on American Idol – a beautiful singing voice, only heard now in saved files on her phone. Amelia was going to school to be a nurse – until her life was turned upside down. Nearly three years ago, Amelia was driving in a convertible BMW



Art helps Amelia in keeping a good spirit after a horrific accident left her disabled, homeless and desperate. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County.

when she was hit by a tow truck. The accident was horrific – part of the windshield frame went into her forehead; her windpipe was crushed and her spine fractured. First responders performed a tracheotomy just to help her breathe. She lay in the hospital, in a coma for days. While in a coma, Amelia suffered two strokes, leaving the left side of her body weak. Doctors planned to take her off life-support, but a friend insisted she would get better and wake up. And she did wake up – but she was severely injured, permanently.

The singing voice she once had was forever damaged, the left side of her body was weak and useless, and her legs were unable to hold up her body. She needed full-time care. She lived with her father,

whom she had been caretaking for before the accident. They hired an in-home caretaker for Amelia, but after they started abusing her, Amelia fired the caretaker. Amelia, without a job, insurance money to fall back on, and no trust in other people, became homeless.

Amelia was able to get into a shelter quickly – her various disabilities made her highly vulnerable outside. But an empty promise from a boyfriend to move into a hotel, causing her to self-exit the shelter, again left her on the streets with few resources and nowhere to go.

Amelia's situation represents the greatest fear – many people are just one major life curveball away from homelessness. Disabled, homeless and desperate, Amelia

used drugs to numb the pain of her accident – physically, emotionally, and mentally. Drugs were her escape from the nightmare her life had become, but also the deep scars of her upbringing. A mother who never loved her, children who had been put into the system and dream after dream shattered through bad decisions and bad relationships.

Six months ago, Amelia went into the Salvation Army shelter – again, a chance to shelter safely while pursuing recovery and stability. But Amelia knew she blew it again when they found drugs on her person. She was exited from the shelter for violating the rules. She moved out onto the American River Parkway. It was there she met Jenny, an outreach worker

with Community HealthWorks, formerly Sacramento Covered. Jenny and her colleagues do outreach and engagement to unhoused people, specifically on the Parkway – a priority funded by the Board of Supervisors to help alleviate the burden on both the campers and the environment.

Considering Amelia's history and disabilities, Jenny worked with Amelia on an application for Quinn Cottages. It took nearly six months of consistent work with Amelia, following up on her application, making sure she had all her documents in place and getting adequate health care for treatment of her injuries before a bungalow opened up at Quinn Cottages.

Before Amelia could move in, she suffered another injury – a broken foot. The day that Community HealthWorks workers came to move her out of her tent and into her own apartment – they had to lift her out of her tent because she couldn't move. It truly does take a village of compassionate, dedicated people to help the most vulnerable.

Amelia sits, grateful and peaceful as she looks around her cottage. "It is safe and secure here. There are rules and structure. People can't just come in here without permission." She puts around the compound in a power wheelchair. Her friend Larry, also in a power wheelchair, challenges her to a friendly race. They zip ahead, laughing.

She is clean and sober – knowing that she cannot succeed here if she uses. She wants to go to art school and maybe teach others how to paint. Maybe it will bring them the same peace it brings her. She enjoys cooking for herself and getting together with the other residents of Quinn Cottages. "We're a community." Her sister comes and visits her every week. Amelia is only 49 years old – despite her disabilities, she has so much life ahead of her. She is ready to make the most of it. ★

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Our Fascinations Celebrated in Film

Continued from page 1

N-Men showed in two sold-out locations at City Hall. The story began in the 1960s and 70s, continuing through current times. Producer James Sweigert was present, also some of the skateboarders featured in the film, including Steve-O Brockway, accompanied by his wife Kristi Smith-Brockway.

Back then Sweigert was just a kid at the park. "He knew who we were . . . but he was kind of afraid to be around us," Brockway said. "We were a motley crew . . . The difference between us and any other skateboarding crew in the whole world is that . . . I'm 63 and a lot of our guys are in their 60s, and we are all still skating together . . . It's not a film, it's a life."

Sweigert recalls the group from the perspective of "a little guy watching this group of skateboarders... All of us young guys were like, 'Where did these guys learn how to do all this?' It turns out they had been skating in empty swimming pools for years... sometimes, if the pools



The film festival's director Charles Lago (left) of CCAF lets RCPD Chief Brandon Luke "steal the show" at the reception on Friday, September 29! Photo by Rick Sloan

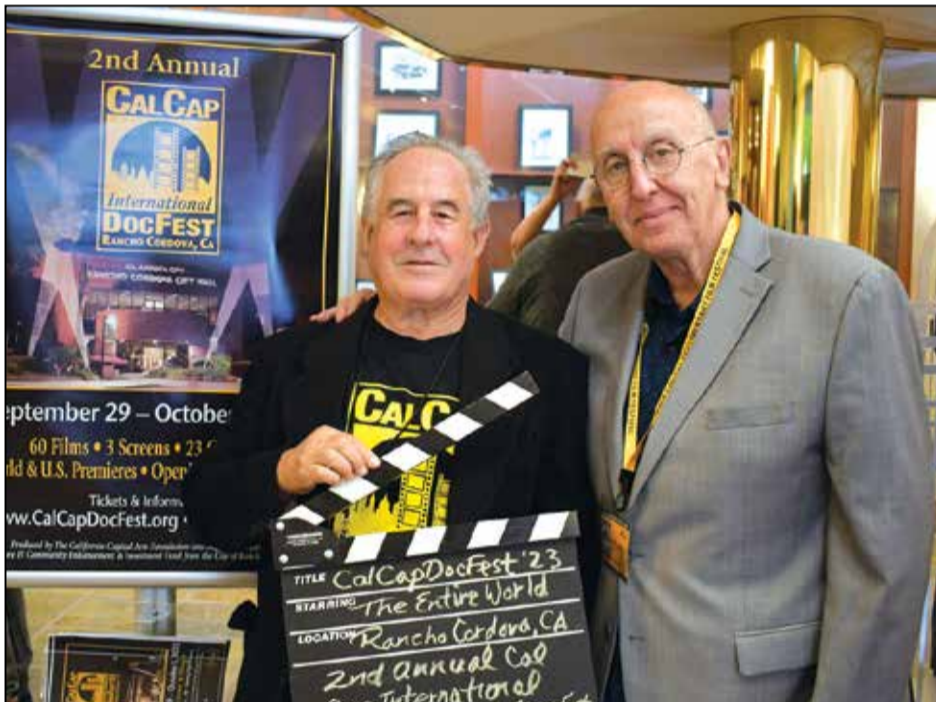
weren't empty and the houses were abandoned... they would jump the fence, pump 10,000 gallons of water out of a pool in 7 hours, clean it and skate it until they got chased off by

the Sacramento Sheriff's Deputies." When Sweigert grew up, he went to LA, became a film producer, and was the obvious choice to produce this documentary. Not all of the films are

stories of fun and games. "Joe 238" tells the story of policeman Joe Chairez, badge number 238, who sustained a burst aneurysm while making an arrest only 5½ months after

joining the Sacramento County Police Department. Joe had told his parents Jess and Theresa Chairez that if anything happened, he wanted to donate his organs. Theresa agreed, but

