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New Year, New CRPD Park!



CRPD Board of Directors with District Director Mark Cullum with Assemblyman Josh Hoover's office recognizing Hummingbird Park. Photo: Courtesy CRPD

**By Patrick Owen,
Cordova Recreation & Park District**

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - In celebration of community and nature, the Cordova Recreation & Park District (CRPD) gathered in the neighborhood of Anatolia on January 8, 2024, for the grand opening of Hummingbird Park, the latest addition to the community's green spaces. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was a celebratory occasion marked by the presence of local dignitaries and speeches from dedicated CRPD staff.

Located at 11990 Cobble Brook Drive in Rancho Cordova, Hummingbird Park stands in the

newest housing developments near the intersection of Sunrise Boulevard and Douglas Road. This neighborhood park packs a punch with its thoughtful design and commitment to celebrating the beauty of nature. From the hummingbird tiles in the seating areas to flowers in the play surfacing, every aspect was carefully selected to create a sense of place within the neighborhood. Hummingbird Park features a delightful playground, grassy areas, basketball court and a shaded picnic pavilion with multiple barbecue grills.

Hummingbird Park marks the 45th park to be owned and operated by CRPD, and as there continues to be

rapid growth and development, one of CRPD's priorities is to ensure access to recreation spaces for residents within its boundaries.

"As CRPD moves forward into a new era of park building, we will work hard to bring our residents public spaces that are unique to each community. CRPD sets high standards. We believe it is important to create spaces that not only provide park necessities, but also include memorable, creative opportunities," says Patrick Larkin, CRPD General Manager.

Readers can learn more about new developments, stay informed on updates and more at CRPD's website at www.crpdc.com. ★

Dignity Health Donates to Sacramento Area Nonprofits

**Dignity Health
News Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Dignity Health announced today the distribution of \$1,060,274 to 15 community-based organizations in Sacramento and Yolo counties. The goal of this contribution is to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable and underserved populations and bring about real and lasting improvements to the region.

"A core element of our mission is giving back and we take pride in sustaining our support for organizations that go the extra mile to address the diverse needs of our community," said Dignity Health Community Health and Outreach Manager, Phoua Moua. "These collaborations empower us to take on the intricate health and human challenges faced by our community."

"I find ongoing inspiration in the inventive and unique solutions crafted by our community partners to address the expanding needs of our community," said Michael Korpiel, Greater Sacramento Market President of Dignity Health. "Through our investments in these organizations, we aim to cultivate a sense of belonging and comprehensiveness. Our objective is to provide the community with the necessary resources and support essential for leading healthy, prosperous lives while also minimizing the likelihood of significant future health interventions."

Every three years, Dignity Health and health system partners conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment in each county to determine the most pressing health priorities. The 2022 community assessment indicated that having access to mental and behavioral health and substance-use services are key priorities, as well as having access to basic needs such as housing, jobs, and food. With this in mind, Dignity Health and its grant committee selected several organizations to help address this need, including Arrive Alive California, Inc. Arrive Alive California, Inc.'s community focused educational programs are designed to stop dangerous and destructive behaviors through unique, holistic, and multi-faceted approaches led by subject matter experts and specialists.

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Old Land, New Plans Raise Controversy at Rancho Cordova Planning Meeting

By Sharon Pearce

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - The January 10th Rancho Cordova Planning meeting produced detailed graphics for single family residential housing in what was once thought to become a park or school lot, found a subdivision exempt from CEQA, and allowed Elk Grove Unified School District to acquire a large lot for a future school on the Grantline 2008 school site, all of which raised negative comments. The Planning Commissioners explained that resolutions were needed to move the projects on to Council though many in the public were concerned over the planned development as being other than what they preferred.

The Riverblossom / Wildblossom / Starblossom at Montelena Major Design Review and Special Development Permit (CEQA Exemption 15182 - Projects Pursuant to a

Specific Plan) were completed and approved unanimously, exempting it from the California Environmental Quality Act after Commissioners. The public questioned Planner on various exterior details. An especial issue was that on the video presentation the housing exterior paint colors did not represent true, and much questioning was had on effects of setbacks and as to some lots having only 10' backyards.

The Sunridge Park III - Tentative Subdivision Map and General Plan Amendment (CEQA Exempt Pursuant to Section 15183 Projects Consistent with the Community Plan, General Plan or Zoning) located at the Southwest Corner of Canyonlands Drive and Timberland Drive was recommended to the City Council for the Council to approve the subdivision map and general plan amendment, which it did 5:1.

Roberta Longman, a Sunridge Park resident, thought the land ought to be used as a park or greenbelt. "We have developments all around. What we need are parks; they add to the character and quality of a community. This (site) is easy to develop because it is flat. I oppose it be developed into any additional residences," Longman said. Jerry Garcia spoke to bussing being everywhere, saying "We need to preserve this land as public or quasi-public."

Brian Vail, an original manager for the land said he "tried every way to get the property to the school district for 18 years but couldn't." So, he said, he went back to original approval for the site in 2006. Commissioner Robert McGarvey thanked Vail for his long work on the property.

Regarding the Acquisition of Grantline 208 Elementary School

Site by Elk Grove Unified School District,

Staff recommended a report be made on it with a letter to the EGUSD on this large site upon which a school is planned to be built sometime in the future noting a mix of residential housing and parks there.

Lee Terry, a public speaker, voiced that he was quite irritated that EGUSD was doing this to their children, taking more land but unlikely to be building on it soon, with all the bussing going on. Commissioners encouraged the public to take their views to other departments and to the Council and tell them their thoughts on preferred use for this site. James Garcia advised the Planning Dept. to "approve as many sites as you possibly can, because it takes so long for schools to be built."

Chairman Cynthia Stauss thanked everyone for their help on this the first day of her chairmanship. ★



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News Briefs

City of Rancho Cordova News Release

The Rancho Cordova Luncheon

Each month, the Cordova Community Council and Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of Commerce host a luncheon featuring a newsmaker in the community. This alliance of leading Rancho Cordova organizations brings together Rancho Cordova's "three-legged stool" of citizens, business and government in a setting that encourages teamwork and collaboration. Believe it or not, this luncheon has been meeting each month for 64 years! We call it The Rancho Cordova Luncheon... the one and only! That's because it is the only monthly forum during which all sectors of our community turn out in force together. It's our primary civic networking event.

City Seeking Your Input on Official City Flower

In Fall 2023, the Rancho Cordova City Council expressed interest in identifying an official city flower with input from the community. The City of Rancho Cordova would like to identify an official city flower to promote the city's positive image and enhance beautification efforts. All 50 states have adopted various symbols, and all have flower symbols to represent their state. The practice dates to the late 1800's, and a "National Garland of Flowers" was created for the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago, made up of flowers from each state. Cities and communities also adopt symbols, such as flowers. Cities in the region, including Sacramento and Roseville, have adopted city flowers. Several factors were considered while researching potential city flower options. The provided options are not on the CAL-IPC list of invasive plant species, or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife threatened and endangered plant profile list. The flowers below are also not on the California Native Plant Society rare plant list. Flowers native to the area were also prioritized.

City Flower Suggested Options

Iris, Sage, Yarrow, Clarkia, Tidy Tips, Baby Blue Eyes

Sweepstakes

The City of Rancho Cordova will choose three lucky winners who have cast their vote for an official city flower. Individuals may vote with or without entering the Sweepstakes. Each winner will receive a City of Rancho Cordova swag bag and a \$50 gift card to a local business. The winners will be contacted via email once the vote has closed. The Sweepstakes will commence on Tuesday, January 9 at 12 p.m. pacific time ("PT"). The Sweepstakes will end on Friday, February 9 at 12 p.m. PT (the "Promotion Period"). For full sweepstakes terms and conditions, click here.

