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Grapevine Independent

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SINCE 2005**



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Champion of the Community



CRPD board of directors and staff with Champion of the Community Gianni Chauppette and his family. Photo courtesy of CRPD

*By Shelby Golden,
Cordova Recreation & Park District*

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - On March 13, 2024, Cordova Recreation & Park District (CRPD) joined the California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS) District 2 at their Awards & Installation Banquet where local park and recreation agencies came together to recognize outstanding agencies and professionals and install the 2024-2025 District 2 board members.

Nominated by CRPD, Gianni Chauppette was the recipient of this year's Champion of the Community Award. Chauppette is an aspiring environmentalist and nature enthusiast from Troop 363 who recognized the potential for wildlife observation at Heron Landing Community Park. Combining his passion for nature and dedication to scouting, Chauppette proposed a unique



Champion of the Community Gianni Chauppette. Photo courtesy of CRPD

project that would enhance visitors' connection with the surrounding environment. As part of his project, he was able to raise nearly \$11,000 thanks to contributions from 60 generous community members and CRPD.

In June of 2023, Gianni worked closely with CRPD to research and install an ADA-accessible binocular post overlooking the neighboring

wetland preserve at Heron Landing Community Park. Nature enthusiasts can now easily get a close look at the local wildlife that call our region home. Visit the Heron Landing Community Park at 11750 Justinian Drive, Rancho Cordova, to check it out! To learn more about this project, visit bit.ly/CRPDbinoculars.

During the installment of the new CPRS District 2 board members, CRPD Recreation Supervisor Nina Sinor was appointed as the president elect, CRPD Recreation Supervisor Nicole Lowery was appointed as treasurer and CRPD Recreation Supervisor Heather Schelske was appointed as the aging section representative.

CRPD was proud to be a part of the CPRS District 2 awards banquet where park and recreation professionals came together to celebrate one another and the outstanding work throughout the previous year. ★

Sacramento County Appoints Deputy County Executive



Sylvester Fadal

**Sacramento County
News Release**

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sylvester Fadal is the new Sacramento County deputy county executive for Administrative Services. The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors approved Fadal's appointment on Feb. 27 and he started the new role on March 3.

"The county conducted a nationwide executive search for the deputy county executive for Administrative Services, and I'm pleased to say we found the best and most qualified candidate within our own ranks," said County Executive David Villanueva. "Dr. Fadal has more than 26 years of public sector human resources management and executive experience that encompasses strategic planning, budget management, process optimization and construction and capital improvements."

Fadal's extensive experience includes overseeing human resources, technology, procurement, contracts and materials management for major construction projects. His previous responsibilities include ensuring contract compliance, adherence to DBE/SBE requirements, implementing PLAs, and managing bus/rail maintenance training and warehouse facilities.

Fadal was the Personnel Services director for Sacramento County in 2021 and became the General Services interim director in October 2023.

Before joining the county, Fadal held various leadership roles at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority for more than 23 years, including chief administrative officer, human resources director, procurement and contracts, Business Services deputy director, Human Resources manager, and Organizational Development and Office of Civil Rights and Labor Relations manager.

Fadal has a Doctor of Business Administration from Argosy University, a Master of Public Administration from the University of California, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of California. *Continued on page 4*

RCYC Celebrates 1st Birthday



The Rancho Cordova Youth Center celebrated its first birthday on March 14.

Story and photos by Rick Sloan

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - On Thursday, March 14, the Rancho Cordova Youth Center (RCYC) celebrated its first birthday. RCYC hosted a special birthday event that included free dinner, cupcakes, raffle prizes, activities and more! Attendees also learned about RCYC's free after-school activities with program demonstrations. Thank you Rancho Cordova and the Police Activities League (PAL) for putting on such a wonderful experience for all. ★

More photos on page 3

Right: County Supervisor 5th District Pat Hume presented a proclamation to the RCYC. Pictured L-R are Supervisor Pat Hume, City Council Member Linda Budge, Rancho Cordova City Manager Micha Runner and Vice-Mayor Siri Pulipati.

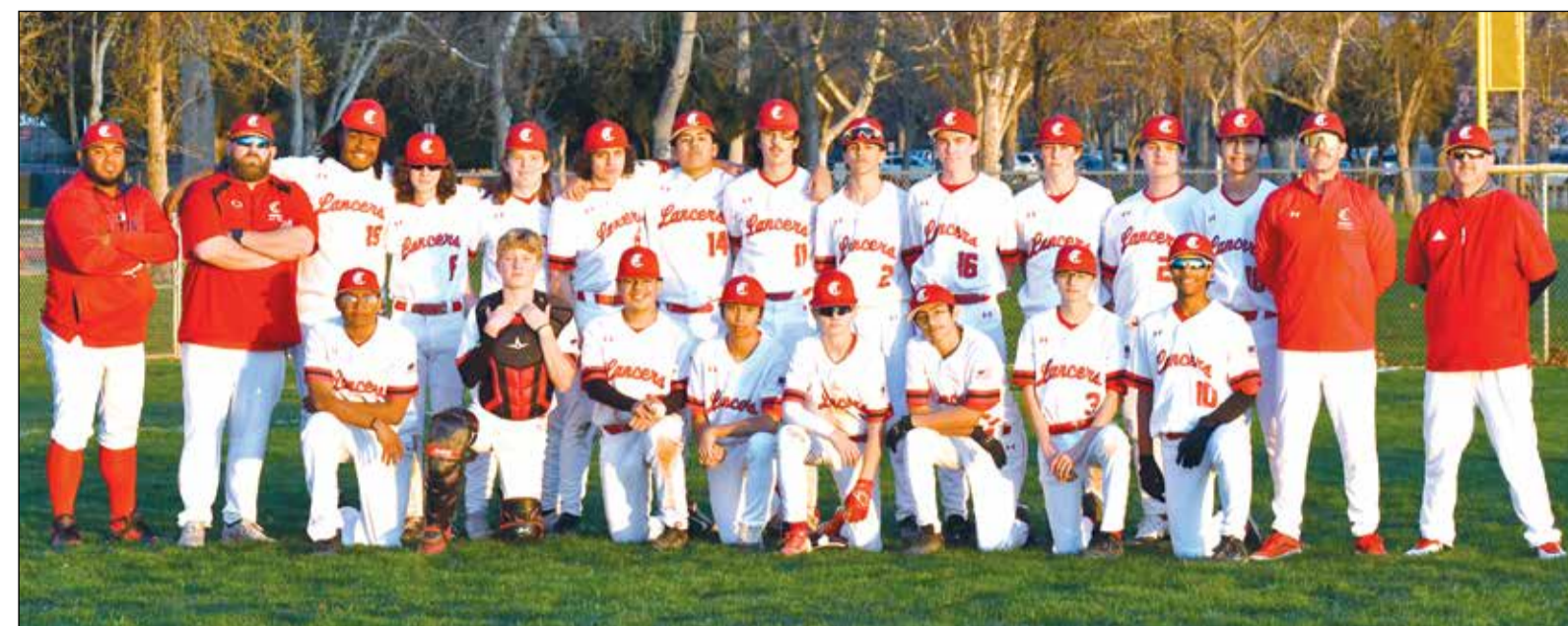


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Lancers Kick Off 2024 Baseball Season!



2024 Cordova Lancer varsity baseball team

Story and photos by Rick Sloan

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - The Cordova Lancers have started their final season in the Greater Sacramento League (GSL). Next year they will join the more competitive Metro League. Coming off last year's GSL championship, Varsity Head Coach Scott Ahlstrom, in his 4th year at the helm, is pretty optimistic about the possibility of making it a three-peat.

This year's team is very young. It's made up of eight freshmen, seven sophomores, two juniors and only two seniors. Sophomore Levi Nyberg returns from last year's league championship team. Nyberg was All League, Sac Bee All Metro and Max Preps All Section last year, and is poised to be a force again this year. Cordova also added Jesuit transfer, Alfonso Maya, who'll

help man the corners and behind the plate. Bro Ahlstrom, Noah Oxley, Gage Cordova and Nathan Tran are four freshmen that should play a big role in this year's season and a major role in the success of the program.

In the last two years the Lancers have seen fourteen seniors graduate. Lately it has been a challenge to keep our young athletes at Cordova. Many top-notch players decide to play for other schools such as Capitol Christian, Jesuit and Folsom high schools. Good teams are made up of players that have played together for several years. Hopefully this new crop of young players will change the tide. Coach Ahlstrom said, "We are young. Young in a good way though...lots of good young talent that soaks up the game and what we teach them". The only thing the Cordova coaching staff can't teach is experience. This makes it very hard to grow the



Levi Nyberg doubles to right-center against Foresthill.



Pitching Coach Jean Machi talks to Levi Nyberg during game against Capital Christian.

program. Cordova has no returning players at the senior level this year and next year they will only have two players at the senior level unless others decide to play or transfer from other schools.

On a positive note, the numbers are up and according to Coach Ahlstrom the team is going to be really good in a few years. One big reason Coach Ahlstrom is so optimistic about the future is because of his outstanding coaching staff. Joining the Cordova coaching staff this year is former SF Giants relief pitcher and World Series champion, Jean Machi, as their pitching coach.

