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West Sacramento News Ledger

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Serving the West Sacramento Region Since 1964

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Sutter Health Donates \$569,000 to Recovery Café West Sac



Among community leaders holding the new Sutter Health Mosaic Center's temporary signage is Mercy Coalition Executive Director Don Bosley in the top left. Photo courtesy of Sutter Health

Sutter Health News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sutter Health recently invested \$569,000 in the West Sacramento Mercy Coalition to house programs of the Mosaic Village, a safe, healing place for those impacted by substance-use disorders, homelessness, mental health illnesses and other vulnerabilities.

Sutter Health's six-year investment allows the Mercy Coalition to expand its services for these vulnerable populations to the new Sutter Health Mosaic Center at 929 Drever

St., across the street from Mercy Coalition's Recovery Café West Sacramento.

The Mosaic Center houses the JAM Academy, a workforce development program; a collection and distribution center for emergency food, clothing and hygiene items; and meeting space for School for Recovery classes that help participants make healthier choices.

"Sutter Health's support reflects a commitment to long-term solutions, recognizing that mental health and employment are key factors in healing traumas and preventing recurring

homelessness," said Kelly Brenk,

Sutter Health community health director. "Our collaboration exemplifies the power of public-private partnerships, showcasing how healthcare systems can work alongside community organizations to address complex societal issues."

The new Sutter Health Mosaic Center is part of what Recovery Café West Sac calls the Mosaic Village, which brings the Recovery Café's services onto one campus and allows some programs to expand. For example, the new center will add more

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Mayor and Council Fight Strong for Equity



Councilmember Quirina Orozco, who read the resolution of support for the Convention of the Elimination of all forms of Women's Discrimination, initiated the formalizing support in December 2023.

Story and photos by Angela Underwood

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - West Sacramento's all-women council and mayor passed two resolutions fighting for female empowerment.

The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the commitment to the California Equal Pay Pledge are now formally backed West Sacramento. Councilmember Quirina Orozco said that in December 2023, she and Councilmember Verna Sulpizio Hull wanted to formally support the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and in less than six months, they made it happen.

"It is an opportunity to overcome barriers and discrimination in political, social, and economic fields," Orozco said of the program, which also addresses domestic violence, trafficking, affordable health care and childcare, economic security, educational and vocational opportunities, and other issues.

Pointing to her peers, Orozco said, "This is an issue as the state's all-female councils I find to be very pressing, and I know we can all equally speak from our own perspectives as a mother of young children, as a social worker, as a nonprofit CEO, who deals with family services and direct childcare."

The days of questioning female victims should be

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Yolo Food Bank Finds One in Three Households Are Food Insecure in Yolo County

Yolo Food Bank News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - On April 5, during Yolo Food Bank's 'State of Food Insecurity event,' the organization released its Yolo County Food Access Survey Report, showing food insecurity is at 29.2 percent in Yolo County - a figure that exceeds both state and national averages. The findings also revealed disparities: food insecurity is highest in unincorporated, rural areas of Yolo County, and amongst Black and Latino households. Food insecurity as defined by the USDA's Six-item Short Form Survey, is

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All speakers at Yolo Food Bank's 'State of Food Insecurity Event.' From left to right: Sutter Health Director of Community Health, Kelly Brenk; Health And Human Services Agency's Service Centers Branch Director, Dr. Tico Zendejas; Nugget Market CEO, Greg Hill; Yolo Food Bank Director of Programs, Genevieve Pyeatt; Mayor of Woodland and Woodland Food Closet Executive Director, Tania Garcia-Cadena; California Association of Food Banks CEO Stacia Hill Levenfeld; Yolo County Board of Supervisor Chair, Lucas Frerichs; Managing Partner at Valley Vision, Trish Kelly, Yolo Food Bank Executive Director, Karen Baker; Yolo Food Bank Director of Development and Communications, Maria Segoviano



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City Officials Honor Yolo County Library System



West Sacramento Friends of the Library President Treasurer Alex Hirsh and Yolo County Library System Regional Manager Shuqin Jiao attend the April 10 City Council meeting.

Story and photo by Angela Underwood

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - For more than a century, the Yolo County Library has served as a beacon of access to knowledge, entertainment and inspiration for all individuals.

That is the one line in a profoundly inspirational proclamation presented to the Yolo County Library system and Arthur F. Turner Community Library by West Sacramento Mayor Martha Guerrero and the West Sacramento City Council at the April 10 meeting.

Councilmember Verna Sulpizio Hull read the proclamation that declares April 7 to April 13 as National Library Week to West Sacramento Friends of the Library President Treasurer Alex Hirsh and Yolo County Library System Regional Manager Shuqin Jiao.

Sulpizio Hull detailed how the library system fosters "collaborative partnerships with various entities, including city departments, the Washington Unified School District, the Los Rios Community College District, nonprofit organizations and local businesses. After reading the proclamation, Sulpizio

Hull shared a personal story.

"I grew up in West Sacramento and I was homeschooled, so the library was homebase for me and my family," Sulpizio Hull said.

Touting the library system's programs, Sulpizio Hull encouraged residents to visit the system's website, where "you will be so incredibly impressed" with what is available for every age group.

"When I was a small child, we did a book reading and we were studying Laura Engels Wilder's 'Little House on the Prairie' and the project was to do a diorama and my diorama was selected to be shown at the library," Sulpizio Hull said. "It is still one of my proudest moments to date, some 35-plus years ago."

Hirsh called the evening an honor. He said the library stretches back decades, serving the community endlessly.

"The library, of course, is more than just the depository of books or a place of learning or a place of resources; it's a place of community," Hirsh said.

Noting how the last few years have been financially difficult for all, ranging from families to nonprofit organizations, with the no library no exception,

Hirsh said, "There were times when we had to limit in-person services," but not now.

"The library is open," Hirsh said, adding that not only is it open but children's reading is scheduled every day of the week in Russian and Spanish. "How incredible is that?"

Councilmember Quirina Orozco thanked both library officials before saying, "Once a child learns how to use the library, the doors to learning are always open."

"We can't underscore the importance of how much of an equalizer it is," Orozco said.

Councilwoman Norma Alcalá also recalled her childhood, sharing how she engaged in reading competitions within the library system.

"I remember on Saturdays when most kids were riding their bikes, there was a group of us always in there trying to read as many books as possible," Alcalá said.

Mayor Guerrero thanked the officials for "feeding our minds" with education. The mayor commended the Friends of the Library for their achievements and the "strong momentum of getting people together."

"Your compassion for our community runs very deep," Guerrero said. ★

Mayor and Council Fight Strong for Equity



Erin Saberi, Chair of the Sacramento County Commission on the Status of Women, thanks West Sacramento officials for formalizing support in favor of women's equality.

Continued from page 1
over, according to Orozco, who said high-profile celebrity cases of abuse must stop.

"When you have to bring in survivor after survivor after survivor to convince one jury that there is a problem plaguing our society when it comes to being victimized and the doubts that we carry," Orozco said.

Equal pay for women also received attention. Orozco said officials will conduct a study to see where they may be "falling short so we can come back and address these issues as a council and adopt policy changes if necessary." Chair of the Sacramento County Commission on the Status of Women Erin Saberi stepped up to the podium to personally thank Orozco, the rest of the council, and the mayor for the CEDAW resolution.

"We at the Sacramento County Commission want to offer our support for any work and implementation,"

Saberi said. "If you want to pass an ordinance, we are helping the other cities in the county, and CEDAW Implementing Cities is one of our priorities in our work plan."

Citing Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women history to its 1979 foundation at the United Nations General Assembly, Saberi detailed how the United States never formalized support.

"We are just one of only six countries in the world that have not ratified this important convention, so leave it to California cities to start taking it locally," Saberi said, citing other Golden State cities that adopted Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women resolutions, beginning in 2004 in San Francisco.

Saberi said that in the last few years, some cities that have also taken a stand include Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose, and now

West Sacramento.

"We are currently at a time when we think this is extremely important, and as you mentioned tonight when talking about children's issues," Saberi said.

Saberi said women were hard hit by the pandemic and remain stagnant, with data proving the same.

"Recently, California data show that on all indicators other than education, women are falling behind for the first time on some indicators in more than a decade," Saberi said.

Mayor Martha Guerrero said she wants to see city-wide change in favor of the resolution "assuring all women have enough early childcare centers, resources for women to get to work, and a guaranteed income program to help them climb out of poverty."