Cast Your Vote!

The City of Rancho Cordova wants to hear from residents, business owners, students, and other community members to choose a flower that best represents the city. Choose which flower you'd like to see as the official city flower below. If you'd like to propose a suggestion that

meets the criteria listed above, type in your answer under "Other." If you would like to be entered into the sweepstakes, please provide your email and address. Please cast your vote online by February 9, 2024, at 12 p.m. Once the vote closes, the votes will be presented to the City Council for direction on next steps.

Mather Field Road Rehabilitation Complete

The Mather Field Rehabilitation project is complete. The city rehabilitated Mather Field Road between Folsom Boulevard and the transition to International Drive at Mather Field Road. Project upgrades include a resurfaced roadway, rehabilitated landscaping, improved ADA access, new striping and electrical repairs to traffic loops.

For more information, please contact Ben Chan at bchan@cityofranhocordova.org or 916.851.8873, or Edgar Medina at emedina@cityofranhocordova.org or 916.851.8907.

Register Now for Free Youth Speech and Debate, Robotics Programs

The Speech and Debate Programs at Suvudha International allow students to develop effective research capabilities, critical thinking skills, writing proficiency, use of body gestures, speech delivery, and leadership skills.

If you are already familiar with a programming language and want to take the next step, look no further than our robotics program. In this course, we teach prospective students about the applications of using Python to automate robots to efficiently and quickly complete certain tasks on a field.

HART Winter Shelter to Serve Those in Need

HART is a group of organizations, businesses, and individuals who care about those in Rancho Cordova who are currently without a home. Together we aim to be a resource for the homeless and ultimately end homelessness in Rancho Cordova.

Our next volunteer meeting will be after the Winter Sanctuary, March 19th, at 10009 Folsom Blvd Ste 100, Sacramento, CA 95827 at 6:30 pm.

If you would like to volunteer or learn more about our Winter Sanctuary program, please reach out! Email us at atranchocordovahart@outlook.com.

Winners Announced for Documentary Film Festival

After much deliberation from the judging committee, winners from the 2nd Annual California Capital International Documentary Film Festival were recently announced. The documentaries shown during the festival explored a wide range of themes including art, politics, portraits, poverty, social issues, homelessness, sports, environmental crisis, war, world traditions and the dynamic nature of our changing world.

The judges presented awards for Lake at the Bottom of the World (Best of Festival), War Games: Between the Bombs We Play (Best Short Documentary), Transformation (Best Foreign Film) and The Fire Cats: Save Something Small (Best Documentary Subject).

"With so many fantastic films featured at the 2nd annual film festival, choosing the award winners was not an easy decision," said Charles Lago, executive director of the California Capital Arts Foundation. "We applaud all the filmmakers and the viewers who attended that made this

year's film festival a roaring success."

The film festival will be returning to Rancho Cordova in 2024! Dates for the 3rd Annual California Capital International Documentary Film Festival to be announced soon. More information will be released as the event nears.

To read more about the winners and watch the trailers, visit CalCapDocFest.org. For more Rancho Cordova news, sign up for the city's e-newsletters at CityofRanchoCordova.org/ENews.

Volunteers Needed for Homeless Canvassing Effort

You can make a difference in your community by helping to capture a snapshot of those experiencing homelessness. Welcome to the 2024 Sacramento Point-In-Time Count Volunteer Registration!

Are you ready to make a difference in your community? We're looking for volunteers to help us capture a snapshot census of people experiencing homelessness in Sacramento at the 2024 Point-In-Time (PIT) Count to be held on Wednesday, January 24th and Thursday, January 25th! Every other year, we lead an unsheltered PIT Count to count people staying outdoors or at places not designed for habitation (e.g., vehicles, streets, parks, and abandoned buildings).

The PIT Count is an essential effort to ending homelessness. We need volunteers (18 and up) to help us count people experiencing homelessness (PEH) across Sacramento. By volunteering, your conversations with PEH can help us increase public awareness about issues PEH commonly faces, learn about their service needs, and better guide our community's homelessness response and resource allocation.

No special experience is required, and training will be provided. All that is needed is a willingness to help, an open heart, and a few hours of your time. Group up with your family and friends or get linked up with your fellow community members.

What to Expect

Hundreds of volunteers are needed for street canvassing to tally and conduct surveys of people experiencing homelessness within designated areas. Additionally, we will need some volunteers at the deployment center. We strongly advise all volunteers, particularly those involved in canvassing, to dress in warm, comfortable clothing and walking shoes. We strongly encourage you to sign up as a team if you prefer to work with someone you know.

PIT Count Night

Volunteers will be requested to work in shifts generally between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. (i.e., from check-in to completing counts and surveys at assigned locations to check out). The unsheltered count focuses on teams coming together to drive to designated areas and/or canvass by foot to count at exact mapped locations and complete surveys with willing PEH encountered.

Volunteer Training and Office Hours

All volunteers are required to complete volunteer training, which will be offered live via Zoom, with a new recorded option providing added flexibility for those unable to attend live. The live training is intended for new PIT volunteers.

Training Dates:

Wednesday, January 10, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. | Registration

Wednesday, January 17, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. | Registration

January Virtual Recording with Quiz | Available on Demand, registration required.

Training Purpose: To address the purpose of the PIT, where to go, what to expect on count nights, safety procedures, PIT survey technical support and overview, best practices for engaging people experiencing homelessness, and more. There will also be a Q&A portion.

In addition, to help you be as prepared as possible, join the 2024 PIT Count Volunteer Office Hours to address any final technical or logistical questions as well as to practice survey taking, understand how to answer out of scope questions and more.

Office Hours:

Thursday, January 11, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. | Registration

Monday, January 22, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. | Registration

Join us in the fight to end Sacramento homelessness and ensure that every person experiencing homelessness is counted. Register now to volunteer at the 2024 PIT Count! ★




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5 Over 50 Volunteer Award Nominations Open



5 Over 50 Volunteer Nominations now open. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County is celebrating individuals who are 50 years of age and older who dedicate their time, energy, and passion to making our community a better place. The Sacramento County Adult and Aging

Commission is now taking applications for its 5 Over 50 Volunteer Award.

Nominees must be 50 years of age or older, actively involved in volunteer work, and residents of Sacramento County. If you know someone who meets the criteria and has made an impact in Sacramento County, nominate them for the 5 Over 50 Volunteer

Award. Learn more about the application process and access the form by visiting the Adult and Aging Commission page. Two letters of reference are required. The deadline for nominations is Friday, February 9.

The 5 Over 50 Awards will be presented on May 21 during a Sacramento County Board of Supervisors meeting. The award is presented in May to coincide with Older Americans Month. Five nominees will receive the award, with one person selected from each district within Sacramento County.

Sacramento County's Adult and Aging Commission members look forward to celebrating the winners. The 5 Over 50 Award not only recognizes these individuals for their hard work but also celebrates their impact in making Sacramento County a great place to live. ★

Girl Scouts of Northern California Kick off 2024 Cookie Season

Girl Scouts of Northern California News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Girl Scouts of Northern California will kick off their 2024 Cookie Season on January 29. Consumers in all 19 counties from Gilroy to the Oregon Border can support their local girl entrepreneurs by ordering from the iconic cookie lineup online at ilovecookies.org. Local shoppers can also locate cookie booths starting February 11 for in-person cookie sales. The 2024 Northern California cookie season will run through March 17, and all cookie flavors are \$6 a box (shipping fees additional).