With only seven games under their belt, the Lancers are currently 3-4, which included an 8-1 victory over Foresthill and two lopsided league victories against Natomas as the Lancer bats finally came alive gathering 25 hits in the two games. Early league stats find

three Lancers in the top-10 for batting average. Nyberg is in the first position with a .588 batting average, Ahlstrom is in the second position batting .526 and Tran is in the seventh spot hitting .429. Another major stat that finds four Lancers currently sitting in the top ten is "On Base Percentage." In first place is Nyberg with a .667 average, sophomore Adrian Rivera is in the third spot with a .612 average, Tran is in the fourth spot at .600 and Ahlstrom is in the fifth position with a .591 average.

Although the season is very early to predict who will end up in the top position of the leader board, I anticipate the Lancers making it to the first round of the playoffs again this year. "This year is a growing year, but we still aim to win a league championship and compete in the CIF D2 playoffs before our move to the Metro League next year. That being said, we can honestly see a deep playoff run in 2-3 years," Coach Ahlstrom said.

The next home game at Peterson Field will be a league contest against West Campus on March 22 starting at 4 p.m. After Spring Break the Lancers will be back at home for another league game against Johnson on April 3 and a non-league contest versus Cosumnes Oaks on April 8. Come on out and cheer your Cordova Lancers on to victory and watch some very talented ball players. ★

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RCYC Celebrates 1st Birthday



Youths take part in a race at the first birthday of the Rancho Cordova Youth Center on March 14.



Youths select books at the first birthday of the Rancho Cordova Youth Center on March 14.



A youth enjoys a meal at the first birthday of the Rancho Cordova Youth Center on March 14.

US Canoe/Kayak Olympic Team Trials at Lake Natoma

Sacramento State Aquatic Center News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento State Aquatic Center will host the 2024 US Olympic and Paralympic Team Trials on Friday, March 22, and Saturday, March 23, at Lake Natoma. Racing will take place from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. on both days. The purpose of the event is to select athletes to be the prospective Olympic and Paralympic team to race in Paris this summer.

The ACA (American Canoe Association) will show the highest level of flatwater sprint racing to Lake Natoma. The U.S. has secured a quota for the WC1 200m event for the Paris Olympics (secured by Nevin Harrison). The final opportunity for U.S. athletes to secure a quota for the Paris Olympics is at the 2024 ICF Canoe Sprint Pan American Olympic Qualifier in Sarasota, Florida, this April 26 - 28. The results of the ACA Olympic Team Trials will determine who races in the qualified events at the Paris Games. We anticipate that the winners of each event at the Trials will then move on to Sarasota to hopefully qualify additional team members.

The U.S. has also qualified two athletes to the Paralympic Games. The trials will also decide additional athletes who will be attempting to qualify

for Paris. This will be decided at the Para World Championships in Szeged, Hungary, in May.

Athletes to Watch:
Nevin Harrison brought Canoe Sprint, a sport that is still growing in popularity in the United States, national recognition after the 2020 Tokyo Olympics when she became the Olympic Champion in the Women's C1 200m event. In 2022, Nevin took first place at the 2022 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championship, in the WC1 200m event. This year, Nevin qualified an Olympic Quota for the WC1 200m event at the 2023 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships.

Jonas Ecker & Aaron Small are hoping to compete in their first Olympic Games in Paris next year in the Men's K2 500m event. In 2022, Ecker and Small took first place at the Pan American Championships. We eagerly anticipate that the duo will pull through at the 2024 ICF Canoe Sprint Pan American Olympic Qualifier in April to secure an Olympic quota for the MK2 500m event.

This event is hosted by the Sacramento State Aquatic Center, Associated Students Inc., the University Union, along with support from the California State Parks Gold Field District.

There is a \$10 parking fee at Nimbus Flat State Park (cash only).

Race Schedule: <https://www.crewtimer.com/regatta/r13350>

Fish for Trout at SMUD Derby



A young angler casts his fishing line into the lake at Rancho Seco Recreational Area. Photo courtesy of SMUD

SMUD News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION (MPG) - SMUD's annual trout derby at the Rancho Seco Recreational Area on April 6 and April 7 features thousands of pounds of trout and prizes up for grabs.

The fishing event has become a tradition for many and has attracted thousands of local participants since it began in 1993.

Anglers reeling in the heaviest catches will win cash and prizes, including an adult and youth grand prize for the heaviest trout caught awarded each day. The grand prize for both age groups is a fishing kayak. The grand prizes are provided by The Fish Sniffer magazine and Angler's Press Outdoors.

Anglers can cast a line into the 160-acre lake from the shoreline or from one of six fishing piers. Small boats with electric motors are also allowed (no gas motors are allowed). In addition to trout, the freshwater lake is home to bass, bluegill, redear sunfish and crappie.

In preparation for the derby, Rancho Seco Lake was recently stocked with thousands of pounds of catchable trout.

Registration takes place on both days of the derby between 6 and 10 a.m., rain or shine. Derby tickets are \$5 per person for the two-day event with a \$12 parking fee at the park gate. A valid California state

fishing license is required for anyone at least 16 years old. Anglers hoping to win a prize must weigh their fish at the official weigh station between 2 and 4 p.m. on the day of the catch. For complete rules, visit smud.org/RanchoSeco.

The 400-acre Rancho Seco Recreational Area offers more than just fishing. The full-service facility offers picnic areas, RV and tent camping sites, a beach and swimming spots. Kayaks, rowboats, paddleboards and fishing boats are available to rent.

The Rancho Seco Recreational Area is at 14960 Twin Cities Road, Herald. The recreational area is 25 miles south of Sacramento, approximately 15 minutes east of Highway 99 on Twin Cities Road. For more information about the derby, camping and safety at the park, visit smud.org/RanchoSeco or call 800-416-6992.

About SMUD

As the nation's sixth-largest, community-owned, not-for-profit electric service provider, SMUD has provided low-cost, reliable electricity to Sacramento County for more than 75 years.

Today, SMUD's power supply is on average about 50 percent carbon free and SMUD has a goal to reach zero carbon in its electricity production by 2030.

For more information on SMUD's Zero Carbon Plan and its customer programs, visit smud.org. ★

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Teens Who Use Both Cannabis and Tobacco Have Lower Grades, Absences

UC Davis Health News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - More and more states in the U.S. are legalizing recreational cannabis, leading to concerns that teen use will increase. Tobacco consumption among high school students, including vaping and e-cigarettes, is a concerning 12.6%, although trending downward.

Researchers at UC Davis were interested in learning how the combined use of these two products — cannabis and tobacco — might impact high school students in California.

In a new study published in *The Journal of Pediatrics*, they found high school students who use both tobacco and cannabis products miss more school and have lower grades compared to students who don't use either product or who use the products individually (tobacco or cannabis) but don't combine them.

"Substance use is a main predictor of educational outcomes, including absenteeism," said Melanie Dove, an assistant adjunct professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences and first author of the paper. "These results highlight the need for comprehensive efforts to prevent and reduce substance use from both cannabis and tobacco products among youth."

California Survey Reveals Students' Tobacco And Cannabis Use

The researchers analyzed data from the 2021-22 California Healthy Kids Survey. The anonymous, confidential survey administered by the California Department of Education asks questions about wellness, resiliency, school climate and safety. The study reviewed responses from 287,653 high school students in ninth and 11th grade.

The researchers found that among high school students in California:

- 3.7% use tobacco and cannabis
- 3.7% use cannabis only
- 1.7% use tobacco only

Students who used both tobacco and cannabis reported the highest percentage of absenteeism. On average, they missed three days of school in the past month — almost one and a half more days of absenteeism than teens who didn't use both products.

Students who co-used tobacco and cannabis were also more likely to have lower grades than students who did not use either product.

Using an 8-point scale with an 8 representing mostly A's and 1 representing F's, they found the average grade for students who did not use cannabis or tobacco was 6.24, or mostly B's.

By comparison, average grades for students who used both cannabis and tobacco were about half a grade lower, at 5.08 or

mostly B's and C's.

Students who used either cannabis or tobacco, but not both, also had slightly lower grades than nonusers: students who only used tobacco had an average grade of 5.61 (mostly B's), and students who only used cannabis had an average grade of 5.54 (mostly B's).

Harmful Effects On Student Health

The U.S. Surgeon General released a report describing the health risks of e-cigarettes on youth and young adults. It explains how habits formed in youth, when the brain is still developing and learning, can result in teens getting addicted more easily.

"We know that using tobacco and cannabis puts young people at risk for longer-term addiction, behavioral issues and respiratory health problems," said Elisa Tong, a co-author of the study. Tong is a physician at UC Davis Health and director of the Tobacco Cessation Policy Research Center. "For young people who are not current users but are exposed to use by others, the aerosol from these products is not harmless, and contains potentially harmful chemicals, heavy metals and fine particulates," Tong said.

Schools And Parents Can Help Prevent Tobacco Use

The researchers noted some limitations of their study. The survey is not representative of all high school students in California. Students who were absent on the day of the survey were not included. Another limitation is that the data is based on students' self-reported responses; even though the survey was anonymous, students may feel uncomfortable sharing their actual substance use or absence patterns and may have underreported them.

Another consideration is that the percentage of California high school students who report using any tobacco product is 6.6%, according to the 2022 California Youth Tobacco Survey. This percentage is well below the national average (12.6%) and may reflect California's rigorous anti-smoking campaigns and the adoption of non-smoking public spaces dating back to the mid-1990s.

