



Evictions on the Rise

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“ I HAVE A DREAM THAT MY FOUR LITTLE CHILDREN WILL ONE DAY LIVE IN A NATION WHERE THEY WILL NOT BE JUDGED BY THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN BUT BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER. ”

— MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., A TESTAMENT OF HOPE: THE ESSENTIAL WRITINGS AND SPEECHES



Citrus Heights Messenger

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Serving the City of Citrus Heights & Sacramento County

JANUARY 12, 2024

SEE INSIDE

RENTS DOWN 2.1% FROM SUMMER PEAK



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KEVIN KILEY MARRIES CHELSEE GARDNER



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OVER 30 YEARS IN BUSINESS FOR RAY'S JEWELERS



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Highway Patrol Gets New Officers



The large photos of various roles of CHP officers were displayed from chin-lift bars in the gymnasium. Cadets, on their way to meals, are required to do chin ups before and after eating.

Story and photos by MPG Editor Debra Dingman

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Many people spend years begrudging the California Highway Patrol because they were pulled over by a CHP Officer for some reason they did not feel was warranted. But after attending one of the graduations at the California Highway Patrol Academy in Sacramento, one might easily hold feelings of respect and honor instead.

Every facet of the program was succinctly orchestrated from being directed where to park to lining up to enter the event. Guests were greeted professionally with a genuine smile by blue-shirted cadets. Hundreds of family members waited in anticipation.

Upon entering the huge gymnasium with rows and rows of seats, one saw an entire wall of 4 x 8-foot photos of pictures—each portraying a different division of the service including SWAT Team, Mounted Horse Patrol, Academy Instruction, Road Patrol, Air Operations, Motor Officer, Motorcycle and Bicycle Patrols. What they didn't show was task force members, Headquarters and Division Personnel uniformed and Nonuniformed, Dispatchers, Auto Theft Task Forces, Commercial Enforcement Personnel, K-9s and more.

“There have been thousands of officers in this place,” said Jim Ward, a retired CHP Officer who lives in Dixon. “But, it is far from routine. This is extraordinary. You are seeing less than 3-percent of those who actually apply.”

Ward served for 16 years on the Santa Ana freeway before moving to northern California duties.

Soon after the families and friends were seated, nearly 100 men and women marched into the California Highway Patrol Academy graduation ceremony with eyes straight ahead and showing serious faces wearing the traditional CHP uniform symbolizing authority and professionalism: the camel-colored pants, olive green jacket, and the cream-colored Trooper hat.

Commissioner Sean Duryee opened the ceremony and spoke about CHP training which is revered worldwide and consists of a regulated system of academics, exercise, diet, and self-discipline. Those honored had just completed

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Gregg Fishman Elected SMUD Board Vice President



New SMUD Board Vice President, Gregg Fishman. Photo courtesy SMUD

SMUD Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - SMUD's Board of Directors elected Gregg Fishman as Vice President of the Board, effective January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. Gregg was first elected to the SMUD Board of Directors in January 2015 and represents Ward 3, which includes East Sacramento, much of the Arden-Arcade area, and the Campus Commons, College Glen, and Rosemont neighborhoods, as well as parts of Carmichael, Florin, Fruitridge and Vintage Park.

Vice President Fishman has been a clean energy advocate for much of his career. As a former SMUD employee, he promoted wind and solar energy when they were in their infancy. At the California Independent System Operator, he led public engagement efforts supporting new wind energy farms in California. As President of the SMUD Board in 2018, he led the utility in passing its Integrated Resource Plan, hailed by the California Energy Commission as “... an ambitious road map for lowering greenhouse gas emissions in the Sacramento region.”

In his varied career, Gregg was a news reporter and anchor at KFBK and KGO Radio, a public information officer at SMUD and the California Independent System Operator (California ISO), and communications coordinator for the California State Association of Counties. He currently works at Sacramento Regional Transit as the Sr. Community Relations Officer.

Gregg is an active volunteer with the Sacramento Tree Foundation and has led a neighborhood effort that has planted more than 2,000 new trees since 2001. He received an award from the MLK 365 organization for helping to make it easier to remove racially restrictive clauses from local property records. He is a 25-gallon blood donor and a frequent volunteer master-of-ceremonies for Project Ride in Elk Grove.

Gregg is a graduate of California State University, Sacramento with a bachelor's degree in journalism. He and his wife live in Arden Park and are the parents of two daughters. ★

First Snow Survey of the Season Finds Below Average Conditions

DWR Special Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Department of Water Resources (DWR) conducted the first snow survey of the season on January 2, 2023, at Phillips Station. The manual survey recorded 7.5 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 3 inches, which is 30 percent of average for this location. The snow water equivalent measures the amount of water contained in the snowpack and is a key component of DWR's water supply forecast. Statewide the snowpack is 25 percent of average for this date.

After one of the largest snowpacks on record last season, the start of this water year has been dry despite some recent storms in the last weeks of December that provided a small boost in the snowpack. While state



The Department of Water Resources (DWR) conducted the first snow survey of the season on January 2, 2023, at Phillips Station. The manual survey recorded 7.5 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 3 inches, which is 30 percent of average for this location. Photo courtesy of DWR

reservoirs are still above average for this time of year and strong El Niño conditions are present in the Pacific Ocean, the outlook for the rest of the winter remains highly uncertain.

“California saw first-hand last year how

historic drought conditions can quickly give way to unprecedented, dangerous flooding,” said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. “Although El Niño does not guarantee an above average water year, California is preparing for the possibility

of more extreme storms while increasing our climate resilience for the next drought.”

DWR's electronic readings from 130 stations placed throughout the state indicate that the statewide snowpack's snow water

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Kevin Patrick Kiley Marries Chelsee Gardner

Citrus Heights Rents Down 2.1% From Summer Peak



Kevin Patrick Kiley and Chelsee Lee Gardner were married on December 30th, 2023. Photo courtesy Office of Representative Kiley

Office of Representative Kiley News Release

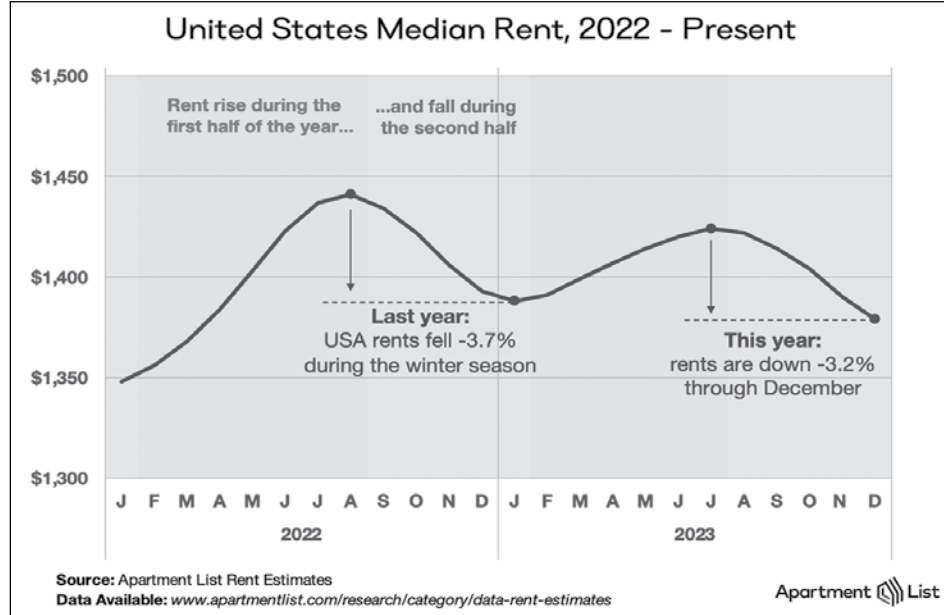
WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG) - The Office of Representative Kiley is delighted to announce that he and Chelsee Gardner were married on December 30th, 2023. The ceremony took place at Pioneer Church in Auburn, California, the oldest church in Placer County.

The bride, Chelsee Lee Gardner, was raised in the small town of Rio Oso, California, and moved to Rocklin, California, in 2011. She works at Agape International Missions, a nonprofit devoted to the fight against sex trafficking.

The groom, Kevin Patrick Kiley, is also from the greater Sacramento area and was raised in Orangevale and Granite Bay. He currently represents California's 3rd Congressional District as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Chelsee and Kevin met at a community event in Rocklin, California, celebrating the Fourth of July. Kevin proposed to Chelsee in the summer of 2023 in the same park where they first met.

They are grateful for the love and support they receive from their family and friends as they embark on this journey together as husband and wife. The couple will reside in Roseville. ★



As 2023 came to a close, rent prices across the country continued on a downward trend that began in late summer.