This season, cookie lovers can enjoy the full assortment of Girl Scout Cookies, including Thin Mints, Trefoils, Samoas, Tagalongs, Do-Si-Dos, Lemon Ups, Toffee-tastic, Girl Scout S'mores, and Adventurefuls. Visit www.ilovecookies.org for more information.

Girls Scouts of Northern California is one of the largest councils in the country, offering unique outdoor experiences, civic engagement, entrepreneurship opportunities, skill-building, leadership, and fun. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the cookie program are used locally and provide critical funds for girls' access to affordable programming, the outdoors, camp and program centers, STEM, financial aid, and volunteer support services. Girl Scouts and their troops depend on these funds to support their community service efforts.

This year, over 16,000



Girl Scouts of Northern California with their cookie display. Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts of Northern California

Girl Scouts in Northern California will participate in the cookie entrepreneurship program with the goal of selling \$4.3M packages of cookies.

"I am thrilled to kick off another exciting cookie season and to support our cookie entrepreneurs in having a fun and successful year," said Bri Soane, CEO of Girl Scouts of Northern California. "Each year, these budding entrepreneurs impress us with their dedication to achieving their goals and supporting local initiatives. Through this program, they contribute to their communities and gain invaluable life and business skills that will serve them for a lifetime. I am immensely proud of each and every participant!"

During this highly anticipated time of the year, girls acquire essential life skills, including money management, team building, public speaking, and decision-making. Girl Scouts can earn a variety of badges and awards to develop valuable business skills, including Cookie Business badges, Financial Literacy badges, Cookie Entrepreneur Family pins, and Entrepreneur badges. Ultimately, this entrepreneurship program serves as a vital

steppingstone, equipping girls and gender-expansive youth with lifelong skills, and instilling a deep sense of confidence that they will carry into the future.

How to Purchase Girl Scout Cookies This Year

Starting January 29, consumers can source Girl Scout online via digital cookie stores at ilovecookies.org and have their favorite cookies delivered straight to their home or anywhere in the country or find the closest Girl Scout booth for in-person cookie sales starting February 11 at select businesses and neighborhoods in Northern California communities until March 17.

About Girl Scouts of Northern California

The mission of Girl Scouts of Northern California is to build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. As one of the largest councils in the country, Girl Scouts of Northern California serves a diverse membership of over 24,000 youth and over 21,000 adult volunteers in a 19-county area that stretches from Gilroy to the Oregon border. To learn more about Girl Scouts of Northern California, visit www.gsnorcal.org. ★

Start the New Year by Adopting a Pet

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - There's no better way to start the new year than by adopting your new best friend from Bradshaw Animal Shelter. To ring in a new year of adoptions, the shelter celebrated the first adoption of 2024: an 11-year-old dog named Mini. Mini, a Miniature Pinscher mix and senior dog, was exactly what Christena Austin was looking for.

"Old dogs need a good home too," Austin said. She knows a thing or two about adopting older dogs: she met her last pup, Violet, when Violet was 12 1/2 years old. At first, Austin recalls walking away from Violet, thinking she was too old to adopt, but "something made me go back for her," Austin said. The pair spent five memorable years together, but Violet recently passed away at the age of 17 1/2. Austin felt called to give another old dog a new lease on life and is ecstatic to welcome Mini into her home. "She will be treated like a queen," Austin says.

There are still so many wonderful pets who are looking for forever homes. If one of your resolutions going into 2024 is to live a healthier lifestyle, a pet can help you get there. Studies have shown that pets can have positive effects on our health: pets can increase opportunities to exercise, get outside, and socialize. Regular walking or



Christena Austin is happy with her 11-year-old Miniature Pinscher mix. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

playing with pets can decrease blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and triglyceride levels, and the companionship that pets provide can help manage feelings of loneliness and anxiety.

Ready to add a new pet to your home? Before visiting Bradshaw Animal Shelter, you can view all of the dogs, cats, and other animals available for adoption, or you can take a walk around in person to see whom you fall in love with. To help match you with your new best friend, the shelter offers adoption counseling, and if you're looking to adopt a dog and have an existing dog at home, you can bring them to the shelter for a meet and greet to make sure it's a good fit for your four-legged family members as well.

Your new pet's adoption includes their spay/neuter surgery, up-to-date vaccinations and monthly preventatives, a microchip, and a one-year license for Sacramento County residents. Adoption fees are, for example, \$50 for adult dogs one year and older, \$75 for puppies, and \$50 for cats and kittens.

Bradshaw Animal Shelter is located at 3839 Bradshaw Rd. in Sacramento and is open Tuesday through Sunday from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. with extended hours on Wednesdays from 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. You can also meet adoptable pets at Petco adoption center located at 8840 Madison Ave. in Fair Oaks from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. on Wednesdays and 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. ★

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No Water for You!



California's proposed water conservation rules too stringent and costly, analysts say. Photo courtesy of Freestocksorg - Pexels

By Rachel Becker,
CALMatters.org

California's legislative advisors lambasted the state's ambitious proposal to regulate urban water conservation, calling the measures costly and difficult to achieve, "in many cases without compelling justifications."

The proposed rules, unveiled in August, call for more than 400 cities and other water suppliers serving about 95% of Californians to meet conservation targets beginning in 2025.

The state Legislative Analyst's Office suggested significant changes to the State Water Resources Control Board's proposal, warning that the regulations would set "such stringent standards for outdoor use that suppliers will not have much 'wiggle room' in complying." They also warn that the added costs will ultimately be borne by customers.

"Whether the benefits of the new rules ultimately will outweigh the costs is unclear," the report says. "These doubts are particularly worrisome given we find that suppliers will face notable challenges complying with these requirements."

The report recommended that lawmakers direct state regulators to "make several of the proposed requirements less stringent (such as the residential outdoor standard), consider how to target state funding to assist lower income customers, and extend some of the deadlines for suppliers to

ensure they can actually achieve the framework's goals."

Water board officials didn't comment on the criticism or recommendations, but spokesperson Edward Ortiz said the report, along with other feedback received from industry and the public, will be considered. He said a new draft of the rules will be released this spring.

"With changing weather conditions threatening to reduce the state's water supply 10% by 2040, California is advancing an all-of-the-above strategy to bolster water supplies throughout the state, including conservation," Ortiz said.

Heather Cooley, director of research at the Pacific Institute, a global water think tank, said conservation and efficiency are the cheapest, fastest ways to meet California's water needs as climate change renders supplies more variable and uncertain.

"We have to take real action to ensure we can provide safe, clean, reliable water for California communities," she said. "Retrofitting and taking out old devices, transforming our landscapes, all of those things have a cost. But it's far less than developing new sources of supply."

Mandated by a package of 2018 laws, the intent of the rules is to make conservation "a way of life" in California. The rules, which are two years behind schedule, are expected to be adopted by the water board this summer before taking effect in October.

The rules don't target

individuals or businesses, instead setting individualized conservation targets for urban water agencies across the state based on goals for indoor and outdoor water use, leaks and other factors.

By 2035, water providers will collectively need to reduce water use by 14%. The savings would be enough to supply about 1.2 million homes every year, or about 1% of the state's total water use.

The report called this amount "modest," noting that "the agricultural sector uses about four times as much water as the urban sector."

Water agencies and city officials warned state regulators last fall that complying would be costly, roughly \$13.5 billion from 2025 to 2040 for rebates and other efforts to cut residential use. The benefits are anticipated to reach about \$15.6 billion, in large part because suppliers and customers will buy less water.

The Legislative Analyst's report noted that an assessment by a consulting firm commissioned by a water supplier raised questions about those calculations. They noted that customers, particularly low-income households, would likely bear the brunt of rates increased to cover the costs.