"While certain school factors — like peer pressure — can contribute to teen tobacco and cannabis use, schools also play a critical role in prevention, especially in partnership with families," said Kevin Gee, a professor at the UC Davis School of Education and senior author of the paper. "One important tool available to California's schools is the Tobacco Use Prevention Education program that, when strategically invested in intervention and cessation activities, has shown promise in reducing tobacco use among teens." ★

February New Home Sales Were the Best in Region for Month Since 2005

North State Building Industry Association News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- Sacramento-area new home sales continued at a fast pace in February as area homebuilders recorded the region's highest February sales totals since 2005, the North State Building Industry Association reported today.

BIA members sold 762 homes during the month, the best February sales volume since 2005 when 908 homes were sold during the height of the housing boom. The average sales total for the month is 504.

February's sales were up 31% from January and 37% from February 2023. During the first two months of the year, 1,342 homes have sold — 28% higher than last year's total for the same period.

Chris Norem, the BIA's political director and senior policy advisor, said the

continued strong demand was fueled by the benefits of new homes, the fact relatively few existing homes are on the market and gradually decreasing mortgage interest rates. He added the scarcity of existing homes for sale is likely to continue.

"The latest inflation report actually ticked upward, which will likely cause the Federal Reserve to hold off on interest rate cuts," Norem said. "That will likely mean that the number of existing homes on the market will continue to be well below normal, making the availability of new homes a great choice for prospective homebuyers."

As usual, the most sales took place in Roseville with 184, followed by Elk Grove, Sacramento, Folsom and Rancho Cordova. (See charts below.) The BIA's sales figures cover 190 active new home communities in Sacramento, Placer, Yolo, Yuba, El Dorado, Amador and Sutter counties. ★

Sacramento County Appoints Deputy County Executive

Continued from page 1

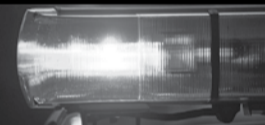
Administration with emphasis on organization change from California State University, East Bay, and a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management from Patten University. He also completed the Negotiation and Conflict Management Training for Senior Executives at Harvard Law School and he possesses a Certificate in Training and Human Resources Management from U.C. Santa Cruz.

Additionally, Fadal has nearly 20 years of experience as a lecturer and area chair over the University of Phoenix MBA Business Program and has worked as an

assistant professor for DeVry University's Keller Graduate School of Business for more than three years.

Departments within Sacramento County's Administrative Services Agency include the Clerk Recorder, Office of Emergency Services, Finance, General Services, Personnel Services, Revenue Recovery, Technology, and Voter Registration and Elections. These departments facilitate the day-to-day operation of Sacramento County. The Library JPA, Sacramento Employee Retirement System and Sacramento LAFCo have a coordinative relationship with Administrative Services. ★

**WE SUPPORT
FIRST RESPONDERS**



Kings Korner
By V.G. Harris



Overall, it was an auspicious week for our Sacramento Kings, in spite of a frustrating loss to the New York Knicks.

The difference was defense, and it was a noticeable change in the way the team collectively played defense. Davion Mitchell brought his usual tenacity to the hardwood, but Keon Ellis joined him in bringing a ferocity that was contagious, and resulted in a three-game stretch that was undoubtedly the best defense by the team this year.

Back-to-back wins over the Milwaukee Bucks and Los Angeles Lakers had pundits gaping, and wondering who are these guys?

I have to repeat what has been expressed over and over again, and that is this team can beat any team in the NBA on any given night.

The playoffs are still a new phenomena for this team, and whether they can bring that same intensity to the court over a seven-game stretch remains to be seen, but for the naysayers out there I say, do not count this team out!

Our 2022 acquisition Domantas Sabonis not only is leading the league in double-doubles and triple-doubles, he is currently 5th overall in assists.

If you're a fan that watches from home and you haven't been to Golden 1 to see Domantas in action, you're missing a real treat. Grab a ticket while you can and get out to see this gladiator of the hardwood work his magic.

Currently the Kings are in a tenuous 6th place position in the Western Conference, with the Memphis Grizzlies coming in Monday night, followed by a road trip with stops in Toronto, Washington, and Orlando. As always, this road trip will loom large, but if the Kings can somehow manage a winning record in the three-game trip, 6th or even 5th place is not out of the question.

I have been critical, and rightfully so, of coach Brown's inability to win challenges this season, but whether skill or luck, recently the Kings have

been coming out on top. Keep up the good work Coach Brown. And, what is going on with the free-throw shooting? All of a sudden, the Kings are outperforming opponents, and actually looking like professionals from the charity stripe. With less than 20 games remaining in the regular season, finding a rhythm going into the playoffs couldn't come at a better time, and will be critical if the Kings want to advance to the second round.

So, the question many are asking: Can the Kings match or surpass last year's 48-win total? Surprisingly, I have talked to a lot of fans that don't believe they can do it, but I am firmly in the other camp. I think this team has a higher level to their game, just as they've shown in the recent improvement on defense.

Although I have not been a big Keon Ellis fan, I am all about giving out credit where credit is due, and this young man has been bringing a real NBA game to the court. His defense at times is smothering, and it was never so evident than last week, when he threw a blanket over perennial all-star Damian Lillard in last week's blowout win against the Bucks.

If 2nd-year forward Keegan Murray and veteran Harrison Barnes can harness some of the scoring they're capable of, the next 16 games could be a rocket launch into the playoffs.

Both Keegan and Harrison have shown signs of the players we know them to be, so keep your fingers crossed.

Coach Brown remains committed to Kevin Huerter for reasons that remain a mystery to me. He has obvious other options, and I remain puzzled as to why he's not employing the principle of playing the best player, or even who is hot at the moment.

Fans are all over the board as it relates to Huerter, and I would love to see him find some of the magic he displayed last season. ★



Rebirth

Easter! What does it mean to you? I know. It's Easter hunts and chocolate bunnies, family get-togethers and flowers. I can go on and on and I get it. We love all those symbols, but I hope we don't forget what Easter really means down deep. It's a rebirth of faith and hope and sharing too.

Did you ever wonder how the bunny got to be the BIG symbol for Easter? It's cute, but it's also universal and secular in its appeal. But would you believe I was told that the hare, not the rabbit, should be treated as the true symbol of Easter. Historically, the hare is the symbol for the moon. And legend has it, the hare never closes its eyes, not even for a single blink. The reason for having such a belief may be rooted in the fact that hares, not rabbits, are born with their eyes open. Rabbits are born blind. There is also a fertility thing in there some place. Maybe that's why the rabbit is more familiar in America. Rabbits beat hares, hands down, in being way more prolific.

Then comes the Easter eggs. Confusing since bunnies don't lay eggs. Despite claims that Easter eggs were originally pagan symbols, there is no solid evidence of this. It was not until the 28th century that Jakob Grimm theorized a connection with the goddess of his own whom he names Ostara, a suggested version of Eostere. At the Passover Seder, a hard-boiled egg dipped in salt water symbolizes both new life and the Passover

sacrifice offered at the temple in Jerusalem. The ancient Persians painted eggs for Nowrooz, their New Year celebration falling on the Spring Equinox. In Christian times, the egg was a symbol of new life just as a chick might hatch from the egg. Also, the egg may have celebrated the end of the privations of Lent. In Medieval Europe, eggs were forbidden during Lent. It was during Easter that the consumption of eggs resumes after the strict Lenten fast.

Traditions change, but not the true meaning of Easter...rebirth. It can give us new hope, especially after all we have endured with the pandemic, war, hate and negativity in the world. So how can we take all the symbols we have come to love and make a difference in our life? Perhaps we can take it one baby step at a time. Easy doesn't make a difference. Take a chance. Example, there's so much negativity on the internet. Why not check out facts before you jump to conclusions. Remember, not everything you read and see may be true. Besides, with AI, it might not even be the real thing. How about this? Rebirth means little thought like sharing a smile or a positive thought each day with someone who has been difficult. You might be surprised the difference it can make. I will leave you with this quote from Kate McGahan. "True, it's not over till it's over, and even when it's over, it just begins again." ★

TRUE REBIRTH!



Jemuel Johnson Shares Society's Wonders with Readers



Jemuel Johnson. Courtesy photo

By Tamara Warta

Sacramento author Jemuel Johnson's new book, "21 Wonders (That You Don't Know)," tells the tale of influential figures that time has forgotten, including Nikola Tesla, Benjamin Banneker and John Brown.

Johnson also wrote the romance novel, "And The Tears Revived" in 2013, and a collection of suspense tales, "Needles" in 2021.

Now, he has added historical accounts, recognizing heroes of the past to his repertoire.

"21 Wonders (That You Don't Know)" revolves around 21 unsung revolutionaries of yesteryear.

"I'm essentially giving them their flowers. Isn't that a wonderful thing?" Johnson said.

He is proud to provide recognition to those who did not necessarily receive it in their lifetime or ever for that matter.

"Unfortunately, many figures of massive influence are relegated to the shadows of history or are eventually acknowledged

200 years later," Johnson said. "Better late than never, I suppose."

A busy entertainment entrepreneur, the Arden-Arcade-based Johnson is a novelist and also a former TV host and producer of "Half Circle," which broadcast on Comcast On Demand (Channel 17) from 2009 to 2014.

Johnson values his readers and tries to write with the knowledge that many don't have much spare time.