Jess was opposed. With only 1% chance of his son's survival, Jess prayed for guidance and felt God's answer that, "If I honored my son, I'd be honoring Him." The donor process proceeded. Jess joined the Red Cross and went from place to place telling the story of Joe 238 and how many people had been helped by receiving organ transplants. In time, Joe made a cloth patch depicting his son's badge. When he began receiving quilt patches with name, badge, and EOW (End of Watch) date of fallen officers from police departments all over the country, Jess made quilts for those departments. He has now made 50 quilts commemorating the sacrifice of those courageous officers. "Rancho Cordova Film Office is who we are, but we did the Festival under the California Capital Arts Foundation," Lago said. "The mission of the film office is to attract filming to the Rancho Cordova area . . . and once they're here, we facilitate the filming on behalf of the City." ★



CRPD Board Secretary Rick Sloan (left) sneaks into the director's shoes for some fun, film reviewing with CCAF's Charles Lago at this year's International Documentary Film Festival. Photo by Rick Sloan



Charles Lago (center) Director of California Capital Film Office receives a Sacramento County Supervisors Board of Directors Proclamation from Supervisor Pat Hume's Chief of Staff, Rebecca Sloan (right.) Rancho Cordova Mayor Linda Budge (left) was part of the film festival's attending dignitaries. Photo by Rick Sloan



Jess and wife Theresa Chairez with one of the many quilts he has created featuring patches portraying badges of fallen policemen. Photo by Daniel Aniceto



From left to right: RCPD Officer Jason Kimbrell, Lt. Rich Meredith, festival director Charles Lago (center) RCPD Chief Brandon Luke, and Officer Sariah Loudon. Photo by Rick Sloan

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DOORDASH

California Legislature resolves fast food franchise battle but another industry still rages



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

The California Legislature devoted much of its time this year to a battle over regulating wages and working conditions of fast-food workers.

Last year, legislators and Gov. Gavin Newsom created a state agency that would oversee the fast-food industry, which fought back with a referendum asking voters to overturn the new law, arguing that it would undermine the franchise business model.

With the referendum qualified for the ballot, the battle was rejoined this year with a proposal to make parent companies liable for labor law violations, further eroding the franchise model.

Ultimately, the clash was resolved with a compromise that gave sponsors of the legislation, unions mostly, what they wanted, including a new \$20 minimum wage, but removed the threat to the franchise system. Newsom signed the compromise legislation, Assembly Bill 1228, last week, and the fast food industry will remove its referendum from the 2024 ballot.

“Signature of AB 1228 preserves the franchise business model in the state and solidifies the best possible outcome for workers, local restaurant owners, and brands,”

Matt Haller, president of the International Franchise Association, said in a statement.

While the fast-food battle drew much media attention, there was another, much quieter clash over the franchise business model, involving a much more important segment of the consumer economy: new car sales.

This one, however, pitted auto manufacturers against their own franchised dealers in California and it’s still underway as each side tries to persuade Newsom to favor its position.

During the 1930s, as the nation’s auto industry consolidated into a few major manufacturers, they created a system for selling their vehicles through local franchised dealers.

When European and Asian automakers began peddling their vehicles in the United States after World War II, they also adopted the franchise system.

Dealerships often became major businesses unto themselves, particularly when corporations acquired multiple franchises. And it is common knowledge that dealerships profit handsomely from after-sale maintenance and repair work for their new car customers, as well as used car sales.

In many states, holders of valuable new car franchises bolstered their monopolies by persuading legislatures to pass laws making it illegal for anyone other than franchised dealers to sell new cars.

Relationships between automakers and their franchisees haven’t always

been smooth and their clashes have often reached the political arena, but the underlying system has remained intact.

Then Elon Musk and Tesla came along.

Musk refused to sell his revolutionary, battery-powered cars through franchised dealers and set up his own dealerships, incurring the wrath of franchisees. Tesla waged legal battles in states that had barred or limited its direct sales to customers.

By and by, however, as major manufacturers began making their own electric cars, they began toying with the notion of emulating Tesla and bypassing franchises in favor of direct sales.

Franchised dealerships see that as a threat to their place in the multi-billion-dollar business of selling and servicing new cars. In California alone, upwards of 2 million new cars and light trucks are sold each year.

Enter Assembly Bill 473, introduced at the behest of the state’s franchised new car dealers. It would put some tight restrictions on the ability of automakers to bypass the franchise system and also deals with other aspects of the business such as construction of electric car chargers and subscription services to new car owners.

The automakers mounted a lobbying campaign to block the bill but it survived committee and floor votes and has landed on Newsom’s desk.

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



By Bob McGarvey

I begin working on this column today on September 30, and the calendar says that October 1 will be tomorrow. The rain began during the night and the sidewalk was wet when we go up this morning. We were glad that it was there. I am not sure when the rainy season begins anymore, but it seems like October 1 is when it should begin. The journal of the Geophysical Research Letters said scientists have seen the start of the rainy season becoming progressively later in later decades. Each year is different because of the changes in the climate and how the weather has changed rather drastically. We will have to see how this year comes out. Will it be good or not?

Something new is that the Air Force JROTC at Cordova High is in need of some donations so they can get their uniforms out of the dry cleaners. They have had some donations, but they need \$1,495.50 so they can pick them up. I am thankful that there is such an interest in the JROTC from some of the students at Cordova High. There will always be a need for some of our youth to be willing to donate some of their time to their country. Joining the military is completely voluntary, but like other important jobs they are extremely important.

Jobs like teachers or police, for example, are getting harder and harder to fill because of the dangerous events which face the teachers in schools at times or the

And Another Thing

I Am Not Sure When The Rainy Season Begins Anymore

police who are attacked as they respond to calls. Especially calls from homes or fights between gangs.

