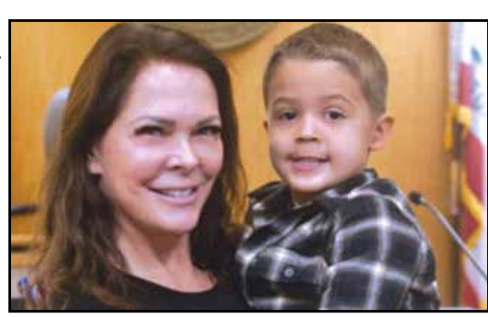




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Carmichael Times

VOLUME 44 • ISSUE 50 *Serving Carmichael & Sacramento County since 1981* DECEMBER 15, 2023

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Elves off Shelves for Christmas



Warmly capped for Christmas, the Shvetsov family poses with festival VIPs: CRPD Chair Joyce Carroll (left) and Supervisor Rich Desmond (second from right).

*Story and photos
by Susan Maxwell
Skinner*

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - "This is as close as you get to Norman Rockwell Christmas," noted County Supervisor Rich Desmond at the 21st annual tree lighting ceremony in Carmichael Park. "Kids, music, excitement – you can tell Santa's headed for Carmichael."

At the end of a rainy afternoon, a window of clear sky was welcome as a white Christmas. The annual festival of lights surged ahead on electricity and eggnog.

Leading a community



Elise Pavelchik (5) dons snug velour to enjoy lights and snow flurries in Carmichael Park. Dad Colin gives his elf elevation.

count-down, Park District Board Chair Joyce Carroll ignited thousands of fairy lights on the 50ft park Christmas tree. Believers cheered as flurries of faux snow were unleashed.

The 60-strong River City Concert band from Rancho Cordova led Christmas songs. Joined by Disney heroine Elsa from "Frozen," Santa Claus indulged hundreds

of children. His elves distributed more than 650 illuminated glow wands. Naughty or nice, kids were further rewarded with craft opportunities.

More than 1500 visitors joined the fun. As trees and inflatables glowed. Food trucks fed the multitudes.

Carmichael's Christmas decorations may be viewed on the park's Fair Oaks Boulevard frontage (near Grant Avenue) until the New Year.

Sponsors included Bob's Cycle Center, Buck Family Automotive, Carmichael Kiwanis Club, Carmichael Park District and Carmichael Parks Foundation. ★

Operation Bad Elf Recovers Thousands of Dollars of Merchandise

Sacramento County Sheriff's Dept. News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Sheriff's Office has recently concluded a highly successful week-long operation to combat retail theft across the region. Focusing on popular retail establishments such as Target, Walgreens, and Walmart, the operation was a strategic effort to address the rising concerns surrounding theft and its impact on local businesses and communities.

Deputies and detectives from the Sheriff's Centralized Investigations Bureau collaborated seamlessly in a coordinated effort to identify, track, and apprehend individuals involved in retail theft. The operation, which took place over the course of a week, utilized both uniformed and plain clothes officers strategically positioned within targeted retail locations. This approach aimed to deter theft and catch perpetrators in the act.

Sheriff Cooper emphasized the importance of safeguarding businesses and ensuring the safety of community members. "Retail theft not only affects the businesses directly but also has a ripple effect on our communities. By addressing this issue head-on, we are sending a clear message that criminal activities will not be tolerated, and our community's safety remains our top priority."

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Office acknowledged the importance of community engagement and encouraged residents to remain vigilant against retail theft. Sheriff Cooper stated, "We cannot combat this issue alone. We need the active involvement of the retailers for this type of success to continue. They need to make an investment in their stores' safety, as we are not their 24/7 private security."

The Sheriff's Office successfully recovered stolen merchandise worth tens of thousands of dollars and 285 felony and misdemeanor arrests, providing a significant boost to the affected retailers.

While these arrests are significant, major problems lie within weak legislation. Sacramento County currently has over 33,000 outstanding misdemeanor warrants, many of which stem from offenses such as shoplifting and other theft-related crimes. Until a measure is put on

Continued on page 6

Canvassers Needed for the 2024 Point-in-Time Count

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF) announced on Monday, December 4, 2023, that the evenings of Wednesday, January 24 and Thursday, January 25 have been selected for Sacramento's 2024 Point in Time Count (PIT). SSF is seeking hundreds of volunteers to help with what will be the most wide-ranging community effort to date to determine the number of people experiencing homelessness in the Sacramento region.

The event is intended to provide a comprehensive estimate of the total number of individuals and families living outdoors and in places not intended for human habitation on a single night. SSF will release the results in a report in spring 2024. PIT data enables community leaders to better understand homelessness, design more effective policies and programs, and measure progress toward reducing

and ending homelessness.

The PIT is part of a nationwide effort. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires communities to do a census to qualify for annual federal homelessness response dollars. In 2022, the Sacramento community received \$30.5 million in HUD Continuum of Care funding, \$29 million of which was dedicated to maintaining permanent housing programs and directly served 1,271 households.

More than 500 volunteers participated in the last PIT count in February 2022. It concluded that an estimated 9,278 individuals experienced homelessness on a single night. Find the full report on Sacramento Steps Forward website.

"The PIT is a huge community-wide effort that gives people a chance to make a meaningful contribution toward better understanding where we are and is a great way to contribute toward addressing and ultimately ending homelessness," said Lisa Bates, Chief

Executive Officer of SSF.

To register as a volunteer, visit the volunteer portal at <https://sacramento24.pointintime.info/>

To learn more about volunteering and the purpose of the PIT, read the FAQs.

The PIT's main deployment center will be at Sacramento State's Harper Alumni Center. Several other satellite locations will operate in the region. Canvassers will fan out to pre-determined census tracts across the Sacramento region. The 2024 PIT will also include more intensive coverage of known homelessness locations along the American River Parkway.

Volunteer canvassers will be able to utilize a new "Counting Us" mobile application, a HUD approved method of counting used in many cities and counties across the U.S. The application replaces previously used apps and paper-based data collection methods. The app, developed by Simtech Solutions, Inc. – which is joining forces

Continued on page 3

Biggest Lifelike Dinosaur Event Roars into Sacramento

Jurassic Quest News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - North America's most popular interactive dinosaur experience is BACK, BIGGER and BETTER than EVER! Sacramento-area families can walk among the nation's biggest herd of photo-realistic dinosaurs when Jurassic Quest® opens at Cal Expo Center for one weekend only Jan. 12-14.