"We are struggling with poverty, and families are struggling, so in order for them to be able to be successful, we are going to have to do a lot more work," Guerrero said. ★

Sutter Health donates \$569,000 to Recovery Café West Sac

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one-year paid internships for its recovery population as part of the workforce development program.

"Many people will get mental-health care, love and a community of belonging because of Sutter's involvement," said Mercy Coalition executive director Don Bosley.

In October 2022, Mercy Coalition opened the Recovery Café, a partnership with the Recovery Café Network that is comprised of 64 sites across the country. Bosley calls the Recovery Café model "a long-term mental-health strategy that is a game-changer for many" in the West Sacramento area.

That is something about which Sutter Health "feels strongly," Brenk said.

"Sutter Health believes that mental health services play a crucial role in

whole-health stability, recognizing that addressing mental health challenges is integral to breaking the cycle of substance use, trauma and homelessness," Brenk said. "In addition, the workforce development services provided at the new center will contribute to the holistic approach, empowering individuals with skills and resources to restore their lives."

As a not-for-profit organization, Sutter Health is committed to the health and well-being of the communities it serves. That commitment includes supporting community health initiatives and programs outside of its care facilities.

Sutter Health's total community benefit investment was \$822 million in 2023. These funds supported traditional charity care, unreimbursed Medi-Cal costs, health education and community clinics. ★

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Yolo Food Bank Finds One in Three Households Are Food Insecure in Yolo County

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when a household experiences reduced quality, variety, or desirability of diet and/or disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake due to limited or uncertain access to adequate foods.

“This effort represents the first unique population-based, food bank-led survey in California,” said Yolo Food Bank Executive Director Karen Baker. “With support from Sutter Health, the USDA Reach and Resiliency program, and our generous community of donors, this survey report provides an accessible and in-depth analysis of Yolo County’s state of food insecurity.”

The Yolo County Food Access Survey was mailed to every address in Yolo County in the spring of 2023 and collected data around key county demographics, the measure of food insecurity, use of the charitable food system, access to culturally appropriate foods, CalFresh enrollment, and general food access. In order to attain a representative sample, Yolo Food Bank also collaborated with its partner agencies to recruit individuals already connected to the charitable food system – nearly 4,000 responses were recorded. The data was weighted to account for varying response rates across key socio-demographics. Overall, the effort garnered a five percent response rate, which represents a

very successful survey response rate.

To understand food insecurity, one must acknowledge its root cause is related to poverty. As reported by the U.S. Census Supplemental Poverty Measure – California, famed for its economic opportunities – bears the highest poverty rate in the U.S. at 13.2 percent. While Yolo County renowned for its agricultural abundance, also stands as the most impoverished county with a poverty rate of 19.5 percent, according to the Public Policy Institute of California. Both measures of poverty at the county and state level take into account non-cash benefits that aid low-income families and necessary household expenditures such as housing costs and medical expenses.

The food insecurity safety net is not only composed of the charitable food system, which includes numerous nonprofits working to combat food insecurity. It also includes CalFresh, the largest food program in California that provides monthly food benefits to individuals and families who are low-income. According to the California Department of Social Services, CalFresh is state-supervised and county-operated.

In Yolo County, the Health and Human Services Agency’s Service Center’s purpose is to provide access and equitable



Attendees sit at State of Food Insecurity Event at Yolo Food Bank in Woodland, CA.

services to those residents most in need. Thus, for a more comprehensive picture of the food insecurity work being done, the survey report also asked residents about their use of CalFresh and discovered that the enrollment rate in Yolo County is at 18.9 percent. Furthermore, it found that 43.6 percent of respondents cited obtaining nearly all or all of their household food through the program, demonstrating its importance for food insecure households.

“This report provides region specific areas to focus our outreach and enrollment services for CalFresh,” stated Health and Human Services Agency’s Service Centers Branch Director Dr. Tico Zendejas. “Furthermore, our Branch can strengthen collaborations and partnerships to enroll hard to reach populations.”

The event to release the findings was held today at

Yolo Food Bank’s facility in Woodland, and convened elected officials, grocers, corporate donors, nonprofit partner agencies, and leaders in the food insecurity space. At the event, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors were acknowledged for their unique investments to address food insecurity through the American Rescue Plan funds that were awarded to Yolo Food Bank and other partners in Yolo County, in recent years.

“How incredible that we are here today in community with all those who play an important role in the food insecurity space,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Lucas Frerichs. “Food insecurity was an important target priority for American Rescue Plan fund dollars, and to see the alignment with the data today, confirms this was a much-needed investment.”

Recognizing Yolo County relies greatly on its agricultural economy, Yolo Food Bank collected data specifically on agricultural workers. The report discovered that a staggering 52.9 percent of households working in the agricultural industry are food insecure in Yolo County. In response to this severe need, Sutter Health is partnering with Yolo Food Bank to create an effort that will address agricultural worker food insecurity.

“It is incredibly eye opening that the very people who are most food insecure are also the same members of our community that help cultivate our crops,” said Sutter Health Director of Community Health Kelly Brenk. “That is why we are pleased to announce that Sutter Health is partnering with Yolo Food Bank to take action by an investment of \$200,000 over two years for Yolo Food Bank’s new

‘Cultivo’ program, which launches this spring.”

The “Cultivo” program will provide agricultural workers with access to fresh, healthy, and culturally appropriate foods and food relief resources directly to their places of residence and employment, such as fields, farms, packing plants, and canneries. The program is designed to remove barriers, such as transportation and needing time off from work by meeting people where they are at.

As far as next steps, Yolo Food Bank plans to engage a third-party convener to bring all food security partners together and address the challenges revealed by the survey. There are dozens of nonprofits in Yolo County that are actively working to provide basic needs for residents. With this new data, different stakeholders can come to the table to make data driven decisions.

“Given Yolo County’s ranking in both poverty and food insecurity, this is a story that should be shared at the national and international stage,” said Yolo Food Bank Executive Director Karen Baker. “It’s rare to find an accessible survey report that shows the diversity of challenges that one community faces in meeting the most essential need: food.”

To learn more about Yolo Food Bank, please visit: <https://yolofoodbank.org> ★

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School District Counters Safety, Pay Accusations

By Angela Underwood

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A Washington Unified School District official countered some serious allegations against the district at the last school board meeting.

A Classified School Employees Association (CSEA) and West Sacramento Teachers Association (WSTA) representative charged on March 28 that the district is slack on communication, specifically regarding security concerns.

"I remember when the association presidents were notified of safety situations by phone or text message, and that isn't happening anymore," Classified School Employees Association President Daniel Gandara said. "I think we need to do better and bring that back."

Gandara also shared how his staff is at risk, due to unruly students, and demanded a district-approved procedure

for classified noon duties employees, campus aides and psychological secretaries, who are allegedly being abused by students.

"They are not trained to break up fights with adults and students; this should be a district standard, not a site standard," Gandara said, adding, "Students with disciplinary problems get sent to the office, so secretaries are not subject to verbal abuse by these students."

West Sacramento Teachers Association President Doug Knepp has the same concerns regarding safety and communication, saying there have been five serious safety issues at five separate sites in the last three weeks.

"In that time, while I know the district has been all hands-on deck, the communication has been minimal," Knepp said. "I know that myself and my CSEA colleagues have not been communicated with when these issues have

occurred and that has happened in the past."

Washington Unified School District public information officer Giorgios Kazanis said the safety and well-being of district students, staff, and community are of utmost importance and is "looking into the specific incidents mentioned by the West Sacramento Teachers Association president to identify any gaps in our communication channels and address them directly."

"We take these concerns very seriously and are working to address them with our CSEA and WSTA partners," Kazanis said. "The district has comprehensive school safety plans with established protocols and procedures to ensure a safe working and learning environment, which are regularly reviewed and updated in collaboration with our union partners."

Although Kazanis said Washington Unified School District is committed to an ongoing dialogue

with the Classified School Employees Association and the West Sacramento Teachers Association to resolve any issues and ensure that its safety measures continue to meet the highest standards, Gandara wants to know about the financial security his employees lack. Pointing to a group of classified transportation system employees behind him, Gandara said they expect equitable compensation.

"They are the lowest paid in our equity study and we need to fix that sooner rather than later," Gandara said.

Not only are they the lowest paid, according to the Classified School Employees Association president "but they aren't even getting paid. He said that one employee submitted a January time sheet and is still waiting to get paid.

"This is unacceptable, so I am putting it here on the record," Gandara said. "I will be expecting statutory

benefits to be retried to January since it's not my members' fault why this process is taking so long. They are doing the work; they shouldn't have to wait."