Story by Rob Warnock

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - As 2023 came to a close, rent prices across the country continued on a downward trend that began in late summer. December saw rents fall 0.8% nationwide - marking the fifth consecutive month of declines. Today, the median monthly rent in the U.S. is down \$45 (3.2%) from the mid-year peak last August. Seasonality plays a role in these market fluctuations, with rents typically bottoming out around the end of the year before starting to regain ground. Now is the time when renters have the most sway in lease negotiations, but it likely won't be

long before rents begin to trend up again. For the latest data, see our full January Rent Report here. Some highlights include:
-The rental market is squarely in the winter slow season, and after falling another 0.8% in December, rents in Citrus Heights are down 2.1% since their summer peak.
-As moving activity slows during the holidays, this is the time of year where renters find the best deals on apartments. Today the median rent in Citrus Heights is \$1,490 for a one-bedroom apartment and \$1,640 for a two-bedroom apartment.
-If historical seasonal patterns hold, rent growth should heat

Presidential Primary Election Update

Ballot Drop Box and VoteCenter Locations

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Voter Registration and Elections (VRE) has posted the list of Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations for the March 5, 2024, Presidential Primary Election on the website.

Vote by Mail ballots will be mailed to voters beginning Monday, February 5, 2024. Ballot Drop Boxes will begin opening Monday, February 5, 2024, and Vote Centers will begin opening Saturday, February 24, 2024. A complete list of Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations, their days and hours of operation, and an interactive map can be found at: <https://elections.saccounty.net/votecenters/pages/locations.aspx>

A QR code to the interactive map will be included in the County Voter Information Guide to replace the flat printed map. This simple change supports the County's GoGreen policy, is accessible to voters with disabilities and is fiscally responsible, saving the county over two (2) million pages of printed material and the associated mailing cost.

For more information, contact VRE at (916) 875-6451, email voterinfo@sac-county.gov, or by using the toll-free voter

assistance hotline at (800) 762-8019. The hotline has the ability to connect voters with disabilities with TTY (Text Telephone).

KEY ELECTION DATES

- **Monday, February 5** - Mailing of ballots to all registered voters begins
- **Monday, February 5** - Voted ballots may be returned in any of the Ballot Drop Boxes located throughout the County
- **Monday, February 19** - Close of voter registration for this election. Voter registration forms must be postmarked by this date or delivered to the VRE Office at 7000 65th Street, Suite A, Sacramento 95823 by 5:00 p.m. Online voter registration must be completed before midnight on this date at www.registertovote.ca.gov
- **Tuesday, February 20** - Conditional Voter Registration (VBM) begins
- **Saturday, February 24** - 11 Day Vote Centers open
- **Tuesday, February 27** - Last day a Vote by Mail (VBM) ballot can be mailed to you. After this date, VBM ballots are only available at the VRE office or at any of the 90 Vote Centers
- **Saturday, March 2** - All Vote Centers open throughout the County
- **Tuesday, March 5** - Election Day ★

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First Snow Survey of the Season Finds Below Average Conditions

Continued from page 1

equivalent is 2.5 inches, or 25 percent of average for this date, compared to 185 percent on this date last year.

“While we are glad the recent storms brought a small boost to the snowpack, the dry fall and below average conditions today shows how fast water conditions can change,” said DWR’s Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Unit Manager Sean de Guzman. “It’s still far too early to say what kind of water year we will have, and it will be important for Californians to pay attention to their forecasts and conserve water, rain or shine.”

Last year, California experienced climate whiplash when the driest three year-period on record ended with extreme storm events in January and March that caused damage and flooding across the state. These extreme weather events highlight the need for all Californians to prepare for flood risk. DWR is working with tribal, federal, state, and local partners to provide flood resources and training to communities across the state.

The State-Federal Flood Operations Center (FOC) has pre-positioned flood fight materials at more locations across the state and is starting this winter with more supplies on hand, including 2.2 million more sandbags. This fall, DWR coordinated pre-flood season meetings with emergency response agencies across the state and organized 38 flood-fight trainings for city, county, state and tribal agencies to prepare for possible local emergencies.

One year ago, the January survey at the Phillips location showed a water content of 177 percent of average and was followed by a series of damaging atmospheric river storms in January and March that caused flood impacts across the state and produced one of the largest snowpacks on record.

In addition to deploying resources including over 1.9 million sandbags across the state last year, the FOC coordinated a joint state, federal and local response to snowmelt-driven flooding concerns and prepared for the historic snowmelt by providing hydraulic and hydrologic modeling and snowmelt forecasts that allowed agencies to deploy resources, reinforce levees and protect communities.

On average, the Sierra snowpack supplies about 30 percent of California’s water needs. Its natural ability to store water is why the Sierra snowpack is often referred to as California’s “frozen reservoir.” Data from these snow surveys and forecasts produced by DWR’s Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Unit are important factors in determining how DWR manages the state’s water resources. Due to last year’s above average conditions and historic snowpack, a total of 3.5 million acre-feet of water was captured in State Water Project (SWP) reservoirs. Lake Oroville, the SWP’s largest reservoir, is currently at 130 percent of average to date and state water managers are prepared to capture and store as much water as possible. ★

Highway Patrol Gets New Officers

Continued from page 1

the 6-month live-in Academy where their commitment meant missed birthdays, anniversaries, births of children, and holidays.

He told how they would receive their badge number and badge stating they would stay with them for life and talked about what each point of the star represents: character, integrity, judgment, loyalty, courtesy, honor, and knowledge.

“You’ve earned the right to wear it,” he said. “That badge belongs to the people behind you. That badge represents the trust they have in you.” He also spoke to the graduates about their futures. “The tragedies of others will become your daily routine. You will show empathy, take time to listen, give a shoulder to cry on, and show compassion.

Don’t ever become cocky or arrogant. The moment you stop learning and growing, you start limiting your future.”

Keynote speaker Barbara Rooney, California Office of Traffic Safety Director shared the wide variety of backgrounds that the graduates came from. There were a couple musicians, EMTs, and firefighters.

“Almost all branches of the military are represented here and 1st to 3rd and even 4th generations of officers in the family. There was a preschool teacher, marathon runner, private pilot, computer engineer, and even a juggler,” she said. “Ten have received the Governor’s Medal of Honor.”

She reminded them they were all joining a 100-year-old agency created in 1929 to provide uniform traffic law enforcement throughout California, assuring the safe, convenient and efficient transportation of people and goods on its highway system.

“Now, there are 7,000 uniform personnel in our state with 40 million people,” she said congratulating them.

The governor added his remarks through a televised message.

“I’m adding my voice to the chorus who honors you,” said Governor Gavin Newsom. “We have the 5th largest law enforcement agency in the country and you have earned our respect and trust.

We extend our gratitude, thanks, and welcome.”

A video presentation of the extensive training followed and the audience saw situational experiences where cadets were drilled on how to fight criminals and save lives.

Special recognitions were given for class officers, marksmanship, outstanding athlete, and most inspirational cadet. Afterwards, they lined up in front of the buildings for the official ‘badge pinning’ while taking photos with proud spouses and family members. They will earn a generous base salary of \$109,248 during their first year plus full health and dental benefits for themselves and their families.

The ceremony is one of three per year and was closed with the entire graduating class reciting the Code of Honor with raised right hands swearing that they “would lay down their life rather than swerve from the line of duty.”

Watch Soon

The CHP has just released to the public an inside look at its live-in training facility with this month’s programming of the new reality series, Cadets. Premiering Jan. 17 on the CHP’s YouTube page, the nine-part docuseries focuses on a cadet class navigating the six-month journey through the CHP Academy on the way to becoming officers.

“Cadets is not just a series; it’s a testament to the CHP’s commitment to excellence, diversity, and the relentless pursuit of transforming individuals from all walks of life into dedicated officers ready to serve the community,” said the Commissioner Duryc. “We are excited to offer a start-to-finish look inside our Academy as future law enforcement officers are brought to life.”

Viewers will “ride along” with nine cadets as they overcome physical and mental adversity throughout the journey to earning their badge and becoming a CHP officer. The audience will also hear firsthand from the cadets as they speak candidly about their experience.

“By sharing their experiences, in their own words, we hope to inspire more service-minded individuals to follow in their footsteps and join us for a rewarding career in law enforcement,” added Commissioner Duryc. ★



Public Health Awarded Grant for Child Safety Seat Education

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - In our continued effort to enhance child safety on the road, Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) has once again joined forces with partner agency Mercy San Juan to continue the successful car seat safety program. Aimed at educating parents and caregivers on the proper installation and use of child safety seats, this initiative is made possible through a \$78,546 grant generously provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS).

The grant, which funds an array of community outreach events,

prioritizes education classes and training sessions tailored to underserved and refugee communities. The comprehensive car seat safety program encompasses various components, all designed to empower parents and caregivers with the knowledge and resources needed to ensure the safety of their little ones as they travel.

Key features of the program include:

- Child Safety Seat Inspection Events and Education Classes: The initiative will host events dedicated to inspecting child safety seats and providing educational classes to parents and caregivers.
- Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) Training



Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) has once again joined forces with partner agency Mercy San Juan to continue the successful car seat safety program. Photo courtesy SCPH

and Recertification Courses: To bolster expertise in child passenger safety, the program will offer training and recertification courses

for Child Passenger Safety Technicians.

•No-Cost Child Safety Seats for Families in Need: Families facing financial

constraints will have access to child safety seats at no cost, ensuring that economic barriers do not compromise the safety of children.

