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# THE NEWS

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## Social Worker Saves Child's Life

**Sacramento County News Release**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - For social workers with Sacramento County Child Protective Services, quick actions can sometimes be the difference between life and death. That was the case during a recent emergency call for Renee, a Sacramento County social worker. When a mother told Renee that her one-year-old child was not breathing, Renee jumped into action and called 911. In the emergency, Renee realized she had to take immediate steps. She pushed on the child's stomach to clear their airway, restoring the child's breathing.

Renee's dedication to helping the family in need did not stop there. She stayed by the child's side until medical professionals arrived. She also provided support to the mother, arranging transportation to the hospital, and followed up to make sure they arrived safely.

While her actions had a life-changing impact on the family, Renee says she was just doing her job. She says her coworkers would have done the same thing if they were in the situation. She is humbled to be recognized for her actions because she doesn't do the work for the recognition, but to help make a difference in her community.

"What brings me the most joy in my career is when a family reaches out and shares how my work has helped to improve their lives and their children's lives or a client makes an effort to thank me for my work years later," says Renee. Renee is an Emergency



Renee, the social worker who saved a child's life. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Response Social Worker for the Department of Child, Family, and Adult Services (DCFAS) and she has worked for the department for about 17 years. In her role, she focuses on improving child safety and reducing risks in the communities she serves. Beyond her heroic actions during emergencies, Renee's daily work involves advocating for families, conducting

thorough assessments, and collaborating with various agencies to ensure comprehensive support for children and caregivers.

Renee's hard work and dedication to DCFAS are just one shining example of how social workers make a positive difference in families' lives. DCFAS leadership thanks Renee for her compassion and continued work in keeping kids safe. ★

## Sacramento County's Inspector General Selected



Kevin Gardner, Sacramento's new Inspector General. Courtesy photo

**Sacramento County News Release**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on March 26 to approve the selection of Kevin Gardner as the County's new Inspector General and authorizes the County Executive to sign a contract with Gardner for that position, effective April 2, 2024.

The nationwide search commenced with two collaborative interview panels that were convened for the Inspector General search. One panel was comprised of members appointed by the Community Review Commission, as well as representatives from both the Law Enforcement Management Association (LEMA) and the Sacramento County Deputy Sheriff's Association (SCDSA).

The second panel included the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, the Sheriff, and representatives from LEMA and SCDSA.

All panel representatives expressed their support of moving forward with recommending Gardner's appointment.

Gardner has 31 years of sworn law enforcement experience, including service with the City of Vacaville and City of Sacramento police departments. During his time with the City of Sacramento, Gardner rose through the ranks, ultimately becoming an Acting Deputy Chief.

Beginning in 2017, Gardner served two years as the Chief of the Division of Law Enforcement for the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. Most recently, he served as the Interim Director for the City of Sacramento's Office of Public Safety Accountability.

Gardner has a bachelor's degree in administration  
*Continued on page 3*

## Metro Fire's FIRE CAMP Opens



On day one, campers will be organized into "strike teams," which consist of eight campers who are mentored and supervised by two professional firefighters. Photo courtesy of Metro Fire

**Metro Fire News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - FIRE CAMP is an excellent opportunity for our firefighters to help 11, 12 and 13-year-old kids build a sense of teamwork and responsibility while learning what it's like to be a firefighter for Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District. On day one, campers will be organized into "strike teams," which consist of eight campers who are mentored and supervised by two professional firefighters. As the week progresses, the teams take

on a character of their own as they learn about the job of a firefighter and experience the following:

- Putting out a flammable liquid fire with a fire extinguisher
- Climbing a 105-foot aerial ladder truck
- Developing the traditional bucket brigade and hand pumper crew skills
- Learning life skills such as Hands-Only CPR
- Water rescue skills at SunSplash, and much more!

FIRE CAMP will be held on June 25-28 and occurs at Fire Station

21, 7641 Greenback Lane, Citrus Heights, 95610. Cost is \$125 and campers will rely on a parent or guardian for daily transportation.

**TO SIGN UP:** an interest list will be delivered in the Metro Fire newsletter on April 1, 2024! To register for their newsletter, visit <https://metrofire.ca.gov/metro-fire-newsletter>.

For more information about Metro Fire's FIRE CAMP visit their website: <https://metrofire.ca.gov/firecamp>

For sponsorship or to partner with us email: [firecamp@metrofire.ca.gov](mailto:firecamp@metrofire.ca.gov) ★

# Sacramento Superior Court Celebrates Historic Women Leaders



Sacramento Superior Court Presiding Judge Bunmi O. Awoniyi speaks with Judge Dena M. Coggins, Jury Commissioner Ginger Durham and CFO Laetesia Ible in her chambers. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Superior Court

## Superior Court of California News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento Superior Court proudly celebrates the contributions of historic women leaders who have blazed trails within the court.

Presiding Judge Bunmi O. Awoniyi is the first Black woman to preside over the unified Superior Court of Sacramento. Judge Awoniyi was appointed to the bench by Gov. Jerry Brown in 2012. During her tenure, she has served rotations in Family Law, Criminal Domestic Violence, Criminal Trials, and Master Calendar for all Criminal assignments. She also served as the Supervising Judge for Family Law and Probate for four years and served two years as the court's Assistant Presiding Judge.

Juvenile Court Supervising Judge Dena M. Coggins is the first Black woman from the Sacramento County bench to be nominated by a sitting president to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California. Judge Coggins was appointed to the bench by Gov. Gavin Newsom in March 2021. She presides over dependency matters.