Loved by millions, only Jurassic Quest can bring families memories this BIG! Walk through 165 million years of the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods to learn about the creatures that ruled the Earth! In addition to life-like dinosaurs, Jurassic Quest's classic experiences for the whole family include some of the largest rideable dinosaurs in North America, live dinosaur shows, interactive science and art activities including a fossil dig and real fossils like T-Rex teeth, a triceratops horn and life-size dino skull, a "Triceratots" soft play area for our littles explorers, bounce houses and inflatable attractions, photo opportunities, and more.

New this year! Jurassic Quest is bringing more hands-on activities, education and fun. This evolution, Jurassic Quest includes an expanded Excavation Station and more Jurassic-themed rides and inflatables. Even our animatronic herd has expanded to include fan favorites, the Utahraptor and Giganotosaurus. In addition to "The Quest," a self-guided scavenger hunt style activity where budding paleontologists can become Jr. Dinosaur Trainers, Jurassic Quest has launched a new video tour that's already getting "roaring good" reviews from families and features our star dino trainers: Safari Sarah, Dino Dustin, Prehistoric Nick and Park Ranger Marty (available onsite and on your phone



Bronco Brian partners with velociraptor JoJo for a fun day of adventure at Jurassic Quest. Photo courtesy of Jurassic Quest

via QR code)! All expanded activities are included with general admission. New attractions launching in winter include kids facing off with the notoriously fast Jurassic Quest Utahraptors for "Raptor Run" races, and "Rope-a-Raptor," where experienced "BrontoBusters" help kids lasso stray dinos to get them back to their pens.

The Jurassic Quest herd of animatronic dinos – from the largest predators to playful baby dinos – are displayed in realistic scenes with some that move and roar, allowing guests to experience them as they were when they roamed Earth millions of years ago. Jurassic Quest works in collaboration with leading paleontologists to ensure each dinosaur is painstakingly replicated in every detail, from coloration to teeth size, to textured skin, fur or feathers, drawing on the latest research about how we understand dinosaurs looked and moved. Families also have the unique opportunity to meet the babies,



Tyranno Tony makes sure Tyson the T-Rex gets whatever keeps the baby happy. Photo courtesy of Jurassic Quest

hatched only at Jurassic Quest: Cammie the Camarasaurus, Tyson the T-Rex and Trixie the Triceratops.

Advance purchase online recommended to ensure desired date and availability at www.jurassicquest.com, or tickets are available on-site, and include a 100% ticket guarantee that in the event of a show cancellation or postponement for any reason, ticket purchases will be automatically refunded for the full purchase amount.

General admission tickets include access to the dinosaur exhibits, arts and crafts activities, and dinosaur shows. There are rides and activities that require activity tickets available on site, or guests can upgrade to the Kids Unlimited Ticket (the best value for children ages 2-10). Entry is free for children under age 2. Guests can walk through the dinosaur experience at their own pace, and strollers are permitted. Socks required for inflatable attractions. Some venues may have wheelchairs for use, but please contact the venue in advance to make arrangements.

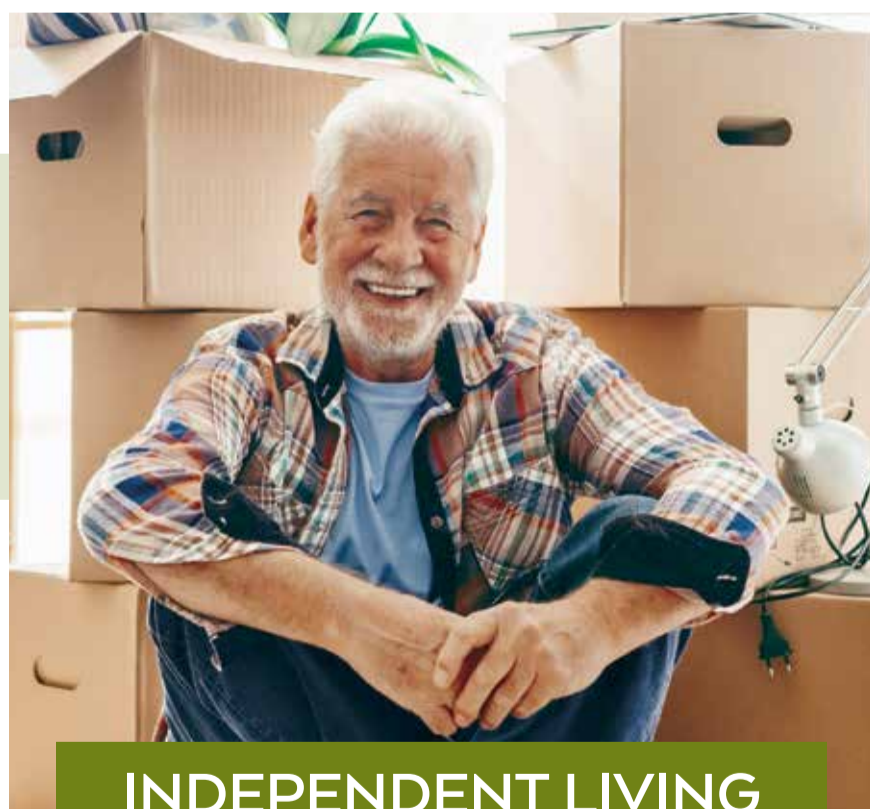
Admission: Tickets available online (Standard, Senior and Kids pricing available)

General admission includes live shows, arts and crafts activities, and dinosaur exhibits. Tickets for individual activities available on-site. Free entry for children under 2. **KIDS UNLIMITED TICKETS:** Includes admission, plus unlimited access to stationery and walking dinosaur rides, fossil dig, and dinosaur themed inflatable attractions (Note: maximum weight for rides is 140lbs.). Location: Cal Expo Center (1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento, CA) Hours: Friday, Jan. 12: 9am-8pm / Saturday, Jan. 13: 9am-8pm / Sunday, Jan. 14: 9am-7pm

For more information and tickets visit www.jurassicquest.com. ★

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Mary Lynn Perry of DOVIA Recognized for Exemplary Leadership

DOVIA News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Mary Lynn Perry, Chair of the Board of Directors at Directors of Volunteers in Agencies (DOVIA), Sacramento has received national recognition for exemplary leadership in volunteer engagement. Ms. Perry earned the Impact Award, presented in October of 2023 by the Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement (AL!VE) in the Exemplary Leader category, for their efforts to provide quality volunteer engagement programs, a willingness to network, mentor or collaborate with their peers, advocate for the profession, and involvement at the national and local level with volunteer engagement professionals. Because of Ms. Perry's efforts, all volunteer engagement professionals and the programs and communities they serve are all enhanced and supported to provide a robust, engaging, and meaningful volunteer experience.