"Wonders" is a book that can be finished within a week during someone's lunch breaks," Johnson said. "This book is for people who have a lust for life, who engage with nonfiction, love harrowing, inspirational and aspirational storytelling, and are honest with themselves that they don't read 500-page books anyway."

Readers will find stories that tell the true struggles and dreams of each of the 21 individuals featured.

"I'm obsessed with people who have been through the fire for a desired result," Johnson said. "I want people so badly to own and develop their gifts. These gifts are their upper hand in life. This is not taught in our schools in a dynamic way."

Outside of his creative endeavors, Johnson works in ride-sharing for both Uber and Lyft from 3 to 8 every morning for the past five years. The

job includes airport drop offs, chatting with truck drivers and assisting those going to and from dialysis appointments.

The wide range of individuals that he interacts with daily serve as inspiration. Through these conversations, which include challenging circumstances such as dialysis treatments, Johnson receives inspiration by hearing and observing how everyone's life counts and the desire that others have to share their perspectives.

"It's an excellent way to meet new faces constantly in a private setting and receive massive amounts of information from people from all over the world," Johnson said.

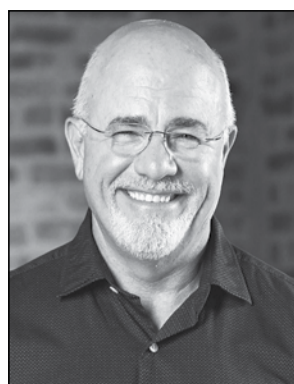
If you're a history buff, love inspirational stories or just want to support a local author, consider adding "21 Wonders (That You Don't Know)" to your reading list.

Johnson focuses on speciality sales and corporate bulk orders, and has a collaboration with Forever 21.

And if you run into Johnson himself around town, you'll be able to land a signed copy of his latest venture.

"Catch me in traffic! I keep copies and a Sharpie on me at all times," said Johnson with great enthusiasm.

"21 Wonders (That You Don't Know)" can also be bought at thebookpatch.com, a marketplace for self-published books. ★



Well-Meaning, But Misguided

Dear Dave,

Our son will be graduating from high school in May, and then heading off to college in August. He will also be working during the summer to save up money for school. When classes begin, do you think he should continue working a part-time job, or would it be better for him to focus solely on his studies?

— Brenda

Dear Brenda,

There's really nothing wrong with either approach, especially during a kid's first semester in college. As a parent, though, I'd urge you not to fall into the trap of thinking his

Dave Ramsey Says

grades will go down if he holds a job while in school. Research actually shows that, on average, kids who work while in college carry higher grade point averages than those who don't.

The reasons for this differ, depending on who you ask, but I think a lot of it has to do with them having to learn to manage their time—and their lives—more effectively. Lots of kids could pay their way through school, and not have to worry about student loans, if they just used some of the time they spend watching television and on social activities at a job.

We never required our kids to work during the school year, but they were self-starters. And when they came home for the summer, there was no such thing as just lying around the house all day. They had jobs, and they made money. Of course, some of it went toward having a little fun during their time

off. But we made sure they set some aside for the next school year, too.

Long story short, the philosophy of not wanting kids at college to work so they can spend all their time studying is well-meaning, but misguided. For the most part, kids who work while they're in school will make better grades and develop into more mature and well-rounded individuals.

I hope this helps, Brenda!
— Dave

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

Commission Says Concentration of Alcohol Sellers in Neighborhood

By Sharon Pearce

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - The staff recommendation continued from the Feb. 14 Rancho Cordova Planning meeting for Valero Gas at 10299 Folsom Blvd. to deny the application for a conditional use permit for beer, wine and/or spirit sales on-site and off-site to grow the business was upheld at the March 13 meeting.

Owner Rakesh Sehgal/United Petroleum presented reasons for why it would be easier for commuters who gas up just before accessing the highway from his location to also buy bulk beer, wine, and/or spirits at the same time. After much discussion, the commission affirmed that the problem was "concentration" of sellers. Staff had determined there were already 11 site licenses in the area and did not see where the public's need for alcohol was not already served.

Commissioner Lee Frechette asked the ultimate question of Sehgal, "What need isn't being met that your license would meet?" Commissioner Leroy Tripette also asked that question.

Much of the meeting had covered displays of graphics and a police report from Officer Daniel Barela, Rancho Cordova who said "...no way to know if introducing beer and wine would increase calls for service. That was a grey area here. (But) this was about over-saturation. There is not a grey area on that." Additionally, the Police Department doesn't see a need based on both the number of onsite and of off-site alcohol sales sites in the area, Barela said.

Sehgal's applicant/developer, Daniel Savalas from Sacramento was present again to make a case for not denying the application. His arguments revolved on there likely not being calls for police

service to the site with a use permit, since newer establishments developed under CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) guidelines have proven safer settings with lighting and other measures, unlike the establishments licensed under the old rules.

Sehgal supporters present indicated they found his business a good one to stop in with friendly staff to buy low-cost gas just before accessing the highway and the alcohol sales would be an added incentive.

"This issue will go to council, which can do more, and you can make a case there," Planning Chair Cynthia Stauss said. "We only control land use; and can't enforce... We can control lighting, safety and structure matters but cannot regulate the individual items sold."

Arlene Granadosin-Jones, AICP Senior Planner presented a refresher report to the Planning Commission on General Plan Elements, required to be done annually, without need for any voting. Granadosin-Jones defined "Goals" as "over-arching desires citizens want for their community," and reported there were 497 actions in the General Plan, with six current and future projects. It was commented that the Housing Element must be annually updated, including as to lands available for development.

Included in the General Plan is a Hazard Mitigation Plan, including City Safety Measures, reports on storm water pumps, and a potential for a Feasibility Study. The General Plan projects are to be finished in 2026. It was also reported that home repairs are being funded, that there is a volunteer work program, and the city is partnering with Sacramento County and others to accept Section 8 vouchers. ★

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Social Security Matters

How Do Survivor Benefits Work for a Married Couple?



By Russell Gloor,
AMAC Certified Social
Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: How does Social Security handle the death of one spouse? Say, for example, the husband receives \$2,000 per month in Social Security and his wife receives \$1,000 per month. How is the death of either spouse handled? **Signed: Concerned spouse**

Dear Concerned: Benefits to a deceased beneficiary stop as soon as Social Security (SS) is notified of the death (notification usually done by the funeral director who handles arrangements). Benefits are not paid for the month of death, only for the preceding month when the beneficiary was alive for the entire month.

A surviving spouse is entitled to the higher of two benefits – their own personally earned SS retirement benefit, or an amount based on the deceased spouse's benefit at death. In the example you cite, and assuming the surviving spouse has reached full retirement age (FRA): if the husband dies first the wife will receive the husband's \$2,000 monthly benefit instead of her previous \$1,000 amount. But if the wife died first, the

husband would continue receiving only his \$2,000 monthly amount because that is more than his deceased wife was receiving. Note in either case, the surviving spouse would be entitled to a one-time lump sum "death benefit" of \$255.

The surviving spouse would need to contact Social Security to claim the "death benefit" and - unless the surviving spouse was previously receiving only a spousal benefit – also to claim the higher monthly amount, if eligible. If the surviving spouse was previously receiving only a spousal benefit from the deceased (and not entitled to SS retirement benefits on their own), then Social Security would automatically award their higher survivor amount when notified of the death.

If a surviving spouse has reached full retirement age (somewhere between 66 and 67 depending on year of birth) and is eligible for a survivor benefit, the amount of the survivor benefit will be 100% of the deceased spouse's benefit. But if the survivor claims the benefit before reaching FRA, the amount of the survivor benefit will be reduced (by 4.75% for each full year earlier). The survivor's benefit reaches maximum at the survivor's full retirement age.

If a surviving spouse has not yet reached their FRA, and if they are entitled to (not necessarily collecting) their own Social Security retirement benefit, the surviving spouse has the

option to delay claiming the survivor benefit until it reaches maximum at their full retirement age. And if the survivor's personal SS retirement benefit will ever be more than their maximum survivor benefit, the surviving spouse also has the option to claim only the smaller survivor benefit first and allow their personal SS retirement benefit to grow (to maximum at age 70 if desired).

With Social Security there is hardly ever a simple answer to a question but, in the example you use, if both are over their SS full retirement age:

- If the husband dies first, the wife will get 100% of the amount (\$2000) the husband was receiving, instead of the small amount (\$1000) she was previously receiving.

- If the wife dies first, the husband's monthly benefit will remain at \$2000, and he will get no increase in his monthly amount.

- In either case, the surviving spouse will be entitled to a one-time lump sum death benefit of \$255.

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). To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★

Many Californians Rely on this Farmers Market Program. Newsom Wants to Cut It

By Sarah Portnoy,
CALMatters.org

When we think of a farmers market in California, we usually picture vibrant displays of beautiful, albeit expensive, fruits and vegetables, and perhaps a tempting array of pricier prepared foods. However, the roots of farmers markets in California trace back to the late 1970s, when they first emerged in low-income areas.

They were designed to facilitate a direct connection between farmers and consumers, an arrangement that proved to be a win-win for both small-scale farmers and those seeking affordable, fresh produce.