As I work on this column, my wife showed me the news that a surprise and overwhelming bipartisan vote was passed in the House and was sent to the Senate. It is expedited to pass in the Senate to avoid a government shutdown at midnight tonight. That is a surprise but is also welcome news because most people didn’t think it could be passed just a few hours before the deadline. It is good news to hear that our elected officials are able to do their jobs instead of continuing to argue about pettiness or party opinions. I am hoping that it will pass the Senate and get the President’s signature before midnight. I guess we will know very soon. I just received the word that the Senate has passed the bill.

Senator Dianne Feinstein was on the Defense Subcommittee when I was Mayor, and I wrote a letter to Senator Feinstein. In that letter (from Mayor to former Mayor) I asked her if she would to find out why the active reserve of the military was not receiving promotions. Those who were in active duty were getting promotions. I received a very good letter back from her, and she said she would look into it. Not much time after that, those who were in the reserves began getting the promotions when they were deserved. She was greatly appreciated for looking into it.

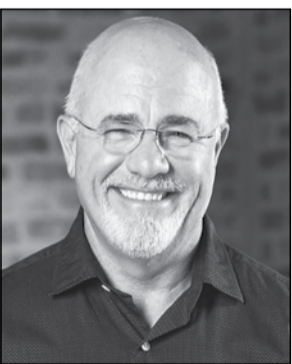
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Dave Ramsey Says

it anymore once he stops working. I suppose it’s fine if she wants to buy them each a small policy, but it’s liable to be pretty expensive at their age.

Now, she can do this, but I don’t think it would be a good long-term plan. I’d tell your girlfriend she needs to start saving money and building up her own wealth. If she had just \$20,000 in savings, that’d be more than enough to bury two people. Please understand, I don’t mean to sound insensitive. We’re talking solely about the economics involved in this kind of situation.

The other thing your girlfriend should do is have a discussion with her mom to find out if the stepfather has the money to handle that kind of thing. When it comes right down to it, any final expenses for her mom would be his responsibility now – not her dad’s. She should have a discussion with her dad about preparing for things, too. But if her dad’s got insurance

through work, and the stepdad is ready to pay for her mom’s burial, then they’re covered for the immediate future.

In short, I wouldn’t do it unless they absolutely don’t have this sort of thing covered. Even then, I’d prefer she just covered it with cash, because all we’re talking about is enough to cover burial costs. No matter what anyone else says, Joshua, a nice funeral doesn’t have to be crazy expensive.

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of “The Ramsey Show.” He has appeared on “Good Morning America,” “CBS This Morning,” “Today,” Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO of the company Ramsey Solutions. ★

It’s Not a Good Long-Term Plan

Dear Dave,

My girlfriend’s parents are divorced, and they’re both in their early seventies. We talked the other night, and she’s thinking about buying them each life insurance policies. The only coverage her dad has is through his employer. Her mom has remarried, and she doesn’t have any life insurance at all. On top of this, her dad is worried he might have to pay her mom’s funeral expenses if she died, and he’s not in good enough shape financially to do that. Do you have any advice?

– Joshua

Dear Joshua,

If the only life insurance her dad has is furnished through his employer, then he probably won’t have

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SacRT Awarded \$4.4M for Infrastructure Projects

SacRT News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded a total of \$4.4 million in state grant funding for three projects aimed at enhancing transportation infrastructure and addressing climate change impacts within the Sacramento region. These grants underscore SacRT's commitment to sustainable and accessible transit options across the region.

The grant awards are as follows:

Strategic Growth Council Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Grant - \$3.2 Million This significant grant funding will enable SacRT, in partnership with Bridge Housing, to make critical improvements to eight bus stops and fund platform modifications at the Arden/Del Paso Station on the Blue Line, ensuring that it meets the height requirements for the deployment of new low-floor light rail trains.

These enhancements will improve the overall transit experience for riders while contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, as part of the AHSC award, BRIDGE Housing will transform the vacant land and unoccupied buildings at 440 Arden Way into a vibrant mixed-use development including 124 affordable homes. The ground floor will include a commercial childcare center available to residents of the broader neighborhood, a resident services suite, community room, and a multipurpose room, surrounding a courtyard with playgrounds and community gardens.

Caltrans Climate Adaptation Planning Grant - \$730,209 In a collaboration effort with the City of Sacramento and SacRT funds were secured to address the impacts of climate change. The project involves a comprehensive multi-hazard risk assessment of transportation systems, the development of adaptation solutions, and the creation of a prioritized list of transit projects using a multi-criteria analysis.

Ultimately, this initiative will lead to the integration of climate change adaptation strategies into the capital improvement process, providing both the City and SacRT with actionable efforts to reduce climate change impacts on our transportation infrastructure.

Caltrans Climate Adaptation Grant - \$470,000 SacRT, in partnership with the City of Elk Grove, has received funding to further plan and conceptual design for extending the Blue Line light rail and/or bus rapid transit from the city of Sacramento to the city of Elk Grove. This project encompasses an existing conditions report, alignment and station location recommendations, ridership projections, technical analysis, traffic modeling, and station area plans.

The collaboration, supported by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), will engage various stakeholders and involve extensive community participation, ensuring that the project aligns with the needs and aspirations of the community.

"These grants mark a significant milestone in our efforts to enhance transit accessibility, increase housing and reduce our region's carbon footprint," said SacRT General Manager/CEO Henry Li. "We are committed to delivering sustainable and innovative solutions that will not only improve transit services but also contribute to a greener and more resilient future for the Sacramento region."

SacRT is the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Outstanding Public Transportation System of the Year award recipient in North America for accomplishment and innovations in public transportation, the 2022 and 2019 national TSA Gold Standard Security Award recipient for the highest standard of excellence, and the 2021 and 2020 national APTA Rail Safety Gold Award recipient for its multi-faceted and innovative approach to reducing crime and fare evasion. SacRT operates approximately 82 bus routes (fixed-route, dial-a-ride and

microtransit); 43 miles of light rail serving 53 stations; and ADA paratransit services all within a 440-square mile service area throughout Sacramento County, which includes service in the cities of Sacramento, Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom and Rancho Cordova. April 1, 2023, marks SacRT's 50th anniversary of operation, celebrating our five decades of historic milestones.