"Even if benefits outweigh costs in the long run, whether they merit the amount of work and costs to implement the requirements as currently proposed is uncertain," the report said.

Jay Lund, vice-director of the Center for Watershed Sciences

at the University of California, Davis, called the report "an unusually frank assessment."

"Although there is good room for further conservation, this additional State effort seems like it is probably not needed, or at least, need not be as stringent and complicated as it seems. It has been asked, 'Is this juice worth the squeeze?'" he told CalMatters in an email.

During the last three-year severe drought, which ended last year, the Newsom administration set voluntary conservation goals that were largely ineffective. Californians used only about 6% less water from July 2021 through the end of last year compared to 2020, far less than Gov. Gavin Newsom's 15% goal.

Some areas, especially in hot, inland areas of the state, will require more stringent conservation than others under the proposed rules. Inland and eastern California will be required to cut back the most, with the biggest cuts, up to 34%, needed in desert areas, followed by the Tulare Lake region.

Even in the North Coast area, which as a whole is not expected to need to cut back at all to meet the 2035 targets, two large suppliers serving more than 1.6 million customers will nevertheless need to reduce their water use by a quarter.

But increasing conservation in the places that need it most will seem a bargain when inevitable longer and drier droughts occur, said Felicia Marcus, former

chair of the water board and now a visiting fellow at Stanford University's Water in the West Program.

"The goal is both to make each locality more resilient to the nightmare curveballs climate change is throwing at us, and to do it in a way that integrates efficiency first and foremost as the most cost and carbon effective measure in the long run," Marcus said.

Sonja Petek, the principal fiscal and policy analyst who authored the report, said the office isn't saying to abandon the conservation regulations, it's just recommending changes to make them more feasible.

"Water conservation is one of the important components of the state's overall water management strategy," she said, citing more severe and prolonged droughts and the need to reduce reliance on overdrafted groundwater basins. "Our concern is that if these regulations were adopted as written, it could lead to a scenario where compliance is not feasible for some water suppliers, so the state might not achieve its ultimate goals."

Assemblymember Laura Friedman, a Democrat from Burbank and an author of the original legislation, said the report "raises some valid concerns with the rulemaking process thus far, however, I have faith in the water board to do its due diligence in implementing the standards that were passed." ★

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Social Security Matters

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



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

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

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

The first is to simply

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

Your other option is to contact Social Security soon and request that your recent application for Social Security benefits submitted earlier this year be withdrawn. You have 12 months from the date of your application to do this, but you will need to repay Social Security all money which they paid to you or on your behalf (including your monthly payments, any income tax you had withheld from those payments, and any dependent benefits which might have been paid based on your record). That will effectively "wipe the slate clean" with Social Security and will be as though you had

never claimed, allowing you to simply wait until you stop working, or until your FRA, or even beyond your FRA, to re-apply for Social Security at a higher monthly amount. The advantage of this option is that when your benefit restarts there will be no adjustment (reduction) for past benefits paid.

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

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



By Bob McGarvey

The City of Rancho Cordova and all of its registered voters will have to vote on something new the general election in November 2024. They will all be voting about our city being forced to have 5 districts. The five city council members can only be voted in the district in which they live if they want to be elected as a member of the city council. I am going to go back to our city's beginning in which we were a general law city, and we have been that kind of city for 20 years. However, we received a letter from the attorney who said that, like all of the other cities in California who received the letter, our city has to begin the process to create single-member districts for the election to be held in November 2024.

Many citizens heard from the city council to come to public meetings to help them place the boundaries of each district. We will be voting for our district council members instead of at-large members. I believe it is sad that being forced to change our city's type of government from what it has been for 20 years. It isn't something that we chose to do.

Something else which is also important for all voters this coming November is to cast their vote. I hope everyone will use one of the many ways which are available for us to vote. For those who don't vote, it may be another election that was affected by the voters who did not cast all of the votes on their ballot. In the November election in 2020, there were almost 42,000 votes in Rancho Cordova which weren't cast. Those votes were listed as under votes. For example, if you didn't vote in Rancho Cordova for the three city council members, or if you only voted for one or two of them, the vote that wasn't cast is listed as an

And Another Thing

We All Need To Pay Attention To Our City's Changes

under-vote. Many such votes appeared in 2020. We don't know why there were so many under-votes that year. Perhaps it was because that was the first year of COVID19 which killed many people. This year the news said that the COVID is increasing again and is making many people hesitant to do things like vote. Be sure you look at all of the different ways you can vote safely, but be sure you vote.

In our first few years as a city, your city council decided to create a Planning Commission. The Planning Commission was reviewing projects to assist the City Council by making recommendations to approve or deny them. The City Council of Rancho Cordova created the Planning Commission to help advise them on future projects etc. As a new city they had meetings which went on to 2AM so they could decide the many things which were before them. Do to the recession, the original Planning Commission was no longer necessary.

The City Council voted to reinstate the Planning Commission in November 2021. In April 2022, the City Council appointed seven Rancho Cordova residents to the commission. The current Planning Commission was created to assist the City Council again. In some cases, development proposals will be heard by the City Council for final approval. The Planning Commissioners is part of the Planning Division of the city government. You can find some of the responsibilities which the commission is responsible for in the web sit of the city.

As I said at the beginning of this column, things are changing in our city. All of our cities residents need to learn about the changes which are coming into affect this year. We all need to pay attention to our city's changes.

From Bob McGarvey, God bless, and see you next time. ★

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Kings Korner 
By V.G. Harris

The roller coaster team of the NBA, namely the Sacramento Kings, put together a comprehensive and highly entertaining performance Sunday night in Milwaukee. For all of us that are die-hard Kings fans, you witnessed a team effort on both ends of the court, and, finally, coach Brown tightened up his rotations, limiting substitutions to four players off the bench.

In previous outings, coach Brown has kept us guessing as to who would come off the bench, and at times it was difficult to make sense of the substitutions.

One notable rotation included for perhaps the first time, Sabonis and Alex Len on the court at the same time, and the team responded, playing with enthusiasm at both ends.

Many times during the early season, we have needed more rim protection, and simply more size to match up with bigger teams, but Brown has been resistant to putting Sabonis and Len together. Sunday gave way to optimism as Len became that needed rim protector, and although his 4 points and 5 rebounds may not sound like much, in only 11 minutes of play his presence was felt.

Domantas Sabonis claimed his 10th triple double of the season, 2nd in the NBA, and has begun to develop a mid-range game that gives him another weapon for the opposition to deal with. In addition to 21 points, 13 rebounds, and an astonishing 15 assists, Sabonis added a 3-pointer for good measure.

This was a highly entertaining game that turned into a loss in overtime for only one reason, our inability to hit free throws. Our best free throw shooter, Malik Monk, missed two in a row in overtime, and De'Aaron Fox missed one of two, setting up the last-second, 30-foot arching rainbow by Damian Lillard to win the game by one point for the Bucks.

The Kings were coming off of a disappointing loss to the Philadelphia 76ers, but were still 2-1 on the road trip coming into Milwaukee.

Coach Brown was tossed from the game for the first time this season, and

the team responded with energy, making the 4th quarter a real contest, ending with a Fox layup that tied the game and forced overtime.

As much as I hate to bring officiating into the equation, once again the referees did an abysmal job. At times we would be better off with a coin flip in deciding out-of-bounds calls, or whether to call a charge versus a block.

I truly believe if we switched out the division 1 NCAA referees for the NBA group, we would see an immediate improvement in the quality of the officiating.

Of course, it shouldn't be this way, and with the advent of having the ability to challenge calls, the NBA has mitigated some of the more obvious mistakes, but more needs to be done.