Today, farmers markets may be more prevalent in affluent neighborhoods, but a key program has been working diligently to uphold their original spirit, making fresh fruits and vegetables accessible to all Californians. The Market Match program has successfully placed fresh produce into the shopping bags and kitchens of low-income Californians at more than 293 farmers markets across the state. Since 2010, this program has empowered shoppers who receive CalFresh benefits, allowing them to double their funds for exclusively California-grown fruits and vegetables.

Frank Tamborello, the executive director of Hunger Action Los Angeles, aptly describes the Market Match program as a "win-win-win." It helps fight hunger while promoting healthy eating habits and supports California farmers, boosting the small-farm economy and contributing to environmentally sustainable agriculture.

Despite its evident benefits, the program faces a looming

threat from budget cuts as state leaders work to close a multibillion-dollar deficit. Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed a \$33.2 million cut from the three-year, \$35 million California Nutrition Incentive Program, a move that would effectively end Market Match once the remaining funds dry up. Since 2015, the state has supported the program by matching federal funds through a grant from CNIP, enabling substantial expansion over the past nine years.

Market Match has routinely reported increases in low-income shoppers using their benefits at farmers markets. Last year, 9% of the roughly 574,000 visits were first-timers, underscoring the program's positive impact on both consumers and local farmers.

The potential loss of this program threatens low-income Californians' nutrition, especially those who live in food deserts where corner stores and vacant lots are more prevalent than full-service grocery stores. In such neighborhoods, an orange can cost more than a soda, highlighting the disparities in accessing affordable, nutritious food.

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The proposed cuts would also significantly impact rural farmers who rely on the revenue generated from weekly market sales. It's a steady source of income in an era defined by its unpredictability.

In the wake of the pandemic, the number of food-insecure households in California surged as costs for fresh produce increased. A USC study last year revealed that 1 in 3 households in Los Angeles County experience food insecurity, indicating a dire need for programs like Market Match. Cutting this essential program would exacerbate the challenges faced by low-income shoppers in bringing home nutritious food for their families, compounding the intense pressure to simply put food on the table.

Access to healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate food is a fundamental human right. As Californians confront the potential loss of the match program, we must recognize its profound impact. In a state known for its agricultural abundance, we cannot allow budgetary decisions to compromise the well-being of others in our community. ★

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Erwin Quial, 8300 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Carmichael, CA 95608 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "AlveoMed Nursing" 8300 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Carmichael, CA 95608. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 26, 2024
Publish: March 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024
ALVEOMED 3-29-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01234
Debrah Dickenson, 81 Natoma Street Suite 100, Folsom, CA 95630 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Folsom Smog Test Only" 81 Natoma Street Suite 100, Folsom, CA 95630. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 16, 2024
Publish: March 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024
FOLSOM 3-29-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01375
Kathryn LeGro, 6067 Shirley Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Bucket List Bridge" 6067 Shirley Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 23, 2024
Publish: March 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024
BUCKET 3-29-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01364
Maryna Sys, 5425 Garfield Avenue #125, Sacramento, CA 95841 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "MM Therapy" 5425 Garfield Avenue #125, Sacramento, CA 95841. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 23, 2024
Publish: March 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024
BUCKET 3-29-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01327
Michael Pugliese, 3849 Navaho Drive, Antelope, CA 95843 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Laseris Incidit" 3849 Navaho Drive, Antelope, CA 95843. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 22, 2024
Publish: March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 2024
LASERIS 4-5-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01267
California RVM Solutions, 3672 Stephen Drive, North Highlands, CA 95660 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Simply Recycle" 4802 San Juan Avenue, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 20, 2024
Publish: March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 2024
SIMPLY 4-5-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01603
SQY Inc, 8732 Fruitridge Road #2, Sacramento, CA 95826 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "SQY Autos Inc" 8732 Fruitridge Road #2, Sacramento, CA 95826. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 4, 2024
Publish: March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 2024
SQY 4-5-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01417
Mary E. Moreno, 9032 Rosewood Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Sterling Silver Roses & Things" 9032 Rosewood Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 26, 2024
Publish: March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 2024
STERLING 4-5-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01681
Niki Staben, 4265 Enchanted Circle, Roseville, CA 95747 and Craig Hall, 8220 Firewood Court, Orangevale, CA 95662 are doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "S&H Billiard Supply" 8220 Firewood Court, Orangevale, CA 95662. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 5, 2024
Publish: March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 2024
S&H 4-5-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-00838
The Anxiety Treatment Center, 10419 Old Placerville Road, Sacramento, CA 95827 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "The Anxiety Treatment Center" 10419 Old Placerville Road, Sacramento, CA 95827. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 1, 2024
Publish: March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 2024
THE 4-5-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01478
John A. Morrison, PO Box 655, Roseville, CA 95661 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Rush Our Delivery" 4946 Watt Avenue

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01800
Andrea Z Evans, PO Box 4145, Ketchum, ID 83340 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Phlantrophy Consulting Group" 205 Raven Road A1-5, Ketchum, ID

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01574
National Vision, Inc., 2435 Commerce Avenue, Duluth, GA 30096 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "America's Best Contacts & Eyeglasses" 2922 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 29, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
AMERICAS 4-12-24

Unit 23, North Highlands, CA 95660. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 27, 2024
Publish: March 15, 22, 29, April 5, 2024
RUSH 4-5-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01458
Richard Johnson, 4220 Prospect Drive, Carmichael, CA 95608 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Own It Real Estate" 1610 R Street Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95811. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 5, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
OWN 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01924
Lavender Nail Salon LLC, 1010A Florin Road, Sacramento, CA 95831 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Lavender Nail Salon" 1010A Florin Road, Sacramento, CA 95831. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 12, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
LAVENDER 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01805
Daniel W Todd, 2025 W El Camino Ace Apt 238, Sacramento, CA 95833 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Phantomice Interactive" 2025 W El Camino Ace Apt 238, Sacramento, CA 95833. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 7, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
PHANTOMICE 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01911
Xtelnetic LLC, 5252 Sunrise Boulevard Suite 4, Fair Oaks, CA 95628 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Netellix" 5252 Sunrise Boulevard Suite 4, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 12, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
NETELLIX 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01912
Niello Performance Motors II Inc, 1481 River Park Drive, Sacramento, CA 95815 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Porsche Sacramento" 2200 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95821. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 12, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
PORSCHE 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01928
Gateway Foods LLC, 6 Kitaj Court, Sacramento, CA 95835 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Taqueria La Puerta" 4391 Gateway Park Boulevard Suite 650, Sacramento, CA 95834. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 12, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
TAQUERIA 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01656
California Auto House, Inc, 7333 Roseville Road #5, Sacramento, CA 95842 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "California Auto House, Inc" 8636 Antelope North Road BLDG C, Antelope, CA 95843. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 5, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
CALIFORNIA 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01530
National Vision, Inc., 2435 Commerce Avenue, Duluth, GA 30096 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "America's Best Contacts & Eyeglasses" 2922 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 29, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
AMERICAS 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01531
National Vision, Inc., 2435 Commerce Avenue, Duluth, GA 30096 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "America's Best Contacts & Eyeglasses" 5899 Sunrise Boulevard, Citrus Heights, CA 95610. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 29, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
BEST 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01532
National Vision, Inc., 2435 Commerce Avenue, Duluth, GA 30096 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "America's Best Contacts & Eyeglasses" 7721 Laguna Boulevard Suite 128, Elk Grove, CA 95758. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 29, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
CONTACTS 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01533
National Vision, Inc., 2435 Commerce Avenue, Duluth, GA 30096 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "America's Best Contacts & Eyeglasses" 2395 Iron Point Road Suite 110, Folsom, CA 95630. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 29, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
EYEGLASSES 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01574
National Vision, Inc., 2435 Commerce Avenue, Duluth, GA 30096 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "America's Best Contacts & Eyeglasses" 2922 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 29, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
AMERICAS 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01574
National Vision, Inc., 2435 Commerce Avenue, Duluth, GA 30096 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "America's Best Contacts & Eyeglasses" 2922 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 29, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
AMERICAS 4-12-24

the Fictitious Business Name(s) "America's Best Contacts & Eyeglasses" 6019 Florin Road Suite 500, Sacramento, CA 95823. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 1, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
NATIONAL 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01848
Victoria Lose, 3432 Gates Way, Sacramento, CA 95832 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Journey to Freedom" 3432 Gates Way, Sacramento, CA 95832. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 8, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
JOURNEY 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01667
Grace Sur, 9545 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95827 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Beauty Solutions By Grace" 9545 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95827. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 5, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
BEAUTY 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01986
Michelle Green-Clark, 4615 Manzanita Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "KM Dance Arts" 4615 Manzanita Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 13, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
KM 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01925
Surinder Singh Bedwal, 7733 Charmain Court, Antelope, CA 95843 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Twin River ATMS" 7733 Charmain Court, Antelope, CA 95843. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 12, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
ACCREDITED 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01623
Accredited RealEstate Schools Inc, 7840 Madison Avenue #149, Fair Oaks, CA 95628 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Accredited Real Estate Schools Inc" 7840 Madison Avenue #149, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 12, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
ACCREDITED 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01932
Amanda Dugan, 6550 Sutter Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Ritual Cookies" 6550 Sutter Avenue, Carmichael, CA 95608. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 12, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
RITUAL 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01213
Best Choice Logistics Inc, 1922 Naomi Way, Sacramento, CA 95815 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Best Choice Logistics/BC Cab" 1922 Naomi Way, Sacramento, CA 95815. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 15, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
BEST 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01268
JDV Distribution LLC, 3710 Branch Street, Sacramento, CA 95838 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Jenner Vacation Rentals" 3710 Branch Street, Sacramento, CA 95838. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 20, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
JENNER 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01713
Ryan Stambuk, 3115 Eades Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Off Duty Photography" 3115 Eades Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 5, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
OFF 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01622
TNT Industrial Contractors, Inc., 3800 Happy Lane, Sacramento, CA 95827 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "TNT Industrial Contractors, Inc." 3800 Happy Lane, Sacramento, CA 95827. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 4, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
TNT 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01622
TNT Industrial Contractors, Inc., 3800 Happy Lane, Sacramento, CA 95827 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "TNT Industrial Contractors, Inc." 3800 Happy Lane, Sacramento, CA 95827. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County March 4, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
TNT 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01574
National Vision, Inc., 2435 Commerce Avenue, Duluth, GA 30096 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "America's Best Contacts & Eyeglasses" 2922 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 29, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
AMERICAS 4-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-01574
National Vision, Inc., 2435 Commerce Avenue, Duluth, GA 30096 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "America's Best Contacts & Eyeglasses" 2922 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County February 29, 2024
Publish: March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 2024
AMERICAS 4-12-24