Veteran court employee Ginger Durham is the first Black woman to serve as Jury Commissioner for Sacramento Superior

Court. Durham is a Nationally Certified Court Manager through the National Center of State Courts and has worked at the court for 18 years. In addition to Jury and Interpreter Services, she has also managed the court reporters and court attendants throughout her career, is an active participant in several statewide pilot programs, is the Language Access Representative for the Sacramento Superior Court and is on the bargaining team for the Region 3 Courts in the court's labor relationship with the California Communications Workers Union.

Laetesia Ible is the first Black woman to serve as the court's Chief Financial Officer. Prior to joining the court in 2023, Ible had more than 15 years of experience with Sacramento County in various fiscal roles. She previously managed the Sacramento County Probation Department's Fiscal Unit as a Senior Administrative Analyst, overseeing all budgetary, purchasing, accounting, contracting, and grant reporting for the department.

In honor of the recent Women's History Month, the Sacramento Superior Court recognizes all women leaders who have made indelible marks on the judicial system. Their courage, determination, and commitment to justice are inspiration for an equitable and inclusive future. ★

# Rep. Ami Bera Holds Roundtable, Tours EV Manufacturing Facility



## Office of Rep. Ami Bera News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - On March 18, Representative Ami Bera, M.D. (CA-06) hosted Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 Administrator Martha Guzman for a roundtable discussion with regional stakeholders and toured Lion Electric's all-electric truck, bus, and minibus manufacturing facility in Sacramento County.

They were joined by Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, Sacramento County District 2 Supervisor Patrick Kennedy, Sacramento City Councilman Eric Guerra, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Executive Director and Air Pollution Control Officer Alberto Ayala, and other local leaders to highlight Sacramento's

climate successes, showcase EPA investments in the Sacramento community, and discuss potential avenues for continued EPA regional support.


"From the Inflation Reduction Act to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, I am pleased to see President Biden's Investing in America agenda at work right here in Sacramento County," said Congressman Ami Bera. "I extend my thanks to Administrator Guzman and her team at the EPA for their continued partnership in supporting critical investments in our region's infrastructure, including electric vehicle manufacturing, that will create job opportunities and pave the way for cleaner and greener transportation options."

"The Sacramento region's innovative and ambitious plans for utilizing the full range of historic federal investments supported by President Biden's Investing in America agenda — from soil health to electric vehicle charging in disadvantaged communities — constitute a national model," said EPA Pacific Southwest Regional Administrator Martha Guzman. "I applaud local

leaders for their commitment to collaboration, and to moving the ball forward on the most difficult environmental justice and climate change challenges."

"Thank you to Congressman Bera, and to the EPA, for supporting critical investments in air quality improvement, monitoring and infrastructure projects in neighborhoods most impacted by pollution," said Sac Metro Air District Air Pollution Control Officer Dr. Alberto Ayala. "We are thrilled to highlight the electric, hydrogen, and biomass projects already underway in our region focused on advancing environmental justice and reducing negative climate impacts in our region. Through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program, made possible by the Inflation Reduction Act and the Investing in America Agenda, our region has a comprehensive plan ready to address these challenges through innovative and cutting-edge projects. We look forward to advancing our collaborative efforts and driving positive climate action in the Sacramento region for years to come." ★





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# Sacramento County's Inspector General Selected

Continued from page 1

of justice from Union Institute and University and a master's degree in leadership from Saint Mary's College.

The Office of the Inspector General was created to facilitate the Board of Supervisors' responsibility to oversee without interfering with the Sheriff's investigation of personnel deployment functions.

The Inspector General ensures the integrity of the citizen complaint process and the thoroughness and fairness of related Sheriff's Office investigations, while fostering positive relations with the community. The Community Review Commission acts in a supporting role to the Office of Inspector General and acts as

a conduit between the community and the Office of Inspector General.

Sign up to receive email or mobile text messages when new Community Review Commission meeting information is available.

The Inspector General works independently on items detailed in the scope of services. The Inspector General will present recommendations relating to these examinations to the Board of Supervisors, County Executive, and the Sheriff.

The Office of the Inspector General is a contract position. The contract, once executed, will be effective beginning April 2, 2024, through March 31, 2026, with the option to renew the contract for one additional two-year term. ★

# Cooper Supports Initiative to Restore Safety to Our Neighborhoods and Communities



Sheriff Jim Cooper. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

## Sacramento County Sheriff's Office News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - In 2014, the voters passed Proposition 47 (Prop 47). Those who wrote the initiative deceived the public by naming it the "Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act." I actively opposed Prop 47 because it was clear to me that this initiative would severely hurt our communities and eliminate much-needed programs to ensure the public's safety. The proposition nearly decriminalized narcotic possession for personal use, including fentanyl, cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine.

It also made retail theft very lucrative for serial thieves by reducing penalties to virtually the same as receiving a traffic ticket. It also prohibited adding the dollar amounts from multiple thefts, resulting in an illegal industry in which career thieves could repeatedly steal with minor consequences.

However, the most damage caused by Prop 47 was the decimation of mandated drug and alcohol courts that were used to get people help in lieu of jail time. Just in Sacramento alone, drug court participation dropped over 70% because of the so-called "Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act."

After its passage, I spent eight years in the California Legislature attempting to correct the reckless impacts of Prop 47. After many attempts to amend the proposition, California courts and

Legislative legal counsel deemed that Prop 47 could not be fixed by the Legislature and had to be returned to the voters for any meaningful amendments. In 2020, because the only way to return to common sense and restore public safety was through the action of the voters, I was one of the proponents of Proposition 20 (Prop 20), which would have fixed the problems we are all witnessing today.