I believe it starts with better off-season training, but without a doubt, the NBA needs to hold each referee accountable, and a vetting process should be in place so that some referees can rotate out, and news ones in.


When it comes to challenges, the Kings simply don't take advantage of the process in place, going many games without even taking a challenge. When the Kings challenge, they are simply not good at it, with an abysmal 28% winning percentage. It's hard to understand how you can be wrong three out of every four times, but the stats don't lie, and just like shooting free throws, the Kings need to get better.

What a surprise the Philadelphia 76ers have a league best 84% free throw percentage, and the Kings are dead last in 30th place with a percentage of 73%.

So, while a part of me applauds the vociferous energy that coach Brown brought to the floor Sunday night, I think he should direct some of that energy towards his team with regards to shooting free throws.

Thank you to the many that have reached out to me with your thoughts and comments. Let me know what you think at vgharrskingsfan@gmail.com.

Until next time, keep the faith! ★


Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

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To submit your articles, information, announcements or letters to the editor, please email a Microsoft Word file to: Publisher@mpg8.com.

Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher". If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.

Grapevine Independent
Serving Rancho Cordova and Sacramento County Since 1968




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The *Grapevine Independent* is published weekly. Call 916-773-1111 for more information.

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.

Chair/Vice Chair Elected to Board of Supervisors

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The annual vote to elect a new chair and vice chair of the board of supervisors was held on the Tuesday, Jan. 9 meeting. This year's elected chair is Supervisor Patrick Kennedy of District 2, and Supervisor Phil Serna of District 1 were elected vice chair.

"I am honored to serve as the 2024 chair of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors," said Kennedy. "It is a privilege to serve the residents of our county in this capacity, and I am ready to take up the responsibilities that come with this role. I am committed to working collaboratively with my fellow supervisors and community stakeholders to address the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. I look forward to a productive and successful year."

Board chair responsibilities include the following:

- Presides over the board meetings; the

vice chairperson assumes the role in the chairperson's absence or inability to act. If the chair and vice chair are absent or unable to preside, the members present will select a member present to act as temporary chairperson.

- Acts on procedural matters or questions.

- Recognizes a member of the board desiring to speak on an item.

- Is entitled to vote on all matters before the board, participate in discussion relating to any matter, make motions without relinquishing the chair, and second any motion without relinquishing the chair.

- Sits on other boards/commissions as a representative of the County of Sacramento and is the point of contact for questions from the public regarding the meetings (i.e., coordination of resolutions/presentations and general questions not specific to a district, etc.)

- The chair and vice chair serve annual terms. ★

DA Thien Ho's Statement on U.S. Supreme Court Decision

Sacramento County District Attorney News Release

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear the case of Johnson v. City of Grants Pass, in which the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals continues to undermine and limit laws that regulate unhoused encampments. These limitations were originally created in another Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals case, Martin v. City of Boise.

Sacramento County District Attorney

Thien Ho states, "With the unprecedented increase of the unhoused population in Sacramento and our community at a breaking point, my office was the first prosecutor's office in the country to file an amicus brief urging the U.S. Supreme Court to review the Grants Pass case and overturn Martin v. City of Boise. I am grateful that today the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to review these poorly reasoned cases. Our office will soon file an additional amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn both cases." ★



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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted. Dated: January 5, 2024

Richard K. Sueyoshi, Judge of the Superior Court

Publish: Jan 19, 26, Feb 2, 9, 2024

Nguyen 2-9-24

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF MARNETTE ANN DIAZ CASE NO. 23PR000390

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Marnette Ann Diaz A Petition for Probate has been filed by Gina Frisby, in the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, requesting Gina Frisby 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 24, 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: 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 ob-

jections 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/join/9642928129> 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/join/9642928129> 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 Hanford Way, Sacramento, CA 95823; 803-727-4932

Publish: Jan 12, 19, 26

CALHOUN 2-2-24

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF PAUL CURTIS MARTIN

CASE NO. 23PR001893 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Paul Curtis Martin.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Isabel Perez-Martin, in the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, requesting Isabel Perez-Martin 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 21, 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: Gordon G. Bones, 5860 Esrig Way, Sacramento, CA 95841; 916-965-6647

Publish: Jan 19, 26, Feb 2, 2024

MARTIN 2-2-24

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF KIM ELISE CHINYEREE BREAUX

CASE NO. 23PR000890 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Kim Elise Chinyeree Breaux.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Jaimie Breaux, in the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, requesting Jaimie Breaux 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 March 5, 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.

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: Jaimie Breaux, 5268 Thomasino Way, Antelope, CA 95843; 916-296-5403

Publish: Month Jan 19, 26, Feb 2, 2024

BREAUX 2-2-24

City of Rancho Cordova Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE is hereby given that on **Monday, February 5, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the City Council of the City of Rancho Cordova will hold a Public Hearing to consider the following:

Stormwater Utility 1 Fee Increase Protest Hearing

The purpose of this protest hearing is to afford all property owners and interested public in the Stormwater Utility 1 (SWUI) fee area the opportunity to be heard and protest against or in favor of the proposed SWUI Fee increase. The current SWUI rate is not adequate to support the City's stormwater program. Inadequate revenues generated by the current SWUI fee have necessitated the deferral of capital improvements to the storm drain system. An increase to the SWUI fee will help provide adequate funding for maintenance and capital improvements of stormwater infrastructure, addressing deferred maintenance, staying in compliance with state and federal regulations, and reducing the potential for future flooding. There are no impacts to existing or new residents in the SWUI area.

The City of Rancho Cordova encourages interested parties to attend public meetings and comment on the issues being discussed. If you wish to provide testimony and are unable to attend the meeting, written comments that are delivered to the City Clerk's office prior to the time of the hearing will be made a part of the public record. Questions regarding this matter should be directed to Dalia Fadl, City of Rancho Cordova Public Department at (916) 851-8718.

NOTICE REGARDING CHALLENGES TO DECISIONS

Pursuant to all applicable laws and regulations, including without limitation, California Government Code Section 65009 and/or California Public Resources Code Section 21177, if you wish to challenge in court any of the above decisions (regarding planning, zoning and/or environmental decisions), you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing(s) described in this notice/agenda, or in written correspondence delivered to the city at, or prior to, this public hearing.

ADA COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Department at (916) 851-8720. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

Printed in the Grapevine Independent on January 19, 2024 and January 26, 2024.

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Budget Deficit Will Test If School Spending Is The Key To Achievement



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

When California's governors and legislators write state budgets, they begin with projecting how much revenue the state is likely to receive.

It's a semi-educated guess that is often billions of dollars removed from the eventual reality, given the high level of volatility in the state's taxation system.

With a revenue number in hand, officialdom then calculates how much of it must be allocated to public schools under Proposition 98, the 1988 ballot measure that governs financing of K-12 schools and community colleges.

It's roughly 40%, but since the revenue assumption is shaky at best, Prop. 98's complex formulas are subject to varying interpretations. The calculation also includes estimates of local property taxes, so the number that emerges for schools is also rather arbitrary.

Whatever the figure may be in any given year, it never precisely squares with reality, which then requires reconciliation in the next budgetary cycle. The 2024-25 budget that Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed this week exemplifies the annual exercise.

When he and the Legislature agreed on a

2023-24 budget last June, they decided that Prop. 98 would give schools, in property taxes and state aid, \$110.6 billion in 2021-22, \$107.4 billion in 2022-23, and \$108.3 billion in 2023-24.

This week's budget declares that those numbers are cumulatively \$11.3 billion too high since revenues are running well under previous estimates. Meanwhile, the Legislature's budget analyst, Gabe Petek, had calculated that they are \$21 billion too high because his revenue estimates are lower than the governor's.