"The City of Elk Grove annexed its transit services with SacRT in 2021 to improve regional connectivity and to expand a high-capacity transit solution into the city of Elk Grove," said Elk Grove Mayor and SacRT Director Bobbie Singh-Allen. "As Elk Grove grows with more mixed-use higher density housing projects, I am excited to see the partnership with SacRT ensure efficient and reliable transit is being incorporated."

"As the region prepares for the impacts of climate change, I am thrilled the City of Sacramento and SacRT are partnering on adaptation and resiliency solutions," said SacRT Vice Chair and Sacramento City Councilmember Rick Jennings. "These funds will reduce climate change impacts on our transportation systems and promote health, safety and mobility."

"BRIDGE Housing is proud to partner with SacRT on 440 Arden Way," said BRIDGE Housing President & CEO Ken Lombard. "This high-impact investment supports our shared goal of bringing this community alive with 124 affordable homes and supportive services near high-quality transportation, education, and jobs to support our residents and their neighbors to thrive."

These grants showcase the dedication of SacRT and its many partners in making transit more efficient, accessible, and environmentally responsible. SacRT is excited to embark on these transformative projects and looks forward to working closely with the community to bring these initiatives to fruition.

For more information about these projects, visit www.sacrt.com/apps/projects/. ★

SAFE CU Appoints New SVP of Information Technology



SAFE Credit Union SVP, IT Michelle Bradshaw. Courtesy photo

SAFE Credit Union

FOLSOM, CA (MPG) - Experienced IT professional Michelle Bradshaw joins SAFE CU as Senior Vice President, Information Technology.

With over 27 years of technology leadership experience, Bradshaw most recently served as SVP, Enterprise Product Management for Global Credit Union, one of the nation's largest credit unions with over

750,000 members.

"This position plays a vital role in executing our business strategy," says SAFE EVP and Chief Technology Officer, Michael McCarthy. "After an extensive search, I am pleased we have found a true leader in the field who can drive our increasingly complex IT needs as SAFE grows and expands our digital capabilities."

As part of a corporate reorganization effort announced in January, Bradshaw will lead several key teams including Core Applications, IT Operations, and Business Transformation.

"I'm incredibly passionate about aligning technology with business objectives and culture. I am so impressed with SAFE's commitment to their members and to engaging within the communities they serve," says Bradshaw. "That strong moral compass and deeply rooted values are the foundation I look forward

to building upon as SAFE aligns its IT strategy and expands into the future."

Bradshaw shares SAFE's commitment to giving back to the community through volunteer service. She is the current chair of the board of directors of Live & Learn, a Maricopa County based non-profit committed to empowering women experiencing poverty, violence, and homelessness to break the cycle through education, training, and support. Bradshaw brings her leadership and empathy to the organization with programs including bridging the digital divide and implementing neighborhood grants.

For more information about SAFE Credit Union SVP, IT Michelle Bradshaw, or to schedule an interview, contact SAFE Credit Union Vice President of Corporate Communications Micah Grant at micah.grant@safecu.org or (323) 868-9067. ★

County Executive Announces Retirement

Continued from page 1
Executive at a later date.

During Edwards' tenure, she implemented a significant number of high-level organizational changes to improve the County's overall functions in a number of key areas.

Beginning in early 2021, Edwards increased transparency and engagement in the 2021-22 budget process through several new public presentations, including public budget workshops and study sessions.

During the 2022-23 budget process, she proposed a Community Engagement Plan, adopted by the Board in June 2021, which identified priority areas of growth from advisory boards and commissions, local governments and community groups; engaged a professional public opinion polling firm to survey the public in the County's budget priorities; and provided recommended budget priorities based on the outcomes of the resident survey.

In addition, the County developed a Budget in Brief summary, explaining in plain language budget basics and the budget process, as well as a Budget Explorer Tool that allows users access to the County's budget, view total appropriations reimbursements and revenues by Agency, as well as the percentages for each Agency. FY 2022-23 and 2023-24 included significant contributions to General Fund Reserves, also known as the County's "Rainy Day Fund."

Under Edwards' leadership, the County restructured its agencies and formed a new Public Safety and Justice Agency to ensure the most effective oversight, accountability, communication and coordination for justice-involved agencies in the County.

In July 2021, Edwards implemented the Organizational Culture Change Project in order to transform the County's cultural expectations. The project included a survey in which all employees assessed the current culture, which provided a benchmark and insight for its desired culture.

Currently in the second phase of the Initiative, the County is offering a high-performance training curriculum to staff countywide and has launched a Guiding

Coalition to keep the County's Core Purpose, Vision, Mission and Core Values top of mind for staff throughout the year.

As part of the organizational transformation, Edwards launched an employee academy centered on skills, abilities, competencies, mentorship and attributes of leaders. The Leadership Development program supports the County's goal to transform the organization's culture and provide exemplary service to the community.

The resulting organizational transformation has borne out in positive ways. Most notably, Sacramento County recently made Forbes list of America's Best Employers by State 2023. Sacramento County's position is at #79 in California, which includes public and private employers. The last time Sacramento County was on the list was at #357 in 2018 and dropped off the list entirely in 2019.

Before her work in the public sector, Edwards was the Clinical Director for the River Oak Center for children from 1997-98 and was an Executive Director, Program Coordinator and Clinician for seriously emotionally disturbed children and youths at Victor Treatment Centers from 1993-1997.

Prior to becoming County Executive in 2020, Edwards worked as Sacramento County's Director of Human Assistance since 2014 and worked as the Director for Social Services for Solano County. Prior to Solano County, she worked for Sacramento County between 1998 and 2013, serving as Chief Deputy County Executive for Countywide Services, Director of Health and Human Services, Director of Mental Health Services, Division Manager for Adult Mental Health and Program Manager for Child and Family Mental Health.

"Together with the County's 13,000 employees, it has been a privilege to serve people and watch our communities thrive," said Edwards. "Now it's time for me to take a step back, do some traveling and enjoy more time with my family, especially my three wonderful grandchildren." ★

Sex Offender Sentenced to 10 Years for Possessing Child Pornography

FBI News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Jason Michael Carlsen, 50, of Sacramento, was sentenced Tuesday, September 12, 2023, to 10 years in prison for possession of child pornography, United States Attorney Phillip A. Talbert announced.

According to court documents, Carlsen possessed child pornography in July 2022. At the time he possessed these images, Carlsen was on federal supervised release for a prior federal conviction for possession of child pornography.