Once again, the advocates for criminal lawlessness lied to the voters, claiming that Prop 20 would result in "mass prison incarceration." Sadly, that measure failed, and the problem of rampant retail theft, homelessness, and drug addiction has only gotten worse.

As Sacramento County Sheriff, I have witnessed first-hand the horrific problems brought about by Prop 47 in our community. It continues to devastate businesses of all sizes and types. Many small community-based businesses have been driven to the brink of closure. Additionally, the catastrophic impacts of Prop 47 on drug addiction left untreated cannot be denied in Sacramento. Without the ability of the courts to mandate drug treatment, many people's lives continue to be ravaged by addiction, leading to homelessness and death.

As Sheriff, I have tried to address the homeless and theft crisis. Through our intervention efforts, data has been collected and analyzed, which shows in Sacramento County alone, 66% of our homeless population has a drug or alcohol addiction. I have also conducted major retail theft operations. One operation named "Operation Bad Elf" netted over 300 misdemeanor arrests for retail theft in just a 7-day period. This is nothing short of unabated lawlessness caused by Prop 47's misguided provisions promoting criminal behavior

with no accountability. I conducted these operations because I refuse to have the citizens of Sacramento County be victims of the unjust laws created by Prop 47. However, those arrests are still misdemeanors and operations that size are costly to the taxpayer and unsustainable. Furthermore, those addicted to drugs and alcohol will continue to have their lives caught in substance abuse turmoil until we have the courage to mandate their treatment. I will continue doing what the law allows me to keep you safe and increase your quality of life, but it will not be enough.

This is why I am endorsing the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act Initiative, which is in the qualification phase and if qualified, it will give the voters an opportunity to amend the dangerous and failed aspects of Prop 47.

This initiative will classify repeated retail thefts as a felony if they have two or more theft convictions. It allows for stolen property values to be combined so serial thieves can be charged with a felony if that amount exceeds \$950.

Also, it adds fentanyl to the list of hard drugs that are illegal to possess with a firearm, enacts the "treatment mandated felony" that would give drug addicts the option to get treatment instead of going to jail, and allows drug-addicted offenders who successfully complete drug and mental health treatment to avoid jail time.

This initiative does not repeal Prop 47, does not lead to "mass incarceration," and is necessary because the California Legislature cannot, by statute, fix the chaos created by Prop 47. It must be fixed by the voters.

I urge you to join me in this effort to return our neighborhoods and schools to safer places that have been devastated by Prop 47. ★

- Sheriff Jim Cooper

# Shooting On Paladin Way in Rio Linda

## Sacramento County Sheriff's Office News Release

**RIO LINDA, CA (MPG)** - At approximately 4:15 a.m. on Wednesday, March 27, North Patrol Deputies responded to the 7100 block of Paladin Way in Rio Linda regarding a shooting at a residence. Deputies arrived on scene and discovered at least two homes that had been shot at, with one appearing to be the main target having been struck a significant amount more than the other.

Investigators arrived on scene and recovered over 30 bullet casings and other items of evidentiary value. Deputies canvassed the neighborhood and also discovered surveillance video capturing the incident. The Sheriff's Gang Suppression Unit has since taken over this investigation, as they believe the shooting was gang related. Detectives believe one of the homes was directly targeted.

Detectives are asking anyone with information about this incident to contact the Sheriff's Office at 916-874-5115 or

Sacramento Valley Crime Stoppers at 916-443-HELP (4357). Tips leading to an arrest are eligible for a CASH reward of up to \$1000, and tipsters remain anonymous. Tips are paid in cash, and you are never asked for identification. Contact Sacramento Valley Crime Stoppers at 916-443-HELP (4357), 1-800-AA-CRIME, or \*\*TIPS.

Use the "P3 TIPS" app or online at [www.sacvalleycrimestoppers.com](http://www.sacvalleycrimestoppers.com). Tip information may also be left anonymously at [www.sacsheriff.com](http://www.sacsheriff.com) or by calling 916-874-TIPS (8477). ★

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# Twin Rivers Teacher Recruitment Fair

## TRUSD News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Mark your calendars! Twin Rivers Unified's highly-anticipated Teacher Recruitment Fair is just around the corner, featuring a diverse array of opportunities and an

attractive \$4,500 hiring bonus, dependent on current needs. This event serves as a vital platform for educators seeking new challenges, professional growth, and rewarding teaching positions across various subjects and grade levels.

**WHO:** Twin Rivers Unified School District  
**WHAT:** Teacher Recruitment Fair  
**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 3 to 6 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Twin Rivers Unified School District (Bay A), 5115 Dudley Blvd., McClellan, CA ★

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# California Insurance Market 'In Chaos'



Here are the remains of a burned home in Berryessa Highlands on Sept. 21, 2020. Photo by Anne Wernikoff for CalMatters

By Levi Sumagaysay  
CALMatters.org

With more California homeowners just discovering their insurance policies are getting canceled — and hundreds of thousands of others stuck with a pricey option of last resort — state Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara's efforts to fix the home insurance market can't come quickly enough.

Lara has introduced two main regulations, with more to come. The first, unveiled last month, aims to streamline rate reviews. State law gives the Insurance Department the power to approve or deny insurers' requests to raise premiums. Insurance companies complain the process has been holding up the increases they seek as a result of what they say are increased costs due to rising climate-change risks and inflation.