why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted. Dated: February 8, 2024
Christopher E. Krueger, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: March 1, 8, 15, 22, 2024
TUTA 3-22-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #24CV001191
Jesus Daniel Resendez has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Jesus Daniel Resendez to Quentin Lemieux.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on April 30, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 54, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted. Dated: January 24, 2024
Christopher E. Krueger, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: March 1, 8, 15, 22, 2024
RESENDEZ 3-22-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #24CV003632
Mohammad Rahim Yalghaz has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Mohammad Rahim Yalghaz to Rahim Yalghaz.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on May 15, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 54, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted. Dated: February 28, 2024
Christopher E. Krueger, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: March 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024
YALGHAZ 3-29-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #24CV003621
Edward James Thompson and Iridian Eunice McConico has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Edward James Thompson to Edward James Salcido and Nazare Lenae Thompson to Nazare Lenae Salcido.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on May 14, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 54, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted. Dated: February 23, 2024
Christopher E. Krueger, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: March 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024
THOMPSON 3-29-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #24CV003707
Kennedy Mckenzie Gordon has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Kennedy Mckenzie Gordon to Kennedy Mackenzie O'Shea.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on May 15, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 54, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted. Dated: February 29, 2024
Christopher E. Krueger, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: March 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024
GORDON 3-29-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #24CV002615
Jackson Alexander Caine has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Jackson Alexander Caine to Hamza Mohammad Akhtar.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on June 6, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 53, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted. Dated: February 13, 2024
Richard K. Sueyoshi, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: March 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024
CAINE 3-29-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #24CV002660
Maleyka Aliyeva has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Maleyka Aliyeva to Malika Aliyeva.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on June 6, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 53, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted. Dated: February 14, 2024
Richard K. Sueyoshi, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: March 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024
ALIYEVA 3-29-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #24CV002730

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 Citrus Heights Messenger Adjudicated For and By the County of Sacramento, Adjudication No. 34-2020-00273535 - March 12, 2020
 The Rio Linda News Adjudicated For and By the County of Sacramento, Adjudication No. 358071 - March 21, 1988
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City of Rancho Cordova Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE is hereby given that on **Tuesday, April 2, 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 at the **Rancho Cordova City Hall, located at 2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova**, to consider the following:

SECOND AMENDMENT TO DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF RANCHO CORDOVA AND CRESLEIGH HOMES CORPORATION RELATIVE TO SUNRIDGE LOT J:

REQUEST: The applicant is requesting amendments to the previously approved Development Agreement for the Lot J subdivision in the Sunridge Specific Plan. The proposed amendment will extend the term of the Development Agreement an additional 5 years.

OWNER/APPLICANT:
 Cresleigh Homes Corporation
 Ms. Deana Ellis
 433 California Street, 7th Floor
 San Francisco, CA 94104

LOCATION/APN: Southeast corner of Douglas Road and Rancho Cordova Parkway in the Sunridge Specific Plan/
 APN: 067-2520-001 thru -013, 067-2520-021, 067-2520-034 thru -065, 067-2520-067 thru -069, 067-2520-076 thru -081, and 067-1060-004

ZONING: RD-4 and RD-10

ENVIRONMENTAL: Categorically Exempt under Section 15183 (Projects consistent with a Community Plan, General Plan, or Zoning) of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines.

PROJECT PLANNER: Darcy Goulart, Planning Manager

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 the City of Rancho Cordova Planning Division at (916) 851-8750.

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 March 22, 2024.

Sacramento Native Serves at Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Andrew Hanchar, Navy Office of Community Outreach

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Lt. Jessica Valeske, a Sacramento native, serves the U.S. Navy assigned to Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) Pacific.

Valeske graduated from Sheldon High School in 2008.

The skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Sacramento.

"My family back at home has taught me the power of respect and integrity," said Valeske. "Having these values instilled in me from such a young age has helped me in my Navy career."

Valeske joined the Navy 11 years ago. Today, Valeske serves as an engineering duty officer.

"I joined the Navy because college was expensive and the Navy provided an alternative that would give me life-long skills," said Valeske. "I also wanted to get out of my hometown and see the world."

NIWC Pacific is comprised of more than 5,200 scientists, researchers, engineers, technicians, and personnel who develop and deploy technologies to support warfighters from seabed to space.

With 90% of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to recruiting and retaining talented people from across the rich fabric of America.

"We will earn and reinforce the trust and confidence of the American people every day," said Adm. Lisa Franchetti, Chief of Naval Operations. "Together we will deliver the Navy the nation needs."

Valeske has many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during military service.

"I am most proud to have been accepted to the Naval Academy where I earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in electrical engineering," said Valeske. "I am also proud of having gone on three deployments and having climbed the ranks from enlisted to commissioning to becoming a lieutenant."



Lt. Jessica Valeske. Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jordan Jennings, Navy Office of Community Outreach

Valeske serves a Navy that operates far forward, around the world and around the clock, promoting the nation's prosperity and security.

"Serving in the Navy means giving up certain rights and holidays to serve and protect the American people," said Valeske. "We as sailors become something bigger than ourselves."

Valeske is grateful to others for helping make a Navy career possible.

"I would like to thank my mom, Susan, and the rest of my family for always supporting me and being there for me whenever I needed them," said Valeske.

Valeske is also grateful for the opportunity to serve in the Navy.

"I am looking forward to building and contributing to innovating the fleet in terms of technology and keeping this Navy the biggest and strongest navy in the world," added Valeske. ★



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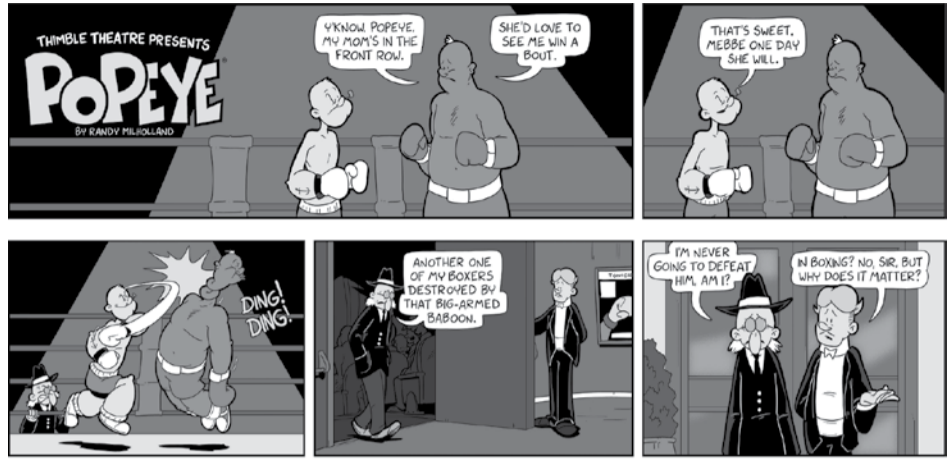
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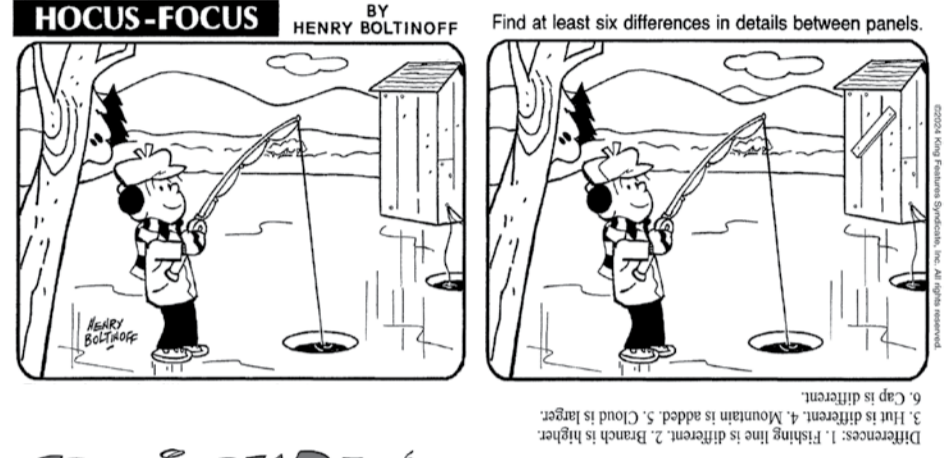
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