•Community Outreach Efforts in Underserved Communities: Collaborating with local organizations, the program will actively engage in community outreach efforts to promote car seat safety in underserved areas.


Dr. Kasirye, the Sacramento County Public Health Officer, highlighted the essential role of OTS grant funding in assisting families, caregivers, and education professionals in ensuring children’s safety. Emphasizing that safeguarding children is a collective priority,

“Properly secured car seats are pivotal in preventing harm to children in the unfortunate event of a crash,” states Kasirye.


Sacramento County residents interested in learning more about the program can contact Riley Stoltenburg at StoltenburgR@saccounty.gov or call (916) 875-6094.

The funding for this critical program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Sacramento County remains committed to ensuring the safety of its youngest residents through proactive community engagement and education on proper car seat usage. ★



VOTE EARLY! AVOID LINES



March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election

All voters will be mailed a ballot

- You should have received your official ballot in the mail.

You can return your ballot starting February 5th


- By mail, no postage necessary
- At a Ballot Drop Box
- At a Vote Center (starting February 24th)

You can find a full list of Ballot Drop Boxes and Vote Center locations in your County Voter Information Guide, in your mail ballot packet, or at www.elections.saccounty.gov

Vote Early! Vote by Mail.


Update your language preference

Every registered voter will receive an official ballot in the mail containing contests, candidates, and voting instructions in your preferred language. If you prefer your ballot and voter information in Spanish, Chinese, or Vietnamese, update your language preference online by scanning this QR code or call (800) 762-8019.




The Presidential Primary is Party Specific

During the March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election voters will nominate one presidential candidate from each party to run against each other in the November 5, 2024 General Election. To vote for the presidential candidate you want in the primary election, ensure you are registered with your preferred party by visiting www.elections.saccounty.gov or calling our office at (800) 762-8019.



If you would like to change your party, reregister at: registertovote.ca.gov or scan:

Visit www.elections.saccounty.gov or Call Toll Free (800) 762-8019



NFIB Releases Top Five Compliance Headaches for 2024

NFIB News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California's leading small business association today released its list of the top five compliance headaches hitting small business owners in 2024.

"California small business owners are no different from their counterparts elsewhere in the nation in struggling to find qualified employees and in dealing with inflation," said John Kabatek, California state director for the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). "What does separate them from other small business owners in other states, however, is having to live with a Legislature that takes an almost sadistic delight in hamstringing them further with more and more regulatory compliance, and 2024 shows no letting up."

The five soon-to-be laws are:

SB 553 (Cortese) - Workplace Violence Prevention Plan. Effective July 1, 2024.

This bill requires employers to establish, implement and maintain a workplace violence prevention plan and record information in a violent incident log, the post-incident response and internal workplace violence injury investigation. The log must include: the date, time and location of an incident, a detailed description of an incident, a classification of who committed an incident, the type of incident, including whether an incident involved physical, verbal, sexual or animal attacks, the consequences of an incident such as medical treatment received, whether security or law enforcement was contacted and the contact information of the individual completing the violent incident log.

AB 2188 (Quirk) - Discrimination in Employment: Use of Cannabis. Effective January 1, 2024.

Passed last year but going into effect on January 1, 2024, this bill amends California's Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) by making it unlawful for an employer to terminate, penalize or otherwise punish an employee for cannabis use outside the workplace. Existing law prohibits an employee from being impaired by cannabis in the workplace. One of the challenges for employers, however, is that since there is currently no

reliable testing method for determining if an individual is impaired by cannabis, the thresholding for proving such impairment is extremely difficult to meet.

SB 700 (Bradford) - Discrimination in Employment: Use of Cannabis. Effective January 1, 2024.

This bill amends California's Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) by making it unlawful for an employer to request information from an applicant for employment pertaining to the applicant's prior use of cannabis unless obtained from the applicant's criminal history. Takeaway from a recent NFIB California Podcast guest: Don't ask about an applicant's cannabis usage history. (NFIB does not provide legal advice. For legal advice about compliance with these or other laws, we recommend consulting with an attorney or human resource specialist.)

SB 616 (Gonzalez) - Paid Sick Leave. Effective January 1, 2024.

This bill increases paid sick leave from three to five days a year. Paid sick leave can still be front loaded and the current accrual methodologies remain in place.

SB 848 (Rubio - Reproductive Loss Leave. Effective January 1, 2024.

This bill amends California's Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) by making it unlawful for an employer to refuse to grant a request by an eligible employee to take up to five days of reproductive loss leave. The leave must be taken within a three-month window from the time of the loss. A reproductive loss event can include a failed adoption, failed surrogacy, miscarriage, stillbirth or unsuccessful assisted reproduction.

Keep up with the latest on California small-business news at www.nfib.com/california or by following NFIB on Twitter @NFIB_CA or on Facebook @NFIB.CA.

For 80 years, NFIB has been advocating on behalf of America's small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. NFIB is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, and member-driven association. Since its founding in 1943, NFIB has been exclusively dedicated to small and independent businesses and remains so today. For more information, please visit nfib.com ★

How Will California Respond To The Home Insurance Market Meltdown?



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

While Gov. Gavin Newsom and state legislators wrestle with a massive state budget deficit this year, a few blocks from the Capitol another crisis that could have far more impact on California families will be playing out.

Ricardo Lara, California's insurance commissioner, will be trying to dissuade companies that provide insurance coverage to millions of homeowners from fleeing the state. Citing heavy losses from disastrous wildfires and the potential for more destruction in the future, the largest insurers, such as State Farm and Farmers, have already cut back on new policies and renewals.

As a result, many homeowners in fire-prone regions have been forced into the state's last ditch insurance plan, called FAIR, which offers reduced coverage at high premiums, to protect themselves and comply with their mortgages.

The industry wants to include actuarial projections of future losses and the costs of reinsurance in their premiums. Neither factor is now allowed under regulations approved by voters more than three decades ago under a ballot measure that also made the insurance commissioner an

elected official.

As the list of insurers reducing their exposure in California mounted last year, the Legislature briefly tried to come up with a revised regulatory process that would induce them to keep writing policies, but adjourned in September without action.

Newsom punted the crisis to Lara and he quickly laid out in broad terms new rules that would allow estimates of future losses to be folded into premium requests and hinted that including reinsurance might be approved. In return, Lara would require insurers to maintain at least 85% of their market in fire-prone regions.

His announcement set in motion what could be a year of hearings and other processes to write new rules that would, in effect, modify much of the 1988 ballot measure that created California's highly regulated insurance system and strictly limited the factors that could be included in rate requests.

It has exacerbated a running feud between Lara and Consumer Watchdog, the organization that sponsored the 1988 ballot measure and has benefited handsomely from "intervenor fees" for participating in premium rate proceedings ever since. Consumer Watchdog has been highly critical of Lara throughout his tenure, and charges that his proposed systemic changes would be a sellout to the insurance industry.

"He's basically capitulated to the industry," Jamie Court, the group's president, said of Lara at one point. "There's not really much coming back for the

consumer in here."

In response, Lara cites his duty to maintain a viable insurance market and accuses Consumer Watchdog of protecting its own financial interests.

"One entity is involved in nearly 75% of all interventions for rate approvals, materially benefiting from a process that is meant for a broader public participation," Lara responded to the allegations, adding, "throwing bombs is easy and putting out bombastic statements from entrenched interest groups doesn't benefit anyone."

Until the crisis, California's average homeowner premium was slightly lower than the national average.

There's no question that if Lara makes major changes to insurance regulation, homeowners' premiums will increase. In fact, last month, he approved a 20% premium increase for State Farm, which holds more than a quarter of the state's market and had announced a moratorium on new policies.

It's a trade-off, one that not only affects current homeowners but those who aspire to ownership and therefore must obtain insurance to obtain mortgages. Moreover, the availability of insurance for their potential customers affects developers who build and sell new homes.

As with the budget crisis, politicians cannot repeal the unwritten laws of economics. Ultimately, there's no free lunch.

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

National Average Price of Gas Projected to See Yearly Decline in 2024

GasBuddy News Release

DALLAS, CA (MPG) - GasBuddy, a PDI company, today released its annual Fuel Price Outlook with some good news for drivers: expect lower gasoline and diesel prices in 2024. The outlook highlights key trends in gasoline and diesel prices, forecasting that, after two years of above average gas prices, 2024 will bring relief at the pump for consumers as several factors contribute to less of a pinch at the pump. GasBuddy expects the yearly national average will drop from \$3.51 per gallon this year to \$3.38 in 2024.

Highlights from GasBuddy's 2024 Fuel Outlook:

Gas prices still could fall below a national average of \$3 per gallon this winter before starting to rise in late-February, getting close to \$4 per gallon as summer approaches, then mildly declining into summer, with hurricane season presenting uncertainty in late summer.

Drivers in some California cities could again briefly see prices above \$6 per gallon if major refinery issues develop during the summer, although most major U.S. cities will see prices peak at or slightly below \$4 per gallon in 2024.

Americans are expected to spend a combined \$446.9 billion on gasoline in 2024. Average yearly spending per household will fall to an estimated \$2,407, down 2% from 2023, and over 12% less compared to 2022.