Washington Unified School District is also addressing this issue.

"We are aware of the concerns raised regarding the alleged non-payment of time sheets and take such allegations seriously," Kazanis said. "As such, our payroll team is conducting a thorough review of their records. If any discrepancies are found, we will take immediate action to rectify the situation."

Kazanis also encourages any employee concerned about their pay to directly contact the Payroll and Benefits department to confidentially address individual cases.

"WUSD is committed to ensuring that all our employees are compensated fairly and in a timely manner for the valuable work they do," Kazanis

said. While the district addresses the concerns of both the Classified School Employees Association and the West Sacramento Teachers Association officials, Gandara continues to charge lies within the district.

"The next thing I want to talk about is blatant dishonesty," Gandara said. "I have seen a few of my classified members being released from their positions for not being honest but my question is, shouldn't management be held to such standards if not higher?"

Regarding dishonesty allegations, the West Sacramento News Ledger cannot ask the district to comment since Gandara said he "is keeping it vague" for now.

"But if I bring it up again, it's not going to be vague," Gandara said. "I will attach job titles to it and you guys can figure out who I am talking about." ★

Senior Resource Fair: Empowering Seniors with Vital Support

City of West Sacramento News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The West Sacramento Community Center will have a Senior Resource Fair from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. May 17 in celebration of Older Americans Month. The fair will provide essential resources and support to seniors in the community.

The Senior Resource Fair will feature a wide range of vital resources designed to enhance the well-being and quality of life for older adults.

Attendees can expect Senior Support Services, where they can access information and guidance on a variety of senior-focused programs and services available locally.

Seniors can also learn about health and wellness. Explore wellness workshops, health screenings and resources to promote healthy living and active aging.

Attendees can get free Via rides. Receive a complimentary Via rideshare code (srfair2024) to facilitate transportation to and from the event.

At the event will be an Older Americans Month Proclamation. Witness the proclamation ceremony, highlighting the contributions and achievements of older Americans in the community.

There will also be light snacks. Enjoy refreshments and networking opportunities with fellow attendees and community partners.

"We are excited to host the Senior Resource Fair, offering a comprehensive array of resources and support to our valued seniors," said Christine

Prater, Recreation supervisor II. "This event underscores our commitment to empowering older adults with the tools and information they need to thrive."

The Senior Resource Fair will be at the West Sacramento Community Center, 1075 West Capitol Ave.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect, learn, and discover the vital resources available to West Sacramento seniors.

For more information, call 916-617-5320 or visit the website at www.westsacfun.org ★



The Senior Resource Fair is a great way to provide resources for seniors. Photo courtesy of the City of West Sacramento

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DTSC PUBLIC NOTICE

Department of Toxic Substances Control - Our Mission is to protect California's people, communities, and environment from toxic substances, to enhance economic vitality by restoring contaminated land, and to compel manufacturers to make safer consumer products.

C & S Battery and Lead Company Investigation/Site Evaluation 860 Riske Lane, West Sacramento, CA 95691 Extension of Deadline to Complete Investigation

On May 20, 2022, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)'s Lead-Acid Battery Recycling Facility Investigation and Cleanup (LABRIC) Program issued a Public Notice of the initiation of the investigation and site evaluation of the area at, and around, the former **C & S Battery and Lead Company (C & S Battery) at 860 Riske Lane, West Sacramento, CA 95691**. DTSC is generally required to complete its investigation and designate a site as determined with reasonable certainty to have been contaminated by a lead-acid battery recycling facility within two years of its public notice. DTSC may extend that deadline for up to three months, with good cause shown and adequate public notice. DTSC may make up to three additional three-month extensions.

Since issuing its Public Notice in May 2022, DTSC completed an investigation work plan and obtained permission to sample the former C & S Battery property and some nearby properties. DTSC also began collecting and analyzing soil samples from the C & S Battery property and some of the nearby properties. In addition, DTSC has been negotiating access to sample other properties.

Despite acting judiciously, DTSC has not yet completed its investigation, nor will it make a "reasonable certainty" designation within two years from its May 2022 Public Notice. More time is necessary for DTSC to negotiate access and complete its investigation. Therefore, and with good cause appearing, DTSC hereby extends and provides notice of the extension of the deadline by three months from May 19, 2024, to August 19, 2024.

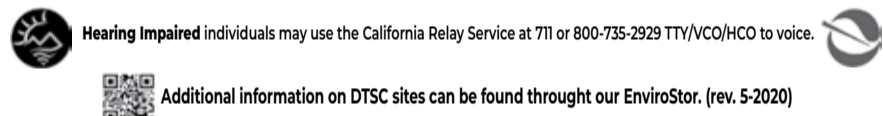
Where to View Information/Documents

- **DTSC's LABRIC Webpage:** www.dtsc.ca.gov/labric-investigation-sites
At this webpage, you will find the Public Notices and a link to the DTSC EnviroStor database.
- **By appointment at DTSC's Sacramento Regional Office:**
Contact Chuoa Her at (916) 255-4159 for an appointment to review all public documents at 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826.

Who to Contact for Questions

For questions regarding this Public Notice, please contact Gerry Dietrich, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at Gerry.Dietrich@dtsc.ca.gov, or (510) 402-8305.

For questions regarding the C & S Battery project, please contact John Ross, DTSC Project Manager, at John.Ross@dtsc.ca.gov, or (916) 255-6624.



Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



If you knew nothing about the Sacramento Kings and went to Golden One Center for the first time Sunday, and watched the Kings dismantle the Portland Trailblazers, you would probably think this team is headed straight to the playoffs.

Well, maybe not straight to the playoffs, but a one game, win-or-go-home game against the Golden State Warriors is going to answer a lot of questions many Kings fans have had all season.

Personally, I have been a die hard, and predicted that the Kings would equal or exceed last year's win total of 48 wins. Obviously, I was wrong, as the Kings took two heart-breaking losses on the chin, leaving them two short of last year's win total.

Although I never like whining about poor officiating, what the Kings have had to endure in losses to the Celtics and Oklahoma City Thunder in the past two weeks has been reprehensible.

The NBA came out and issued apologies to the Kings organization for the blatant missed calls that in both cases cost them a critical win. This should not happen in an environment where the highest caliber of players perform, and what is needed are officials that measure up to the same standard.

But those losses are in the loss column and that is where they stay, regardless of apologies.

After a disappointing week, the Kings rose to the occasion Sunday against the Trailblazers and finished off a roller coaster season with a convincing win. It was good for the Kings, and definitely good for the fans.

Should-be all star Domantas Sabonis missed a triple-double by one assist, but still led the entire NBA with an eye popping 26. Besting Nikola Jokic by just one triple-double, Sabonis also led the entire league in rebounds, an astounding feat.

For the many Kings fans that lived through 16 years without a playoff appearance, having an opportunity to make the playoffs with just two wins in a row, must seem like the impossible dream.

A win tomorrow night against the arch-rival Golden State Warriors would give the Kings one more chance to make

the playoffs when they would meet the winner of the Pelicans/Lakers game.

So, what are the positive/negatives that we have to look back on, now that the 2024 season is in the hopper?

Number one is a highly competitive team that brings 100% effort every night, and that is something that no fan should ever take lightly.

Number two for me is a team that is growing together and loves to play together. For the first time in the past 20 years, I'm convinced the Kings are truly one player away from making a real championship run.

This coming off season will answer a lot of questions, and will tell the fans if Monte McNair's acquisition of Domantas Sabonis was an anomaly, or what we can expect from a young GM. I like what I see in this guy, but operating efficiently in the draft, and having the ability to lure an attractive free agent to Sacramento, is paramount if we are to be a true championship contender.

On the negative side, this was not a good season for coach Brown, who continued to tinker with his lineup for the entire season.

Whether Colby Jones, Chris Duarte, or Kessler Edwards, Brown could not make up his mind what he had or how to play them.

Trey Lyles was the real recipient of Brown's inability to assess his talent, and never received the quality minutes on the hardwood that he deserved. I am a firm believer that Lyles is not just a stalwart bench player, but someone who should be occupying a starting role.

Lastly, I don't believe Brown did the job of growing young players like Davion Mitchell and Keegan Murray. It's not just the time on the court, but how you grow the confidence in the young players you have, and without a doubt there was a missed opportunity here.

The Kings gave me an entertaining season, with a team spirit that only further enhances my love for this group of never-say-die players.

Like all of you I will be rooting beyond measure for a victory Tuesday night.