The differing revenue estimates – and the equally divergent calculations of school financing – together account for most of the \$30 billion-plus gap between Newsom's estimate of a \$38 billion deficit and Petek's \$68 billion estimate.

By tapping into a special reserve fund for schools, Newsom's budget proposal makes up most of his \$11.3 billion shortfall between what Prop. 98 requires and what school officials thought they would be getting over the three-year period, thereby shielding them from having to absorb big reductions in money they've already spent.

However, if Petek's more pessimistic revenue estimate turns out to be closer to reality than Newsom's, schools could take big hits and state officials would face pressure to change how schools are financed and how state aid, whatever the level, is allocated.

The latter generally is based on attendance – so

much for each student, with bonus allocations to school districts with substantial numbers of English learners or students from poor households to help them overcome a chronic achievement gap in basic academic skills.

Newsom's proposed budget projects that K-12 schools will receive \$126.8 billion in 2024-25 from local property taxes, state aid and federal funds, or an average of \$23,519 per student.

That's double what it was a decade ago, but there's no indication that the sharp increase in school spending has resulted in a commensurate increase in academic achievement. The state's own competency tests, as well as nationwide tests, show little, if any, overall improvement and the achievement gap is as wide as ever.

Per-pupil financing is likely to increase in the years ahead because public school enrollment is declining and Prop. 98's formula is largely based on revenue, regardless of how many students are in the system.

K-12 enrollment peaked at 6.3 million in 2004, is now below 6 million and is expected to drop to under 5 million in the next decade due to low birthrates and the state's overall population decline.

It will test whether money is truly the key to educational achievement, as the education establishment contends, or other factors are preventing California kids from realizing their potential.

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



Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

The Grapevine Independent is a member of Messenger Publishing Group

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Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher". If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.

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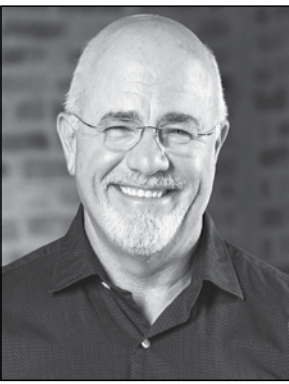
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Dave Ramsey Says

pretty good teacher when it comes to learning how the world really works.

One of the jobs of a parent is to look for teachable moments with their kids. Of course, when it comes to teaching there's always a chance the student won't learn the lesson well enough the first time around. I'm not sure how you're doing things, but if I were in your shoes, I'd follow these steps. First, give him a chance to earn some money. In my book, that means work. No allowances! There's a lot of self-esteem and value to be found in accomplishing a given task successfully. Then, once you pay him for the work he does, you have another perfect chance for teachable moments, because you can help him learn about saving, spending and giving, and how to do all three wisely.

It's always hard on parents when they see their kids unhappy. I know we went through it with ours. As a parent and protector, you want to jump in and

make everything okay. But the hard truth is that fixing or doing everything for them is the easy way out. And in the process of doing that, a child will begin to develop a sort of learned helplessness.

Sometimes, Lane, you need to love kids enough to not do things for them. Let them make some mistakes, experience the consequences and fix things themselves. And it's better for them to do all this while they're still under your guidance and protection.

- 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 ★

Work Hard Now, Celebrate Later

Dear Dave,
My wife and I have started teaching our five-year-old son about money. Do you feel we should step in and fix things when he makes mistakes, or let him experience the consequences of his actions? It's so hard on my wife, especially, to see him disappointed when he makes a mistake, and his plans don't work out.

- Lane

Dear Lane,

I know this might sound mean to some folks, but sometimes a good financial disappointment when you're young is the best thing that can happen to you. They're hard to watch happen, or to experience, but often they'll teach life-long lessons. No decent parent wants to see their child sad or hurt, but reality is a

River Cats Announce National Anthem Auditions for 2024 Season

Performers Must Submit Demo Prior to Feb. 10 Auditions

Sacramento River Cats News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

It's sung prior to the first pitch of every game, and now you have the chance to do the same as the Sacramento River Cats have announced their National Anthem auditions for the 2024 baseball season will take place at Sutter Health Park on Feb. 10.

Auditions are open to all soloists, groups, and instrumentalists, and those interested in performing prior to a River Cats game must submit an audition demo by Friday, Jan. 26. Demos received past this date will not be considered.

All demos submitted must be an

acapella version of the Star-Spangled Banner, sung in full with clear, consistent, and correct lyrics.

The full performance must not exceed 90 seconds.

To submit a demo, please email an mp3 or YouTube link to Logan Flair at lflair@rivercats.com. The subject line should

read "2024 National Anthem Demo" and include a name, phone number and email address in the body of the email. Submissions that do not meet any of the submission directions or guidelines will not be considered for call backs.

The River Cats will invite the top demos submitted to Sutter Health Park for a live audition. Due to the volume of applicants, performers will only be contacted if they are selected to audition in person. Participants will be contacted the week of Jan. 29 with further instructions. ★



Dignity Health Donates to Sacramento-Area Nonprofits

Continued from page 1

"At Arrive Alive California, Inc., we are committed to developing, promoting, and facilitating evidence-based education to raise awareness on possible life altering decisions, thereby saving lives," said Angela Y. Webb CEO/Executive Director at Arrive Alive California, Inc. "With the support

of Dignity Health, we can take a big step towards building a community of responsible and empowered individuals who prioritize safety and well-being."

The Greater Sacramento Market has awarded community grants to fifteen collaborative projects across Sacramento and Yolo counties for CY 2024. ★