Electric vehicles (EVs) and the 2024

presidential election have the potential to impact fuel prices in the year ahead, with a potential slowdown in the EV transition at stake.

Memorial Day will be the priciest 2024 holiday at the pump, with the national average price of gasoline expected to be \$3.56-\$4.04 per gallon on the holiday.

"As 2023 fades away, I'm hopeful those \$5 and \$6 prices for gasoline and diesel will also fade into memory," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "The global refining picture continues to improve, providing more capacity and peace of mind that record-setting prices will stay away from the pump in 2024. I anticipate that we'll still have some volatility, unexpected outages and disruptions, and potentially weather-related issues, but I do not expect it to lead to record prices. Offsetting OPEC+'s production cuts is contributing to the rise of U.S. oil production, which now stands at record levels. Combined with Canada, North American oil production could further stabilize countries that have decided to curb oil production."

The outlook forecasts the highest prices will be seen at the peak of the summer driving season in May, with the national average potentially rising as high as \$3.89 per gallon. More uncertainty is expected with hurricane season in late summer. Diesel prices are also predicted to fall incrementally from 2023, peaking at \$4.13 per gallon in March 2024. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



If you turned off the TV last night or left the Golden One Center after the Kings' loss to the Charlotte Hornets ambivalent to the outcome, please don't call yourself a fan.

If, on the other hand, you woke up the following day with your stomach in knots, or you drove home from the game the night before in a fowl mood, count yourself someone with skin in the game.

I fully expected to be writing this column praising the Kings for a 2-1 road trip, and celebrating a three-game winning streak, as they dismantled the Charlotte Hornets the night before.

Well, that's not the case, and both players and coaches own this one.

Harrison Barnes was MIA once again, contributing a paltry three points and one rebound in 23 minutes of work. Really, Harrison? The classy veteran that got a 19-million-dollar per-year contract in the off season. Breaking news — we need a bigger contribution than what you're bringing every night. And, honestly, what is Barnes doing in the starting lineup?

Message to coach Brown. Wake up! Just removing Kevin Huerter from the starting lineup may be a step in the right direction, but a true shakeup is what is needed.

Harrison Barnes should be coming off the bench, and Trey Lyles needs to take over his spot in the starting lineup. Plain and simple. This is not about hurt feelings, or what you brought to the table 2 years ago, it's what have you done for me lately, and Harrison, you've been missing in action.

I liked the move putting Huerter on the bench, but Chris Duarte was the wrong choice to replace him.

As much as everyone loves the spark that Malik Monk gives the Kings off the bench, and talk of 6th man of the year, Malik is a qualified NBA starter, and its high time coach Brown starts accessing his talent a little better.

After relegating Davion Mitchell to basketball purgatory, suddenly he emerges again and helps the Kings win two consecutive road games over Atlanta and Memphis. This was a welcome sight, and something Kings fans have been waiting for. The same can be said for increased minutes in the same two games for Trey Lyles, who has been stellar off the bench, and in this writer's opinion has earned a shot at the starting lineup.

Will someone tell me what's wrong with a lineup of Sabonis, Fox, Monk, Lyles, and

Keegan Murray?

Granted, Murray is way too inconsistent, but I believe you ride with him as a second-year player, and work on the more obvious changes, like utilizing Huerter and Barnes coming off the bench.

Huerter has started every game, and still hasn't found his stroke. Barnes simply disappears for games at a time, with no apparent repercussions.

When I played basketball, you either performed or someone else on the team took over your minutes.

Last night's loss to the Hornets was an embarrassment, and with the team assembled today, there is no excuse for it.

Really bad coaching and 21 turnovers did the trick, and if immediate changes are not made, I sadly believe we are in for more of the same.

Without question, the Kentucky Wildcats know how to turn out NBA basketball players, and in the case of the Sacramento Kings — De'Aaron Fox, Malik Monk, and Trey Lyles should all be in the starting lineup. Let's see if Huerter, Barnes, Duarte, and others can provide a spark coming off the bench. Let Harrison Barnes bid for the 6th man award, and start earning some of his 19 million dollars per year.

Just filling in the correct lineup card sounds way too simplistic, and it is!

Basketball is played on both ends of the court, and the Kings defense this year has been tepid and inconsistent at best. That can change. It only starts with a shakeup in the starting lineup, but for sure having Davion Mitchell starting every game will give the Kings a better chance at setting a defensive tone from the outset.

Coach Brown earned Coach of the Year honors last season, and I celebrate his award. But that was last season, and just like his players, he needs to up his game.

Please, start winning some challenges, or even taking a chance by calling for a challenge. To some degree you have to trust your players on the floor when they are vociferously telling you to take a challenge. His record this year is abysmal, and making correct challenges is part of the NBA game. Coach Brown, you have to get better.

19-13 is not a bad record, and the sky isn't falling. Change is needed for certain though, and I hope the coaching staff is listening.

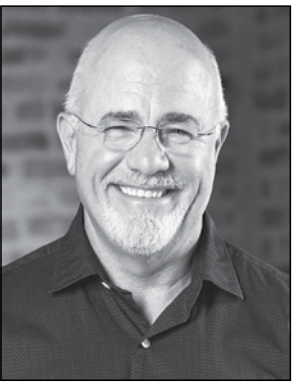
If you have thoughts, email me at vgarris@kingsfan.com.

Happy New Year Kings fans!

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Dave Ramsey Says

**Work Hard Now,
Celebrate Later**

Dear Dave,
My husband and I bought a franchise recently, and we are opening our business in a couple of months. We've got \$40,000 saved up, but my husband wants us to take a two-week vacation before we open for business. He feels that the business will completely consume us for the next two or three years, and he wants to go into things relaxed and refreshed. How do you feel about this idea?

– Jill
Dear Jill,
I understand where your husband's coming from. A business is very time consuming, and to make it a success you'll both have to eat, sleep and breathe it for a very long time.
But here's the reality of your situation. Right now, you're basically

unemployed. On top of that, you have just \$40,000 with which to start a business. It's time to rev up your engines and get to work, not spend a bunch of money vacationing. Trust me, there'll be plenty of time to celebrate after you've won, maybe in even bigger and better ways, if you'll just delay gratification and put in the dedication and hard work now.

When it comes to opening a new business, a good rule of thumb is this: Everything's going to take twice as long to accomplish as you thought it would, and everything's going to be twice as expensive as you thought it'd be. I'm sure you're both smart people, but my guess is you're not exceptions to this rule when it comes to opening and running a small business.

Think about it, every single dollar connected with your business could mean the difference between survival and going under. Like I said, I kind of get your

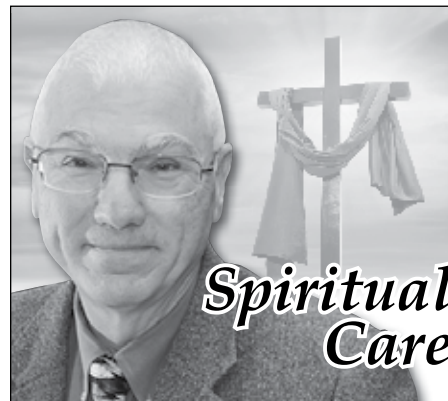
husband's thought process, but it would be a very unwise idea right now. You've got to look at the big picture. You're going to be heartbroken, and maybe in a real financial bind, if you have to close up shop in a few months because you ran out of money.

On the other hand, if you work hard now, stay smart and make this thing a success, you can take a vacation—and really celebrate—when the time is right!

– 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 for Ramsey Solutions ★

Grammar Police Issue Citation



BY NORRIS BURKES

A regular reader wrote me last month to say, "We ALWAYS enjoy your columns and read them to our Sunday-school class."

I could hear the "but" coming in her compliment about the Chispa Project column when she asked, "May we hazard some chutzpah of our own by pointing out a grammar error?"

"You wrote, 'The school principal escorted Sara and I....' It should read '... escorted Sara and me....'"

I slapped my forehead as I recognized the mistake that has haunted me in at least a half dozen columns. As my proofreader tells me, "The correct pronoun following any verb is the objective pronoun: me, him, her, us, them. It's never I or myself."

Sadly, both my proofreader and my wife schoolteacher wife missed it this time.

I can't begrudge people their grammar peevs. My wife gets in a dither anytime she sees a misplaced apostrophe.

Recently, she let out a shriek while typing an email.

"What's wrong?" I asked, expecting a spider.

"I accidentally turned a plural into a possessive." She was simply pale.

I shrugged. Guess everyone has his or her battles.

I save my battles for people who insist on using what I call "comfort grammar." I call it that because it's used to comfort the bereaved. The language consists of at least four common phrases.

1. "Everything happens for a purpose."

When I hear this one, I want to scream, "Really? Is there a purpose for drunk drivers, tornadoes or incompetent medicine? I haven't found it."

I think it's better to tell the grief-stricken person, "God is here. I am here. We will walk through this together."

2. "They are in a better place."

If you heard that after losing a son or daughter, wouldn't you want to ask, "Why is that better than being with me?" Or maybe you'd be ready to conclude, "Then I want to go there too!"