The second regulation will let insurers use catastrophe modeling — which combines historical data with projected risk and losses — along with other factors when setting their premiums. California is the last state to allow for catastrophe modeling.

"We're undertaking the state's largest insurance reform," Lara said during a press conference earlier this month. "We can no longer look solely to the past to guide us to the future."

He said catastrophe modeling will lead to "more reliable rates," "greater insurance availability" and "safer communities," because he said it would further encourage and reward wildfire mitigation by homeowners and communities. Insurance Department spokesperson Michael Soller said success will mean fewer homeowners needing to turn to the FAIR Plan, the state-mandated insurer of last resort.

Insurance trade groups, which stand to benefit most from the new regulations, agree with Lara's support for catastrophe modeling and support his so-called sustainable insurance strategy. So do fire chiefs, to an extent. But almost everyone else — homeowners, consumer groups and former insurance commissioners — has lingering concerns.

U.S. Rep. John Garamendi, a Democrat representing parts of Solano and Contra Costa counties, had two stints as state insurance commissioner in the mid-1990s and early 2000s. He says the insurance market is "in chaos" — and that Lara should be holding public hearings and demanding insurance company executives testify to explain to Californians why

their premiums are rising.

"One of the critical things a commissioner does is to analyze the market and provide the public with information," Garamendi said in an interview with CalMatters. "(Lara) didn't use his power to control the industry and second, to inform Californians."

The criticism drew a retort from Soller: "Commissioner Lara is fixing decades-long neglected issues that have led to this crisis. He is focused on safeguarding the integrity of the state's insurance market, not second-guessing from predecessors who had their chance and failed to act."

Dave Winnacker, chief of the East Bay's Moraga-Orinda Fire District, said the upsides of catastrophe modeling include being able to credit what homeowners, communities and governments do to lessen wildfire risk. That includes being able to account for the numbers and proximity of firefighters in certain areas, Winnacker said.

"Depending on where you are in a state, and that's tied to population density, the number of firefighters available could affect the outcome (of a wildfire)," he said, adding that catastrophe models should reflect that.

He also said he and other fire chiefs are working to make sure the interests of consumers, fire professionals, insurers and the state are aligned. Insurers may not know what homeowners, communities and local fire departments are doing to reduce wildfire risk. One idea: a database to share that information.

"There is no future in which we can price our way out of this crisis with just premiums," Winnacker said, adding that everyone needs to work together.

Dave Jones, the state insurance commissioner for eight years before Lara took over in 2019, said he is "trying to avoid looking over the shoulder of my successor."

Jones is now director of the Climate Risk Initiative Center for Law, Energy & the Environment at UC Berkeley School of Law. He said it is good for consumers that the catastrophe-modeling regulation could take forest management into consideration. But he said he's not sure Lara's actions will be sufficient.

Before the end of the year, Lara is also expected to issue a regulation that will allow insurers to factor reinsurance costs into their rates. Reinsurance is insurance for insurance companies in the event of large payouts. That plus the other new regulations may "help in the short to mid term," giving insurance companies the ability to raise



State Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara speaks during a press conference with Los Angeles labor leaders and advocates in Commerce on Sept. 26, 2022. Photo by Alisha Jucevic for CalMatters

premiums, Jones told CalMatters.

But he said those actions may "ultimately be overwhelmed by our failure to stop the fossil-fuel industry, which is contributing to rising temperatures" and therefore insurance losses.

Jones also pointed out that Florida has long allowed insurers to use catastrophe modeling and has let them factor in reinsurance costs in their rates — yet its insurance market is in worse shape than California's.

"Florida has done what insurers are asking for," Jones said. Yet "Florida's rates are three or four times the national average."

Mark Friedlander, spokesperson for the Insurance Information Institute, an industry group, confirmed that the group estimates that Florida's average home insurance premium was \$6,000, or three-and-a-half times the national average, in 2023.

In addition, Jones said Florida's version of California's last-resort FAIR Plan — called the Citizens Property Insurance Corp. because it's funded with a surcharge on policyholders — has more than 1 million policies. California's growing FAIR Plan, run by a pool of insurers, has 373,000 policies, its president told state lawmakers recently.

"That raises the question," Jones said. "Giving insurers (higher rates) and shifting the burden to all Californians... whether that's going to be enough in the face of growing background risk associated with climate change."

Meanwhile, last week State Farm said that it is not renewing policies for 30,000 California homeowners, as well as refusing to cover all commercial

apartments by not renewing 42,000 of those policies.

This is happening despite California approving State Farm's requests to levy double-digit premium increases last year.

"One of our roles as the insurance regulator is to hold insurance companies accountable for their words and deeds," said Soller, the Insurance Department spokesperson. "State Farm General's decision... raises serious questions about its financial situation — questions the company must answer to regulators."

State Farm spokesperson Sevag Sarkissian would not comment beyond the statement the company put on its website last week, which read in part: "This decision was not made lightly and only after careful analysis of State Farm General's financial health, which continues to be impacted by inflation, catastrophe exposure, reinsurance costs, and the limitations of working within decades-old insurance regulations."

Sarkissian also referred CalMatters to the Personal Insurance Federation of California, which counts State Farm as a member. The industry group's president, Rex Frazier, said in an email last week that allowing insurers to use catastrophe modeling would help with insurance availability. Yet in its statement, State Farm acknowledged the actions Lara is taking to try to fix the insurance availability and affordability crisis in California, even as it announced its decision not to renew tens of thousands of homeowners.

