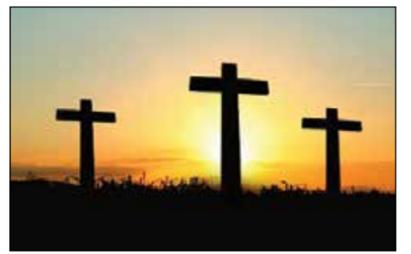




**Grant Good News  
for Nature Center**

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**He is  
Risen!**  
Celebrate Easter



# AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

VOLUME 18 • ISSUE 7

Serving Fair Oaks, Orangevale & Sacramento County

APRIL 7, 2023

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INSIDE**  
CELEBRATING  
65 YEARS



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## Ready to Serve!

*Big Day of Service is Back for 2023*



Amazing volunteers get ready to spread yards of bark and beautify the OV Community Center. Photo by Jenn Gustafsen

By *MaryAnne Povey*

**ORANGEVALE/FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG)** - The Big Day of Service 2023 is back and bigger and better than ever! This year's event, happening on May 6th, 2023, is taking on a record 50 community service projects in the Orangevale and Fair Oaks area. After two years of scaling back and



Flower bouquets being assembled by volunteers for local senior citizens on Big Day of Service 2022. Photo by Jenn Gustafsen

focusing on fewer projects, the Big Day of Service is back in full force, taking on multiple projects at multiple locations.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the community to come together and make a positive impact on the area," said Josh Hall, OV-FO Community Foundation Executive Director.

*Continued on page 2*

## County Hires New Economic Development Director



Crystal Bethke. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

**Sacramento County  
Press Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento County has a new Economic Development Director. Crystal Bethke, who has worked for Sacramento County's Office of Economic Development since 2007, was officially appointed in her new role on March 26, 2023.

"Crystal is known as a doer, problem solver, and collaborator," said Dave Defanti, Deputy County Executive for Community Services. "I have great confidence in her ability to lead the Office of Economic Development and look forward to working with her in her new role."

In her former role as a Senior Economic Development Specialist, Bethke developed and led a wide range of initiatives in business attraction, retention and expansion, small business and nonprofit support programs, and neighborhood revitalization.

Most recently, Bethke managed COVID-19 business support efforts, including over \$17M in direct grants and business recovery programs through the County's American Rescue Plan Act funding, as well as over-saw Business Environmental Resource Center (BERC) staff activities providing assistance to businesses to promote sustainability, including providing assistance with permitting and regulations. She also coordinated commercial corridor revitalization efforts through cooperative programs, incentives, Property and Business Improvement District support, and direct business assistance.

Along with the aforementioned initiatives, Bethke also managed the Small Business Liaison Program providing assistance to small businesses, large retailers, and entrepreneurs with licenses, permits, funding, business planning, and industry regulations; and participated in the development and administration of the \$104M budget and expenditures, including managing pass-through programs, contracts and grants.

Bethke has a Bachelor of Political Science and Government degree as well as a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of San Francisco. ★

## Storms Test American River Wildlife

By *Susan Maxwell Skinner*

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Storms that swelled waterways in recent weeks have challenged river and flood plain wildlife.

Wind has dislodged nests and uprooted trees. In the February-March nesting season, many baby birds have perished. Flood plain inhabitants that retreat to higher ground have ended up competing for reduced food or in unsafe situations.

Even fish seem to have died from too much water. Trail users last week reported scores of dead carp and bass in Lake Natoma. Fish and Wildlife Department sources ascribed the event to water oxygen depletion that can occur when drought is followed by sustained rain. (Coursing down creeks and bluffs, water flow carries huge amounts of organic matter; bacteria burn oxygen to feast on the fermenting soup in ponds and streams; the banquet consumes oxygen that fish need to survive).

Riverbank dwellers have been washed from homes. California Wildlife Encounters capture specialist Ben Nuckolls was recently called to the Folsom Post office to rescue an adult beaver.



Veteran wildlife rescuer Ben Nuckolls and assistant Leslie Ackerman help an injured beaver near the American River during recent storms. Another of the aquatic rodents was relocated after ending up in Folsom Post Office grounds. Photo by Jann Nichols.

The river-dweller's misadventure followed February floods. "He must have negotiated several Folsom streets and inter-sections to arrive at the Post Office," considered Nuckolls. "Post Office workers found him in a fenced parking lot. When we arrived, he was behind bushes and scared."