Maybe a better response would be, "Tell me about what you believe happens after this life."

3. "I know how you feel."

I actually heard a woman say while commiserating with a new widower, "I know it's not the same thing, but I lost a dog once."

It's better to say, "I can't know how you feel, but I'd love to hear what she meant to you."

4. "God won't give you more burdens than you can handle."

Just one big problem with that comfort grammar – The Bible doesn't say that!

The phrase is a poor paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 10:13 which is more accurately paraphrased as "God will not allow us to be tempted beyond our ability to escape."

The verse refers to the temptation to steal, lie or cheat. It has nothing to do with the number of tragedies we experience. This misquote will often burden people with a message that God "gives" them calamities.

People who use this comfort grammar aren't really trying to comfort the bereaved. They are trying to wrap the tragedy into a neat box so they can assure themselves that it won't happen to them.

The truth is that comforting grieving people has nothing to do with saying the correct thing. It has nothing to do with your thoughts and prayers. Instead, it has everything to do with being present to those who hurt.

That's why I'm leaving you with this better alternative.

Don't speak. Just do.

Avoid the halfhearted offer, "If there is anything I can do, just ask."

Don't make them ask. Just do.

At my father's funeral, my sister made a sign-up list for those who said, "If there's anything I can do...."

"Yes," she said. "Here's our volunteer sign-up list."

Using the list, people agreed to answer phones, drive relatives to the airport or bring meals. One man agreed to mow my mother's lawn for a year.

Not everyone will know what to say to the anguished, so my best advice when you find yourself at a loss for words is this:

"Say little. Do much."

The doing will say more than you can ever imagine. ★

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 Anita Smedley-Brown, 2236 Zinfandel Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "First Watch Evening, Overnight, Weekend & Respite Care" 2236 Zinfandel Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 27, 2023
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 Crawford Bros Inc, 25216 HWY 96, Klamath River, CA 95050 and Shannon Enterprises, Inc, 8330 Hidden Valley Circle, Fair Oaks, CA 95628 are doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "CBSE Properties" 8330 Hidden Valley circle, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 13, 2023
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 Ray Acosta and Cathy Acosta, 4824 Arboleda Drive, Fair Oaks,

CA 95628 are doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "It's About the Wood" 4824 Arboleda Drive, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 6, 2023
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 Tracy Dias, 4925 El Camino Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Clear Vision Window Cleaning" 4925 El Camino Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 14, 2023
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 Diana L. McDowell, 2822 Londonderry Drive, Sacramento, CA 95827 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "D&D Creations" 2822 Londonderry Drive, Sacramento, CA 95827. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 14, 2023
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 Auto Discount Outlet, LLC, 3451 Longview Drive Suite 140 Sacramento, CA 95821 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "autodiscountoutlet.com" 3451 Longview Drive Suite 140 Sacramento, CA 95821. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 14, 2023
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 Mustafa Anan Liddawi, 2110 Big Sky Drive, Rocklin, CA 95765 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Yalla Yalla Hot Sauce" 5800 Madison Avenue #5, Sacramento, CA 95841. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 18, 2023
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 Edward Boitano, 8139 Sunset Avenue #110, Fair Oaks, CA 95628 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Folsom-Collectibles" 8139 Sunset Avenue #110, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 29, 2023
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 Seyed-Javad Maseemi and Fariba Saghari, 106 Canyon Rim Drive, Folsom, CA 95630 are doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "M&S Consulting & Trades" 106 Canyon Rim Drive, Folsom, CA 95630. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 21, 2023
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 RHO 2-2-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2023-09318
 John Price, 4045 Robertson Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Salon Art" 2440 Loma Vista Drive, Sacramento, CA 95825. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 20, 2023
 Publish: Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 2024
 SALON 2-2-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-00141
 John Todd Stakes, 10930 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Fair Oaks, CA 95628 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "California RV Glass" 10930 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Filed with the Clerk of

Sacramento County January 4, 2024
 Publish: Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 2024
 CALIFORNIA 2-2-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-00012
 American River Wellness LLC, 3102 O Street #6, Sacramento, CA 95816 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "American River Wellness LLC" 3102 O Street #6, Sacramento, CA 95816. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 2, 2024
 Publish: Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 2024
 AMERICAN 2-2-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2023-09026
 ECO-Pest Solutions, Inc., 1016 N. Market Boulevard #40, Sacramento, CA 95834 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Pest Pros Pest Solutions" 1016 N. Market Boulevard #40, Sacramento, CA 95834. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 11, 2023
 Publish: Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 2024
 PEST 2-2-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-00058
 Jevon M. Shely, 418 10th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "JM BBQ" 418 10th Street Apt #25, Sacramento, CA 95814. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 2, 2024
 Publish: Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 2024
 JM 2-2-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-00016
 Besnik Marashi, 6925 Ohana Place, Orangevale, CA 95668 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "ALB Painting" 6925 Ohana Place, Orangevale, CA 95662. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 2, 2024
 Publish: Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 2024
 ALB 2-2-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2023-09496
 Paul Hyppolite, 10 Fairfield Court, Sacramento, CA 95833, is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Unshackled Mind" 10 Fairfield Court, Sacramento, CA 95833. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 29, 2023
 Publish: Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 2024
 UNSHACKLED 2-2-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2023-08877
 Daniel Bulzan, 7441 Danfield Circle, North Highlands, CA 95660 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Bulzan Construction Painting/B.C Painting" 7441 Danfield Circle, North Highlands, CA 95660. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 4, 2023
 Publish: Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 2024
 BULZAN 2-2-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2023-09476
 Basher Bazirgan, 3822 El Camino Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Universal 24/7 Locksmith/Express Locksmith" 3822 El Camino Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County December 28, 2023
 Publish: Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 2024
 UNIVERSAL 2-2-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-00112
 Mohammad Esa, 7441 Azimuth Lane, Sacramento, CA 95842 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Pro Device Repair" 2340 Sunrise Boulevard #14, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 4, 2024
 Publish: Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 2024
 PRO 2-2-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-00136
 Nicholas Michael Andrew Beebe and Daniela Alicia Ferreira Lopes Beebe, 1053 Haman Way, Roseville, CA 95678 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Wigglers Worm World" 10422C Fair Oaks Boulevard, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 4, 2024
 Publish: Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 2024
 WIGGLERS 2-2-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-00078
 King One, 5825 Watt Avenue, North Highlands, CA 95660 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "King One" 5825 Watt Avenue, North Highlands, CA 95660. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 3, 2024
 Publish: Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 2024
 KING 2-2-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-00185
 Ghosh Advanced Electrolysis and Esthetics, Inc, 10938 Tower Park Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Synergy Skincare" 10938 Tower Park Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County January 5, 2024
 Publish: Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 2024
 SYNERGY 2-2-24

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
 COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
 #23CV012742
 Gail Ann Eby-Martin has filed a

petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Gail Ann Eby-Martin to Gail Ann Helms.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on February 27, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 54, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
 Dated: December 4, 2023
 Christopher E. Krueger, Judge of the Superior Court
 Publish: Dec 22, 29, 2023 Jan 5, 12, 2024
 MARTIN 1-12-24

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
 COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
 #23CV012747**
 Darian Alexander Brown has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Darian Alexander Brown to Darian Alexander Wilkins.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on March 21, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 53, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
 Dated: December 1, 2023
 Richard K. Sueyoshi Judge of the Superior Court
 Publish: Dec 29, 2023, Jan 5, 12, 19, 2024
 BROWN 1-19-2024

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
 COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
 #24CV000054**
 Fazl Ahmad Ahmadi has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Ahmad Sodais Ahmadi to Sodais Ahmadi and Ahmad Ozair Ahmadi to Ozair Ahmadi.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on March 21, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 54, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
 Dated: January 3, 2024
 Christopher E. Krueger, Judge of the Superior Court
 Publish: Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 2024
 AHMADI 2-2-24

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
 COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
 #23CV013801**
 Ahmad Alhamadani and Sura Ali has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Assaad Ahmad Abdulrahem Al Hamadani to Assaad Hamadani.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on March 13, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 54, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
 Dated: December 20, 2023
 Christopher E. Krueger, Judge of the Superior Court
 Publish: Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 2024
 HAMADANI 2-2-24

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
 COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
 #24CV000007**
 Dionna Marie Campbell has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Dionna Marie Campbell to Dionna Marie Wangan.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on April 18, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 53, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
 Dated: January 2, 2024
 Richard K. Sueyoshi, Judge of the Superior Court
 Publish: Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 2024
 WANGAN 2-2-24

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
 COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
 #23CV013186**
 Mohammad Shaber Naser Ali has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Mohammad Shaber Naser Ali to Shaber Zahiri.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on March 28, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 53, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
 Dated: December 11, 2023
 Richard K. Sueyoshi, Judge of the Superior Court
 Publish: Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 2, 2024
 ALI 2-2-24

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE
 NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF HARRY GENE NITSCHKE, AKA HARRY GENE NITSCHKE, JR CASE NO. 23PR002040
 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Harry Gene Nitschke, aka Harry Gene Nitschke, Jr.
 A Petition for Probate has been filed by Soon Ja Nitschke, in

the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, requesting Soon Ja Nitschke be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows January 18, 2024, 1:30 p.m. in Dept 129; Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse, 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, CA 95826.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Rebecca H. Sem, 7540 Shoreline Drive, Stockton, CA 95219; 209-478-2000
 Publish: Dec 29, 2023, Jan 5, 12, 2024
 NITSCHKE 1-12-24

The Paid Sick Day Dilemma



The National Federation of Independent Business lists the new law among its top five "compliance headaches" for California's small business owners. Photo courtesy of Marcus-Aurelius Pexels

By Sameea Kamal, Calmatters.org

California workers will be guaranteed five paid sick days a year starting Jan. 1, up from the three days that employers are currently required to provide, thanks to Senate Bill 616.