Joyce Kaufman, a retiree in June Lake in Mono County,

recently got a notice of non-renewal for her homeowners insurance with Farmers, which she said she and her husband were dreading but expecting.

"I'm not really sure what the state's trying to do, both at the commissioner and legislative level," Kaufman said. And losing the ability to renew her policy is affecting her other insurance needs, she said. As her broker helps look for an alternative, her auto premium is now going up about \$300 a year because it will no longer be bundled with home insurance.

As the new regulations give insurance companies what they had asked for, one part of Lara's strategy — which he first laid out last year after an executive order by the governor — is conspicuously missing. Lara had said insurance companies would be required "to commit to writing at least 85 percent of their statewide market share in wildfire-distressed underserved areas."

That provision is nowhere in the text of Lara's unveiled regulations so far — an omission not lost on consumer groups or former commissioner Jones.

"Where is that 85 percent?" asked Carmen Balber, executive director of Consumer Watchdog. Soller, the Insurance Department's spokesperson, said that part of the commissioner's strategy is coming.

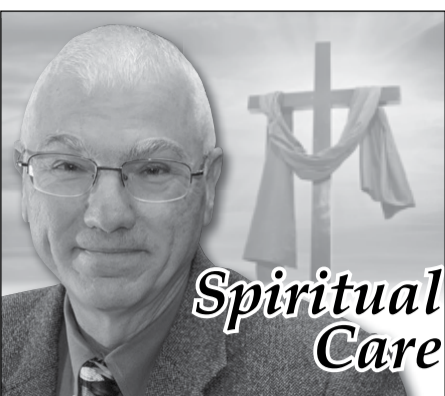
Balber also said she is concerned that the catastrophe-modeling regulation "appears to not comply with the transparency requirements of Prop. 103," the voter-approved law that regulates the insurance industry.

According to the text of the regulation on catastrophe modeling, the public will be able to take part in reviewing catastrophe models before they're deemed acceptable. But anyone who helps review the models will be required to sign a nondisclosure agreement.

"If a big chunk of your insurance rate is behind a 'black box,' then that's not what the voters passed," when they passed Proposition 103 in 1988, Balber said. "At the end of the day, if the commissioner passes something that hides something behind closed doors, we'll have to consider challenging it."

Levi Sumagaysay covers the economy for CalMatters. Previously, she was a senior reporter who covered worker issues, the gig economy, inequality and corporate accountability for MarketWatch. She also was a longtime reporter and tech and business editor at the Mercury News. ★

# Win or Lose — Easter Plays the Long Game



*Spiritual Care*

**BY NORRIS BURKES**

Last Sunday, I was disappointed to see the men's basketball team of my beloved alma mater, Baylor University, get pushed out of the Sweet 16 by the stronger Clemson University team.

Nevertheless, I think I'm OK with losing. Clemson kept their ten-point advantage most of the game, but in the last few minutes, Baylor pushed within two points of tying. But, sadly, Clemson stuffed Baylor pride with enough foul shots to make the win definitive.

It just goes to show you, that no matter which team you root for, you must be prepared to lose.

In some ways, I think that's the lesson of Good Friday. The Jesus-followers, my favorite team, lost.

Wait, wait. Don't burn your newspaper yet.

I just think we'd do well to consider that Jesus lost in the sense that he was nailed to a cross. Nearly everything he said in his final three hours dripped with a conciliatory tone.

"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do... Today you shall be with me in paradise. ... Woman, behold, thy son! ... My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? ... I thirst. ... It is finished. ... Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."

Yes, he graciously began his talk on Calvary Hill by praying for his murderers, "Forgive them."

But after that, his whole "love-thy-neighbor" campaign seemed headed downhill.

He concludes his Last Will and Testament with — Take care of mom.

He calls out his Father for not watching his back.

And then by the time he announces, "It's finished," his spirit seems in full retreat.

I mean, come on man. From a military

outlook, this is defeatist talk.

But here's the thing, the resurrection of Easter actually tells me that God didn't lose. He categorically won.

The losers of the day were the power-hungry folks who sought the winning favor of an earthly king. The real losers were those who'd only followed Jesus hoping he'd lead armies against their Roman oppressors, feeding his soldiers with five bread loaves and two fish.

The absolute losers of the day were the ones who wrapped their populist ideals in God language. Five days before, they shouted "Hosanna" in hopes Jesus could help them crush their enemies.

As our national elections approach, it might be good to remember the lessons of Easter.

Sadly, these days, Christian Nationalism has asserted the same misplaced allegiance shown by the religious people of Jesus' day. The church has become entrenched in tribal affiliations between left and right resulting in the breakdown of relationships.

These folks find it easier to garner votes by demonizing the opposing political party. Players on both sides of this political game seek to restore Jesus to a seat of power that he totally rejected from the cross.

Gratefully, as a follower of Christ, I can tell you that our battle is not with this world.

The Apostle Paul understood this because, before he was a good guy, he was AKA Saul. He lived by the sword, executing Christians for the sake of winning the struggle.

But not long after his conversion, he would tell the church at Ephesus that "... our struggle is not against flesh and blood but ... against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 6:12).

Easter means that God has already won the battle. He conquered death and all the fear that goes with it. That is victory enough for me. How about you?

The message of Easter is a win-win. God so loved the entire world that he gave his son. (John 3:16)

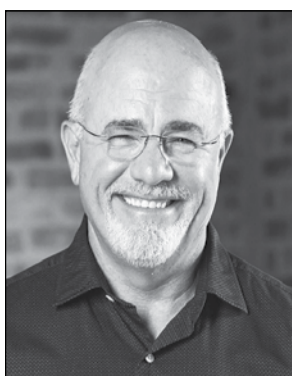
But we all know that verse.