Go Kings, and a big thank you to all of you that have read and supported Kings Korner! ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240222
The following person(s) is doing business as: Dos Gringos, 1605 Meadow Road, West Sacramento, CA 95691.
Joseph Montana Gonzales GP, and Gilbert Louis Cota GP, 1605 Meadow Road, West Sacramento, CA 95691. This business is conducted by A General Partnership. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on March 6, 2024.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 2024
DOS 4-19-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240272
The following person(s) is doing business as: Alliance Tree Care, 109 Colby Lane, Winters, CA 95694.
Alejandro Lopez, 109 Colby Lane, Winters, CA 95694. This business is conducted by An

Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on March 22, 2024.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 2024
ALLIANCE 4-19-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240262
The following person(s) is doing business as: MANNA BEVERAGES, 2150 STONE BLVD. WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691, County of YOLO.
Mailing Address: 3309 COLLINS LN LOUISVILLE, KY 40245
MBV-CA, LLC, 3309 COLLINS LN LOUISVILLE, KY 40245
This business is conducted by LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A /s/ KEVIN R. ATKISSON
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 03/19/2024.
Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Re-

order
By: MELISA VERA, Deputy
Publish: 3/29, 4/5, 4/12, 4/19/24
CNS-3795940#
NEWS-LEDGER 4-19-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240234
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Pik Stop Photo Booths, 813 HARBOR BLVD. 122, WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691 County of YOLO
Pik Stop Co. LLC, 813 HARBOR BLVD. 122, WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691
This business is conducted by a limited liability company
The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
Pik Stop Co. LLC
S/ Geneve Reyes, Member
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 03/12/2024.
Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder
Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: 3/29, 4/5, 4/12, 4/19/24
CNS-3796651#
NEWS-LEDGER 4-19-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240284
The following person(s) is doing business as: Petras Cleaning Services, 154 Oak Avenue, Woodland, CA 95695.
Petra Olvera, 154 Oak Avenue, Woodland, CA 95695. This business is conducted by An Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on March 26, 2024.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: April 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024
PETRAS 4-26-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240174
The following person(s) is doing business as: YY'S Accounting, 532 Short Street, West Sacramento, CA 95605.
Yelena Yavorskaya, 532 Short Street, West Sacramento, CA 95605. This business is conducted by An Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on December 1, 2018. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on February 26, 2024.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: April 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024
YYS 4-26-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240271
The following person(s) is doing business as: LCL Consulting, 544 S Campus Way, Davis, CA 95616.
Brett Lee, 544 S Campus Way, Davis, CA 95616. This business is conducted by An Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on March 22, 2024.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: April 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024
LCL 4-26-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240128
The following person(s) is doing business as: Ruiz Farms, 35837 County Road 24, Woodland, CA 95695.
Jose Ruiz Michel, 4141 Palm Avenue Apt 627, Sacramento, CA 95842. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on January 11, 2019. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on February 12, 2024.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 2024
RUIZ 5-3-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240279
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Clear Cut Coatings and Painting, 1111 Kato Ln., Winters, CA 95694 County of YOLO
Fernando Gutierrez Tafoya, 1111 Kato Ln., Winters, CA 95694
Jaime Rodarte, 1106 Almeria Ave, Winters, CA 95694
This business is conducted by Co-Partners
The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. S/ Jaime Rodarte, This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 03/26/2024.
Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder kquam, Deputy
Publish 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3/24
CNS-3799804#
NEWS-LEDGER 5-3-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240261
The following person(s) is doing business as: 1. CALIFORNIA WINE TRANSPORT, 2. ALDENBRIDGE, 3910 SEAPORT BLVD. WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691, County of YOLO.
Mailing Address: 1000 BRICKELL AVE., STE 215 MIAMI, FL 33131 PSTV B2, LLC, 15751 TAPIA STREET IRWINDALE, CA 91706
This business is conducted by LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A /s/ HARALD KOHLMAN, MANAGER OF PSTV B2, LLC
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 03/19/2024.
Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder By: MELISA VERA, Deputy
Publish: 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3/24
CNS-3799272#
NEWS-LEDGER 5-3-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240287
The following person(s) is doing business as: BAY AREA VET BEHAVIOR, 9253 JOHNSON RD., WINTERS, CA 95694, County of YOLO.
BEHAVIOR PATHWAYS VETERINARY CORPORATION, 9253 JOHNSON RD, WINTERS, CA 95694
This business is conducted by A CORPORATION.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 3/12/2024 /s/ WAILANI SUNG
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on MARCH 27, 2024.
Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder
By: MELISA VERA, Deputy
Publish: 4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3/24
CNS-3799030#
NEWS-LEDGER 5-3-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240307
The following person(s) is doing business as: THE CLEAN

+ SIMPLE CREATIVE COMPANY, 998 RIVERFRONT ST., APT 206, WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691, County of YOLO.
BRITTANY NIELSEN, 998 RIVERFRONT ST., APT. 206, WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691
This business is conducted by INDIVIDUAL. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 12/07/2023 /s/ BRITTANY NIELSEN
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 4/04/2024.
Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder By: KQUAM, Deputy
Publish: 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10/24
CNS-38003313#
NEWS-LEDGER 5-10-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240318
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: XENOMET, 3531 Mono Place, Davis, CA 95618 County of YOLO
Mailing Address: 3531 Mono Place, Davis, CA 95618
XENOMED LLC, 3400 COTTAGE WAY, STE G2 #3518, SACRAMENTO, CA 95825
This business is conducted by a limited liability company
The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
XENOMED LLC
S/ Sean Adams, Manager,
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 04/09/2024.
Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder Kquam, Deputy
Publish: 4/19, 4/26, 5/3, 5/10/24
CNS-3766169#
NEWS-LEDGER 5-10-24

LIEN SALE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION LIEN SALE

NOTICE HEREBY IS GIVEN that a mobilehome registered to FARHAN MOHSIN, and described as a 1963 LAKEWOOD mobilehome, Decal Number AAL3922, Serial Number S610, Label/Insignia Number A55701, and stored on property owned by Casa MFD Home Community, LLC ("Casa Mobile Park"), at 1050 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691, Yolo County (specifically, those goods located/stored at Space #32 within the park), will be sold by public auction at the Casa Mobile Park on **May 9, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.** and such succeeding sale days as may be necessary, and the proceeds of the sale will be applied to the satisfaction of the lien, including the reasonable charges of notice, advertisement, and sale, as well as costs and attorney's fees pursuant to contract, statute, and/or law. This sale is by public auction on a certified funds basis (money orders, cashier's or traveler's checks only). **Must have money order(s), cashier's/traveler's check(s) made payable to Casa MFD Home Community, LLC to participate/bid.** NO cash, NO personal checks, NO business checks, NO guarantees or letters of credit allowed. NO exceptions. Payment is due and payable immediately following the sale. The mobilehome and/or contents are sold as is, where is, with no guarantees. Casa Mobile Park reserves all rights. This sale is conducted under the authority of California Civil Code § 798.56a and Commercial Code §§ 7209-7210.
DATED: March 28, 2024 /s/ Stephanie D. Rice
LAW OFFICES OF JOSEPH W. CARROLL, P.C. Attorney for Casa MFD Home Community, LLC
610 Fulton Avenue, Suite 100 Sacramento, CA 95825 (916) 443-9000
Publish: 4/12, 4/19/24
CNS-3800851#
NEWS-LEDGER 4-19-24

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF YOLO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #CV2024-0455

Tatyana M Amautova aka Tanya Mikhailovna Amautov and aka Tatyana Amautov has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Tatana M Amautova aka Tanya Mikhailovna Amautov and aka Tatyana Amautov to Tanya Mikhailovna Osipov.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on May 1, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 11, located at 1000 Main Street Woodland, CA 95695 and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: February 21, 2024
Timothy L. Fall, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 2024
ARNAUTOVA 4-19-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF YOLO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #CV2024-0650

Kimberly Souza has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Kimberly Christina Souza to Dmonique Christina Souza.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on May 9, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 14, located at 1000 Main Street Woodland, CA 95695 and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.