Nuckolls and assistant Christina Sullivan netted the 40-pound rodent. After examination for injury, it was released in a nearby waterway. More recently, Fair Oaks

resident Nuckolls and assistant Leslie Ackerman rescued another beaver from Sailor Bar Fair Oaks.

Three baby hawks whose nest fell with an uprooted pine did not survive. "The tree branches were dense," says Nuckolls. "We did our best to get to the nest but the babies did not make it. In the last few weeks, I have been involved with 20 weather-related rescues. When rescues fail, I carry a heavy burden."

"We always see more wildlife displacement

after storms," notes Effie Yeaw Nature Center Director Kent Anderson. "Usually, animals just wait it out and get back to their routines after storms. This year, the weather's been chaotic, with back-to-back storms. Animals tied to the waterways have suffered more."

Wild Animals in distress should be reported to: Gold Country Wildlife Rescue (530) 885 0862; or the Wildlife Care Association (916) 965 9453; Department of Fish and Wildlife (916) 358-2900. ★

# Grant Good News for Nature Center



Wild turkey parade for last week's Bird and Breakfast safari at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

**Story and photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner**

**CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG)** - Effie Yeaw Nature Center supporters are not just celebrating recent Bird and Breakfast fundraisers. The Carmichael learning and nature-preserving institution recently received a \$400,000 grant from the State of California.

The center is among 60 recipients of similar sums via the State's Natural Resources Agency Museum program.

The money – among the largest windfalls ever afforded the Carmichael facility – will improve the center's 1000-square-foot museum in Ancil Hoffman Park. Featuring wildlife, habitat and Native American displays, it is viewed by almost 60,000 visitors per year. Together with a 100-acre preserve, the center is a valued education and recreation resource for Sacramento County.

"We are very excited here," says Nature Center Executive Director Kent Anderson. "We applied for the museum grant last year and we've been holding our breath for months. There was loads of clapping and cheering when we heard the news – this will really make a difference for us."

The sum will allow long-envisioned upgrades specific to museum and learning needs. These include: a lobby face lift; better access for handicapped visitors; state-of-the-art signage and touch-screens; translations for non-English speakers; options for hearing

and sight-impaired guests.

"We can also get museum-grade cabinets that we didn't previously have funds for," explains Anderson. "There's much planning to do; but we expect to start projects this summer and continue work over the next 18 months. We hope to manage these with minimal disruption for visitors."

Named for Carmichael conservationist Effie Yeaw, the 46-year-old Nature Center has been cash-challenged since County funding was removed 12 years ago. It stays open through community generosity, under administration by the American River Natural History Association. Learning opportunities – many geared for low-income school visitors – have continued, but the center was hard-hit when the pandemic stopped income-generating programs and curtailed fundraising.

"We're grateful for this State grant and the museum improvements it allows," says Anderson. "But there's always more work to do here. Education is a huge part of our mission. There is an increasing need for our programs. We will always need support."

Two March weekends of Bird and Breakfast events recently drew nearly 200 visitors. On June 11, a \$160 per-guest gala will continue the center's fundraising. For more information on Effie Yeaw Nature Center events go to [www.sacnaturecenter.net](http://www.sacnaturecenter.net) ★

# Ready to Serve!

*Continued from page 1*

"The variety of projects available means that there is something for everyone."

From manual labor projects to encouragement projects, to care packages, and school beautification projects, there is something that will fit everyone's skills and interests. Since each project varies in scope, 10 to 50 volunteers will be needed to get the job done!

"Some of the fan favorite projects include cookies for seniors, military care packages and the school beautification projects," said Jenn Gustafson, event coordinator.

Organizers are hoping to get at least 1000 volunteers this year, and everyone is encouraged to gather up in groups and sign up with family and friends. "By working together, we can make a significant impact in our community that will benefit everyone," Jenn added.

One of the highlights of the Big Day of Service is the kick-off rally taking place at Sunrise Community Church, 8321 Greenback Lane. The rally starts at 7:30 AM, and everyone is encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity to come together and get pumped up before heading out to the variety of projects.

"It's really important to be part of the rally," said Jenn, "Besides doing the projects, it's the best part where people come together to enjoy the pancake



OV-FO Kiwanis members, Bradley Miller and Luz Johnson "dig in" to help plant trees at the Big Day of Service 2022. Photo by Jenn Gustafson

breakfast, get excited and come together as a community."

In addition to the pancake breakfast, volunteers will get a Big Day of Service T-shirt and a chance to connect with other volunteers.

If you're wondering how long it will take, most projects should be done by 2 PM on Saturday afternoon. This means that you can make a significant impact in just a few hours.