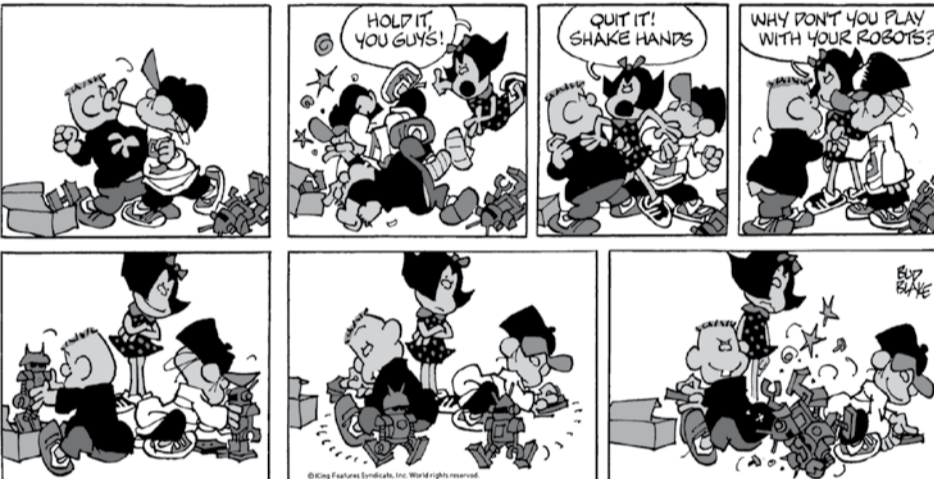
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by Gary Kopervas



TIGER

by Bud Blake



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CLUES

ACROSS

- Swell up
- Pendulum's path
- Type of salmon
- *Steve Miller Band: "I want to fly like an _____"
- Simon & Garfunkel, e.g.
- Popular winter boot brand
- Ohio city
- Lodge
- Squirrel away
- *Glenn Frey: "The pressure's high just to stay alive 'cause _____ is on"
- *John Travolta in "Grease": "I got _____ they're multipl'in"
- Automated teller
- Clarified butter
- Bad-mouth, slangily
- Stag
- Tartans
- "I'm _____ you!"
- Commies
- Monocot's alternative
- Road's edge
- Living room centerpiece?
- Prefix meaning "left"
- Deadly snake
- Sasquatch's cousin
- Court petitioner
- Blood infection
- Indian flatbread
- Opposite of post-
- Sound of impact
- *Duran Duran: "Her name is _____, and she dances on the sand"
- *The Beatles: "Take a sad song and make it _____"
- *Elvis: "We're caught in a trap, I can't _____"
- Relating to a mode
- Scrooge's exclamation
- Memory failure
- Bouquet thrower
- Number of candles on a cake
- Musketeers' weapons
- Picnic invaders
- *"Just kidding!"
- Did, archaic

DOWN

- *The Go-Go's: "They got the _____"
- 100,000, in India
- Cameron Diaz' Fiona, e.g.
- Hula dancer's hello
- These are held to be true
- Miners' passage
- *Tainted Love: "Once I ran to you, now I _____"
- "Lord of the Flies" shell
- Like the other side of the pillow?
- Certain kind of exam
- Not his
- Antiquated
- Protection from a sword
- To death, in French (2 words)
- _____ B vaccine
- Manna from heaven
- *Bon Jovi: "Tommy used to work on the _____"
- Habituate
- Spaghetti
- *Don McLean: "Drove my chevy to the _____"
- Pains
- Frost over (2 words)
- Capital of Delaware
- *Tennessee Ernie Ford: "I owe my soul to the company _____"
- Geishas' sashes
- "_____ good example"
- Royal topper
- _____tattle
- Pronoun
- Refused to act, archaic
- City-related
- Giraffe's striped-legged cousin
- *Bruce Springsteen: "Tramps like us, baby we were _____ to run"
- Change a manuscript
- Small amounts
- Make sharper
- Newspaper piece
- Applications
- Midterm, e.g.
- Wharton degree, acr.
- Back then

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What Are They to Do?

Sacramento gave a homeless camp a lease as an experiment

By Marisa Kendall
CALMatters.org

When Sacramento changed its plan to demolish a homeless encampment on a vacant lot on Colfax Street, instead offering the homeless occupants a lease, activists and camp residents celebrated it as a win.

The first-of-its-kind deal, which allows the camp to remain in place and govern itself without city interference, was held up as a model Sacramento could replicate at future sites. Other cities, including San Jose, have said they're considering similar models, putting the success or failure of this encampment under the microscope.

A year later, Sacramento has not managed to reproduce the concept and has no plans to. Residents of the camp, who lack electricity or running water, complain they feel forgotten. And the county district attorney, claiming the site threatens public safety, has demanded the city clear the camp or risk prosecution.

Those troubles highlight the logistical and ethical dilemmas that come with setting aside outdoor spaces for homeless residents to go when there aren't enough beds indoors. And it comes at a time when officials across the state increasingly are turning to this last-ditch solution as they face mounting pressure to clear encampments away from sidewalks, parks, schools and other high-traffic public areas.

"The fact that people have a place where they can legally exist and not be threatened with arrest, not be run off and have to lose their belongings, where they can go to the bathroom with dignity, where there's trash pickup so they don't have to live in a place where there's trash all over, where service providers can find them regularly and they aren't going to lose contact with people as they work their way to housing — those are all good things," said Eric Tars, senior policy director of the National Homelessness Law Center. "But it would be even better if they were doing them indoors."

They Got A Lease, And They Make Their Own Rules

Camp Resolution, as the Sacramento camp is known, was started in 2022 by Sharon and Joyce Jones — a married couple in their 50s who found themselves homeless for the first time late in life. More than four-dozen people now live there, some in new-looking Bullet trailers provided by the city, and others in cars, tents and more dilapidated trailers and RVs.

Some residents have taken pains to make it more homey: Two potted plants hang from the hitch of one trailer, chickens roam the lot, and Sharon and Joyce are putting in a garden, using pallets to make raised planter beds.

"We try to make it as comfortable as possible," Joyce said, "but sometimes it's impossible."

Shortly after Joyce and her community occupied the city-owned, formerly vacant lot in 2022, city workers determined the camp was unsafe and needed to be demolished — as often happens in Sacramento and throughout California. But that's where the story takes an unusual turn. Residents of the camp, and their supporters, showed up in force to a city council meeting and persuaded council members to delay the sweep. About six months later, the city signed a lease allowing the camp to remain in place.

The lease, which advocacy group Safe Ground Sacramento signed on behalf of the Camp Resolution residents, was an experiment. Generally, similar programs are run by nonprofits contracted by a city. They often impose curfews, no-guest policies, sobriety requirements and other rules on residents. In exchange, they offer social services such as counseling or help finding permanent housing, and amenities such as showers and bathrooms.

"They don't think people experiencing homelessness are capable of governing themselves," Tars said. "Camp Resolution is different.



Joyce and Sharon Jones poke holes in a water bottle to water their garden next to their trailer at Camp Resolution on Feb. 28, 2024. The camp has no running water, so residents must rely on bottled water for all their needs. Photo by Fred Greaves for CalMatters



Jeanne Gillis cooks ground turkey over a wood fire beside her trailer at Camp Resolution on Feb. 28, 2024. Residents must rely on bottled water, generators, and wood fires because no utilities are provided at the camp. Photo by Fred Greaves for CalMatters

Safe Ground Sacramento, which leases the property from the city for free, takes a hands-off approach that lets residents run the camp and write their own rules. The city gave the residents a handful of residential trailers, set up portable toilets and a hand-washing station, and provided dumpsters and ongoing trash pickup. But that's it.

Many activist groups laud that model as a best practice, saying it's important to let the residents run, or at least help run, their own camp.

"When individuals in these encampments have a sense of ownership, then it can really lead to the camp being a place that they take pride in and that they are trying to keep in as good condition as possible," Tars said. "It gives a sense of responsibility to others in that community."

It also means minimal overhead for the city: The trailers provided to Camp Resolution residents came from the Federal Emergency Management Agency at no cost to the city of Sacramento, and adding the camp to the city's existing contract for trash pickup didn't add any additional expense.

But in the case of Camp Resolution, it also means residents are left to fend for themselves. The city doesn't provide electricity or running water. Community members donate food, some residents have generators, and a nonprofit used to bring a trailer with showers every other Sunday — but they recently stopped.

"It's not going very well," Joyce said. "I think that (the city) should do a little bit more."

The Camp Resolution lease says the city would provide up to 33 trailers. Residents ended up receiving just 16. But 51 people live at the camp, meaning some people sleep in tents, in their cars or in dilapidated trailers and RVs that leak in the rain and have sprouted mold.

The city wouldn't comment on the trailers — or anything else — citing a pending threat of prosecution from the county District Attorney's Office. City officials recently sent 40 trailers to a new safe sleeping site they opened on Roseville Road, which also has

and held underground storage tanks for diesel and gasoline, he said. It's not safe to camp on the contaminated soil, according to his letter. But only half of the site is paved, while the other half is bare dirt — and people live on both sides.