AL!VE Board President Michelle Raymer, CVA is excited about presenting the award to three recipients in two different categories. "This is our fourth year presenting these awards and the selection committee had many nominees of committed and talented volunteer engagement professionals nationwide."



Mary Lynn Perry, Chair of the Board of Directors at Directors of Volunteers in Agencies (DOVIA). Photo courtesy of DOVIA

AL!VE will provide a cash award to Ms. Perry that she may use for professional development expenses, such as continuing education, books, resources, or pursuing the Certified Volunteer Administrator credential (CVA), an international professional credential for those who manage volunteers and/or programs.

AL!VE is the national professional association for those who manage or lead volunteer engagement programs. The leadership organization seeks to enhance and sustain the spirit of volunteering by fostering collaboration and networking, promoting professional development, and providing advocacy for leaders in community engagement. For more information, visit, www.volunteeralive.org. To

view the 2023 AL!VE Impact Award recipients, visit, https://www.volunteeralive.org/alve_impact_awards_-_sponsore.php

Directors of Volunteers in Agencies (DOVIA), Sacramento provides a forum for exchange of information on relevant issues for professional volunteer managers and leaders of volunteers. Through collaborative efforts, DOVIA Sacramento is committed to promoting service and emphasizing professional growth and development of the volunteer administration profession. Since 1978, DOVIA Sacramento has served to broaden community awareness of volunteerism by furthering communication among DOVIA, its member agencies and institutions, and the general public. ★

Local United Way Takes on Sacramento Housing Crisis

Kristin Thébaud Communications News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - United Way California Capital Region is now directly addressing Sacramento's housing crisis with the formation of its new Community Support Services department that will include housing navigation services through the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal program (CalAIM) for people on Medi-Cal who are unhoused or at risk of losing housing.

"Our local United Way has always focused on our community's biggest needs, and currently the housing predicament we are in is so great that we know we have to do our part to help those impacted by rising rent costs and increased risks of being unhoused," said Dr. Dawnté Early, President and CEO, United Way California Capital Region. "We are investing in our families and utilizing this program as another tool in our box, ensuring those who are unhoused, or at risk of being unhoused, and on Medi-Cal, can get the help and resources they need to find or maintain housing."

United Way's housing navigation program works with local individuals and families currently unhoused or at risk of being unhoused to help them find housing, receive deposit assistance and sustain their housing. Through referrals, the program's housing navigator works with each eligible client to identify barriers and housing needs, find

housing options, assist in the application process, and obtain assistance for move-in costs such as security deposits, first and last month's rent, utility deposits and medically necessary aids. Once suitable housing is determined, United Way works with newly housed clients to identify the root causes of them being unhoused or at risk of being unhoused, and then addresses their needs and goals to maintain stable housing, including health care, education, substance use treatment, financial literacy or counseling services.

"United Way is proud to enter this important space helping Sacramento residents embark on a path of sustainable housing," Early said. "We understand that to eliminate poverty, education is key to building a stronger, healthier and more compassionate Capital Region. For kids to excel in school, they cannot be worried about where they are going to sleep at night. That's why this investment in local families is important both in the fight to end this housing crisis and to build future opportunities for children to break the cycle of poverty."

Housing navigation program participants must live in Sacramento County, be unhoused or at risk of losing housing, and be a Medi-Cal member with Health Net, Molina Healthcare or Anthem Blue Cross. For more information or to make a referral, visit <https://www.yourlocalunit-edway.org/our-work/invest-in-families/housing-navigation/>. ★

2024 Point-in-Time Count

Continued from page 1

with SSF this year as the researcher selected for the PIT Count – will support efficient canvassing by volunteers.

To canvass, a volunteer must be at least 18 years old, be willing to travel by foot or car to predetermined locations, and be willing to use their personal smartphone and flashlight. Additional volunteers are also needed for a variety of support functions at the

deployment centers. Volunteers are required to complete a volunteer training session. Two live training sessions will be offered via Zoom, on Wednesday, January 10 and Wednesday, January 17, both from 5 to 6:30 PM. For those unable to attend a live session, there is a new recorded training option with a short quiz to assure accountability and comprehension. The live training is highly recommended for new PIT volunteers. ★

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smud.org/DriveElectric



Creating Families through Adoption

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - It took a little effort, but 4-year-old Elias signed his own name on his adoption papers. During the short and cheerful proceeding, the judge defined adoption as a choice to be a family, a lifelong agreement to treat them as your own natural-born child. Finding the adoption to be in Elias' best interest, the court declared him and his grandmother, Kimberly McCloskey, as a parent and child under the law.



Kimberly McCloskey and Elias. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

"Today is a great day," McCloskey said.

Adoption Day

Court is not usually a place for young children, let alone a courthouse full of them. But on Saturday, November 4, 29 families finalized the adoptions of 34 children at the William R. Ridgeway Family Relation Courthouse. Volunteers—including nonprofits and government agencies, judges and court staff—made the day fun, colorful and memorable for children and their new official families with balloons, sweets, toys and books, a police car and firetruck.

Family, Foster Care and Adoption

The adoption process started for McCloskey a year ago when her daughter wasn't able to care for Elias and he ended up in foster care. Wanting to provide a stable home and keep him with their family, she stepped up and asked to adopt her grandson, who she describes as smart and loving.

I didn't want him out of my life," she says. "I came forward and said that I wanted to adopt him."

While McCloskey admits that it can be tough dealing with and advocating for yourself in the court system, she did get support from social workers who helped guide her through the process, which included becoming a certified foster parent, home interviews, fingerprinting and foster parenting classes.

"The goal of permanency is to provide a child the opportunity to develop secure attachments which can promote more positive educational and social outcomes, and promote a child's optimal physical and emotional growth and health overall," says Melissa Lloyd, Sacramento County's Deputy Director of Child Protective Services. "All children deserve to have a family and strong connections for life."

Supporting Children and Families

While National Adoption Day is officially November 18, Sacramento County celebrated Adoption Day early so new families can enjoy their first official November holidays together. Several community organizations also

took part to make the day special, including:

Sacramento Fire Department; Sacramento County Library; Sacramento Sheriff Department Youth Services; Department of Child and Family Adult Services; Court Appointed Special Advocates of Sacramento; Wayfinders Family Services; Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

"Adoption Day brings national attention to the significant number of children and youth who remain in foster care awaiting their forever home," Sacramento Superior Court's Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Dena Coggins said in a statement. "Our last National Adoption Day event occurred in 2019 and was extremely successful. We are excited to bring this wonderful event back to Sacramento County."