For those interested in donating to help cover the cost of any project, sponsorships are also available. This is a great opportunity to give back to the community and support the projects that

are happening.

"We are so excited about getting the community re-engaged and out and back together this year, like we haven't been able to do for a few years," added Josh Hall.

So what are you waiting for? Sign up with family and friends, come to the kick-off rally, and get ready to make a positive change that will benefit everyone in the Orangevale and Fair Oaks communities. Let's make this year's Big Day of Service the best one yet! For more information about sponsorships, projects and to sign up to volunteer, go to [www.bigdayofservice.com](http://www.bigdayofservice.com). See ya out there! ★

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# Orangevale Farmers Market Expands to Host "Bands and Brews"



The Orangevale Farmers Market begins its season on May 4 and runs through October 26 every Thursday at the community center off Hazel Avenue. Photo courtesy of Orangevale Farmers Market

By Brittany O'Neal

**ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG)** - Since moving to the Orangevale Community Center on Hazel Ave, the Orangevale Farmers Market has continued to evolve, bringing our community not just great produce, food and crafts, but weekly entertainment for all ages with "kick-a\*\*" music and beer. The Community Center has been the perfect venue for hosting this great fusion of local groceries with the age-old "summer concerts in the park". Farmers market manager, Marga Brunner has worked tirelessly to turn this vision a reality by investing in big-time musicians. Orangevale Chamber of Commerce also stepped up in 2022 to sponsor and run our first beer garden that poured locally brewed beers from Fort Rock Brewing Co.

The 2023 market season is introducing the "Bands and Brews" concert series which brings in a plethora of partnerships from local business and charitable organizations. The Orangevale Rotary club, Les Schwab Tire Center, Orangevale water Co, Orangevale copy, YMCA and Badfish Coffee are deeply responsible for making this amazing and unique event happen.

"Bands and Brews" is bringing back bands such as local favorites The Golden Cadillacs, Island of Black and White, Jessica Malone, and Todd Morgan and the Emblems to a growing weekly audience. The beer and wine garden has a grassy shaded area to enjoy the music and food trucks are providing pizza, tacos, fried chicken, and snow cones for the kids.

Every Thursday is not just about great music and food, the backbone is the farmers market itself. There are local farm and food vendors with seasonal produce and tasty food options. Some of the most dedicated vendors have been, Thao Ranch, K&D Freitas Farms, Freshway Fish, Donna's Tamales, Sciabica's Olive Oil, Sweet Nita's, Sour and Soul, and Golden Drops, just to name a few.

The Orangevale Farmers Market is a wonderful family event for the community to come together to support local farms and businesses and connect with each other. Come enjoy good food, company and music throughout the summer with "Bands and Brews." For more information about the market, concert series schedule or if you want to become a sponsor or a vendor check out, [OrangevaleFarmersMarket.com](http://OrangevaleFarmersMarket.com). ★

# Fair Oaks Couple Celebrate 65 Years

Story by Judy Andrews

**FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG)** - Although the Fair Oaks community has grown and changed over the years, most long-time residents like Warren and Janet McWilliams will agree - it's a great place to grow up and call home!

The beloved couple, who are affectionally known to many as Mr. and Mrs. Fair Oaks, spent their 65th wedding anniversary last summer surrounded by friends and neighbors at a Concerts in the Park performance next to the church where they were married.

In January 2023, the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce presented the McWilliams with a Special Recognition Award reserved for deserving residents who serve as pillars in the community. The McWilliams' list of accomplishments, as civic leaders and role model citizens, goes back decades.

### A History of Community Service

The McWilliams have been members of the chamber for 28 years and have earned numerous accolades including the distinguished Citizen of the Year Award. In 1997, Warren ran for Fair Oaks Honorary Mayor and won—raising \$6,659 for the Fair Oaks Theatre Festival.

They are both active in a number of long-standing organizations including the Fair Oaks Rotary Club and Inner Wheel, Fair Oaks Historical Society, Fair Oaks Theatre Festival, Woman's Thursday Club of Fair Oaks, and the Fair Oaks Foundation for Leisure and the Arts.

### Concerts in the Park

Warren and Janet played a significant role in establishing the first summer concert series in 1995 for the Fair Oaks Centennial celebration. The couple were members of a small group who planned all the Centennial activities that year.

Janet recalled inviting the Sacramento Symphony out to perform in Fair Oaks Park for the Centennial's final event. "It was challenging for us to raise money for the symphony to come out and play, but we managed to do it."