This case was the product of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Nicholas M. Fogg prosecuted

the case.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute those who sexually exploit children, and to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.usdoj.gov/psc. Click on the "resources" tab for information about internet-safety education. ★

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MPG ENPA CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

Legislature Passes Landmark Tax on Firearm Manufacturers and Dealers

From the Office of Jesse Gabriel

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On September 7th, 2023, the California State Legislature passed Assembly Bill (AB) 28, a landmark measure that would impose an 11 percent excise tax on firearms and ammunition sold by gun manufacturers and dealers. Having cleared both the Assembly and Senate by a 2/3 supermajority vote, AB 28 – which is officially known as the Gun Violence Prevention and School Safety Act – is on its way to Governor Newsom’s desk.

Authored by Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel (D - Encino), Chair of the Legislature’s Gun Violence Prevention Working Group, AB 28 would generate over \$150 million annually to fund school safety and violence prevention programs, including initiatives to prevent school shootings, bolster firearm investigations, reduce retaliatory violence, and remove guns from domestic abusers.

“I am grateful that a supermajority of the Legislature voted today to fund critical programs that will save lives and protect communities across the State of California,” said Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel. “It’s beyond shameful that gun



California State Legislature passed Assembly Bill (AB) 28, a landmark measure that would impose an 11 percent excise tax on firearms and ammunition sold by gun manufacturers and dealers. Image by MikeGunner from Pixabay

manufacturers are reaping record profits at the same time that gun violence has become the leading cause of death for kids in the United States. The Gun Violence Prevention and School Safety Act will help to ensure that we have the tools and resources necessary to better protect our kids and our communities.”

“California has a long history of paving the way for effective methods of reducing gun violence. It’s an undisputed leader in the fight for gun safety, and I am proud GIFFORDS has worked alongside gun violence

prevention groups across the state and members of the legislature, including Assemblymember Gabriel, to help advocate for the state’s latest effort.” said former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords. “We urge Governor Newsom to prioritize the safety of California’s kids and communities and sign The Gun Violence Prevention and School Safety Act, a top priority for the gun violence prevention movement.”

Since AB 28 was introduced at the beginning of the current legislative session, the United States has experienced hundreds of mass

shootings, including horrific incidents in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay. A recent report by the American Academy of Pediatrics found that the firearm death rate for American children increased 40 percent between 2018 and 2021.

“California is again proving why the Golden State leads the country on gun safety legislation. Imposing a modest tax on firearm and ammunition sales to provide sustained and increased funding for violence intervention and prevention programs will help us better protect our

communities from gun violence.” said Kris Brown, President of Brady. “Providing long-term investments in these initiatives is a proven way to stop gun violence before it begins. Brady thanks Assemblymember Gabriel and other bill sponsors for introducing this first of its kind tax bill, and calls on Governor Newsom to cement California’s position as a leader in the fight against gun violence and sign The Gun Violence Prevention and School Safety Act”

“California continues to lead the nation when it comes to gun safety. This bill will take that leadership one step further by providing essential resources to life-saving programs - including the California Violence Intervention and Prevention grant program - which rightfully centers solutions from the communities most impacted by our gun violence crisis,” said Angela Ferrell-Zabala, executive director of Moms Demand Action. “Since the introduction of this bill our grassroots army has been committed to working with our gun-sense champions to get it across the finish line. I urge Governor Gavin Newsom to continue his commitment to public safety and sign this bill into law for the well-being of all Californians.” ★

LEGAL ADVERTISING
Carmichael Times Adjudicated For and By the County of Sacramento, Adjudication No. 317294 – February 7, 1984
Rancho Cordova Independent Adjudicated For and By the County of Sacramento, Adjudication No. 195380 – September 18, 1969
Citrus Heights Messenger Adjudicated For and By the County of Sacramento, Adjudication No. 34-2020-00273535 – March 12, 2020
The Rio Linda News Adjudicated For and By the County of Sacramento, Adjudication No. 358073 – March 21, 1988

SUMMONS

(Name): AVISO AL DEMANDADO (Nombre): Crystal Irene Farinias
 YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. Read the information below and on the next page. PETITIONER'S NAME IS: (NOMBRE DEL DEMANDANTE): Ricardo Garcia Vega.
 You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this Summons and Petition are served on you to file a response (form FL-120) at the court and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter, phone call or court appearance will not protect you. If you do not file your response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage or domestic partnership, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs. For legal advice contact a lawyer immediately. Get help finding a lawyer at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp), at the California Legal Services website (www.lawhelpca.org) or by contacting your local county bar association.

otra parte. The name and address of the court are: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Sacramento Superior Court, 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, CA 95826.
 The name, address and telephone number of the petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without an attorney are: (El nombre, dirección y número de teléfono del abogado del peticionario, o del peticionario sin abogado es:) Ricardo Garcia Vega, 7474 Winkley Way, Sacramento, CA 95822; 916-969-0546
 Date: (Fecha) 7-26-2023
 Clerk, by (Secretario, por) R. Ruiz, Deputy (Asistente)
 Publish: Sept 15, 22, 29, Oct 6, 2023
 RICARDO 10-6-23

TRUSTEE SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. CA-23-960088-AB Order No.: 02-23003289 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 12/14/2004. 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 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): **GARY LEON DIETRICH AND ELYSE MARLENE SLOMAN DIETRICH, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS JOINT TENANTS** Recorded: **12/22/2004** as Instrument No. XXX in Book 20041222 Page 1259 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of **SACRAMENTO** County, California; Date of Sale: **10/31/2023** at **9:00 AM** Place of Sale: **At the East Main Entrance of the Gordon D. Schaber Sacramento County Courthouse, 720 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814** Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: **\$401,881.39** The purported property address is: **11779 GOLD PARKE LANE, RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670-8353** Assessor's Parcel No.: **069-0660-002-0000** **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 **800-280-2832** 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-23-960088-AB**. 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. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed 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 **800-280-2832**, or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: **CA-23-960088-AB** 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

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS SCHOOLS INSURANCE AUTHORITY