For more information on foster care and adoption in Sacramento County, contact the Department of Child, Family and Adult Services at dcfas.saccounty.gov or call 916-875-5543 for information on becoming a resource family. For more information on National Adoption Day, visit <https://www.nationaladoptionday.org/>. ★

David Villanueva Appointed County Executive



David Villanueva

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors unanimously agreed to appoint Assistant County Executive David Villanueva as County Executive. The appointment is effective January 28, 2024.

"I am pleased to announce that the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to appoint David Villanueva as County Executive," said Board Chair and Third District Supervisor Rich Desmond. "David's career has been dedicated to public service with Sacramento County and the State of California, with which he has had extensive senior management and executive management experience."

"The County as an organization has made tremendous progress over the last three years. We are confident this

will continue under David's leadership. David brings a unique combination of business, accounting and technology skills to this role, and he has shown in practice that his decisions are guided by honesty, integrity and a passion for service and transparency."

Appointed Assistant County Executive last May, Villanueva has been serving as Deputy County Executive for the Administrative Services Agency since 2011. Prior to that, he began his County service as Chief Information Officer/Director of the Department of Technology in 2008. Before his County service, Villanueva was the Deputy Director/Chief Information Officer for the California Department of General Services.

"I am deeply honored and grateful for the trust placed in me by the Board of Supervisors in appointing me as the County Executive," said Villanueva. "This opportunity to serve our community is both a privilege and a responsibility that I undertake with great dedication. I am committed to fostering a culture of transparency, collaboration, and customer service excellence within our organization."

"In the spirit of public service, I look forward to collaborating with our dedicated team and community stakeholders to continue to build a County government that is responsive, accountable, and committed to making a positive impact in the lives of our residents."

During his tenure at the County, Villanueva implemented a number of initiatives. Most recently, he led the County's new Leadership Development Academy program, designed to enhance leadership skills, learn global trends impacting leadership and sustain positive changes in the organization. He also implemented his Agency's departments in the County's Organizational Culture Change Initiative and managed the formation of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force.

Villanueva is a longtime member and the current Chair of the Board of Trustees for Plumas Lake School District. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from California State University, Sacramento, and recently completed the Harvard Kennedy School Executive Education program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. ★

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CDFW Awards Scholastic Archery Equipment Grants



CDFW volunteer NASP instructor Debbie W. trains new NASP teacher in Monterey, CA. Photo courtesy of CDFW

CDFW News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) National Archery in the Schools Program (CalNASP) will add 11 new extensions to its in-school target archery program for the 2023-24 school year. That is a department record since CalNASP's inception in 2005.

CalNASP is a target archery program designed to be taught by credentialed teachers and delivered to students in physical education or elective classes in grades 4-12. The program provides educators the opportunity to engage with participants through a sport that is inclusive of all students, no matter their skill level or ability.

"CalNASP allows true inclusion when it comes to students being able to participate in a team sport," says CalNASP Coordinator Leticia Palamidessi. "The very nature of the program is

set up so that schools of any size or capacity can offer their students the opportunity to be a part of a team, and I'm proud more schools and more students will have this opportunity this year."

CDFW's CalNASP Equipment Grant provides new schools with a start-up archery equipment kit, training on how to use the equipment and curriculum resources to begin target archery classes. Prior to 2023, the most equipment grants awarded in one year by CDFW were 10, totaling roughly \$32,000 per year.

"Not only did CDFW award the most equipment grants in program history in 2023, they also garnered the largest applicant pool, as well," said Palamidessi.

In 2023, the CalNASP Equipment Grant was awarded to five California high schools, and six elementary/middle schools. Two of the schools teach a large percentage of unhoused or foster youth, while another has 10

percent of its students with a documented disability. Adaptive equipment is available for students with physical disabilities who wish to participate in CalNASP.

Public, private, charter, continuation, home and special education schools can all apply for and administer CalNASP. The curriculum is aligned to the State Physical Education Standards and offers standards-based activities from other subject areas, such as Math, English and Language Arts.

To qualify for CDFW's CalNASP Equipment Grant schools must get district approval to teach target archery during school hours as part of their everyday, in-school lessons. They must also submit a full application packet during the grant application cycle which runs from Sept. 1 - June 30. Teachers administering the program will have to obtain an archery certification through CDFW prior to starting lessons. ★

Retired Assemblyman Cooley Awarded at Council of State Governments West

Special Release from Former Assemblymember Ken Cooley

LOS ANGELES, CA (MPG) - On Monday, November 13th, The Council of State Governments West (CSG West) conferred its prestigious Bettye Fahrenkamp Award for Distinguished Legislative Leadership on behalf of Western States to retired California Assemblymember Ken Cooley.

The honor was bestowed amidst the first day's proceedings as CSG West kicked off its 76th annual meeting in Los Angeles.

The annual Fahrenkamp Award presentation recognizes leaders whose legislative careers display an ability to see and work beyond the border of their own states in the interest of the West. The award honors Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp of Fairbanks, Alaska, who served with distinction in the Alaska State Senate from 1979 until her untimely death in 1991.

During Ken's time in the California Assembly, he was regularly active in CSG West and in 2015 was among the "by-invitation-only" participants in its Western Legislative Academy. (The WLA is held annually at conference facilities in Colorado Springs, Co.)

This year's Fahrenkamp Award presentation highlighted Ken's leadership role in



Ken Cooley was bestowed the prestigious Bettye Fahrenkamp Award for Distinguished Legislative Leadership on Monday, November 13, at the Council of State Governments West 76th Annual Mtg in Los Angeles, Calif. In the image with him is the Presiding Officer at this year's main sessions, California Assemblymember Mike Gipson of Carson, California, making the official presentation. Photo courtesy of CSGWest

Chairing, during 2019-2020, the inaugural Legislative Oversight Working Group at CSG West. In December 2020, the working group published for use by the CSG West member states a first-ever Western Legislative Oversight Handbook. (The western states making up CSG "West" are Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.)

Ken is often quoted to the effect "effective oversight is the most vital superpower the Legislature must exercise on a bicameral and bipartisan basis to fulfill

its "People's House" duty." He believes legislative bodies must be the eyes and ears of the public they represent to perform their "check and balance" role ensuring executive branch accountability. To this end, in 2014 he led the creation of a California Assembly Oversight Handbook which is now online.

The Council of State Governments West (CSG West) champions excellence in state governance by providing state legislators and staff with collegial growth opportunities around substantive educational programs on vital contemporary matters of common concern across the west. ★

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Ag Pass Program to Assist Farmers During Disasters



January flood waters caused millions of dollars in damage to area ag producers. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Last winter's floods took a devastating toll on the Sacramento area's agricultural industry. More than \$38 million in losses were reported by area farms. That loss of revenue included damaged crops, dead livestock, and damaged infrastructure.