In order to put on future concerts, the group realized they needed another way to raise funds.

They formed a non-profit called the Fair Oaks Foundation for Leisure and the Arts and - through the



The McWilliams celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary at Fair Oaks Park. Photo courtesy of the McWilliams.

foundation - were able to help keep the music alive by selling ice cream at concerts. Some of the money they raised also went to park and amphitheater improvements.

Concerts in the Park continues to be enjoyed today thanks to the foundation's successful long-standing partnership with the Fair Oaks Chamber and Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District.

### A Budding Romance Blossoms

Long-time locals might remember Janet at Northridge Elementary School where she taught 4th and 5th grades from 1959 to 1972. Others may know Warren in the days when he worked at the Fair Oaks Post Office between 1958 and 1988.

The couple met in 1956 on a blind date to see a play at San Juan High School. Both had previously graduated from the school five years apart. Janet was in her second year at Cal State University, Sacramento studying to be a teacher and Warren had just finished serving four years in the Navy.

Things moved quickly between the two and they were engaged three months later. In 1957 they were married at the Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church.

After graduating from college, Janet was offered a job at Northridge Elementary School where she had completed her student teaching assignment.

She recalled the school had just opened at the height of Aerojet's hiring boom. "The school district was growing one classroom a week. It really was quite a time. I think if you were breathing, they'd hire you to teach!"

After teaching at the elementary school for 13 years, Janet became a reading specialist for the district where she stayed another 20 years.

Warren worked for his

dad for a while after he and Janet were married. When Janet became pregnant, he took a seasonal assignment at the Fair Oaks Post Office. The temp work paid off. Warren was soon asked to return where he stayed for 30 more years working his way up through the ranks from mail carrier to assistant post master.

### "A Wonderful Place to Raise Children"

Warren and Janet's son (Warren III) currently runs a dental practice in the area. He and his wife (Lynda) have a daughter (Shannon) and a 2-year-old granddaughter named Makenna.

Janet shared that Fair Oaks is a wonderful place to raise children. "The schools are good and the kids who grew up here return to visit with their own families. It's always been a loving supportive community."

Although businesses may come and go in the village, Warren thinks it still feels the way it did 45 years ago. "We're like the Carmel of the North, but without all the fancy stuff," he smiled. "We have some great restaurants, too!"

The McWilliams are proud of what they have accomplished in the community where they grew up, raised a family, and established lifelong friendships. Many of their friends recently came out to help celebrate Warren's 90th birthday at North Ridge Country Club.

What's the secret to a happy 65-year marriage? Janet shared it's about "staying focused on the positive things."

Although both agree on the importance of having supportive friends, Warren left us with this treasured piece of advice, "I've always helped Janet with everyday things like doing the dishes and learned very early to say - yes!" ★

# American Legion BBQ N Boots Dinner and Dance

American Legion Post 383 News Release

**FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG)** - American Legion Post 383 is hosting a dinner and dance featuring Country Western music by the "BRISCO COUNTY" band and Texas RoadHouse Sirloin Steak or BBQ Chicken with all the fixin's on Saturday, April 15, 2023.

Location: Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Hall, 8990 Kruitof Way, Fair Oaks (off Hazel) Time: Doors open at 4:30, No-Host Saloon at 5:00 pm, Dinner at 6:00 pm, Music at 7:00 pm! There will be

drawings for sensational prizes throughout the evening! Donations are \$40 per person, Children under 12 - \$25 each. (limited # of tickets)

Donations are to support our local Veterans, Active-duty Military, and their families in need, as well as the Junior ROTC, California Boys & Girls State, Scouts BSA program, and other Veteran sponsored events supporting Americanism.

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## Audit Request Approved to Get Answers on Homelessness Spending



From the Office of Senator Roger Niello

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Californians may finally get some answers on how the state and local communities have spent billions on the homelessness crisis in the last five years.

Senator Roger Niello and his colleagues Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh, Assemblymembers Josh Hoover and Evan

Low joined Senator Dave Cortese in winning a request to audit billions of dollars California has spent on addressing the homelessness crisis from the Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC).

On March 22, 2023, members of JLAC unanimously approved the audit request. The audit will examine how the state and cities have spent state, federal, and local dollars and how effective the money spent has been to date.

"Homelessness is the most urgent issue facing California," said Senator Niello. "Given the crisis has only worsened, we need to know what the money has accomplished and what programs have been effective in moving people to

permanent housing."

"This is a good start," said Senator Ochoa Bogh. "California Legislative Republicans have been calling for accountability to homeless spending for several years. This will begin to give taxpayers an idea of how these dollars have been spent on a crisis that has only gotten worse."