The bill, authored by Long Beach Democratic Sen. Lena Gonzalez, also extends protections against retaliation to workers who are in a union, but excludes provisions that would have granted railroad employees access to unpaid sick leave.

It was a significant, but partial victory for proponents, including

advocacy groups for families and women and dozens of unions. They originally sought seven days, but the final version was reduced in negotiations during the legislative process.

The California Work & Family Coalition hailed the law — one of several measures last session aimed at improving work-life balance — as “a commonsense change.”

But trade associations representing various industries such as the California Grocers Association and California Hotel & Lodging Association, as well as chamber of commerce groups throughout the state, argued that

the law would hurt small businesses that have not recovered from the pandemic, are now dealing with inflation and can't afford the additional cost of covering for sick workers.

The National Federation of Independent Business lists the new law among its top five “compliance headaches” for California's small business owners in 2024, along with SB 848, which makes it unlawful for employers to refuse as many as five days of “reproductive loss leave” for miscarriages, failed adoptions and other events.

The state Chamber of Commerce had the sick leave law

on its “job killer” list and recently issued guidance for employers to navigate the law's complexities.

There's no federal law that requires employers to give workers paid sick leave. California became the second state in the nation to adopt a paid sick leave policy in 2014, but now provides less time than 15 states and many of its own cities, including San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley.

Upon signing the bill on Oct. 4, Newsom said too many people were still having to choose between skipping a day's pay and taking care of themselves or their family members when they get

sick. “We're making it known that the health and wellbeing of workers and their families is of the utmost importance for California's future,” he said in a statement.

This isn't the first time a sick leave expansion has been introduced, but the COVID-19 pandemic amplified the need. In March 2021, a new law required larger employers to provide as many as 10 more days for quarantines or vaccine side effects. But that benefit went away, along with federal tax credits that paid for it, six months later. ★

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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

is: Gina Frisby, 5708 Alloway Street, 916-671-9359
Publish: Dec 29, 2023, Jan 5, 12, 2024
DIAZ 1-12-24

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF JUAN G. VASQUEZ CASE NO. 23PR002176

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Juan G. Vasquez A Petition for Probate has been filed by Sherri Wilmoth, in the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, requesting Sherri Wilmoth be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows February 7, 2024, 1:30 p.m. in Dept 129; Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse, 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, CA 95826.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may

affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Grace S. Johnson, Smith & Johnson Law APC, 115 W. Walnut Street Suite 3, Lodi, CA 95240; 209-333-9292
Publish: January 5, 12, 19, 2024
Vasquez 01/19/2024

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF LENA AMARIS CLARK SHARIAH CASE NO. 24PR000014

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Lena Amaris Clark, Lena Amaris Clark Shariah.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Monica Anne Clark Johnson, in the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, requesting Monica Anne Clark Johnson be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows February 20, 2024, 1:30 p.m. in Dept 129; Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse, 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, CA 95826.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may

affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Petitioner is: Monica Anne Clark Johnson, PO Box 276562, Sacramento, CA 95827; 510-693-7516
Publish: Jan 12, 19, 26, 2024
SHARIAH 1-26-24

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF BEULAH CALHOUN CASE NO. 34-2023-00336228

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Beulah Calhoun.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Kenna Reid, in the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, requesting Kenna Reid be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows February 7, 2024, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 129; Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse, 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, CA 95826.
Zoom Telepresence: https://saccourt-ca-gov.zoomgov.com/my/sscdcept129 Meeting: 16133529231

This matter is set for a court hearing/appearance using the Zoom Application for the above referenced date and time. In order to participate in your Zoom

hearing, you must either use a computer or smart device with internet access, and have downloaded the Zoom application. If you do not have compatible technology, then you can attend the hearing using a telephone and calling the designated toll free telephone conference line. You must appear by Zoom Application or Telephone using the designated department account referenced below at least 5 minutes before your scheduled hearing date and time; and wait for a court representative to take roll. Department 129 zoom link: https://saccourt-ca-gov.zoomgov.com/my/sscdcept129 or Toll Free Telephone Conference Line @ (888) 475-499, with meeting ID #689-534-3925

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Petitioner is: Kenna Reid, 7931 Hanfford Way, Sacramento, CA 95823; 803-727-4932
Publish: Jan 12, 19, 26
CALHOUN 2-2-24

SUMMONS
SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER: 23CV009805
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
All persons unknown claiming any legal or equitable right, ti-

tle, estate, lien, or interest in the Property adverse to Plaintiff's title, or any cloud of Plaintiff's title to the Property and Does 1 through 5

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: Tracy K. Sharp.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Website (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion.

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

procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov) en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a recular las cuotas y los costos extras por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperacion de \$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es): Carol Miller Justice Center, 301 Bicentennial Circle, Sacramento, CA 95826

The name, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Vanessa Amador, Norcal Attorney Brokers, 1355 Florin Road Suite 4, Sacramento, CA 95822, 916-396-9934.
Date: (Fecha) 10/12/2023
Clerk (Secretario) K. Johnson, Deputy (Adjunto)
Publish: Dec 22, 29, 2023, Jan 5, 12 2024
SHARP 1-12-24



Social Security Matters

Will My Friend's Fiancée be Entitled to a Survivor Benefit?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I have a very good friend who has cancer and will begin chemotherapy this week. He is 71 years old and is currently receiving Social Security benefits. He has been living with his fiancée for a little more than 2 years, but they have been a couple for about 15 years and will be married in the next few weeks. She is 60 years old.

I am naturally concerned about his, and her, future so my questions are:

What, if anything, should he and his wife do to ensure that she gets his Social Security benefits?

What benefits will she be entitled to, and how soon will she be able to begin receiving them after his death? **Signed: A Friend with Questions**

Dear Friend: You are kind to be concerned about your friend and his fiancée. Here's what you need to know:

Social Security goes by state rules when it comes to what is often referred to as "common law marriage." That means that whether your friend's fiancée will receive any benefits as a surviving spouse in a "common law" relationship depends on whether they live in a state which recognizes common

law marriage. Most states do not, but state laws have changed over the years and many states which once recognized such unions as "marriage" no longer do. Although they may have "been a couple" for 15 years, if your friend and his fiancée have been living together for only two it is likely only the last two years will count for Social Security benefit purposes. So, whether your friend's fiancée will get anything when your friend dies depends on where they live - unless they get married, in which case the rules are different.

In order for a married widow(er) to receive surviving spouse benefits, the couple must have been married for at least 9 months. If they marry and your friend lives longer than 9 months thereafter, then his wife will be entitled to a surviving spouse benefit from her husband. The amount of his wife's benefit will be based upon the amount your friend is receiving at his death, adjusted for her age when she claims her surviving spouse benefit.

A surviving spouse can claim benefits from the deceased as early as age 60, but those benefits will be reduced for claiming before full retirement age (FRA). Taken at age 60, the wife's benefit would be 71.5% of your friend's SS benefit at his death. The wife need not claim the survivor benefit immediately; she could opt to delay claiming in order to get a higher percentage of the husband's amount. Survivor benefits reach maximum - 100% of the deceased's benefit amount - at the recipient's FRA.

So, if your friend and his fiancée now live in a state which currently recognizes common law marriage (CO, IA, KS, MT, NH, SC, TX, UT, RI, or in the District of Columbia), then your friend's partner will be considered his "wife" and entitled to survivor benefits as normal (the fiancée would need to prove they cohabitate in a marriage-like relationship to claim benefits).

If they do not live in one of those states, but they get married and the marriage lasts for at least 9 months, then the wife will be entitled to normal benefits as a surviving spouse (as described above).

But if the couple do not live in one of the above states which recognize "common law" relationships, or if their soon-to-occur marriage doesn't last at least 9 months, or if they do not get married, I'm afraid your friend's partner will not be entitled to any survivor benefits from your friend.

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. ★



Employment Opportunities

Employment and Independent Contractor Positions at Messenger Publishing Group

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.

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Robert Craig Films Announces Study Guide to Reduce Homelessness

AthertonPR News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In a continuation of the mission to bring awareness and solutions to homelessness in America, Robert Craig Films is announcing the release of an Interactive Study Guide, which will be widely available on March 5th, 2024, titled, "No Address." This is an important part of "The Big 5" solutions for homelessness born from the Robert Craig Films produced — award-winning "Americans with No Address" documentary and "No Address movie."