Notice is hereby given that Schools Insurance Authority ("SIA"), a Local Public Agency formed and existing under California Government Code Section 6500, et seq., is requesting proposals for HVAC replacement at its business offices located at 9800 Old Placerville Rd, Sacramento, CA 95827 ("Project Site").
 The general scope of anticipated services includes the replacement of current rooftop HVAC systems. The project is expected to commence immediately after execution of the construction contract and mutually agreed upon construction schedule. Further details are set forth in the Request for Proposals package available upon request from Debrah Sherrington, Director, Special Projects, Schools Insurance Authority, (916) 364-1281, dsherrington@sia-jpa.org.
 Proposals must be submitted by 2:00 pm on November 7th, 2023, in conformity with the requirements set forth in the Request for Proposals. There is a mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting scheduled for October 24th, 2023 @ 2:00 pm at the Project Site. Once the Proposals are opened, interviews of potential Contractors may occur on the morning of November 8th, 2023. Final selection of the HVAC Contractor(s) is expected to be made on or about November 10th, 2023. SIA reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and/or to waive any irregularity in a Proposal or in the Proposal process.
 Questions regarding this process, or requests for copies of the Request for Proposal Package, must be directed to Ms. Sherrington in writing or e-mail transmission no later than noon October 27th, 2023, @ noon.
 Grapevine Independent Voice 10-6 and 10-13-2023

City of Rancho Cordova Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE is hereby given that on **Monday, October 16, 2023** at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the City Council of the City of Rancho Cordova will hold a Public Hearing at the **Rancho Cordova City Hall, located at 2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova**, to consider the following:
Annual Stormwater Utility Fee for the Ranch Active Adult Project
 The purpose of this public hearing is: Notice is hereby given that the City Council (the "Council") of the City of Rancho Cordova (the "City") adopted its Resolution Designating a Time and Place for Hearing Protests to impose an Annual Stormwater Utility Fee (the "Fee") for the Ranch Active Adult project under the provisions of California Health and Safety Code Section 5471, et seq. Under the provisions of this Code and in compliance with the provisions of Article XIII D of the California Constitution, the Council gives notice as follows:
 The Council is undertaking proceedings to impose the Fee for the financing of the maintenance and operations of the stormwater drainage and flood protection system in the new development areas of the City, including the Ranch Active Adult project. The text of the Resolution with Attachment 3 as adopted by the Council, and of the Preliminary Rate Analysis Report for the Stormwater Utility Fee (the "Rate Analysis Report"), is on file with City Clerk and reference is made thereto for the particular provisions thereof. The Rate Analysis Report contains a description of each parcel of real property within the City to which the Fee is applicable (collectively, the "Identified Parcels").
 At the date and time set above, the Council will hold a public hearing in connection with the Fee. At the hearing, all interested persons shall be afforded the opportunity to hear and be heard, and the City Council shall consider all protests from property owners subject to the Fee. If written protests against the Fee are presented by a majority of owners of the Identified Parcels, the City shall not impose the Fee. In the absence of a majority protest, the City Council may submit the Fee to a vote of the property owners in accordance with Article XIII D of the California Constitution.
 The City of Rancho Cordova encourages interested parties to attend public meetings and comment on the issues being discussed. If you wish to provide testimony and are unable to attend the meeting, written comments that are delivered to the City Clerk's office prior to the time of the hearing will be made a part of the public record. Questions regarding this matter should be directed to Dalia Fadl, City of Rancho Cordova at 916-851-8718.

NOTICE REGARDING CHALLENGES TO DECISIONS

Pursuant to all applicable laws and regulations, including without limitation, California Government Code Section 65009 and/or California Public Resources Code Section 21177, if you wish to challenge in court any of the above decisions (regarding planning, zoning and/or environmental decisions), you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing(s) described in this notice/agenda, or in written correspondence delivered to the city at, or prior to, this public hearing.
ADA COMPLIANCE STATEMENT
 In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Department at (916) 851-8720. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.
 Printed in the Grapevine Independent on **October 6, 2023**.

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 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 right's 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: 800-280-2832 Or Login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com> Reinstatement Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION. TS No.: CA-23-960088-AB IDSPub #0188419 10/6/2023 10/13/2023 10/20/2023 Rancho Cordova Grapevine Independent 10/20/2023



COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



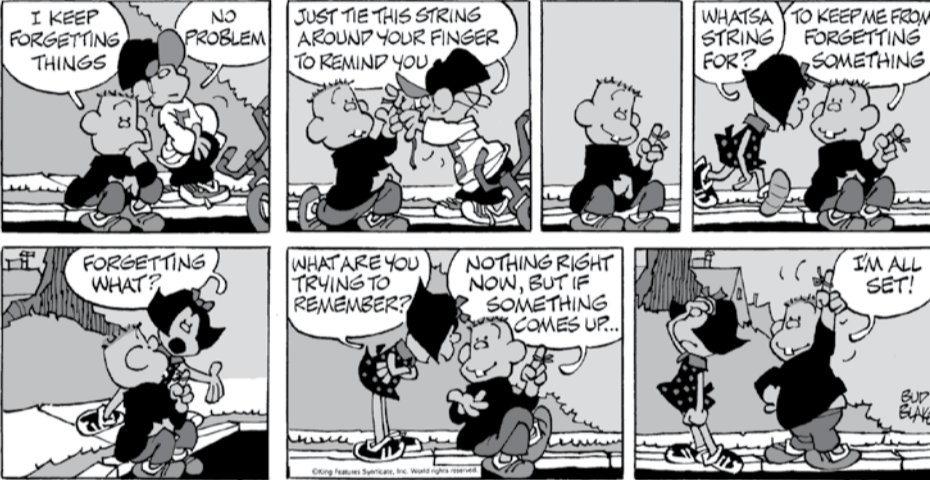
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