California has spent more than \$20 billion over the last five years on homelessness and has seen the population of unhoused in this state explode to more than 172,000.

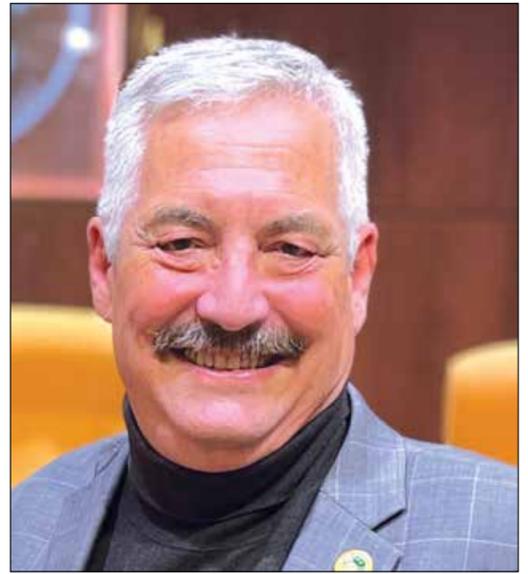
The governor announced earlier this month that he plans to spend another \$1 billion of taxpayer dollars with a hope of reducing the homeless population by 15 percent by 2025. ★

## City of Citrus Heights Mourns the Loss of Retired Councilmember Steve Miller

### City of Citrus Heights Special Release

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - It is with much sadness we share that retired City Councilmember Steve "Sparky" Miller passed away over the weekend on March 25, 2023. Steve had an incredible heart of service that he dedicated to serving our Citrus Heights community for 17 years on City Council and, most recently, elected to the Board of San Juan Unified School District. He also diligently represented the City on various boards and commissions including Sacramento Regional Transit Board, Capitol Joint Powers Board, the Sacramento Transportation Authority Board, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Sunrise MarketPlace, Citrus Heights Chamber of Commerce, the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, Sacramento County Public Library Board, and the Sacramento Metropolitan Cable Television Commission. His passion for community service also led him to serving on many local sports league and service club boards.

"Steve Miller embodied what it meant to be involved in community and his passion for service truly made a difference and improved Citrus Heights" said Mayor Tim Schaefer, "Steve was a great storyteller and brought wonderful insight to the Citrus Heights City Council. Steve's legacy of accomplishments will live in the hearts and memories of a great many people that expand beyond the Citrus Heights City



Steve Miller

Limits." Steve's leadership increased quality of life and invested in the future of Citrus Heights; some of the major projects he stewarded include the development of the Sunrise Tomorrow Specific Plan, development of the Mitchell Farms Project, revitalization of Auburn and Sunrise Boulevards, development of the Arcade-Cripple Creek Trail Project, the implementation of SmartRide in Citrus Heights, development of the Old Auburn Multi-Use Trail, construction of City Hall and the Citrus Heights Community Center. Steve also admirably served his community as Vice Chair of the Law Enforcement Community Advisory Committee that recommended Citrus Heights form their own police department. "Steve made a tremendous impact in Citrus Heights and the Sacramento Region," said Councilmember Porsche Middleton, "I

especially admired his staunch advocacy of transportation and our youth. He will be deeply missed by our community."

Steve was known for his quick wit and signature sense of humor that eased tensions and brightened rooms. Vice Mayor Bret Daniels reflected on Steve's impact saying "Steve was a joy to work with and his leadership was always thoughtful but also delivered with humor. The world has lost a great man way too early." Reflecting on his memory, City staff have expressed gratitude that Steve could always be counted on to enthusiastically attend and support city events with a big smile and contagious laughter while he connected with community.

Steve is survived by his wife Nanette, two children, six grandchildren, and his legacy of service to the Citrus Heights community. ★

## Farm Bureau Praises Governor's Action to Recharge Aquifers

### California Farm Bureau News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The California Farm Bureau praised Gov. Gavin Newsom for signing an executive order to use floodwaters from recent storms to recharge and store groundwater.

"Our groundwater basins are critical for supplying drinking water for our communities as well as helping our farmers produce the food supply for Californians," said California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson. "We applaud Gov. Newsom's courageous decision to divert floodwaters from this year's

storms to replenish our depleted groundwater basins. This can help protect life and property during our continuing storms. It is an important step for helping bring our aquifers into balance and sustaining them for future generations. We strongly support efforts to enhance California's long-term water supplies during wet years, including recharging our groundwater and capturing and storing surface water for our reservoirs."