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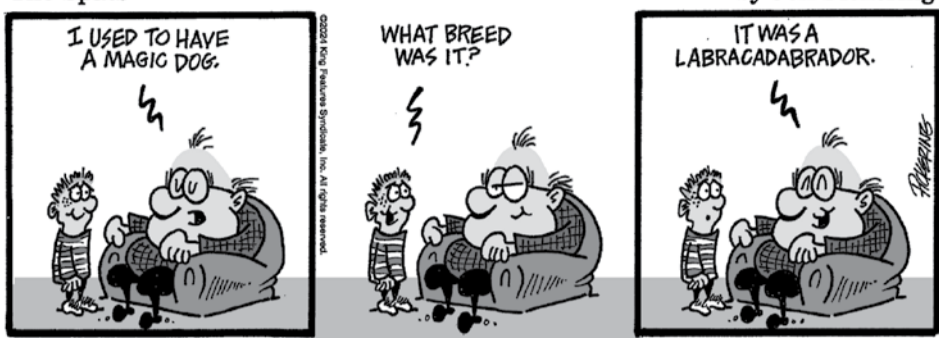
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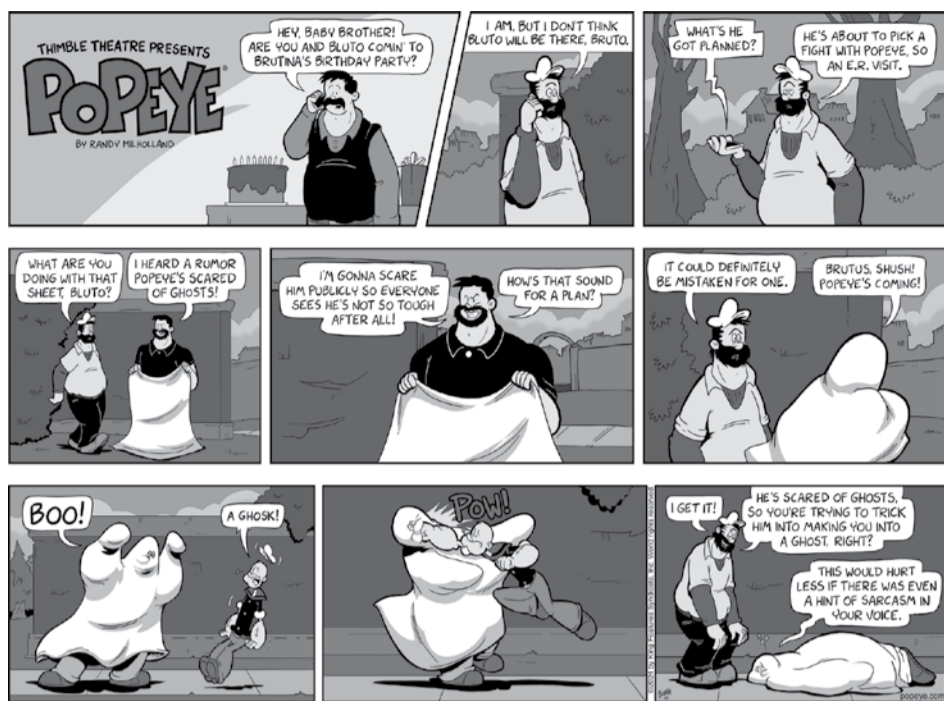
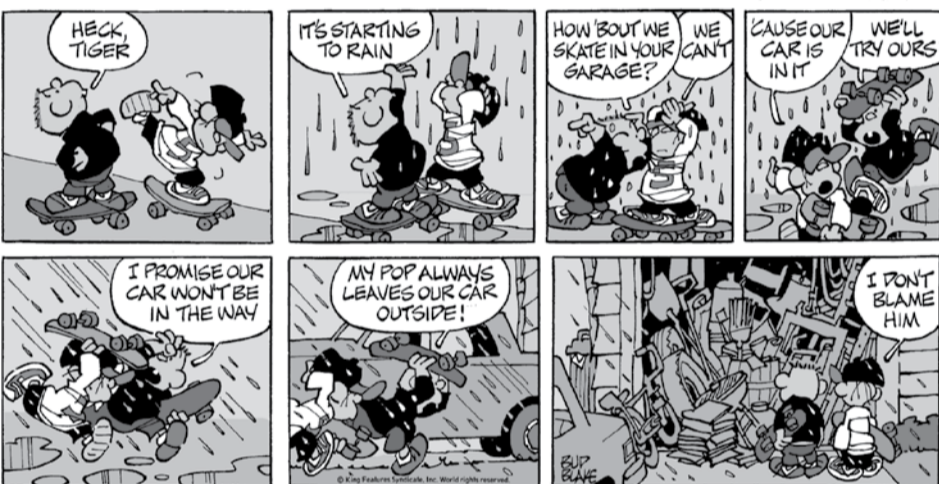
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- "Roots" author
- That guy
- Full of emotion (2 words)
- Relating to #3 Down
- Tarzan's mom, e.g.
- Caribbean island destination
- *The Recording _____, voting organization
- **"What Was I Made For?" movie
- **"A Boy Named _____" 1970 Grammy winner
- Prickle on a wire
- Drench
- Waiter's handout
- *Grammy-nominated Lauper song, "True _____"
- Amusement destination
- Rachel Renee Russell's "_____ Diaries"
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- Fancy marbles used as shooters
- U.S. Marine Corps gift recipient
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- Aglet on a shoelace, e.g.
- *_____com Arena
- *Miley Cyrus' Song of the Year nominee and popular romantic gift
- Texas cook-off dish
- **"In the _____ To-night," by Grammy-winner Phil Collins
- Send, as payment
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- Leave out
- Bookkeeping entry
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- Scatter

DOWN

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- One-horse carriage
- Mailing "code"
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- *Grammy-winner, _____ Alpert
- *Purse for the red carpet
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- Bar _____, ME
- Rewards, in the olden days
- Pendulum's path
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SAFE Accepting Grant Applications for Financial Literacy Programs



SAFE Credit Union Vice President Community Relations and Financial Education Rebecca Delmundo. Photo courtesy of SAFE Credit Union.

SAFE Credit Unit Press Release

FOLSOM, CA. – (MPG) - In its drive to improve financial literacy in the Greater Sacramento region, SAFE Credit Union will grant \$20,000 to a nonprofit organization providing financial literacy and financial stability programs in underserved communities.

SAFE is accepting applications for the grant until Friday, Feb. 9, through its online application, or at <https://www.safecu.org/community/community-impact/funding/community-sustainability-grant-application-1>.

“Equipping people with the skills they need to take charge of their finances is one of our main motivations here at SAFE,” says Vice President of Community Relations and Financial Education Rebecca Delmundo, adding only 27 percent of California’s students attend schools

that offer personal finance courses.

“It’s essential for people to understand how to put aside savings, how interest rates and loans work, and how to handle debt for them to succeed in life. With so few students receiving formal financial literacy training, financial cooperatives like SAFE Credit Union and our nonprofit partners are stepping in to provide this much-needed education,” she continues.

Only 1 percent of California students are required to complete personal financial education courses to graduate from high school, according to state Department of Education statistics. There have been some political efforts to change that, with the Legislature recently considering proposals, and a 2024 ballot initiative in the works. However, the grant, says Delmundo, represents how SAFE and others in the region dedicated to providing financial education services are stepping in to fill the need now.

Delmundo says that young people especially can benefit from financial education programs since mistakes they may make early in life can affect them long into adulthood.

“It just takes one missed payment to harm a credit score,” she says. “I’ve seen a lot of young people get buried in credit card debt while also tackling paying off student loans. I’m a strong proponent of helping people learn how to handle the

finances they have now so they can achieve their future financial goals.”

SAFE offers its own financial education services through free webinars available to the public as well as workshops to employers and organizations. It also offers its no-cost Budget Cents interactive simulations to high schools in the region, where students get a first-hand look at the real-life expenses they’ll face as adults. SAFE’s high school branch program works closely with three area high schools to house a branch at each and provide supportive financial education for the students who staff the branches and their fellow students.

“There are a lot of us working to fill the financial education gap,” says Delmundo. “And we are all keenly aware of how many people truly want this information. This grant helps us help others providing this service.”

SAFE conducts four grant cycles each year as part of its overall philanthropic program that also includes direct giving, scholarships, sponsorships, and volunteerism.

For more information on SAFE’s grant program and to contact VP Community Relations and Financial Education Rebecca Delmundo, please contact Assistant Vice President Communications and Public Relations Carole Ferguson at carole.ferguson@safecu.org or by phone at (916) 836-6312. ★

Harris Center for the Arts presents Jim Brickman in Concert

Harris Center for the Arts News Release

FOLSOM, CA (MPG) - Harris Center for the Arts presents a musical journey of romantic piano melodies and engaging wit when Jim Brickman performs Hits Live! In Concert on Tuesday, February 6, at 7:30pm.

Jim Brickman will wow the crowd with his uplifting, Hits Live! In Concert. The Grammy Nominated Songwriter gets up close and personal in this intimate setting with sweet sounds and stories, including his hit songs “Love of My Life,” “Angel Eyes,” and of course, “Valentine.”

Hailed by the Boston Herald as “a crowd-pleaser,” Jim Brickman will take the audience on a musical journey with his romantic piano melodies and engaging wit, making this concert a must-see-event!

Four of his albums have been certified Gold by the Recording Industry Association of America – 1995’s *By Heart*, 1997’s *Picture This* and *The Gift*, and 1999’s *Destiny* – for sales of more than 500,000 copies. Overall, he’s sold more than 7 million albums.