Dated: March 21, 2024
David W. Rosenberg, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 2024
SOUZA 4-19-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF YOLO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #CV2024-704

Selena Marie Martinez has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Selena Marie Martinez to Selena Marie Anderson.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on May 21, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 14, located at 1000 Main Street Woodland, CA 95695 and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: March 21, 2024
David W. Rosenberg, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: April 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024
MARTINEZ 4-26-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF YOLO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #CV2024-0544

Juan Gabriel Gomez Vasquez has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Cristian Alexander Reyes Rojas to Cristian Alexander Gomez Rojas.
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 14, located at 1000 Main Street Woodland, CA 95695 and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: March 26, 2024
David W. Rosenberg, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 2024
VASQUEZ 5-10-24

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE NO. F20240216

The person(s) or entity listed below are abandoning the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Redwood Tree Apartments, 607 East Eighth Street, Davis, CA 95616.
The fictitious business name was originally filed in Yolo County on August 12, 2019, and is being abandoned by the registrant(s) listed below: Bart Connolly, 1949 Farndon Avenue, Los Altos, CA 94024, and Brooke C Brandow, 1528 Brown Drive, Davis, CA 95616.
The business was conducted by: A Limited Partner.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on March 7, 2024.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 2024
REDWOOD 4-19-24

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF PETE AGRAAN, JR. CASE NO. PR2024-0075

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Pete Agraan, JR. A Petition for Probate has been filed by Alicia Agraan, in the Superior Court of California, County of Yolo, requesting Alicia Agraan be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: May 9, 2024, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 11. Superior Court of California, County of Yolo, 1000 Main Street, Woodland, CA 95695.
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor.
You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received and submitted electronically through the City's OpenGov Procurement system at <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/cityofwestsacramento> until **3PM local time on Friday, May 3rd, 2024**, at which time and place results will be posted and available for public review for the:

HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The proposed work consists of the following: installing pedestrian improvements including curb ramps, mid block crossings, curb, gutter, and sidewalks, rectangular rapid flashing beacons, traffic signal hardware, striping, and signs.

The Contractor shall provide labor, materials, tools, equipment, and incidentals, and shall perform all work necessary to deliver a completed, workmanlike project ready for safe public use and economical maintenance by City forces.

Engineer's Estimate: The Engineer's Estimate for the proposed improvements is **\$1,942,420.00**. The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) contract goal is 18 percent. This project is subject to Buy America requirements.

Pre-Bid Meeting: A non-mandatory Pre-bid meeting will be held virtually through Microsoft Teams on, **Wednesday, April 12th, 2024 at 11:00AM**. See meeting link below for access.

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_jbKNDiwNgItY2FiNy00ZGNILThjMzItOTNiODQxMzNhNmFh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22284d74b9-2287-48dd-86fa-55c87b82bc40%22%2c%220id%22%3a%223c7c346c-5108-4bab-abd5-11ea50369821%22%7d

- Completion of Work:** All work shall be completed within One-Hundred-Twenty (120) calendar working days from the date designated on the Notice to Proceed.
- Obtaining Contract Documents:** Contract documents and plans are available for downloading free of charge through the City's ProcureNow link at <https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/cityofwestsacramento>.
- Questions:** Project-specific questions must be submitted through the City's ProcureNow link at <https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/cityofwestsacramento>. If appropriate, the City will post responses to Bidder questions through the ProcureNow system. The cutoff date for submittal of questions is **Friday, April 19th, by 5PM local time**.
- Submission of Proposals:** Sealed proposals will be received and submitted electronically through the City's ProcureNow system at <https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/cityofwestsacramento> until **3:00 p.m. local time on Friday, May 3rd, 2024**, at which time and place results will be posted and available for public review for the **Highway Safety Improvements Project**.

Each Bid must conform and be responsive to this notice and shall be submitted through the City's ProcureNow system at made on the official proposal forms furnished with the Contract Documents.

Bid Security: Each proposal must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of a cashier's check, certified check, or Bid bond executed on the prescribed form, in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total Bid price payable to the City of West Sacramento.

Bidders are hereby notified that in accordance with the provisions of Public Contract Code section 22300, securities may be substituted for any monies which the City may withhold pursuant to the terms of this Contract to ensure performance.

Construction License: Bidder must possess a current Class "A" Contractor's License issued by the State of California, at the time the Bid is submitted.

Contractor Registration: All Bidders, and Subcontractors subject to Public Contract Code section 4104, must have registered with the California State Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5 prior to submitting a bid. Furthermore, a Contractor, and all Subcontractors subject to Public Contract Code section 4104, must be registered pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5 before entering into a contract to work on a public project.

Public Contract Code section 20103.5: In all contracts subject to this part where federal funds are involved, no Bid submitted shall be invalidated by the failure of the Bidder to be licensed in accordance with the laws of this state. However, at the time the contract is awarded, the Contractor shall be properly licensed in accordance with the laws of this state. The first payment for work or material under any contract shall not be made unless and until the Registrar of Contractors verifies to the agency that the records of the Contractors' State License Board indicate that the Contractor was properly licensed at the time the contract was awarded. Any Bidder or Contractor not so licensed shall be subject to all legal penalties imposed by law, including, but not limited to, any appropriate disciplinary action by the Contractors' State License Board. The City shall include a statement to that effect in the standard form of prequalification questionnaire and financial statement, if applicable. Failure of the Bidder to obtain proper and adequate licensing for an award of a contract shall constitute a failure to execute the contract and shall result in the forfeiture of the security of the Bidder.

Preconstruction Conference: A preconstruction conference will be convened after the Contractor has delivered the necessary bonds, insurance certificates, and signed agreement in proper form as required in the invitation to bid, Bid proposal, and general conditions of these specifications. Prior to any work, the Contractor shall provide the Engineer with a list of key personnel assigned to the project and the telephone numbers where they may be reached at any time. The list shall be made available in sufficient copies and presented at the preconstruction conference.

Award: The award shall be made to the lowest responsible Bidder whose proposal complies with the specified requirements. The award of the Contract will be made by the West Sacramento City Council, and the Contractor shall execute the Contract within ten (10) days after it has received the Contract from the City. The City reserves the right to waive any irregularity in the proposals. No Bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the opening of bids.

Rejection of Bids: The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or to waive immaterial irregularities in any bid. Any Bid not conforming to the intent and purpose of the Contract Documents may be rejected. The City reserves the right to make all awards in the best interest of the City.

Disqualification of Bidder: If there is a reason to believe that collusion exists among any Bidders, none of the bids of the participants in such collusion will be considered and the City may likewise elect to reject all bids received.

Relief of Bidder: Attention is directed to the provisions of Public Contracts Code section 5101 and the following, concerning relief of Bidders and in particular to the requirements therein that if the Bidder claims a mistake was made in its bid, the Bidder shall give the City written notice, within five (5) days after the opening of bids of the alleged mistake, specifying in the notice, in detail, how the mistake occurred.

Wage Rates: Bidders are hereby notified that the California Department of Industrial Relations has determined the general prevailing rate of wages for each craft, classification, or type of worker needed to execute the work. Copies of the current schedules for prevailing wages are on file in the City's office, and the contents of those schedules are included herein as if set forth in full.

It shall be mandatory for the Contractor and any Subcontractor under it to pay not less than the said specified rates to laborers and workmen employed by them in the execution of the Contract.

Bonds: The successful Bidder will be required to furnish a payment bond in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract price, and a faithful performance bond in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract price.

Federal Requirements: Contractor shall comply with all federal requirements in Part 2 Federal Provisions. The DBE goal for this project is 18%.

By: _____

Kevin Tan, Assistant Civil Engineer
kevint@cityofwestsacramento.org

Date: _____

Business Groups and Lawmakers Battle Over Ballot Measure to Limit Tax Increases



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Californians will be coughing up many billions of dollars this month as they file their federal and state income tax returns and pay the second installment on their property taxes.

How much?

Annually, individual Californians and California-based businesses pay roughly a half-trillion dollars in federal taxes – personal income taxes, Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes, primarily. They also pay at least another half-trillion dollars to state and local governments – personal income taxes, sales taxes and property taxes, primarily.

By any measure, California is a high-tax state.

The Tax Foundation, a Washington-based organization that tracks nationwide tax trends, recently reported that California's state government levies the nation's highest taxes per capita at \$7,200, which translates into about \$280 billion a year. As a portion of California's \$4 trillion economy, its \$540 billion in state and local taxes rank fifth highest at 13.5%.

These numbers – and the state's multibillion-dollar budget deficit – set the stage for a monumental, multi-front war over taxation this year, including three statewide ballot measures that could dramatically alter the

politics of taxation.

The Democratic Party's progressive wing, strongly backed by public employee unions, contends that new taxes are needed to maintain vital welfare, education and health care services. However, Gov. Gavin Newsom has publicly rejected tax hikes and proposes a budget that closes the deficit, at least on paper, with spending deferrals, book-keeping maneuvers, loans and an injection of money from the state's rainy day reserves.