TIGER

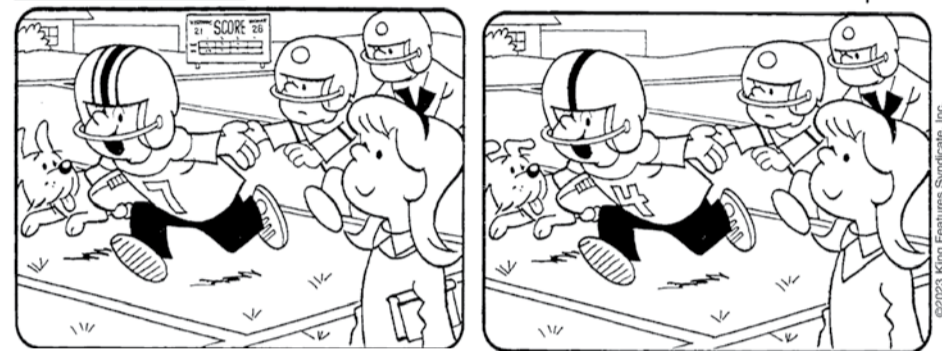
by BUD BLAKE



HOCUS-FOCUS

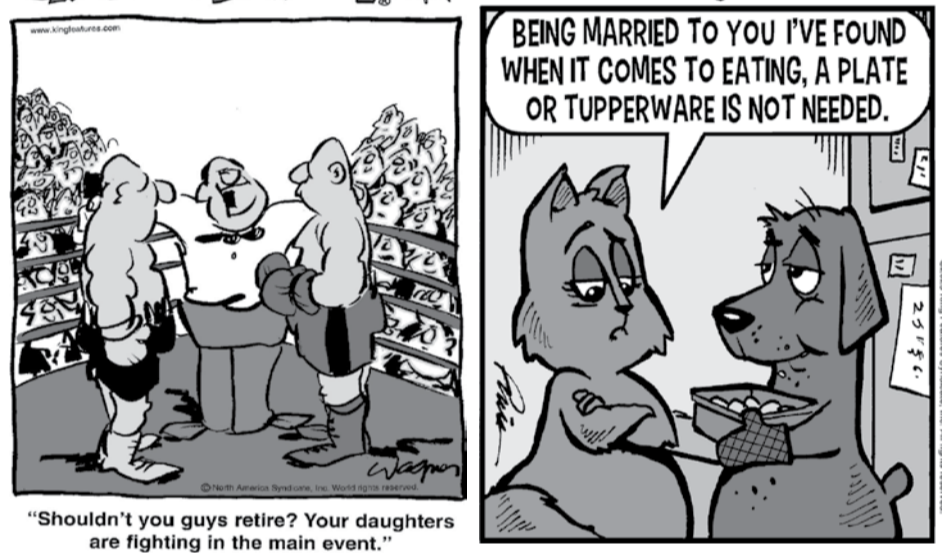
BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



GRIN & BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • CHEMISTRY 101

CLUES

ACROSS

- "Planted" customer
- Pie and mode connection (2 words)
- *Atomic ____ unit
- Salk's conquest
- Beesly of "The Office"
- Secret storage
- Crème de la crème
- Flow alternative
- a.k.a. vampire
- *Any substance in chemistry
- *Periodic table entry
- Douse or soak
- Pavarotti's song
- Between Big and Wolf
28. Mattress description
30. *Positively charged particle
35. Elevator manufacturing giant
37. Horsefly
39. Rabbit trap
40. Sure or uh-huh
41. Saintry rings
43. North Sea feeder
44. Flax flower genus
46. Shrivel, as in plant
47. Like undesirable row
48. Related on mother's side
50. Barbara of "I Dream of Jeannie"
52. Porky's home
53. Practice in the ring
55. Burmese neighbor
57. *Core of an atom
61. *C
64. Theater guide
65. Org. that gets parents involved in school
67. Sign up again
69. Supernatural being
70. Three, to Caesar
71. Grouchy Muppet
72. European sea eagles
73. News channel acronym
74. Liable to cry

DOWN

- Health resort in Baden-Baden, e.g.
- River islet
- Hip bones
- To-do enumerations
- Bingo and keno
- Imitator
- *Chemistry classroom
- Fly in ____ or a reminder of the past
- Hat-tipper's word
- Highest point
- Splints site
- Assigned spot
- Rids of obstruction
- Period in history
- Mouth piece
- Designer's studio
- *____-Mariotte Law
- Dined at home
- Late Princess of Wales
- Defect
- Two halves of two
- Discussion intended to produce agreement
- Galactic path
- Demanding attention
- Like a barred door
- *Aurum, in English
- Type of grave marker
45. It loves company?
49. PC "brain"
- Limited in scope
54. Gelatin
56. Like one with high BMI
57. Artist's model, sometimes
58. Application utilizer
59. Keep it up?
60. TV classic "____ Make a Deal"
61. Jealous biblical brother
62. Fairy-tale opening
63. Less than average tide
66. *Sn, or stannum, on periodic table
68. Like dry humor

CROSSWORD

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No Fees to Bring Home Your New Best Friend

Secured Property Tax Bills Mailed

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - To help pets find loving homes, Bradshaw Animal Shelter is teaming up with BISSELL Pet Foundation for its Empty the Shelters program to waive adoption fees for all dogs and cats from Sunday, October 1, 2023, through Sunday, October 15, 2023.



Adopting a pet during this event includes their spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, up-to-date vaccinations and microchipping, and a 1-year pet license for Sacramento County residents. Image by Moshe Harosh from Pixabay

Bradshaw Animal Shelter, known for its dedication to the welfare of animals in the community, is excited to announce this special adoption event made possible by the generous sponsorship of BISSELL Pet Foundation.

During this two-week period, potential pet parents will have the opportunity to welcome a new furry family member into their homes at no cost. Prospective adopters can view adoptable dogs and cats at 24petconnect.com/SacramentoCountyAdoptablePet.

The Empty the Shelters program, which has successfully placed thousands of pets into loving homes, aims to make pet adoption

more accessible and affordable for families.

"We are thrilled to partner with BISSELL Pet Foundation for this wonderful adoption event," said Annette Bedsworth, Director of Bradshaw Animal Shelter. "Our goal is to find loving homes for as many pets as possible."

Adopting a pet during this event includes their spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, up-to-date vaccinations and microchipping, and a 1-year pet license for Sacramento County residents.

Prospective adopters are encouraged to visit Bradshaw Animal Shelter, located at 3839 Bradshaw Rd, Sacramento, and meet

the available dogs and cats. The shelter's dedicated staff and volunteers will be on hand to help match families with the perfect furry friend. The animal shelter is open for adoptions Tuesday through Sunday from 12 p.m. until 5 p.m. with extended hours from 12 p.m. until 6 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. The shelter is closed on Mondays.

Don't miss this chance to provide a loving forever home for a deserving pet. Mark your calendars for October 1 through October 15, 2023, and join Bradshaw Animal Shelter to empty the shelter and give these pets a second chance at a happy life. ★

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County will mail about 481,774 secured property tax bills which are payable beginning November 1, 2023. These tax bills are mailed only once a year; however, property owners may pay their bills in two installment payments:

The first installment payment is due on November 1, 2023. Payments will be accepted without penalty until 5 p.m. on December 11, 2023; The second installment payment is due on February 1, 2024. Payments will be accepted without penalty until 5 p.m. on April 10, 2024; Both installments may be paid when the first installment is due. A reminder notice will not be mailed for the second installment.

Taxpayers may sign up for online e-mail notifications for annual secured property tax bills and reminders before delinquent dates. Choose "e-Subscribe for property tax payment notifications" to receive these notifications.