When the flooding struck, commercial agricultural producers were forced to evacuate. In many cases, animals and equipment that couldn't be loaded onto trailers and moved were left behind, while crops were also left unprotected. Once out of the area, farmers were not allowed back in until the water receded. There wasn't a system in place to show law enforcement who belonged and who didn't during the crisis.

The Sacramento County Department of Agriculture recognized this issue that farmers and ranchers faced by leaving, and with the assistance of the County Office of Emergency Services, have developed a program to assist the local ag industry with a way to allow them back in to protect their farms and livestock during a disaster.

The Board of Supervisors has approved the County's first Ag Pass Program. Ag Pass will be activated during a declared disaster that allows, when safe, the ability for coordinated re-entry of commercial agricultural producers to an evacuated area through collaborative pre-incident planning, coordination, and implementation.

The County held a series of community meetings to discuss how to create the new program to allow qualified agriculture and livestock producers safe passage to their properties. The Ag Pass Program provides guidance and direction for local governments

and non-governmental organizations on how to safely allow accredited agricultural workers back onto their property to assess their businesses. To become part of the Ag Pass Program, commercial agricultural producers will need to register through the Sacramento County Department of Agriculture, Weights, and Measures.

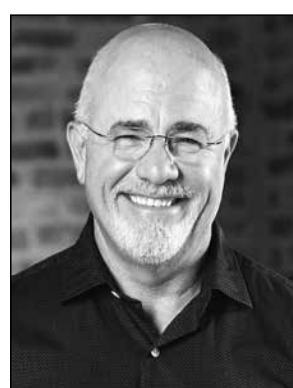
Under the program, County accredited members will be limited to performing only those functions and tasks that have been determined essential for the support of commercial operations to lessen the impacts of economic loss or to provide auxiliary support to peace officers and emergency personnel in locating water sources and access routes.

The Ag Pass coverage is limited to registered commercial agricultural operations under the Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner's Office. An initial application for the Ag Pass will require Primary Pass holders to outline all critical tasks and require an approximate number of personnel.

"This pass does not give any special privileges or authorization to disregard the direction of public safety officials or force any employees, laborers, farmhands, or members of the public, regardless of their immigration status, to disregard the orders of any public safety official," said Chris Flores, Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner.

Agricultural producers are encouraged to contact the County Department of Agriculture to learn more about this new program. Applicants must take training from the County before an Ag Pass is issued. All passes must be renewed annually.

Training classes are expected to begin in early 2024. ★



It's a Credit Card Addiction

Dear Dave,

I think my mother-in-law has a serious credit card problem. She can't afford stuff, but she shops anyway, chalks up more and more debt, acquires more credit cards, and thinks she'll pay for it all later somehow. Her ex-husband has bailed her out a few times, but he's unwilling to help anymore. My wife and I, and my wife's sister, want to address this issue, but we're all worried about her reaction, and we don't know where to start. Do you have any advice??

– Randall

Dear Randall,

First, everyone involved should understand they're likely to receive an angry response from this lady if

Dave Ramsey Says

she's confronted over her actions. Sometimes people get ticked off when they hear the truth, especially when it's connected to their own misbehavior. It may even be a good idea for your wife and her sister to get some advice from a family counselor beforehand. Really, what we're talking about here is an intervention.

Also, you need to stay out of the discussion. This is something for her daughters to handle. Support your wife and her sister through it all, but if you're in there asking questions and probing around, you're liable to come off as the evil son-in-law. And you folks don't need to add any more problems to the mix.

They need to sit down with her in a quiet setting, one where there are no interruptions, no television and no one else. Start with the fact that they love her and care about her deeply. That's very important in a situation like this. But they also have to walk through what's really going on, and let her know they're tired of

watching her destroy herself, and her finances, with her irresponsible behavior.

If she had a drinking problem, you'd want to try to make her see how alcohol was hurting her and the relationships she has with her family. In this case, she basically has a credit card addiction. And it's wreaking havoc on her financial well-being and people who care about her.

So, show as much love and understanding as possible. But someone needs to say something soon.

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling 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 for the company Ramsey Solutions. ★

Operation Bad Elf Recovers Thousands of Dollars of Merchandise

Continued from page 1

the ballot for voters, California will continue to face these same problems, regardless of enforcement.

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Office remains committed to ongoing efforts to combat crime, protect local businesses, and ensure the safety and well-being of residents. The success

of this recent operation reflects the dedication and effectiveness of law enforcement professionals in addressing pressing community concerns.

To see a video highlighting the operation, please visit the Sacramento Sheriff's Office social media channels on Facebook, Instagram, X, and YouTube. ★

Social Security Matters

I'm Returning to Work; What Should I Do About Social Security?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I started collecting Social Security at age 62 earlier this year. I had an opportunity to partner in a new business this year that will allow me to earn about \$200,000 in 2024. Because this is significantly above the allowed earnings when collecting early benefits, I need advice on how I handle this with the Social Security Administration. Am I supposed to call them and advise them of my change in income for 2024? If so, am I going to be penalized in any way? I expect they will stop all payments in 2024 once I alert them to the change. Will I be eligible for Social Security payments when I retire again? This is planned to take place before I reach full retirement age of 67. For information, my 2023 income will not exceed the 2023 allowable income limit. **Signed: Un-retiring Temporarily.**

Dear Un-retiring: You have a couple of options, considering that you recently claimed early Social Security benefits but are returning to work with income significantly more than the 2024 earnings limit of \$22,320. The first is to simply

contact Social Security and tell them you are returning to the work force and tell them your anticipated 2024 income. They will suspend your SS benefits for all of 2024 (to avoid overpaying you and making you return those 2024 payments later). If you plan to continue in your new business beyond 2024, you can advise them of that as well and they will continue the suspension of your benefits, until such time as you either discontinue working or reach your full retirement age (the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your FRA). At that time, SS will resume your monthly Social Security payments and, at your FRA, will give you time credit for all months your benefits were suspended, providing you with a higher monthly payment after your full retirement age is attained (with an adjustment for benefits already paid).

Your other option is to contact Social Security soon and request that your recent application for Social Security benefits submitted earlier this year be withdrawn. You have 12 months from the date of your application to do this, but you will need to repay Social Security all money which they paid to you or on your behalf (including your monthly payments, any income tax you had withheld from those payments, and any dependent benefits which might have been paid based on your record). That will effectively "wipe the slate clean" with Social Security and will be as though you had never claimed, allowing

you to simply wait until you stop working, or until your FRA, or even beyond your FRA, to re-apply for Social Security at a higher monthly amount. The advantage of this option is that when your benefit restarts there will be no adjustment (reduction) for past benefits paid.