Ho's office did not set a specific deadline for the city to clear the encampment, leaving it unclear exactly what, if anything, will come of his threat.

When asked about Ho's next steps, Sonia Martinez Satchell, a spokesperson for the District Attorney's Office, indicated prosecution is still on the table.

"To date, the City has failed to move the unhoused off this toxic

has agreed to take up the case and will hear arguments next month. But for now, cities' hands remain largely tied if they lack enough shelter beds.

Safe sleeping sites take many different forms — and have a range of price tags. In August, after the city stalled in its attempts to open safe sleeping sites, Sacramento City Manager Howard Chan single-handedly tried to identify locations for the projects. He initially said Camp Resolution could be a model for future sites — because it cost the city so little to run, it would allow the city to open more sites than if they used more expensive models.

Instead, the city in January launched its next safe sleeping site, on Roseville Road, with more services, more oversight and a greater cost — \$3.2 million per year. The site has 60 rudimentary tiny homes and 40 trailers and is governed by a nonprofit contracted through the city.

But, due to an anticipated budget shortfall for the coming fiscal year, the city has no plans to launch additional safe sleeping sites, Swanson said. At a committee meeting last month, city staff predicted that by next year, the city's budget for homeless services would be short \$11 million. By the 2025-26 fiscal year, they expected to be short nearly \$39 million.

Life At Camp Resolution

There are about 800 people on the waitlist to get into Camp Resolution, according to Sharon and Joyce. Only six people from the camp have moved out and into permanent housing, they said. Just on the other side of the gate that separates Camp Resolution from the rest of the world, a group of people live in a cluster of cars parked haphazardly on the side of the road. Across the street, someone has erected a makeshift shack. RVs that serve as stand-in homes line the road.

Inside the gate, Sharon and Joyce tend to have the ultimate say in what goes, though there's also a council that meets on Thursday evenings to discuss camp issues. Things don't always go smoothly.

Last year a neighbor's dogs attacked Sharon and sent her to the hospital with multiple bite injuries. That led to new rules at the camp about pets. But Sharon and Joyce say it's hard to actually enforce the rules they impose.

"We need more structure," Sharon said.

As they showed off the different parts of their community, Sharon and Joyce expressed disapproval of a trash pile in the middle of the camp. "That can go in the trash can," Joyce said. It didn't take long. A few minutes later, residents could be seen picking up the garbage and carrying it to a nearby dumpster.

CalMatters Capitol reporter Jeanne Kuang contributed to this story. ★



Jeanne Gillis uses tubs to wash dishes next to her trailer at Camp Resolution on Feb 28, 2024. Photo by Fred Greaves for CalMatters

plumbed toilets and showers.

Several of the Camp Resolution residents are elderly, and some have serious medical issues that make living without reliable power and water difficult. One woman, who recently turned 60, is on dialysis and gets around on an electric mobility scooter that she leaves parked outside her trailer.

Most of the residents are women, some of whom wouldn't feel safe on the streets by themselves. Jeanne Gillis, 53, was cooking ground turkey over an open flame outside her trailer on a recent Wednesday. Gillis, who used to work as a medical patients' advocate, lost her housing two years ago when she got sick with lupus and could no longer work. She'd never been homeless before and didn't know what to do — so Sharon and Joyce took her under their wing. Now she's part of their tight-knit community.

"Thank God for everybody. Because it's hard," she said, tearing up. "I don't think I'd be here if it wasn't for everybody."

Camp Resolution Faces Legal Threat

Camp Resolution also faces an outside threat — Sacramento County District Attorney Thien Ho has demanded that the city close the camp. His office sent a letter to the city and Safe Ground Sacramento in November labeling the site a public health hazard. The site is contaminated by toxic chemicals left over from when it was used as a vehicle maintenance yard

waste site," she said in an emailed statement. "We will not waver from our commitment to protect public safety for all. As outlined in our letter, all available actions and recourse remain available."

But camp residents and the advocates working with them say they've heard nothing but silence from the District Attorney's Office since the November letter. That means the fate of those living at Camp Resolution is still up in the air.

Tim Swanson, spokesman for the City Manager's Office, said the city can't comment on any aspect of Camp Resolution because of the pending threat of prosecution.

Sharon and Joyce aren't concerned — they claim the camp isn't on the portion of the site that's contaminated. Ho's letter is just an excuse to try to kick them off the property, they said.

Sanctioned Homeless Encampments In California

Faced with a massive shortage of affordable homes, desperate city officials across California are considering opening places where unhoused people can legally set up tents. The move could give them more power to clear encampments from around parks, schools, downtown zones and other high-profile areas. That's because unless cities have somewhere for displaced unhoused residents to go, the 2018 appellate case *Martin v. Boise* limits the extent to which they can clear encampments. That could change soon, as the Supreme Court

Protecting Yourself from EBT Theft

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - California has been experiencing an increase in the occurrence of Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) theft. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is providing security tips and information on how to protect your benefits that can be found on their website at www.cdss.ca.gov in English and Spanish.

How EBT Theft Occurs

EBT Skimming occurs when a thief places a device on a retailer's card-swiping machine to copy your EBT card information so they can steal your EBT benefits.

EBT Scamming occurs when a thief deceives you into giving out your personal information so they can steal your EBT benefits. Personal information includes your EBT card number, EBT PIN number, social security number, or bank information.

How to Protect Your Benefits with ebtEDGE

A new mobile app and web-based portal called ebtEDGE provides new features for EBT cardholders in California, allowing them to better protect their CalFresh and CalWORKs benefits. Features include

freezing and unfreezing your account, monitoring transactions for suspicious activity, blocking online and out-of-state transactions, changing your pin, and more. The free app is available for download in the Apple App store and Google Play store. Web-based access is available at www.ebt.ca.gov/cardholder.

How to Report EBT Theft

If you think your benefits may have been stolen, you should immediately call the customer service telephone number on the back of your EBT card, 877-328-9677, and the Sacramento County office at 1-800-560-0976.

In addition to calling to report EBT theft, you must turn in a completed EBT 2259 form to the nearest Sacramento County office within 90 calendar days from the date of the theft. You can find the forms and more details online at ha.saccounty.gov/benefits/Pages/EBTCashBenefits.aspx. The county will investigate and process the claim within 10 business days.

To learn more about how to protect yourself from EBT theft, visit www.cdss.ca.gov or view the CDSS "Watch Out for EBT Scams" videos in English or Spanish. ★

Former President and CEO Honored as Distinguished Banker of the Year



First Northern Bank News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - First Northern Bank, the region's #1 local small business lender, is pleased to announce that its former President & CEO, Louise Walker, has been honored with the Distinguished Banker of the Year Award by the prestigious California Bankers Association (CBA).

This esteemed recognition honors a banker who personifies what it is to be a distinguished California banker – a banker who is dedicated to the industry, a role model for future leaders, engaged in their community, and serves as a leader within the association.

"We are proud of Louise and all the contributions she makes in the banking industry. She is a valuable resource and business advocate, who continues to

make an impact in all the communities that surround her," said Jeremiah Smith, President & CEO of First Northern Bank.

The CBA's Bank Presidents Seminar, held in January, was attended by industry leaders and peers, celebrating Louise Walker's outstanding achievements.

After a successful 43-year career at First Northern Bank, headquartered in Dixon, California, Louise retired at the end of 2022. She began working at the Bank at the age of 18 as a file clerk and held a variety of positions in Operations, Human Resources, Risk Management, Compliance, Accounting, and Finance, before retiring as President and CEO.

Louise has exemplified her passion for community banking, supporting local communities, and inspiring others to do the same. Her contributions to community banking are complemented by her abilities as a strong, charismatic, and approachable leader who has always been personally committed to and invested in the success of her team members, the Bank's customers, and her peers in the community.

"It is humbling to be

selected as the California Bankers Association's Distinguished Banker of the Year," Walker said. "Banking has been my passion for more than 40 years, and what a fulfilling career it has been on so many levels. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the communities within the Greater Sacramento and Solano County regions at the local level, as well as the overall banking community at the industry level. My journey in banking has always been about championing for the people side of our business, and the important role banks and their employees play not only as trusted advisors who provide financial products and services, but how critical they are for the vitality of the communities they serve through sponsorships, donations, grants, and volunteerism."

Throughout her career, Louise's leadership has served her well as a board member for many private and public organizations including CBA, American Bankers Association, the Pacific Coast Bankers Bank, a member of the Executive Committee of the Valley Vision Board of Directors, and First Northern Bank's Board of Directors, to name a few. ★

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Experience a delightful afternoon of classic songs from *Oklahoma*, *Carousel*, *The Sound of Music*, *The King and I*, *South Pacific* and more.

Broadway's Dynamic Duo



Jana McIntyre, Soprano
 Krista Wigle, Mezzo
 Sam Faustine, Tenor
 Jerry Lee, Baritone



SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center
 1301 L STREET, SACRAMENTO

Box Office | Tues-Fri 10am-4pm | 916.808.5181
 or Ticketmaster.com

SACRAMENTOCHORAL.ORG

Artistic Edge Gallery

ART SHOW

FEBRUARY thru MAY

2024

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 Sacto, CA 95825
 916-482-2787

Reception

Dr. Jan Cooper
 March 30, 2024
 3:30-5:30



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