The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of nearly 29,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of 5.3 million Farm Bureau members. ★

## Golden 1 Center and Partners Seek to Improve Access to Sacramento Events

### Disability Rights Advocates Press Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - As Sacramento's Golden 1 Center welcomes increasing numbers of visitors back to the stadium to enjoy Kings games, concerts, and other events, community members who are blind or have low vision will notice improvements to the stadium's online ticket purchase platform. These improvements are thanks to collaboration between the Golden 1 Center, non-profit law firm Disability Rights Advocates (DRA), the ACB Capital Chapter of the California Council of the Blind (CCB), and other community members.

DRA reached out to the Golden 1 Center on behalf of the ACB Capital Chapter, Kings season ticket holder Leslie Thom, and community member Margie Donovan to notify the stadium of difficulties that individuals who are blind had experienced attempting to purchase tickets using the Golden 1 Center's online ticket purchase platform. Due to programming barriers, the ticket purchasing website was incompatible with the software that many customers who are blind use to navigate and interact with websites, called screen readers. Because this online platform is the only way to purchase tickets without going to the box office in person, it is important that the process be accessible for individuals who are blind or have low vision.

When notified, Golden 1 Center got to work to fix the problems by hiring a web access consultant to assess not only the ticket purchase platform, but the entire Kings and Golden 1 Center websites. They also worked with vendors to implement the recommended

modifications. These improvements follow the Golden 1 Center's recent addition of audio description services for eventgoers who are blind or have low vision so that they can enjoy all aspects of performances at the arena.

"To my knowledge, Golden 1 Center is the first arena with audio description and a fully accessible ticket purchasing system. Being fully accessible to people who are blind or visually impaired is something Golden 1 Center can be proud of," said Capital Chapter member Margie Donovan.

"It is always great when businesses invest in a relationship with local advocates," said Meredith Weaver, a senior staff attorney at DRA. "The Golden 1 Center has done just that with the Capital Chapter, and we are encouraged by the company's recognition that increasing access is good for the community and good for business."

During the Kings' February 23 home game against the Portland Trailblazers, Golden 1 Center and the Kings highlighted their dedication to the blind community in Sacramento by featuring DRA and CCB at the arena's Do Good Corner, which provided the opportunity to spotlight Golden 1 Center's commitment, share the importance of accessible technology, and connect individually with interested fans.

If you experience barriers to accessing the Golden 1 Center's website or ticket purchase platform via screen reader, please reach out to Golden 1 Center directly at 888-91-KINGS. To request audio description for an event, contact 1-888-91-KINGS (1-888-915-4647) or email ADAServices@kings.com at least two weeks in advance of the scheduled event or as soon as possible. ★

## Resources for Homelessness and Prevention Available

### By Sophia Powers

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - The increase in homelessness is not just noticeable, but a glaring concern to our communities. During the pandemic, people were let go from their jobs or even lost their businesses and did not even think that homelessness was going to happen...until it did. But, just what kind of numbers are we dealing with in California? "On any given night, the state has more than 160,000 homeless persons," says Jialu Streeter from the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research.

You might be thinking, how can I prevent my family and I from going homeless? First, look at your immediate needs. You can call 2-1-1 in Sacramento or (916) 498-1000 for outside the area and go to: <https://www.211sacramento.org/211/guided-search/> for information on over 1,600 services through the Sacramento Community Resource Directory. When you call, a caring specialist at Sacramento 211 will do a holistic evaluation of your situation and provide internal referrals to the agencies and organizations that are able to fulfill your immediate needs, whether to prevent homelessness or aid you while you are experiencing it. Your case management could involve: eviction prevention, housing subsidies, shelter, medical care, legal, elderly, veteran, financial assistance, transportation, food,



Never feel reluctant to take advantage of all of the services that can support you so you can stand on your own two feet. Photo courtesy of Pixabay.com

etc... Some of the departments or organizations you could interact with would be the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance <https://ha.sacramento.gov/Pages/default.aspx> at (916) 874-3100 or the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) <https://www.shra.org/housing-choice-voucher-program/> at (916)-440-1390, which is "acting as the Housing Authority of the County of Sacramento," that provides the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program for housing assistance to low income individuals and families.

Second, do not forget to seek out your elected officials for help. If your spouse is in the military reserves who abandoned you and your family, check out your congressman at: <https://myreps.datamade.us/> to locate your spouse and, in combination with family court, get help for spousal and child support. Third, trim your expenses as much as possible and find ways to help your budget, such as using the cash you get from

a recycling center to pay your phone bill or instead of upgrading your cell phone, use it for years.