What I suggest you not do is simply wait to see what happens. That would result in Social Security catching up after the IRS informs them of your 2024 earnings, resulting in you receiving an Overpayment Notice from the SSA demanding repayment of 2024 benefits paid. In that case, you would need to quickly repay Social Security in a large lump-sum or have your SS benefits withheld until the debt for exceeding the earnings limit was repaid. In a nutshell, I suggest you call Social Security and tell them you are returning to work, what your earnings are expected to be, and for how long.

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. ★

DWR Announces Initial State Water Project Allocation of 10 Percent for 2024

DWR News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On December 1, 2023, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced an initial State Water Project (SWP) allocation forecast of 10 percent of requested supplies for 2024. The SWP provides water to 29 public water agencies that serve 27 million Californians.

The December 1 initial water supply forecast is the first allocation of the new water year and is based on current reservoir storage and an assumption of very dry conditions. So far in October and November, storms have not brought as much rain and snow.

"California's water year is off to a relatively dry start. While we are hopeful that this El Niño pattern will generate wet weather, this early in the season we have to plan with drier conditions in mind," said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. "California's water supply continues to benefit from our aggressive efforts last season to capture record rain and snow melt in our reservoirs and groundwater basins."

The initial SWP allocation forecast is looking ahead to 2024 and only applies to water deliveries in the year ahead. The allocation is calculated based on October and November precipitation, dry soils, runoff, and storage in Lake Oroville. It has no bearing on current water supplies or water captured in 2023. Most reservoirs in the state remain above average for this time of year.

Highlights of California's Water Supply Storage

Last winter, a total of 3.5 million acre-feet of water was captured in SWP reservoirs. The SWP delivered 2.7 million acre-feet in allocated water plus an additional 400,000 acre-feet of supplemental water to SWP contractors in 2023;

To date, Lake Oroville, the SWP's largest reservoir, is at 133 percent of average.

San Luis Reservoir, jointly operated by the SWP and Central Valley Project, remains at 109 percent of average. Water stored in San Luis also includes water from 2023 being stored by water contractors for use in future dry years;

In coordination with the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), DWR provided water to fill up Diamond Valley Reservoir for the first time in three years. The facility is a critical part of the Southern California water delivery system;

California was also able to redirect excess storm water for groundwater recharge. DWR has estimated more than 3.8 million acre-feet of recharge capacity in 2023, including more than 1.2 million acre-feet of groundwater recharge permitted by State agencies, 390,817 acre-feet of flood water recharged using the Governor's Executive Orders, and millions more acre-feet of managed and naturally occurring recharge.

It is not uncommon for the initial allocation forecast to be low following very wet years. For Water Year 2018, the initial allocation was 15 percent following an 85 percent final allocation in 2017. Water Year 2020 started with a 10 percent initial allocation following a 75 percent final allocation in 2019. Both 2017 and 2019 were very wet winters. More historical data on SWP allocations is available at water.ca.gov/programs/state-water-project/management/swp-water-contractors.

As the winter progresses, if California sees an increase in rain and snowfall, the allocation forecast may increase.

Each year, DWR provides the initial SWP allocation by December 1 based on available water storage, projected water supply, and water demands. Allocations are updated monthly as snowpack, rainfall, and runoff information is assessed, with a final allocation typically determined in May or June. ★



Employment Opportunities

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We publish 18 local newspapers in the Sacramento Region. Our main office is in Carmichael. We have been publishing for 17 years and are seeking new qualified employees.

CURRENT WORK OPPORTUNITIES

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

Production Layout/Graphic Design – This part-time position assists with the layout of the newspapers and works with the production staff to create our weekly newspapers. Must have good working knowledge of InDesign production programs. Must be able to work within our current system and be able to take direction to meet our deadlines. Previous layout experience is a must. This is an entry level position. Work hours are between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm. This position is in our Gridley office and begins in January.

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

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

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

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

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

To find out more or to apply:

Email your questions or resume to Publisher@MPG8.com

Politicians Refused to Fix California's Boom-and-Bust Tax System. They Now Face a \$68 Billion Deficit



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

It is truly amazing – and not in a good way – that California's politicians cannot grasp a phenomenon that has plagued state finances for years, known as "volatility."

It's this: The state budget is extraordinarily dependent on personal income tax revenues, most of which comes from a relative handful of upper-income taxpayers whose incomes vary year to year because much of it comes from investments.

When the affluent make lots of money, the state treasury overflows with revenue, but when the economy falters, incomes and tax revenues fall. Unfortunately, because politicians have short attention spans, they tend to increase spending when revenues surge, only to face deficits when they inevitably decline.

The syndrome's peaks and valleys have become more severe because dependence on the wealthy has increased, economic cycles have become more acute and windfalls tend to be spent on services that are politically difficult to adjust, such as public schools, health care and aid to the state's poor families.

Actually, California politicians do grasp volatility. That was demonstrated 11 months ago when Gov.

Gavin Newsom proposed a 2023-24 budget that addressed what he said was a \$22.5 billion deficit just eight months after he had boasted of a \$97.5 billion surplus.

"No other state in American history has ever experienced a surplus as large as this," Newsom had bragged in May 2022, thus encouraging his fellow Democrats in the Legislature to sharply increase spending.

When Newsom acknowledged the looming deficit last January, he blamed revenue volatility, displaying a chart showing big swings in income taxes on capital gains and saying it "sums up California's tax structure, sums up boom and bust."

Gabe Petek, the Legislature's budget analyst, revealed last week that accumulated deficits for the 2022-23, 2023-24 and the forthcoming 2024-25 fiscal years, based on spending commitments already made and current and projected revenue, are \$68 billion.

"Largely as a result of a severe revenue decline in 2022-23, the state faces a serious budget deficit," Petek told the Legislature. "Specifically, under the state's current law and policy, we estimate the Legislature will need to solve a budget problem of \$68 billion in the coming budget process."

Moreover, Petek's office projects deficits in the neighborhood of \$30 billion a year for the remainder of Newsom's governorship.

So it's not that Newsom and legislators don't know about the corrosive effects of volatility – it's that they, like their predecessors, are unwilling to do

what's necessary to counteract it: overhaul the revenue system.

When volatility first became a major problem during the Great Recession, then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders created a commission to suggest remedies. Chaired by businessman Gerald Parsky, the commission held months of hearings and finally, on a divided vote, recommended the state reduce its dependence on income taxes and shift to a revised form of sales tax.

The report was buried as soon as it reached the Legislature. When Jerry Brown returned to the governorship in 2011, he persuaded voters to create a "rainy day fund" that would absorb some revenues during boom times and cushion the impact of future downturns.