What we fail to quote is the following verse, John 3:17. "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

See how that goes? No condemnation.

Love wins. It always does because God plays the long game.

Happy Easter, everyone. ★



## It's a Tough Situation for Both of You

Dear Dave,

I'm worried about my younger brother, and I need some advice. He's divorced and has a son, and lately, it seems like he only wants to be a dad when it's convenient. On top of this, he's very irresponsible with money for someone in their thirties. Our mom and dad passed away several years ago, so I feel like this leaves me to be the big brother and parent at the same time. I'm not sure how to help him. Can you give me some advice, please?

— Andy

Dear Andy,

You're a good and caring big brother to be concerned and want to help. And it's a tough situation for you, especially with your parents no longer in the picture.

When I help people on my show, I have the ben-

## Dave Ramsey Says

efit of them calling in and actually wanting help. These folks care about what I think, and in most cases, they realize things aren't working for them. I don't just walk up to people and say, "You know, what you're doing is really stupid. Let me fix you." I think that's kind of the situation you're in right now. So, before anything else, I'd begin to pray for him. Ask God to bring people into his life who will have a positive impact on him.

One of the worst things about these situations is watching people you love do bad things to themselves and the people around them. Honestly, I don't know there's really a lot you can do without becoming the enemy to some degree. You can always try to hold him to a higher standard, and refuse to tolerate immature, irresponsible behavior when you're around him. You might even look for opportunities to use yourself as an example. I'm not talking about puffing out your chest and pretending to be perfect. I'm just saying maybe point out areas in your life where you made mistakes in the past

and how you fixed the problems. But going out and trying to actively intervene in his life without permission, or shaming him in hopes it'll make him grow up and be a man, would probably do more harm than good.

Approach him in a gentle, caring way. Again, not like some know-it-all, but just let him know you care and you're there to help if he's having difficulties. Take him out to lunch once in a while, or invite him over, and let him know you're there for him if he needs to talk.

And remember what I said earlier about prayer? Bringing God into the equation is never a bad idea

— 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* ★

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# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



## Suspect Arrested in Child Molestation Case

**Sacramento County Sheriff's Office News Release**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - On Wednesday, March 27, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office, with the help of the Sacramento Police Department, arrested 25-year-old JW Jesse Geiger for two counts of Lewd or Lascivious acts on a child by force or fear. The arrest comes after

the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Child Abuse Bureau (CAB) conducted a lengthy investigation into the abuse of an 8-year-old child.

At the time of arrest, Geiger was reported to be illegally in possession of a firearm. Geiger was transported to the Sacramento County Main Jail and booked on a \$400,000 bail.

Detectives are concerned there may be additional

unreported victims. Any community members with information regarding this investigation are urged to contact the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office by calling 916-874-5115 or contact the Sacramento Valley Crime Stoppers at (916) 443-HELP (4357), 1-800-AA-CRIME, or \*\*TIPS. Use the "P3 TIPS" app or online at www.sacvalleycrimestoppers.com. ★



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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND OF PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING SCHOOL FACILITIES FEES AS AUTHORIZED BY EDUCATION CODE SECTIONS 17620 AND GOVERNMENT CODES 65995**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that immediately following a public hearing on the matter, a proposed resolution(s) will be considered by the Governing Board of Elverta Joint Elementary School District at its regular meeting on April 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., which if adopted by the Board will implement development fees established by the District against residential construction and reconstruction at the District's 62.66% share of \$5.17 per square foot at \$3.24 and against new commercial or industrial construction at the District's 62.66% share of \$0.84 per square foot at \$0.53 a square foot. The proposed fees are authorized by Education Code Section 17620 and Government Code Section 65995. Data pertaining to the cost of school facilities is available for inspection during regular business hours at the District's administrative offices. The fee, if approved by the Governing Board, will become effective on June 9, 2024, which is 60 days after the proposed adoption of the resolution levying such fee by the Governing Board. The Governing Board will also consider its exemption from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") relative to the increase in the fee and the adoption of a Notice of Exemption pursuant to Education Code section 17621, subd. (a). Any interested party may make an oral or written presentation at the public meeting.

The Elverta Joint Elementary School District has made available to the public data indicating the amount or estimated amount required to provide the service for which the fee would be levied, and the revenue sources anticipated to provide the service, including general fund revenues. Such data may be obtained at 7900 Eloise Ave, Elverta, CA 95626, or by contacting Michael Wells, Superintendent at 916-991-2244 or mwells@ejesd.net.

The Rio Linda News 3-29 and 4-5-2024

Wow, I am hearing fans and pundits alike talking about how the Kings will fare in the Play-in. What happened to just making the playoffs?

I am still firmly in the camp that the Sacramento Kings can make a run that lands on 48 wins and puts them in the playoffs without having to go through the Play-in system.

Without a doubt, the loss, temporarily, of Malik Monk is a gut punch and not to be overlooked, but what a blessing to have both Sasha Vezenkov and Trey Lyles back on the hardwood the very next game after Malik was sadly injured. That is fortuitous for certain, and Lyles looked as though he hadn't missed a game. Trey's three-point shooting should not be overlooked, and will help mitigate the loss of Malik's contribution that this team has come to rely upon.

Eight games to go, and if the Kings can find a way to win five of those games, I for one believe they make the enviable top six, and go into the playoffs with their heads held high.