Payments can be made online via credit card or electronic check. Taxpayers may print tax bill installment payment stubs to mail in with their payments. Taxpayers may also pay by credit card or electronic check over the telephone at (844) 430-2823. There is a convenience fee for credit and debit cards. Electronic checks are free.

Payment can be made in person at the Sacramento County Tax Collector's Office at 700 H Street, Room 1710, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. In-person payments can be paid via cash, check, credit card, debit card or money order. A convenience fee will apply for credit card and debit card transactions.

Payments can be sent via mail to P.O. Box 508, Sacramento, CA 95812-0508. The Tax Collector accepts and processes payments based on the postmark date. Payments may not be credited to the tax bill for several business days depending upon the volume of payments received, whether payments were submitted with the correct payment stubs, and/or whether envelopes were postmarked by the delinquent date.

Property tax law (Prop 8) requires that parcels be assessed at their factored Prop 13 value, or their fair market value (as of January 1, 2023, property tax lien date), whichever is less.

A rising real estate market can cause higher-than-expected increases in a parcel's annual tax bill if that parcel was in Prop 8 status last year. However, the assessed value of

any parcel cannot increase beyond that parcel's factored Prop 13 level. The 2% inflation cap applies only to Prop 13 assessments. It does not apply to Prop 8 assessments, which by law must track the property's market value until it reaches the Prop 13 factored value.

Find assessed values on the Assessor's website under "Assessed Value Lookup," including this year's value and the factored Prop 13 value for comparison. If a taxpayer has evidence that their assessed value as of January 1, 2023, was less than that shown on this year's (2023-2024) tax bill, they should:

Visit the Assessor's Website; Call the Assessor's Office at (916) 875-0700; or Email the Assessor's Office at Assessor@SacCounty.gov

Taxpayers may obtain current-year tax bill information, copies of property tax bills, direct levy information, delinquent prior-year tax information, and amounts due through the Sacramento County Online Property Tax Bill Information System, searching by APN or address. Find a QR Code on your tax bill payment stub for use with smartphones to connect to our website.

Sacramento County also has a 24-hour/7-day-a-week Automated Property Tax Information Line that provides information on tax subjects and access to detailed billing and payment information. Tax specialists are available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Reach the system and tax specialists by calling (916) 874-6622.

If you own property and do not receive a tax bill by October 15, 2023, you may obtain tax bill copies, property tax information and payment stubs (coupons) on the Tax Collector's website.

Revenue & Tax Code 2610.5 "Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the property owner of the liability to pay taxes in a timely manner or give the Tax Collector reason to cancel penalties imposed for late payment."

Even if your tax bill is being paid by a lending institution (mortgage company), state law requires that a copy of the tax bill be sent to the property owner; all property owners should receive either the original tax bill or an "Owner's Information Copy." It is the responsibility of the property owner to keep their mailing address current with the Assessor's Office. To update your mailing address, please contact the Assessor's Office in writing at 3636 American River Drive, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95864 or via email at Assessor@sacounty.gov. Please make sure you include a parcel number and phone number with all correspondence. ★

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Medicare's Annual Election Period Fast Approaching

By Tim Coughlin



Medicare's Annual Election Period, ("AEP") for Part D Prescription Drug Plans and Medicare Advantage plans runs from October 15th until December 7th. During AEP eligible Medicare enrollees can join or change a Medicare Advantage (Part C) or Part D drug plan. Enrollees can also "disenroll" from a Medicare Advantage plan and return to Original Medicare (Parts A/B) and join a drug plan.

ment being the plan that will go into effect on January 1st. This allows for you to change your mind during the Enrollment Period.

Disenrollment / Medicare Supplements

AEP is also a time when you can "disenroll" from a Medicare Advantage plan and return to Original Medicare (Parts A/B) and join a Part D drug plan.

Here is a timeline to assist you in navigating this important Enrollment Period and to help you avoid coverage surprises:

September

Your current Medicare Part D drug plan or Medicare Advantage plan is required to send you an Annual Notice of Change ("ANOC") notice. It's important that you read this notice as it contains important information about changes to your plan for the 2024 Plan Year. The "ANOC" notice will advise you if the plan premium is changing or if there are changes to the drug formulary, provider network and/or plan benefits. It can be a mistake to assume the plan you have this year will remain the same next year. Take the time to review your "ANOC" notice!

If you're also intending to enroll in a Medicare Supplement (aka Medigap) plan when returning to Original Medicare during AEP, keep in mind that enrollment in a Medicare Supplement may not be guaranteed. You may have to answer health questions to enroll in a Medicare Supplement outside of limited guaranteed issue periods. An experienced insurance agent can be valuable if you're wanting to leave your Medicare Advantage plan and get a Medicare Supplement. Failing to do things properly and in the right sequence can end up creating a deficit in your medical coverage. The services of an independent agent are free to consumers.

October 1st

Sometimes referred to as the "marketing" period or "shopping" period, October 1st is when the 2024 Plan Year information is released and companies can begin marketing Medicare's Annual Election Period Fast Approaching plans. This is a good time to review options for your prescription drug or Medicare Advantage coverage for 2024. Since plans can and do change, it's a good idea to confirm that your current plan continues to cover your prescriptions well and to meet your needs for the upcoming year.

A Word on Medicare Commercials

During AEP the airways are flooded with commercials pitching Medicare Advantage plans and all the free benefits you're missing out on. These commercials often tout benefits that are only offered in specific areas or to select segments of Medicare enrollees. They entice you to call and once you call they'll try to enroll you in a plan quickly over the phone. Exercise caution if you call one these large call centers.

October 15th Until December 7th

This is when you can actually submit an enrollment if you want to enroll in a plan or to change plans for 2024. December 7th is a hard deadline. Your ability to change Part D Prescription Drug Plans after December 7th may be non-existent or extremely limited.

Being proactive about your Medicare coverage during the Annual Election Period can go a long way to helping you avoid coverage issues and to feel confident in your coverage selections for 2024.

Tim Coughlin is an award-winning independent insurance agent specializing in health and Medicare insurance for over 35 years in Gold River. He can be reached at (916) 346-4417 or by email: tim@summitindins.com.

Every year we have people call us that miss the December 7th deadline and end up stuck on a Part D plan that has increased their premium or that doesn't cover their prescriptions well.

Last Valid Enrollment

During AEP it is possible to submit multiple enrollments with the final enroll-

"We do not offer every plan available in your area. Currently, we represent 9 organizations which offer 52 products in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov, 1-800-Medicare, or your local State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) to get information on all of your options."



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