The fund now has about \$24 billion and a separate school reserve has \$8.1 billion. At best, reserves would cover less than half of the \$68 billion deficit and none of the \$90 billion in projected deficits for the three following years.

It's certainly better to have those reserves than not, but they are incomplete responses to volatility and that a judicious, even gradual, overhaul of the tax system is still the best solution, as politically difficult as that may be for a Legislature dominated by left-leaning Democrats.

Procrastination will only make the problem worse.

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

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Gift Card Scam and Arrest

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Over 5,000 gift cards were found in Ningning Sun's possession. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County Sheriff's Office

Sacramento County Sheriff's Office News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - During our recent retail theft Operation Bad Elf, detectives observed an individual, later identified as Ningning Sun, acting suspiciously near the gift cards in the payment aisles in a Sacramento Target store. Detectives observed him placing all the gift cards on a rack inside his jacket, then replacing the gift cards with another set of seemingly identical ones. After Sun was stopped trying to exit the store with the stolen gift cards, detectives discovered over 5000 gift cards from Target and Apple in his possession.

Their investigation revealed Sun was part of a scam that tampered with gift cards, scanned the bar code, and stole money from the gift card as money was loaded on them. Victims are completely unaware it is happening, and the money is often siphoned to an off-shore account within seconds. Their investigation revealed that the operation spanned across California and several regions nationwide.

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Office urges residents to be cautious when

purchasing physical gift cards from any retailer. Be observant of any signs of tampering, especially scuff marks or scratches near the bar code on the back of the card. These operations are very sophisticated, and modifications to the gift cards are often virtually undetectable, even to the trained eye. Detectives suspect Sun has done this at many stores and are requesting the public's help to potentially link him to other crimes.

This investigation is still ongoing, and detectives are asking anyone with information about this incident to contact the Sheriff's Office at (916) 874-5115 or Sacramento Valley Crime Stoppers at (916) 443-HELP (4357). Tips leading to additional charges are eligible for a CASH reward of up to \$1000, and tipsters remain anonymous. Tips are paid in cash, and you are never asked for identification. Contact Sacramento Valley Crime Stoppers at (916) 443-HELP (4357), 1-800-AA-CRIME, or **TIPS. Use the "P3 TIPS" app or online at www.sacvalleycrimestoppers.com. Tip information may also be left anonymously at www.sacsheriff.com or by calling (916) 874-TIPS (8477). ★

Sacramento County DA News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - On October 17, 2023, Michael McKinney pled to Employment Development Department (EDD) fraud, evading police, identity theft and driving under the influence. On November 30, 2023, the Honorable Kenneth Brody sentenced McKinney to 6 years and 8 months in state prison.

On September 18, 2021, California Highway Patrol officers attempted a vehicle stop on McKinney for speeding on Interstate 80. McKinney led officers on a high-speed chase, reaching speeds of over 130 mph. McKinney continued to drive on Auburn Boulevard until his tires went flat. McKinney then exited his vehicle,

ran across Interstate 80 and led officers on a foot pursuit on the Haggin Oaks Golf Course. Officers arrested McKinney and determined his blood alcohol content was 0.128%.

On June 30, 2022, Sacramento police officers conducted a probation search of McKinney's bedroom. Officers recovered 97 fraudulent credit cards and 28 identification cards containing McKinney's face with different names. Officers also found other indicia of identity theft and evidence of EDD fraud.

The Sacramento County District Attorney's Office and the California Employment Development Department conducted an investigation and determined McKinney filed 23 fraudulent EDD claims and received \$538,050 in fraudulent funds. ★

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Miscellaneous

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COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



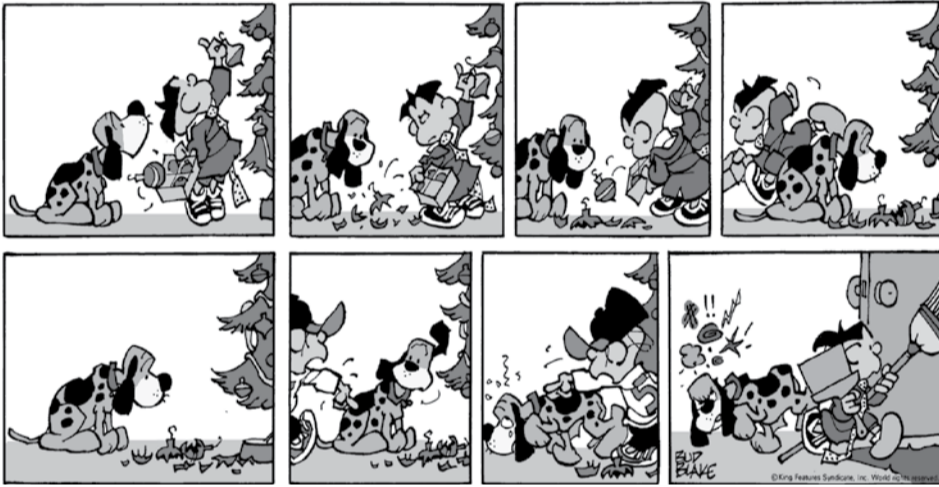
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. 'Tinsel' is shorter. 2. Cuffs are missing. 3. Baseboard is missing. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Sign is different. 6. Armchair is missing.

GRIN & BEAR IT



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • YEAR-IN-REVIEW

CLUES

ACROSS

- *Herald, Idalia or Ophelia
- Do this in the bud
- Parts of play
- Cocoon dwellers
- Paleozoic or mesozoic, e.g.
- Alexandre Duma's "The Black _____"
- Concerning, archaic
- Talking Heads' "And She _____"
- Give a speech
- *2023 World Series winners
- *Imploded submersible's destination
- *Kali Uchis' "I Wish Roses"
- Don't step on it twice!
- *Ryan Gosling's #48 Across role
- Winter window picture
- Imprisons
- Aphrodite's son
- Hindu serpent deity
- Toughness
- Angler's hope
- Stephen Curry, e.g.
- Opposed to
- Tastes like lemon
- Seven-year desire
- Turf alternative
- *Highest-grossing 2023 movie to-date
- Chris Hemsworth's repeating role
- Auction batch
- Cheese on Peloponnese
- Kombucha, e.g.
- *Retired media magnate
- *King Charles III's Royal House
- On the radio (2 words)
- *Ryder Cup 2023 runner-up
- 1000 kilograms
- "Beat it!"
- Lake, in France
- Manila hemp
- Foot digits
- Freudian topic
- Runner

DOWN

- Joust verbally
- Cat food flavor
- Word before sesame
- Gangly
- Type of shower
- *Company from which #57 Across retired, _____ Corp
- Nest egg, acr.
- Trattoria staple
- Sign of a saint
- Kin group
- South American monkey
- Design detail, for short
- Sacred objects on a pole
- Bitterly regretting
- Dwight D. Eisenhower
- Boat race
- Meat on a stick
- "Fear of Flying" author
- Jong
- Post-it user
- *Site of tragic wildfires
- Objectivity preventer
- Declare invalid

CROSSWORD

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Mobile Vet Clinic for Unhoused Pets Launches

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - PAWS, or Pet Aid and Wellness Services, rolled into action at the Safe Stay community on Florin Rd on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, and began seeing its first four-legged patients, marking a pivotal moment for accessible pet healthcare in Sacramento County. PAWS is the first mobile spay/neuter outreach clinic for pets of unhoused pet owners in the area and was approved by the Board of Supervisors in July 2022.