Losing two games back-to-back to the Dallas Mavericks was, for many, the low moment of the season, and without a doubt made the trip to the playoffs a difficult one. Having said that, hold onto your seats, because these cardiac kids have a way of making believers out of you.

Domantas Sabonis continues his vaunted double-double streak, and Harrison Barnes seems to be finding some of the old magic that made the Kings feel he was someone that had to be signed in the off season. Although many believed the price was too high, all will be forgotten if Harrison can continue contributing 20 points per game as he just did in the victory over the Utah Jazz.

Pay attention to the victory over the Jazz, because it sends a message to all Sacramento Kings fans, that just when you want to count them out, their game rises to the top once again. Don't let mendacious pundits steal your zeal for this team. Yogi Berra

said, "It's not over till it's over," and I'm with Yogi.

For the first time this season, both Keegan Murray and Harrison Barnes scored 20 points in a contest. Yes, the very first time, and if that is a dose of what's to come, bring it on.

Is anyone paying attention to Davion Mitchell, and his consistent outside shooting contribution? Davion continues to be a threat from the perimeter, and can take it to the hole with the best of our players.

The return of Trey Lyles looms large, and perhaps Coach Brown will realize what he's got in this under-appreciated talent. Lyles could be starting for this team, and at the very least has deserved many more minutes than he has received throughout the season.

The sudden loss of Malik Monk will no doubt create a need for more minutes on the court for Trey, and if ever there was a time to show what you've got, now is that time.

The same can be said for Keon Ellis, who has been looked upon much more favorably by Coach Brown, and with Kevin Huerter out for the season, has been granted the starting job.

Keon needs to keep up the tough defense, and add just enough offense to keep the defense honest. Ellis has game, and I believe, like Trey Lyles, that we haven't yet seen the ceiling of what he is capable of doing on the court.

Eight huge games to go, and fans are all over the board as to where the Kings will be at the end of this stretch. I say, for all of you die-hard Kings fans that have lived through a dozen years-plus of languishing on the sidelines, watching other teams in the playoffs every year, enjoy this enigmatic but ultimately dynamic group of basketball players that truly love taking the hardwood together.

If you're not on the edge of your seat now, you never will be.

Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com  
 Enjoy this team! ★

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# COMICS & PUZZLES

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS **POPEYE** BY EDDY MELROD

## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

HOW'S THE FIGHTING BAN GOING? IT'S SWEETHAVEN, SIR. PEOPLE LOVE TO FIGHT. THEY HATE IT. THE POLICE ARE OVERWORKED HANDING OUT FINES, AND MOST CITIZENS ARE STRETCHED THIN. BUT ANGER MANAGEMENT COUNSELORS ARE DOING GREAT. AND POPEYE? IS HE IN THE POORHOUSE YET? OR ARRESTED?

ACTUALLY, SIR, HE HADN'T BROKEN THE BAN ONCE. WHAT?! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! ALL HE EVER DOES IS FIGHT! NO, SIR, APPARENTLY, SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR HIS SON AND OTHER KIDS IS VERY IMPORTANT TO HIM. I SEE, WOULD IT BE EASIER TO BAN CHILDREN OR CARING ABOUT THEM? ONE AWFUL CHOICE AT A TIME, SIR.

## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Door is taller. 2. Ladder is taller. 3. Man is taller. 4. Dornier is missing. 5. Ladder rung is missing. 6. Line in walkway is moved.

## TIGER

by Bud Blake

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## GRIN and BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

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CLUES

ACROSS

- Parting words
- Broadcasting acronym
- Taj Mahal city
- Ernest, to mommy
- "Fat chance!"
- Fits of shivering
- Rundown
- Historical period
- "... its weight in gold"
- \*Namesake of famous pact signed in 1955
- \*\*"The City of a Hundred Spires"
- Financial assistance
- Bird's groomer
- Pod nugget
- Fountain order
- Duck dish a certain way
- Picture on a coat
- Feline vibration
- Stocking fiber
- Stink to high heaven
- Cocoyam, pl.
- Pelvic bones
- Frost over (2 words)
- Stew bean
- Sleeveless garment
- Predicament
- Snakelike fish
- Hi-... monitor
- Toothy wheel
- \*Street, in capital city in #38 Down
- \*On the Danube
- \*On the Thames
- Virtue, in Italian
- \*Street, in capital city in #25 Down
- Dashboard instruments
- Beside, archaic
- Geological Society of America
- Type of heron
- Parks or Luxemburg
- Pecking mother
- Like oboe's sound

DOWN

- "... the land of the free ..."
- Cold one
- Peruvian Empire
- Miss America topper
- Blood infection
- Prepare to swallow
- \*Dublin's cultural quarter neighborhood, "Temple ..."
- Parallelogram, e.g.
- All excited
- Spiritual leader
- Network of nerves
- Certain something in a tray
- Rouse
- Take puppy from a pound
- "Hamilton: An American Musical" singing style
- Great... Reef
- \*On the Seine
- Not slouching
- Arabian chieftain
- Like Roman god Janus
- \*Also the most populous city in Ukraine
- More ill
- Neil Diamond's "Beautiful ..."
- Annoying tiny biters
- Arctic jaeger
- \*Located in boot-shaped country
- Sound of artillery
- Kind of hickory nut
- Jack's inferior
- Like a Grammy nominee
- Frustration, in print
- "A bird in hand is worth two in the bush," e.g.
- Source of veritas
- Wraths
- Parallelogram in Sicily
- Ground beef description
- Fairytale giant
- "All You ... Is Love"
- Variable, abbr.
- Put to work
- Hog heaven