Brickman has amassed 27 Top 40 singles on the adult - charts, including 14 Top Ten smashes. His collaboration with soaring country songstress Martina McBride, the beautiful paean to love titled “Valentine,” scored at mainstream country radio in 1998, peaking at No. 9. Other Brickman staples include “Simple



Jim Brickman. Photo courtesy of the artist.

Things” with Rebecca Lynn Howard, “Peace” and *The Gift*, both with Collin Raye and Susan Ashton, *Never Alone* with Lady A, and “Love of My Life” with Michael W. Smith.

In 2013, Brickman’s *The Magic of Christmas*, featuring the 2003 remake of “Sending You A Little Christmas” with Johnny Mathis, landed at #1 on Billboard New Age and took the #58 spot on Billboard Top 200.

Brickman believes music helps to shape its listeners and their lifestyles. He wants his fans to use his music as part of everyday life, which is why he’s recorded inspirational albums, lullabies, romantic records, and of course Christmas albums. Music for soothing the aches of daily life, and music for hanging the mistletoe – that’s the Jim

Brickman way. The highest compliment you can pay this 62-year-old pop pianist is to tell him that his compositions became the soundtrack while delivering a baby, taking a bubble bath, enduring chemotherapy, lulling your little one to sleep, dancing with daddy at the wedding, and falling in love again. “This is more than just ‘I love that hit song’,” Brickman says. “It’s the experience. I am more about the experimental way that people use the music more so than ever. I want the music to be a constant part of their lives.”

Individual tickets range from \$51-\$85, including fees, and are available at the Box Office at (916) 608-6888, or online at HarrisCenter.net. Box Office hours are Tuesday-Friday from 12:00pm-5:00pm, and one hour before showtime. ★



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.

To find out more or to apply:

Email your questions or resume to Publisher@MPG8.com



Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

How Much is Enough?

Money, food, friends, happiness, time, and food; how much do you need in order to have enough? Those who appreciate all they have, always have more than they need. However, those who want more never feel they have enough.

Real life is full of actual examples illustrating this principle at work. Of the people who win big lottery jackpots, about 70% go broke within 5 years. There are many stories of people who inherit wealth yet are miserable. There are endless news stories of successful actors, celebrities, and sports stars self-destructing on drugs, alcohol, crime, or other aberrant behavior.

The key factor is not how much you have, but whether or not you appreciate that which you do have. Happiness and contentment are based on internal sentiment, not external possessions. Remember, if you always want more, you’ll never feel you have enough.

So, appreciating what you have is a mindset. It’s not based on how much you have. It is based on how grateful you are for what you have. When you are thankful for what you have, you’ll feel as if you have an abundance.

So, instead of looking to just accumulating for the sake of having as much as possible, strive to appreciate all of the blessings in your life. Having more, without a sense of gratefulness, diminishes the enhancement on your quality of life.

Quality of life is more important than quantity of your accumulations. There are numerous examples of high-income earners who spend so much time making money that they have little time to really enjoy it. Yet, there are people who make a more modest income but are able to have a more enjoyable lifestyle.

This is not to say that more money is bad and less is good. Rather there must be a quality of life balance where you are able to benefit from all of your efforts, instead of feeling as if you are on a treadmill going a little faster than you can keep up.

Ideally, your money should contribute to your quality of life. When your pursuit of financial rewards leads to

more stress and insecurity than enjoyment, you might want to reassess your strategy.

You can look at your friends in a similar fashion. Do you have dependable friends or simply a lot of friends? A handful of people you can count on is more valuable than dozens of likes on social media. A true friend is there for you in good times and bad, as you are for them. These are people who sincerely care about how you are doing. They keep in touch just to say hello, not just when they want something from you.

You need only so much food to be healthy. Eating more than is required may lead to health problems and weight issues. Spending more than you can afford eating out creates stress in other aspects of your life.

Time is one commodity that most people will agree is in too short a supply. Since everyone has the same amount of time each day, it’s how you utilize your time that matters. If you find yourself with “time to kill,” you are not putting your time to good use.

There is a certain amount of time you spend working and then there is the rest of the day which is your discretionary time. What you do with your discretionary time impacts how much you will achieve. Time spent working toward an important goal is productive. Time wasted aimlessly keeps you busy with nothing to show for your efforts.

Regardless of what you are measuring, how much is enough for your needs is all that’s relevant. Don’t compare yourself to what others have or want. Their lives have no impact on you. Appreciate and be thankful for all of your blessings. Make the most of what you do have, instead of lamenting what you feel might be lacking.

NOW AVAILABLE: “Dare to Live Without Limits,” the book. Visit www.BryanGolden.com or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at bryan@columnist.com or write him c/o this paper. ©2024 Bryan Golden ★

Lady Hoopsters Full of Light!

Story and photos by Rick Sloan

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - The 2023-24 girls basketball season is well under way and this year's team, according to Head Coach Kim Little, is "Full of Light." Coach Little, in her 8th year at the helm is starting to see the results of building teamwork skills and nurturing talent for the last couple of years finally start to pay off. This year's team has already surpassed their win totals of last year and has competed well in some very tough battles regardless of the outcome. Currently the team is sitting on a record of 6-12 with ten games still to play.

This year's team is outfitted with five seniors. The five seniors are Justice Johnson-Patterson, Alyssa Lacayo, Selena Maya, Journee Dean, and Ja'Nya Allison. Two starting sophomore players, Jasmine Ferrel and Taliyah Johnson have stepped up their game play and have contributed highly to the team's success. Freshman Becca Lee has also helped the team with her talent on offense and defense. With two starting sophomores and one talented freshman, the future of the program is certainly heading in a promising direction.

Coach Little is very pleased with this year's team work ethics. "They have committed themselves to 'STAND ON BUSINESS.' They are set apart, they are hard workers and they are determined to be better each and every day. On and off the court, they are a team that understands the importance of teamwork, accountability, desire, effort, discipline, and character", said Coach Little. I also have noticed a great deal of progress in this year's team. One of the most impressive things I have noticed is in the ball movement and the ability to get off more higher-percentage shots within the key or under the basket. Another improved stat is in the rebounding category both offensive and defensive.



Coach Kim Little takes timeout with seconds left in 40-36 win against Natomas.



Sophomore Jasmine Ferrel takes short jump shot against Natomas.

The team seems to be growing with each game. Led by sophomore point guards Johnson and Ferrel, game play has been elevated in energy, enthusiasm and passion. Add the dynamic and dominant play of freshman Lee with the experience of seniors Dean and Maya, and game play gets even a bigger jolt. The intensity of play goes both ways on the court and seems to build with each second of the clock ticking. This type of play makes it hard for other teams to keep up with the Lady Lancers. On one end they strip the ball from their opponents and head the other way on fast breaks time and time again. When they can't strip the ball they seem to find a way to tie the opponent up, forcing jump ball after jump ball. The action is non-stop.

Coach Little couldn't be prouder of how the season and team is shaping up and didn't want to single out any individual players as a reason for their success thus far. "We have a team of balance on any given night of team basketball which is exciting to watch. Every player on this team is special and brings a uniqueness that makes us who we are. I'm just grateful and thankful for the girls, my staff, and the opportunity to lead this year's team and looking forward to continuing to grow and develop. I personally believe we are in the running to compete for a league title to close out the GSL", said Coach Little.

The final home games of the season will be against Foothill on January 19th at 7:00 p.m., Rio Americano January 26th at 7:00 p.m., West Campus on January 29th at 6:00 p.m., Johnson on February 7th at 6:00 p.m. and the last home game of the season against Florin February 9th (time TBA). Come on out, cheer your Cordova Lancers on to victory, and if the snack bar is open, enjoy a hotdog or some nachos. ★

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