Spaying and Neutering at the Forefront:

The primary mission of PAWS is to address pet overpopulation and reduce unwanted litters. The mobile clinic is fully equipped to provide spay and neuter services, ensuring that pets of unhoused owners have access to this vital and preventive care. By focusing on these procedures, PAWS aims to contribute significantly to controlling the pet population.

Comprehensive Veterinary Care on Wheels:

PAWS goes beyond spay/neuter services; it will also offer vaccinations, medical care, and diagnostic services for ill and injured pets. PAWS offers comparable services to care provided by a traditional veterinary office. This comprehensive approach aims to promote the overall health and well-being of all pets in the community and reduce preventable diseases.

Removing Barriers to Care:

By removing barriers such as transportation and cost, PAWS bridges the gap in access to veterinary services and represents a significant stride towards a more inclusive approach to pet healthcare. All services are provided by the County at no cost to pet owners.

Strategic Operation Schedule:

The mobile clinic will operate four days per week, with two days dedicated to providing services at shelters for individuals



The Pet Aid and Wellness Services rolls into service in Sac County. Left to right: Jessica Gresham; Rich Desmond, District 3 Supervisor and Board Chair; Freedom Witten; Patrick Kennedy, District 2 Supervisor and Board Vice-Chair; Annette Bedsworth; Dr. Cynthia Metcalf; and Kazmiera Grundy. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

experiencing homelessness. One day per week will be spent at encampments throughout the County, reaching pets in need where they are. An additional day each week will be devoted to providing spay/neuter services for shelter pets at Bradshaw Animal Shelter.

Dr. Cynthia Metcalf, who joined Sacramento County Animal Care Services earlier this year as the full-time veterinarian for PAWS, emphasized the clinic's commitment to making a tangible difference in the lives of both pets and their owners. "PAWS is not just a pet clinic; it's a lifeline for those who do not currently have access to veterinary care. We're breaking down the barriers to that care and ensuring that every pet, regardless of their circumstances, receives the love and attention they deserve, and that every pet owner's concerns are heard," Dr. Metcalf said.

The public can learn more about PAWS and view a calendar of upcoming service areas at the Sacramento County Animal Care Services website. ★



Dr. Metcalf assesses a new patient. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County



The veterinary team addresses a client's concerns about their dog. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County



The 'waiting line' for the PAWS veterinary clinic is a friendly hangout. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County



An 8-month-old cat who was able to receive its first vaccinations and a microchip at the PAWS clinic. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County



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For Children and Families

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Ami Bera Announces \$225K Federal Award



Rep. Ami Bera with graduates at the Improve Your Tomorrow graduation ceremony, June 2023. Photo courtesy of Office of Rep. Ami Bera

Office of Rep. Ami Bera News Release

WASHINGTON, DC (MPG) - U.S. Representative Ami Bera, M.D. (CA-06) today announced that Improve Your Tomorrow, a Sacramento-based nonprofit, has been selected to receive a federal award of \$225,900 per year. The funding, made available through AmeriCorps VISTA, will bolster college readiness for Sacramento area youth and will support 10 year-round service positions locally.

“I am thrilled to share that Improve Your Tomorrow has been chosen to receive over \$225,000 in federal funding, furthering their vital mission of empowering Sacramento young men of color to pursue and graduate from college,” said Representative Ami Bera. “AmeriCorps volunteers are among the most dedicated and selfless contributors to our society, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact these 10 volunteers make on the Sacramento community.”

Improve Your Tomorrow is a Sacramento-based nonprofit that is working to empower and uplift young men of color throughout California by enabling them to pursue and complete their college education.

“Improve Your Tomorrow is profoundly honored to stand among the four distinguished AmeriCorps VISTA Awardees in California. This kind of unwavering support from Congressman Ami Bera and AmeriCorps California showcases a commitment to expanding service

opportunities that address critical achievement gaps within our education system. Thanks to the advocacy of youth champions like Congressman Bera, Improve Your Tomorrow will harness the transformative power of the VISTA program — a pinnacle of professional service opportunities in our state. This investment in at-promise youth will undoubtedly propel improved outcomes for the thousands of young men of color we are dedicated to serving,” said Michael Lynch, CEO & Co-Founder, Improve Your Tomorrow.

In addition to the award announced today, AmeriCorps will also provide more than \$68,950 each year in education scholarships for the AmeriCorps VISTA members supported by this award to help pay for college, vocational training, or pay back student loans.

AmeriCorps, the federal agency for service and volunteering, brings people together to tackle the country’s most pressing challenges through national service and volunteering. Every year, tens of thousands AmeriCorps members serve through 21,000+ schools, nonprofits, community and faith-based organizations and state, tribal and local governments across the country. Since the program’s inception in 1994, more than 1 million Americans have served in AmeriCorps, providing more than 1.6 billion hours of service and earned more than \$4 billion in education scholarships. For those interested in joining AmeriCorps, you can learn more at AmeriCorps.gov/Join.



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 2018 2021
 2019 2023

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Beef London Broil / Top Round Roast	\$4.99/lb
Beef T-Bone Steak	\$4.99/lb
Beef Porterhouse Steak	\$5.49/lb
Pork St. Louis Ribs - Single Pack	\$2.99/lb
Country Style Pork Loin Ribs - Brnls	\$2.99/lb
Boneless Pork Loin Chops	\$2.99/lb
Chicken Drumsticks	69¢/lb

FRESH PRODUCE

Mini Sweet Pepper 1 lb	\$2.99/ea
Lemon 2 lbs	\$2.99/bag
Honeycrisp Apple	69¢/lb
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Kretschmar Ham off the Bone	\$6.19
Olive Medley	\$4.99
Hot Pitted Green Olives	\$4.39

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