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## SEASON 28 FINALE

### SACRAMENTO CHORAL SOCIETY & ORCHESTRA

Donald Kendrick Artistic Director

# Rodgers & Hammerstein Celebration

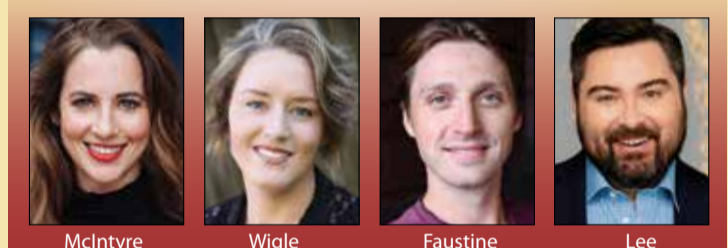
SATURDAY | MAY 4 | 3PM

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

**KP International MARKET**  
FOOD COURT NOW OPEN  
10971 Olson Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
916.853.8000  
Market: 7 Days, 8am-9pm  
Food Court: 7 Days, 11am-1:30pm  
Korean, Mex, Viet: 1:30pm-late call  
Chinese: 7 days see 7:00pm-late call

**NOW OPEN**  
ENJOY OUR FRESHLY BAKED BREAD & CAKE  
10971 OLSON DR. RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670



### FRESH PRODUCE

Sumo (dekopon) Tangerine 2 lbs <b>\$2.99</b>	Italian Squash Fancy <b>69¢</b>	Russet Potato 10 lbs <b>\$2.29</b>	Fuji Apple <b>69¢</b>
KIWI <b>99¢</b>	Orange Navel 10 lbs <b>\$4.99</b>	Dates 4.5 lbs <b>\$19.99</b>	Murcott Tangerine 4 lbs <b>\$3.59</b>

### AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY

Hidden Valley Dressing Buffalo Ranch 20 fl oz <b>\$2.99</b>	Raincoat Fig & Olive Crackers 5.3 oz <b>\$2.99</b>	Campbell's Chicken Noodle Soup Homestyle 10.5 oz <b>\$1.99</b>	Kuli Coconut Milk Drink 9.5 fl oz <b>99¢</b>	Grandma's Variety Mix Cookies staples / box <b>\$9.99</b>	Singles 3/\$1.00
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### ASIAN GROCERY

Maggi Seasoning Sauce 6.7 fl oz <b>\$3.99</b>	Chaokoh Coconut Water 1 liter <b>\$2.49</b>	Lion Original Roast 10 oz <b>\$7.99</b>	Orchid Peanut Oil 1.8 liter <b>\$19.99</b>	Lizano Salsa Sauce 2.1 l oz <b>\$6.99</b>
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### EUROPEAN GROCERY

Tazah Green Cracked Olives 1.5 kg <b>\$7.99</b>	Do Ghazal Tea 4 Flavors 100 grs <b>\$5.99</b>	Confetteria Raffaello Piaveze Furo 150 gr <b>\$5.99</b>	Milka Choco Wafer 150 gr <b>\$3.69</b>	Milka Choco Biscuits 150 gr <b>\$3.69</b>
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### KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY

Ribeye Chai 15 lb <b>\$12.99</b>	Tea Herb Seasoning 300 ml <b>\$7.49</b>	Cupped Silk Noren 150 g <b>99¢</b>	Cracked White Rice 5 x 2.0 g <b>\$3.99</b>	Mild Soy Sauce 500 ml <b>\$2.99</b>	Sempu Soy Sauce for Soup 500 ml <b>\$3.99</b>
Organic Puffed Roasted Chirashi 300 g <b>\$4.99</b>	Sea Salt for Kitchens 2.5 kg <b>\$6.99</b>	Kabuto Red Bean Paste 2 lbs <b>\$9.99</b>	Nishin Katsunobachi 100 g <b>\$1.99</b>	Rice Cracker w/ Sesame 3 oz <b>\$8.99</b>	Kakyo Roasted Sesame Oil 56 oz <b>\$15.99</b>

### HOUSEWARES

BIGEN SPEEDY HAIR COLOR (REFILL ONLY) <b>4.99</b>	ELECTRIC BBQ GRILL <b>39.99</b>	ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (4 CUP) <b>14.99</b>	ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (6 CUP) <b>14.99</b>	ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (8 CUP) <b>15.99</b>
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### FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Ocean Valley Tilapia Fillets 2 lbs <b>\$6.99</b>	Oceankist Indian Mackerel 2 lbs <b>\$4.99</b>
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### WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS

Beef Ribeye Roast - Boneless <b>\$7.99</b>	Beef Ribeye Steak - Boneless <b>\$8.99</b>
Beef Rump/Bottom Round Roast - Bnls <b>\$4.99</b>	Pork Baby Back Ribs <b>\$4.49</b>
Boneless Skinless Chicken Breasts <b>\$2.49</b>	Pork Loin Roast Boneless <b>\$2.79</b>
	Pork Loin Chops Boneless <b>\$2.99</b>

### FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Dried Cod Fish 500 g <b>\$12.99</b>	Columbus Beef Pastrami <b>\$12.09</b>	Belmont German Ham <b>\$5.49</b>
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### EUROPEAN DELI

Green Cracked Olives <b>\$3.99</b>	Hot Piled Green Olives <b>\$4.39</b>
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Advertised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE APRIL 03 - APRIL 09, 2024.