Under the United States Code 42 USC 11302, being homeless does not always mean living on the street; it is someone that "lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence," in addition to other reasons. This is why programs are vital to helping people in their urgent need of housing. In addition, Mercy Housing California "develops and operates affordable, service-enriched housing that changes the lives of families, seniors, and people who have been homeless." Their goal is to "keep the most vulnerable in our communities stably housed and prevent homelessness." You can check them out at: <https://www.mercyhousing.org/california/> or (916) 414-4400. Never feel reluctant to take advantage of all of these services that can support you so you can stand on your own two feet. Survival requires a multifaceted approach to resources in order to keep your needs met. ★

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# EDD Deemed 'Non-Responsive' by Congressional Committee

By Thomas Buckley,  
CaliforniaGlobe.com

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A person in a coma is considered to be non-responsive.

Unironically, also considered to be non-responsive is California's Employment Development Department (EDD) when it comes to answering Congressional questions.

The House Committee on Oversight and Accountability – which is looking into various aspects of the pandemic response, including its financial impacts – has deemed the EDD's answer to a January information request as not nearly good enough.

"The EDD has not provided documents requested by Chairman (Kentucky Republican James) Comer," said a committee spokeswoman. "We intend to have additional follow up on the document request."

When asked by the Globe for a comment, the EDD provided a copy of a letter it sent to Comer's committee in late January and did not address the current issue of their failure to provide the requested documentation.

Non-responsive, indeed.

The committee is attempting to get to the bottom of the massive fraud perpetrated against the EDD during the pandemic. The current estimate is that the EDD lost about \$40 billion to illegitimate claimants, including prisoners (and not just from California prisons,) garden variety local scammers, and international fraud rings, all of whom simply walked right in to the department's completely unprotected system.

While the EDD has claimed it did the best it could, it should be noted that the EDD – even though it could have purchased basic fraud protection software that would even work with its antiquated IT systems for about \$5 million- had no way to prove if an applicant was who they said they were until the end of 2020,



California has 12% of the nation's workforce, but had more than 20% of the country's unemployment benefit fraud. MPG file photo

months after the pandemic began.

The EDD also had no system to check to see if people in prison, people from out-of-state, and people from overseas – all ineligible for benefits – were getting benefits in the form of a chipless debit card pre-loaded with up to about \$15,000 – each.

The EDD did not even cross-reference addresses to notice and potentially flag as fraudulent when a single home received dozens, if not hundreds, of cards (they used to have one but stopped paying for it when a federal grant ran out a few years ago.)

Particularly telling is that California has about 12% of the nation's workforce, it saw more than 20% of the unemployment benefit fraud in the country, meaning that word spread very quickly in the fraud world that the state was an especially easy mark.

In January, the committee requested the following:

1. All processes and procedures

related to the disbursement of unemployment insurance benefits during the pandemic, including policies and procedures intended to ensure payments are made to the proper individual, and to ensure that the individual is a qualified recipient of unemployment insurance;

2. All documents and communications between employees of the California EDD and employees of the U.S. Department of Labor regarding the state's UI benefit program;

3. All documents and communications related to efforts to prevent payment of fraudulent UI claims;

4. All documents and communications related to efforts to recoup UI claims paid improperly;

5. All documents and communications related to identifying the total number of improperly paid UI benefits and documents sufficient to show whether those funds remain in the United States or were transferred to entities outside the United States.

States.

The committee spokeswoman would not specify exactly how the EDD was "non-responsive" – for example, was the information missing or unrelated or gibberish – but stressed the agency remains very prominently on Congress' radar.

In the January letter to the committee – the one that was re-provided to the Globe – department chief Nancy Farias blamed the Trump administration for the massive fraud, stating, in part, "... we object to the Chair's mischaracterization of California's response to the UI fraud attacks and the Chair's failure to acknowledge the inadequate response by the Trump Administration, which left neglected state UI systems fighting domestic and international criminal enterprises effectively on their own."

In other words, the feds didn't hold their hand tight enough.

Either way, this claim flies in the

face of a California State Auditor's report that states flatly that the feds "warned the state at least three times in the early months of the pandemic to beef up its fraud protections."

The date for the next response deadline is not yet clear nor is exactly when Farias and other EDD employees will have to testify in front of Congress.

As of midnight Wednesday, the EDD – which, again, suffered a very preventable loss of \$40 billion – still owed the federal government a principal amount of \$18,735,210,647.41 in addition to interest of \$142,361,804.80.