THE INTERACTIVE STUDY GUIDE "No Address" provides education and structure for groups nationwide who would like to contribute in a meaningful way to reduce homelessness. Written by a partnership of many industry leaders, it outlines how to best approach and engage in supporting people experiencing homelessness. It consists of resources for how to serve them best. The guide will help individuals, small groups, congregations, pastors and leaders as they help the homeless.

The Interactive Resource Guide is the first of its kind, jointly presented by national executive leadership to serve those experiencing homelessness. These experts include Dr. Robert G Marbut Jr., former White House "Federal Homelessness Czar" and Discovery Institute senior fellow. Dr. Marbut shares, "This has never been done before. In an effort to support individuals and groups nationwide who would like to contribute in a meaningful way to reduce homelessness, this study guide will provide industry leaders who are offering resources for how to best serve those experiencing homelessness."

The Interactive Study Guide provides education and structure for how to best approach and engage serving people who are experiencing homelessness and will be available to all organizations and individuals. Other expert contributors to this project are National Commissioner Jolene Hodder, The Salvation Army, John Ashmen Citygate Network President Emeritus, as well as Myrka Dellanos with videos by Max Lucado and Amy Grant.

- Topics include:
- Types of homelessness; big picture and root causes
 - Why it is up to the people to make the change and not rely on policy and government programs
 - Engage rather than enable
 - How to best collaborate with existing agencies as an individual or group
 - Why duplicating services beyond the established professional agencies can harm more than help
 - Building leadership alliances between faith organizations and agencies serving the local homeless community

The Interactive Study Guide will serve individuals, small groups, congregations, pastors and leaders published by David C. Cook.

"Having the opportunity to partner with Robert Craig Films on this impactful project was an immediate yes for us," said Chadd Miller, executive vice president of David C Cook's Learning Resources Group. "We are passionate about creating an innovative, interactive study guide, intentionally designed to equip the church to help our brothers and sisters who are experiencing homelessness. I'm excited to bring this study to churches and community groups — including my own." ★

\$125K Jackpot Hit on New Year's Day at Thunder Valley Casino

Thunder Valley Casino News Release

LINCOLN, CA (MPG) - One lucky Thunder Valley Casino Resort guest rang in 2024 with a Thunder Strike Jackpot win of \$125,290.55 on New Year's Day.

The winning guest, Ener Flores, was playing the on the "Ultimate Fire Link – Olvera Street" slot machine when he hit the enormous jackpot on a \$1.00 bet.

"We are thrilled to see Mr. Flores start off the New Year with such a large jackpot," said Dawn Clayton, Thunder Valley Casino Resort General Manager. "Every slot machine in the casino is wired into our exciting Thunder Strike Jackpot, which can strike on any slot at any time,

meaning you never know when you will hit it big at Thunder Valley. We look forward to celebrating many more jackpot winners in 2024!"

Thunder Valley Casino Resort features thousands of slot machines, from classic reel favorites Double Gold and Cash Machine to all the newest and hottest video slots, including Prosperity Link, Lightning Dollar Link, Buffalo Ascension, Devil's Lock, and Little Shop of Horrors Director's Cut.

This is just one of many jackpots hit across the casino floor every month, making Thunder Valley a premier destination for gaming of all types!

For more information about promotions, slots, table games, poker, entertainment and more, visit www.thundervalleyresort.com. ★

Proponents Withdraw Referendum Challenging 2022 Fast-Food Worker Law

California Secretary of State News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D. announced today that a referendum eligible for the November 5, 2024, General Election ballot has been withdrawn by the proponents.

The Attorney General's official title and summary of the referendum is as follows:

REFERENDUM CHALLENGING 2022 LAW AUTHORIZING CREATION OF COUNCIL TO SET MINIMUM WAGE AND WORKING STANDARDS FOR FAST-FOOD WORKERS. If the required number of registered voters sign this petition and it is timely filed, a 2022 law will not take effect unless approved at the next statewide general or special election after

November 8, 2022. The challenged law:

- Authorizes creation of Fast Food Council (upon submission of 10,000 fast-food worker signatures) to set working standards and minimum wage (up to \$22/hour in 2023, with capped annual increases) at fast-food restaurants with 100+ nationwide locations;
- Prohibits retaliation against fast-food workers for making certain workplace complaints.

Pursuant to Elections Code section 9604(b), proponents may withdraw a referendum at any time before the Secretary of State certifies it as qualified.

As a result of the withdrawal, certain provisions of Assembly Bill 1228 (Chapter 262, Statutes of 2023) become operative on January 1, 2024. ★

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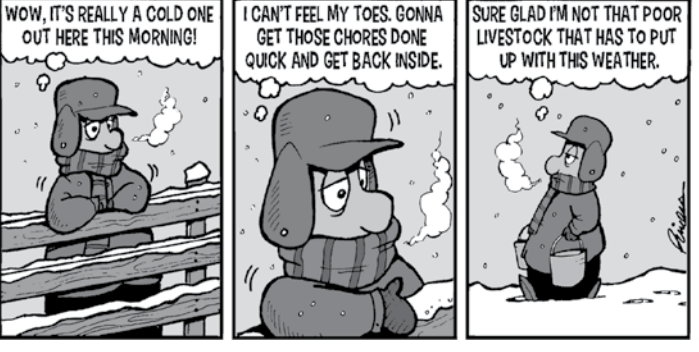
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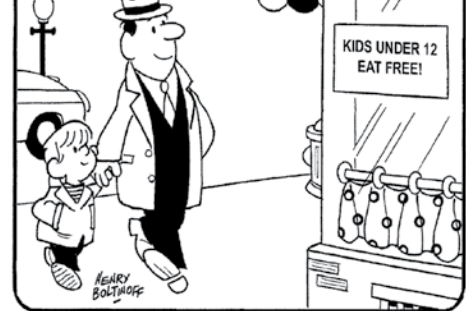


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 - Little bit, in Mexico
 - Ammo in a quiver, sing.
 - Geological Society of America
 - Young eel
 - Song of praise
 - Snowy ___ or great horned ___
 - Must-haves
 - *Strait between Russia and Alaska
 - *Smallest of the Great Lakes
 - Crime scene evidence
 - Peter the Great, e.g.
 - Consumer-protecting org.
 - Skiing helmet manufacturer
 - Mother-of-pearl, pl.
 - Type of sail, pl.
 - #29 Down anagram
 - Like Raphael's cherubs
 - Face shape
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 - Short version
 - "At ____, soldier"
 - Supposed giant Himalayan
 - Drool
 - Swimming hole
 - D.C. V.I.P.
 - Jim Acosta's announcement
 - *Baltic ___
 - *0 latitude
 - *Bay east of India
 - Cuban dance
 - John Keats' "To Autumn," e.g.
 - Fortune teller's card
 - Jeered
 - China's drinkable export
 - Bird-related
 - Dick and Jane's dog
 - "Slippery" tree
 - Lean, past tense
- DOWN**
- *Atlas page
 - Speedy steed
 - First Nation nation
 - Squirrel away
 - Possessing
 - Full of excitement
 - *Opposite of NNE
 - Saintly rings
 - Guilty, e.g.
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 - Ghana money
 - Guestimate phrase (2 words)
 - Catch in a snare
 - Nigerian money
 - A Bobbsey twin
 - Steel on boots, pl.
 - *Inlet in Norway
 - Abalone seeker
 - Olden day calculators
 - *Compass
 - TV personality Aiken
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Evictions on the Rise

By **Jeanne Kuang**,
CALMatters.org

Eviction cases soared across California in the year after the last portion of a statewide moratorium lapsed, a CalMatters analysis of court data shows.

The elevated numbers — in some places beyond pre-pandemic levels — show a significant portion of renters remain at risk of losing their homes, despite the state’s roll-out of a \$5 billion rent relief program during the pandemic and a yearslong pause on many eviction cases that many landlords have said disrupted their businesses and income. A nationwide study published this year found increases in eviction filings are associated with slight upticks in the population of homeless people living in shelters.

The statewide moratorium was extended until June 2022 for those who had applied for rental assistance by March, barring evictions in cases where tenants had not paid rent and said they couldn’t because of financial hardship wrought by the pandemic. The law didn’t stop evictions completely — thousands were still locked out under various exceptions — but it dropped cases to record lows. After it ended, a patchwork of local protections for tenants kicked in for cities that had passed their own eviction limits, which then phased out later in 2022 or earlier this year.

Recently obtained data from when the statewide moratorium was lifted through the summer of 2023 show that in a dozen of the state’s most populous counties the average monthly eviction filings surpassed pre-pandemic averages.

Counties that extended local moratoria also are seeing waves of landlords seeking to remove

tenants, albeit delayed until after their own rules end.

The post-moratoria spikes could reverse a nearly decade-long trend of evictions falling, both in California and nationwide. While the overall number of eviction cases filed post-pandemic remains far lower than the peak years following the Great Recession, researchers and tenants’ advocates said they were dismayed that while the moratorium and rental assistance kept eviction filings relatively low for about three years, those state interventions don’t appear to have significantly blunted the number of evictions sought afterward.