Two years ago, California's two most authoritative polling organizations, UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies and the Public Policy Institute of California, asked residents about their tax burdens and both found increasing discontent, in part because they were feeling the pinch of other costs of living.

The polling punctuated voters' rejection of a tax increase measure on the 2020 ballot that would have changed Proposition 13, the iconic property tax limit approved by voters in 1978, by increasing taxes on commercial property.

Hoping to leverage popular resistance to tax increases, business and anti-tax groups led by the California Business Roundtable have qualified a measure for the November ballot that would make raising state and local taxes much more difficult.

If passed, the measure would require two-thirds votes for any local tax increases, effectively overturning a state Supreme Court ruling that local taxes proposed via initiative require only simple majority votes. It also would subject any state tax increases to voter approval as well as two-thirds votes by the Legislature.

The measure's qualification has touched off a legal and political war with Newsom, the Legislature and pro-tax interests, such as unions. Newsom and the Legislature have filed suit, hoping to persuade the state Supreme Court that the measure is a constitutional revision, rather than an amendment, and thereby cannot be enacted by initiative.

The contending interests have filed written arguments with the court, which has not formally decided whether to accept the case. If it does, it will have only a few months to declare whether or not the measure goes on the ballot.

The Legislature has also placed its own measure on the ballot that, if passed, would require the business tax limit measure itself to get two-thirds voter approval. And it passed another ballot measure to reduce vote margin for local tax and bond measures that increase spending on housing and infrastructure to 55% from the current two-thirds, potentially nullifying the Business Roundtable measure.

It's a showdown that's been building for nearly five decades, ever since Prop. 13 won approval. With countless billions of dollars at stake, hundreds of millions of dollars are likely to be spent for and against the three interrelated measures.

Dan Walters has been a journalist for more than 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers. He began his professional career in 1960, at age 16, at the Humboldt Times in Eureka, while still attending high school, and turned down a National Merit scholarship to continue working as a journalist. ★

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: Self-storage Cube contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by **CubeSmart Asset Management, LLC** as Agent for Owner 541 Harbor Blvd. West Sacramento Ca, 95691 to satisfy a lien on May 9, 2024 at approx. 12:00 PM at www.storage-treasures.com: Dwight Hogan Jr., William Mattos.

West News Ledger 4-19-2024

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

May 2, 2024

Pursuant to Government Code Section 66018, the West Sacramento Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on Thursday May 2, 2024, at West Sacramento Civic Center, City Council Chambers, 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, California, at 6:00 PM or as soon thereafter as possible on the item(s) listed below.

Members of the public are welcome to watch the meeting Livestream (<https://www.cityofwestsacramento.org/government/meetings-agendas/planning-commission>), or via Astound Broadband Channel 20 and to submit comments *in writing by 4:00 PM on May 2, 2024.*

Any interested person or authorized agent may appear and be heard. To submit a comment in writing, please email dianac@cityofwestsacramento.org and write "Public Comment" in the subject line. In the body of the email, include the item number and/or title of the item as well as your comments. All comments received by 4:00 PM will be provided to the Planning Commission and posted on the City's website. The comments submitted shall become part of the record of the meeting.

6:00 p.m.

REGULAR AGENDA

- Public Hearing Regarding Proposed River Park Development Agreement Amendment No. 2 (Laffey)**

River Park is an approved project consisting of a residential village with up to 2,284 residences of varying types and densities, a village core with commercial and mixed uses on 452 acres in the Southport area's Southeast Village. As part of the approvals given on June 18, 2008, the City and the landowner entered into a Development Agreement (DA) for a 15-year term via Ordinance 08-06, which was subsequently extended by one year via Ordinance 23-7 until July 18, 2024. The proposed amendment would extend the term of the DA for up to two additional years until July 18, 2026. No other changes to the DA are proposed. The landowner is proposing revisions to the project, which would be considered by the Planning Commission and City Council at a later date. The proposed DA time extension is within the scope of the previously certified EIR (SCH #2005062027). The Planning Commission will consider a resolution recommending approval of an ordinance to the City Council to effectuate the term extension. The City Council will make the final decision on the term extension. The action does not require further environmental review pursuant to Sections 15162 and 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines. APPLICANT/OWNER: Sun M Capital, LLC, 4010 Palos Verdes Drive North, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274.
- Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Wireless Telecommunications Facility Permit for a Cellular Tower at 2545 Jefferson Boulevard (Ortega)**

This item is a public hearing regarding the consideration of a Wireless Telecommunications Facility Permit for a new cellular tower at 2545 Jefferson Boulevard. Applicant is proposing to construct a new 70-foot-tall AT&T cellular tower and ground equipment screening wall to improve reliable coverage and capacity for wireless customers in the area. If approved, the new cellular tower would be located in the northeast corner of the property, next to Fire Station 45. This project falls under the Class 32 Categorical Exemption according to the California Environmental Quality Act. Class 32 consists of projects characterized as in-fill development where the project is consistent with the General Plan and zoning, the project occurs within city limits on a project site of no more than 5 acres substantially surrounded by urban uses, the project site has no value as habitat for endangered or threatened species, approval of the project would not result in significant effects to traffic, noise, air quality or water quality and the site can be adequately serviced by all required utilities and public services (In-Fill Development Projects, Section 15332, CEQA Guidelines). Applicant: New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC ("AT&T"), 5001 Executive Parkway, San Ramon, CA 94583. Owner: Tommy Paul Thomas & Gayle Ellen Thomas, 1510 Ramona Way, Alamo, CA 94507.

David Tilley
 David W. Tilley, Secretary
 West Sacramento Planning Commission

If you disagree with the decision of the Planning Commission, you have a right of appeal. Only persons who participated in the review process by submitting written testimony or oral testimony at the public hearing, may appeal. Appeals are limited to those issues raised at the Planning Commission meeting. If you challenge any of the above items in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of West Sacramento at, or prior to, the public hearing.

West Sac News Ledger 4-19-2024

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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Petitioner is: Alicia Agraan, 3429 Martinique Street, West Sacramento, CA 95691; 916-372-3298
 Publish: April 5, 12, 19, 2024
 AGRAAN 4-19-24

TRUSTEE SALE

T.S. No.: 23-10323
 Notice of Trustee's Sale
 Loan No.: *9077 You Are In De-

fault Under A Deed Of Trust, Security Agreement And Fixture Filing (With Assignmnet Of Rents And Leases) Dated 6/9/2023. Unless You Take Action To Protect Your Property, It May Be Sold At A Public Sale. If You Need An Explanation Of The Nature Of The Proceeding Against You, You Should Contact A Lawyer. On 4/30/2024 at 12:45 PM, Prestige Default Services, LLC, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant that certain Deed Of Trust, Security Agreement And Fixture Filing (With Assignmnet Of Rents And Leases) dated 6/9/2023 ("Deed of Trust") recorded on 6/15/2023, as Document No. 2023-0009575 in book , page , of Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of Yolo

County, California, executed by Michael J. Moser and Kim Sik Yee Yu Co-Trustees Of The Yu Family Trust, Dated May 7, 2018 And Its Amendments ("Trustor"), as trustor, to secure obligations in favor of Center Street Lending VIII SPE, LLC, A Delaware Limited Liability Company, as beneficiary. Will Sell At Public Auction To The Highest Bidder For Cash (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by Cash, a Cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do busi-

ness in this state). Checks must be made payable to Prestige Default Services. At: north (rear) entrance to City Hall, 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under the Deed Of Trust in the property situated in said County, California, describing the land therein: Lot 166, Elkhorn Village No. 1, in the City of West Sacramento, County of Yolo, State of California, according to the Official Plat thereof, filed for record in the Office of the Recorder of Yolo County, California, on November 3, 1950, in Book 4 of Maps, at Pages 30 and 31. A.P.N.: 014-571-006-000 The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 809 Fremont Blvd , West Sacramento, California 95605 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed Of Trust with interest (including, without limitation, default interest) and late charges thereon, the prepayment premium, legal fees and other costs, fees, expenses and charges, and advances, and interest thereon, and the fees, charges and expenses of the undersigned trustee ("Trustee") as provided in the note, loan agreement and other loan documents secured by the Deed Of Trust, at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale reasonably estimated to be \$293,657.04. The amount may be greater on the day of sale as accrued interest, costs and fees, and any additional advances, will increase the figure prior to sale. The current beneficiary under the Deed Of Trust (the "Beneficiary") hereby elects to conduct a unified foreclosure sale pursuant to the provisions of California Commercial Code Section 9604(a)(1)(B) and to include in the non-judicial foreclosure of the estate described in this Notice of Unified Trustee's Sale all of the personal property and fixtures described in the Deed Of Trust. The Ben-

eficiary reserves the right to revoke its election as to some or all of said personal property and/or fixtures, or to add additional personal property and/or fixtures to the election herein expressed, at the Beneficiary's sole election, from time to time and at any time until the consummation of the trustee's sale to be conducted pursuant to the Deed Of Trust and this Notice of Unified Trustee's Sale. The personal property which was given as security for trustor's obligation as described in the Deed Of Trust. No warranty is made that any or all of the personal property and/or fixtures still exists or is available for the successful bidder and no warranty is made as to the condition of any of the personal property and/or fixtures, which shall be sold "as is" "where is". The Beneficiary heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned, a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a Written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the County where the real property is located, and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. Notice To Potential Bidders: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. Notice To Property Owner: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times

by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (877) 440-4460 or visit this internet website <https://mkconsultantsinc.com/trustees-sales/> using the file number assigned to this case 23-10323. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Date: 3/27/2024 Prestige Default Services, LLC 1920 Old Tustin Ave. Santa Ana, California 92705 Questions: 949-427-2010 Sale Line: (877) 440-4460 Tina Suihkonen, Vice President of Operations and Compliance
 Published 4/5, 4/12, & 4/19, 2024
 News Ledger 4-19-24

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Pursuant to Government Code Section § 60018 the West Sacramento City Council will conduct a public hearing on May 1, 2024 at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as possible on the items listed below. The hearing will be held in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center, 1110 West Capitol Ave., West Sacramento. All interested persons are invited to attend the hearing and express opinions. Please note: The City does not transcribe its hearings; however, action minutes are prepared and are publicly available once approved by the hearing body.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk, at clerk@cityofwestsacramento.org, seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting to allow the City to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to this meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER OBJECTIONS TO THE PROPOSED REMOVAL OF WEEDS

West Sac News Ledger 4-19-2024

NOTICE OF HEARING RE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS OF NECESSITY

Pursuant to Government Code of Civil Procedure Section 1245.235 the West Sacramento City Council will conduct a public hearing on May 1, 2024 at 7:00 PM, or as soon thereafter as possible, to consider adoption of Resolutions of Necessity for all or portions of property located at 201 2nd Street (APN 010-102-005), 221 2nd Street (010-102-002) and 219 & 319 2nd Street (APNs 010-372-002 & 010-372-003) in West Sacramento. If adopted, the Resolutions of Necessity would authorize West Sacramento to file eminent domain actions to acquire the subject property for the I Street Bridge Replacement Project. The hearing will be held in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center, 1110 West Capitol Ave., West Sacramento. All interested persons are invited to attend the hearing and express opinions. Please note: The City does not transcribe its hearings; however, action minutes are prepared and are publicly available once approved by the hearing body.

Copies of the proposed Resolutions of Necessity will be available for review on April 26, 2024, after 5:00 p.m., at the Office of the Clerk of the City of West Sacramento, as well as online.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk, at clerk@cityofwestsacramento.org, seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting to allow the City to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to this meeting.

A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS 24-45, 24-46, AND 24-47 DECLARING THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND NECESSITY AND AUTHORIZING COMMENCEMENT OF EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDINGS TO SECURE REAL PROPERTY INTERESTS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE I STREET BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (010-102-002, 010-102-005, 010-372-002, 010-372-003) CIP 10033

West Sac News Ledger 4-19-2024

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
 FILE NO. F20240197

The person(s) or entity listed below are abandoning the use of the Uptime Resources, 32900 Alvarado Niles Road Suite 100, Union City, CA 94587. The fictitious business name was originally filed in Yolo County on March 19, 2019, and is being abandoned by the registrant(s) listed below: KBA Document Solutions, LLC, 32900 Alvarado Niles Road Suite 100, Union City, CA 94587. The business was conducted by: A Limited Liability Company. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on February 29, 2024.
 By: Jesse Sallinas, Deputy
 Publish: April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 2024
 UPTIME 5-3-24

COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

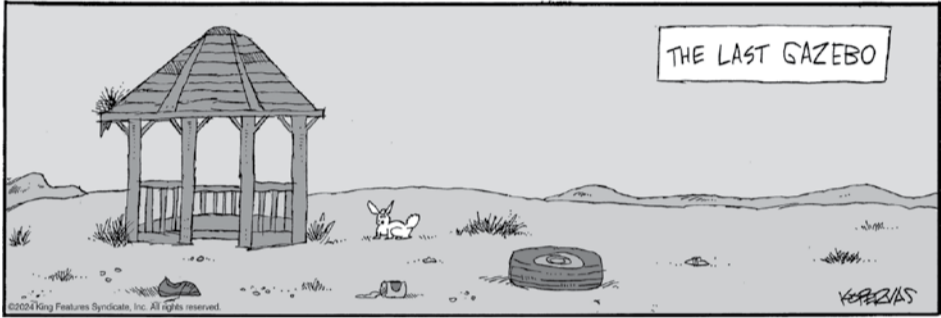


Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

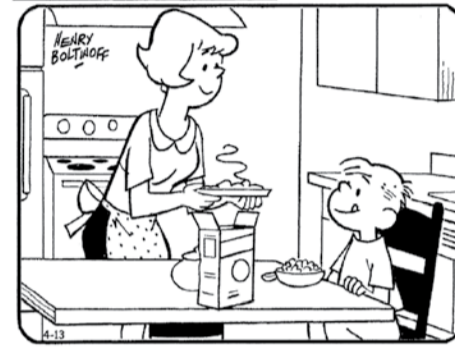
Out on a Limb



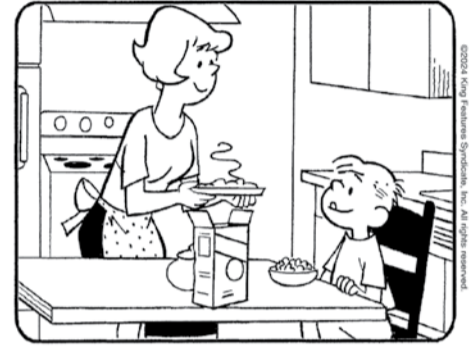
by Gary Kopervas

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

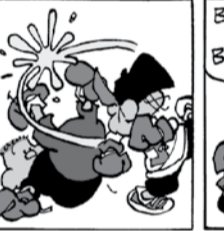


Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Spoon is missing. 2. Box is missing. 3. Collar is missing. 4. Mouth is different. 5. Refrigerator handle is not as long. 6. Oven handle is missing.

TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

GRIN & BEAR IT



Just Like Cats & Dogs



by Dave T. Phipps

A	M	A	S	S	R	A	M		B	L	O	W		
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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • GRADUATION

- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Accumulate
 - Popular pickup
 - Johnny Brown's 2001 biopic
 - Jousting pole
 - Mozart's "L___ del Cairo"
 - Figure of speech
 - Oak nut
 - Be off base
 - Less typical
 - *Graduating class
 - *S in BS
 - *Graduating NCAA player's goal?
 - FedEx, verb
 - "I Want My ___" television channel
 - Daytime drama
 - Online business
 - Fleur-de-lis
 - Dart
 - Planktonic tunicate
 - Not naughty
 - Break of day
 - Last row
 - Verdi's opus
 - Lion's do
 - D.E.A. agent
 - Sell again
 - Penny
 - To the ___ degree
 - Prep for certain potatoes
 - Metered ride
 - *Final reward
 - *Academic ___, a.k.a. Cap and Gown
 - Gibson garnish
 - Rocks, to a bartender
 - Angry
 - Lieu
 - Not solid or liquid
 - Post-it user
 - Of two minds
 - Bldg unit
 - Opposite of friend
- DOWN**
- "Oh, woe!"
 - Riot spray
 - At another time, archaic
 - Substitute for tender
 - Misters in Spain
 - Fish eggs, pl.
 - Acronym, abbr.
 - Wet land
 - Highlands hillside
 - Forsaken
 - Oil org.
 - "The Way We ___"
 - *Finals at Cambridge University
 - Building toppers
 - El ___, Spain's national hero
 - Popeye's fuel
 - *Major's partner
 - Beef ___, dim sum choice
 - Moral weaknesses
 - *Grad
 - Mountain lake
 - As a whistle?
 - 1960s abstractionism
 - *"Pomp and Circumstance," e.g.
 - Dried up
 - Adjust the pitch, with "up"
 - Previous VP
 - Marcona nut
 - Skedaddle
 - Moroccan spiced stew
 - Eurasian antelope

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California Spends More on Schools with The Neediest Kids

Here's How It's Succeeded and Failed

By Carolyn Jones,
CALMatters.org

A decade after California revolutionized the way it funds schools, nearly everyone agrees the initiative has done what it was meant to do: improved math and reading scores and brought more resources to students who struggle the most.