“We’re facing the eviction cliff we tried to prevent during the pandemic,” said Tim Thomas, a sociologist and director of the Urban Displacement Project at UC Berkeley who analyzed the data for CalMatters. “Being back to normal this quickly is concerning.”

Thomas attributed the wave of eviction filings to a combination of state and local moratoria expiring, inflation and the recent expiration of several other pandemic aid programs that kept families afloat, such as expanded food assistance and loosened eligibility to stay on Medi-Cal.

Landlords’ groups say the yearslong moratoria gave property owners no recourse when tenants failed to pay rent even when the economy started to recover during the pandemic and said lasting rental debt from the pandemic is leading landlords to now be more aggressive in seeking evictions.

Landlords can only file for evictions over unpaid rent from the past 12 months, but that does not forgive old debt, and tenants’ advocates say there’s little to stop landlords from applying newly paid rent to old debt. The National Equity Atlas, a research group, estimates that as of

September, 605,000 California households owed a total of \$1.8 billion in back rent.

A state program that was open from March 2021 through March 2022 required landlords and tenants to apply for federally funded rental assistance to cover back rent from the pandemic before landlords could seek an eviction. But thousands who applied are still waiting for the aid to cover debts from that time period while the program appears to be on track to run out of money. Many landlords said they had trouble handling the program’s red tape or had tenants who weren’t approved for assistance for every month that they owed rent.

Tenants’ advocates, however, also blamed recent rent increases for the high number of filings. Even in counties that haven’t been governed by any eviction limits since last summer, cases filed remained above pre-pandemic averages more than a year later. Landlords who are subject to a 2019 rent cap law have been allowed to raise rent on tenants by as much as 10% this year, due to last year’s record inflation, though some cities have stricter caps.

But in some counties — including Sacramento, Los Angeles and San Mateo — the number of cases of tenants facing eviction increased this year by more than 10% compared to pre-pandemic levels, according to the CalMatters analysis. The highest leap was in Santa Clara County, where evictions filed in 2023 through August were more than 35% higher than in 2019, on average.

Eviction filings do not necessarily mean a tenant gets kicked out. But the court filing — known as an unlawful detainer — starts a legal process with strict timetables that could result in a landlord being granted legal possession of the unit, allowing

them to send a sheriff’s deputy to perform a lockout.

The wave has swamped tenants’ attorneys, most of whom work for understaffed legal aid organizations that represent low-income residents. Few tenants have attorneys in eviction court, compared to landlords who are represented most of the time.

The recent eviction case spikes put California in line with other Democratic states that extended tenant protections during the pandemic well beyond a federal moratorium, such as Oregon or Minnesota, Thomas said.

Kyle Nelson, a senior policy and research analyst at Strategic Actions for a Just Economy who has studied evictions in Los Angeles County, said based on how long it took for evictions to stabilize after the Great Recession, some counties should expect cases to remain elevated for years.

CalMatters obtained more than a year of data from courts in 19 of the state’s most populous counties showing the number of eviction cases filed each month through August 2023, along with nearly a decade of corresponding historical figures compiled by the Judicial Council, the agency governing the state’s court system.

In counties that did not extend additional local eviction protections after the state law expired, eviction filings began spiking the month before the statewide moratorium ended and reached their peaks in late 2022. But they remain elevated.

The court process allows for landlords and tenants to settle a case before it goes to trial, which could include a payment plan to avoid eviction or an agreement to leave.

But tenants’ advocates point out there are numerous ways a tenant could also be “informally

evicted,” by moving out due to the threat of a court case. The filings data do not include those cases or show if a tenant moved out during a court case. Eviction cases are sealed from public view — but not if the tenant loses in court, making it more difficult for them to rent again.

Landlords’ associations said most property owners only file for an eviction as a “last resort.”

In eviction court in Sacramento one recent morning, tenants said the process felt designed to pressure them.

To avoid a trial, Keyarra Dunn made a deal with her landlord to stay in her apartment by agreeing to pay a portion of her back rent in the next four days, and the remainder — more than \$7,000 — in three and a half weeks.

Dunn, 23, said she knew of nowhere else to live if she and her four young children had to move out. She acknowledged that she had fallen behind on rent for at least four months, but said she was getting divorced, had been in and out of the hospital and spends much of her income as a car rental shop manager on childcare.

She said it would have helped to have had an attorney, and wasn’t sure she could come up with the money in time. Because the settlement was made instead of a judge’s ruling, it had all the force of a court order. If she can’t keep her end of the deal, the eviction process would move ahead quickly in court.

“I felt like I had to,” she said of making the agreement. “It was like, now or never, to pay a rent amount that I might not have all of.”

California Divide reporter Felicia Mello contributed to this story.

Data compiled by Ben Christopher, Jeanne Kuang, Alejandro Lazo, Felicia Mello and Alejandra Reyes-Velarde. ★

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Over 30 Years in Citrus Heights for Ray's Jewelers

Story and photo by Thomas J. Sullivan

There's a saying in the profession that "old watch repairers never die, they just slowly wind down."

That's certainly not the case for Ray Soto, owner of Ray's Jewelers and Watch Repair in Citrus Heights, who for the past 13 years has continued to provide batteries, watch bands, ring sizing, watch and jewelry repair to his customers. He's looking to the future, considering adding custom laser engraving to his skillset.

The general amount of walk-in business isn't what it was before the pandemic — it is slowly coming back, Soto said. His shop sees a steady number of repeat local and out-of-area customers, and new business from the children of long-time customers who still trust him with their repair needs. Other referrals come from the jewelry departments of a nearby Kohl's Department store and Sam's Club, as well as Batteries Plus on Greenback Lane.

"I love my work," Soto said. "I genuinely enjoy the challenge of bringing a smile to my customers' faces when I take something, whether it's a much-loved watch, or a piece of a favorite costume, or fine jewelry that's especially of sentimental value to the owner that's in need of attention and bringing it back to something they can continue to wear and cherish."

Just behind a display counter, his workbench is filled with tools and supplies of his trade.

It didn't take long for Soto to replace a missing watch stem crown on a vintage Mickey Mouse Disney watch brought in for repair. Without a stem crown securely in place, its owner couldn't set the time. Refreshed, with a new battery and replacement leather band, the watch was soon as good as new.



Ray Soto, owner of Ray's Jewelers, at work in his shop.

Another customer sought his opinion on the best approach to clean and size a platinum ring.

Soto purchased the business in 2011 from his stepfather Ray Tallman when he retired. Tallman, a long-time and semi-legendary local watch repairman moved to Citrus Heights from the Bay Area in 1980, and opened the store which still bears his name. Ethel Tallman, Ray Tallman's mother, was his business partner for over 29 years.

"Ray's Jewelers and Watch Repair was originally located in leased space in the former Payless Drugs at the corner of

San Juan Avenue and Greenback Lane," Soto said. "It was rather common at the time for a retailer to lease space to a specialty shop like his where it provided an extra measure of physical security for him." That location is now home to a 99-cent discount store.

"I'm largely self-taught, but I learned quite a lot from Ray while I worked with him part-time," Soto said. He had enjoyed a satisfying professional career in commercial real estate, before deciding to purchase the business from him.

Soto, married for 30 years and now a grandfather, is the

father of two daughters, neither of whom he expects will follow him into his active profession. "One's a nurse, and the other is leaning in that career direction."

Other local competitors include Fast-Fix Jewelry and Watch Repairs in Sunrise Mall and Express Watch & Clock Repair & Service on Greenback Lane.

The retail corner of San Juan Avenue and Greenback Lane has seen a lot of developmental change since the 1980s, Soto said. He's pleased that his repair shop has been able to weather those changes through the years. Situated in a shopping plaza

next to the Cornerstone Café and Bar, nearby businesses include the Cayuga Boxing Club and All About Pets.

"The site of a former Ralph's grocery store which later became Orchard Supply Hardware (OSH) is where Green Acres Nursery has since opened," he said. "It's especially good to see the area thriving again."

Ray's Jewelry and Watch Repair at 6026-C San Juan Ave., next to the Cornerstone restaurant in Citrus Heights, is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 916-722-0326 for more information. ★

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<h3 style="background-color: blue; color: white; margin: 0;">FROZEN & FISH DEPT</h3> Seasoned Pollock Roe 7.05 oz REG. \$9.99/ea \$5.99/ea	<h3 style="background-color: blue; color: white; margin: 0;">EUROPEAN DELI</h3> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;"> <tr> <td>REG. \$19.19 \$8.19/ea Kretschmar Oven Roasted Turkey Breast</td> <td>REG. \$19.19 \$8.19/ea Kretschmar Ham off the Bone</td> <td>REG. \$15.99/lb \$4.99/ea Pitted Green Olives</td> <td>REG. \$15.99/lb \$3.99/ea Green Cracked Olives</td> </tr> </table>	REG. \$19.19 \$8.19/ea Kretschmar Oven Roasted Turkey Breast	REG. \$19.19 \$8.19/ea Kretschmar Ham off the Bone	REG. \$15.99/lb \$4.99/ea Pitted Green Olives	REG. \$15.99/lb \$3.99/ea Green Cracked Olives
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