And nearly everyone also agrees that the Local Control Funding Formula, as it's known, could use a tune-up. Black and Latino students' test scores have improved but still lag behind their white and Asian peers, and schools in affluent areas still spend far more per student than schools in poorer neighborhoods.

But overall, researchers and superintendents say, the system introduced under Gov. Jerry Brown has remade California's schools for the better.

"Gov. Brown had a good idea," said Adam Clark, superintendent of Mt. Diablo Unified in Concord. "(The funding formula) has given school districts the tools and resources to really address the needs of students. And it gives parents and the community a voice."

Jaime Green, superintendent of Trinity Alps Unified in Trinity County, put it more succinctly: "Without LCFF, our district would not be open."

Under the Local Control Funding Formula, the state gives school districts a base amount of money calculated by attendance, but funnels extra funds for low-income students, English learners and foster youth. Districts have freedom to spend the money on whatever programs they think will help their students, with guidance and accountability through a public local planning process.

Prior to the funding formula, California schools were financed through local property taxes, a system that had been in place for 40 years. Districts with lower tax revenues got extra money from the state, up to a certain limit, and the state doled out dozens of grants for specific programs.

Districts like Trinity Unified, located in California's poorest county, barely stayed afloat under that system because the extra money was not enough to cover expenses, especially considering the large number of students living in poverty.

The overall amount of spending was low due in part to Proposition 13, the 1978 ballot initiative that capped property taxes and resulted in deep cuts to state spending. By the mid-2000s, California was near the bottom of states nationally in school spending, student test scores and nearly every other educational measurement. Linda Darling Hammond, president of the State Board of Education, described it as "a broken system."

Simplifying and Decentralizing School Funding

Brown, who was elected to his second stint as governor in 2010, said he got the inspiration to overhaul school funding from Mike Kirst, who served as president of the State Board of Education during both of Brown's stints as governor. Kirst and his colleagues had proposed the idea of a weighted formula a few years earlier, but it was shelved when the economy crashed in 2008.

Gathering support from legislators, teachers unions, parent groups and school boards, Brown, Kirst and their allies helped get the funding formula enacted in 2013.

The simplicity, along with shifting power away from the state, appealed to Brown.

"I liked the idea of reducing complexity, of giving money where it was most needed," Brown said in December at a conference on the impact of the funding formula. "You need goals, you need standards, but you have to let local people do their thing."

It coincided with a trio of other



The Wellness Center at College Park High School is a place where students can find a quiet and relaxing environment without leaving school. Pleasant Hill, March 15, 2024. Photo by Manuel Orbeago

big changes in California education: passage of Proposition 30, a sales tax which raised about \$6 billion annually for schools; introduction of the Common Core reading and math curriculum; and the Smarter Balanced standardized testing system.

Within a few years, the improvements were obvious in California classrooms. By 2019, before the pandemic, reading and math scores in all grades had improved, graduation rates rose, suspensions and expulsions fell, and more students met college admission requirements for the state's public universities. A report by the Learning Policy

Overall School Spending is Still Unequal

Another problem is the overall amount of school spending generally, some said. Even though low-income schools now have much more money than they did a decade ago, it's not enough to address the needs of students facing complex challenges. And schools in affluent areas still spend far more per student, thanks to parent donations and local bonds and taxes.

Jack O'Connell, who was State Superintendent of Public Instruction prior to the Local Control Funding Formula, agreed. While he considers the

who meet more than one of the formula categories should be counted twice, not once. Schools should receive extra money for English learners who are also low-income, for example.

Basing School Funding on Enrollment, Not Attendance

In Trinity Alps Unified, in the mountains of Trinity County in Northern California, the funding formula has made a world of difference — not just for students but for the entire community, said superintendent Green. Prior to the funding formula, the district received less than \$12,000 per student from all sources; now it's closer to \$20,000.

violate Proposition 209, the affirmative action ban that prevents the state from linking money to students' race or ethnicity.

Gov. Gavin Newsom last year introduced a tweak to the funding formula that directs extra funding to specific schools based on high rates of student turnover, low-income students or students whose parents didn't graduate from high school. The equity multiplier, as it's known, is intended to reach students who have the highest needs.

'Deep inequities' in California

But that's not enough, said Natalie Wheatfall-Lum, director of TK-12 education policy at Ed Trust-West, an education research and advocacy organization. California should repeal or scale back Proposition 209.

"We still have deep inequities across the board," Wheatfall-Lum said. "But by fixing LCFF we have a huge opportunity to support racial equity. ... The stakes are very high. How we fund schools is the foundation of our education system."

Ed Trust-West also recommends that the state hold districts accountable for the academic performance of specific student groups, such as Black and Latino students, and pay more attention to the progress of English learners, whose test scores have barely budged since the finding formula was introduced.

But money isn't always the answer, Brown noted at a conference in December. Bumps in school funding, while helpful, can't be expected to solve problems as deeply embedded as poverty, racism and inequality, he said. Factors beyond school play a huge role in students' outcomes.

'More Than Money' to Help High-Needs Students

At College Park High in Pleasant Hill, the district used funding formula money to open a wellness center two years ago. Furnished with couches, comfy chairs, student-created artwork and private enclaves for one-on-one meetings with counselors, the wellness center is a popular place for students to relax and socialize. In addition to mental health services like peer counseling and therapy dogs, the center offers yoga, meditation, games and a quiet place to do homework. A social worker is always present.

Stephanie Perez, a senior at College Park, said the wellness center has been a lifesaver — literally. It's given her a reason to stay in school and motivation to stay healthy.

"If this place wasn't here, I'd be out drinking, smoking, ditching school, getting bad habits," Perez said. "They really care about you, listen to you, give you a shoulder to cry on. I come here to ease my mind." ★



College Park High School students can visit the Wellness Center during school hours and after school to take a break and reset before returning to their activities in Pleasant Hill on March 15, 2024. Photo by Manuel Orbeago for CalMatters

Institute found that an increase of \$1,000 in per-pupil spending over three consecutive years resulted in a full grade level improvement in math and reading.

California now ranks near the national average in school spending, as well as in math and reading scores. Although scores fell in the wake of the pandemic, they didn't fall as far as they did in other states and are slowly beginning to creep upward.

But challenges persist. One common gripe among superintendents is the annual plan required to chart goals and priorities. The Local Control Accountability Plan is a key part of the funding formula's accountability and parent involvement components, but it can be a headache, superintendents said. It requires community meetings, surveys, data analysis and detailed explanations of spending for the public, county and state to review.

The plans are often so dense with jargon that even though they're posted online, reviewed at school board meetings and shared with parents, few people wade through them — thereby not providing the accountability they're intended to.

funding formula a landmark in California education, he thinks the state needs to increase the base amount of money it gives schools. Currently, that amount ranges from \$11,000 to \$12,300 per student, which poses a challenge for middle-class districts without large numbers of low-income students or wealthy parents willing to donate thousands.

"There's no question things are better off now," O'Connell said. "But increasing the base grant might be the best way to help all students."

Kirst said he was confident the funding formula would work, but he's surprised at its political staying power and how entrenched it's become in the education landscape.

He'd like to see the formula adjusted to take into account regional costs of living, so districts in expensive areas get more money. And he'd like to see the poverty measurement change. Currently it's based on how many students meet the federal standards for a free or reduced price meal. But with so many districts now offering free lunch to all students, he said, the state should consider using other criteria.

He also thinks that students

That money goes a long way in Trinity County, funding everything from art classes to after-school programs to special education.

"We feel very blessed to have this formula," Green said. "LCFF allows us to stay open and serve our children at a high level."

An improvement Green and other superintendents would like to see is funding based on enrollment, not attendance. Currently, the state disperses money to districts based on average daily attendance. But chronic absenteeism soared during the pandemic, resulting in lower revenues. While enrollment is also declining in many areas, absenteeism is the bigger challenge, Green said.

Going forward, some advocates are calling on the state to tie extra funding directly to students' race. The impact of systemic racism, they say, is too profound to ignore. They argue that Black and Latino students often fall through the cracks, especially if they attend affluent schools, or if they attend low-income schools in affluent districts. The state has shied away from such a policy for fear it would