Finally, the state has increased unemployment insurance taxes on California businesses to make up the shortfall and it is not clear if anyone at the EDD has been fired for the failure; in fact, the person in charge at the time, Julie Su, could become, the next Secretary of Labor in the Biden administration. ★

# How Does Wildfire Smoke Impact Pregnancy and Children?

UC Davis Health  
Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- How does exposure to wildfire smoke affect pregnant people and their developing babies? UC Davis Health researchers hope to answer that question, thanks to a new two-year, \$1.35 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The study is led by molecular epidemiologist Rebecca J. Schmidt, an associate professor in Public Health Sciences, and Miriam Nuño, a professor in the Division of Biostatistics.

The researchers are gathering birth and health records as well as data about wildfire smoke exposure in California. They'll look for links between pollution from wildfire smoke and low birth weight, developmental delays, and autism.

The team is also partnering with regional organizations to educate underserved communities about the impact of smoke and provide strategies to reduce exposure.

"This is a California study, but the whole country is being exposed to wildfire smoke," explained Schmidt, who is also a faculty member at the UC Davis MIND Institute, the Perinatal Origins of Disparities (POD) Center, and the Environmental Health Sciences Center. "It's important to find out what the real concerns during pregnancy may be, including perhaps at what times during pregnancy we need to have moms be the most careful about their exposure."



How Does Wildfire Smoke Impact Pregnancy and Children? Researchers awarded \$1.35 million EPA grant to study impact of wildfire smoke on pregnancy, health, and development. Image by Saiho from Pixabay.

Schmidt has a history of studying the impacts of wildfire smoke on pregnancy and children. Her previous research involved collecting hair, blood and other samples from pregnant people and newborns. Her findings from that study will complement this new work.

Collecting data on smoke exposure, births, and health

Wildfire seasons are becoming longer and more severe. It is estimated that wildfire smoke is linked to 339,000 premature deaths each year worldwide.

In California, where massive wildfires such as the Camp, Caldor and Dixie fires have affected both urban and rural areas, hundreds of thousands of pregnant people have been

exposed to wildfire smoke.

"Studies have shown associations between wildfire smoke and lower birth weight or preterm birth, which are linked to later health outcomes," Schmidt said.

The study has four areas of focus:

Find out which areas of California were exposed to the most wildfire air pollution; Study wildfire smoke exposures before pregnancy and during each trimester of pregnancy; Researchers will look at these in relation to birth weight and gestational age as well as factors like neighborhood and local environment; Explore associations between wildfire smoke exposure and autism and developmental delays;

Work with community partners to share research results and tools to help reduce smoke exposure in vulnerable populations.

"Our first step is to see who has the greatest exposures to these repeated wildfire events," Schmidt explained. "Then we'll look at how that varies by factors such as race, ethnicity, rural versus urban location, poverty level and exposure to other pollutants."

The study will include all people born in California between Jan. 1, 2000, and Dec. 31, 2021, roughly 11 million births. However, when looking at autism and developmental delays, researchers will only include people over 3 years of age by the end of 2021. Autism diagnosis

is typically more reliable after this age.

Researchers will use state birth records, historical air monitor readings and health records from the California Department of Developmental Services.

**Empowering vulnerable populations**

The study aims to identify vulnerable populations where people are exposed not only to wildfire smoke but also to other pollution and pesticides and have less access to health care.

"Even though we are all exposed to wildfire smoke, we all have different risks," explained Nuño. "If you have can work from home versus having an outdoor job, this is where these differences really manifest."

The researchers are

partnering with the March of Dimes, Empower Yolo and the Knights Landing One Health Center, which provides health care in the rural Central Valley community.

Together, they'll deliver their findings and strategies for reducing exposure to wildfire smoke to underserved communities. This will include providing the materials and training to help people make Corsi-Rosenthal Air Boxes. This is a low-cost filtration system that's been shown to be effective at removing particulates from indoor air. Creator Richard L. Corsi, dean of the UC Davis College of Engineering, is a partner on the project.

"This project will advance solutions to challenges lying at the intersection of climate change and environmental justice, both here in California and in communities around the country," said EPA Pacific Southwest Regional Administrator Martha Guzman. "Advancing scientific research that helps protect public health and the environment is central to EPA's mission and this project will have lasting results for years to come."

Environmental justice is a major focus, notes Nuño, who is also the interim director of the Center for Healthcare Policy and Research.

"Pregnant women are stressed about the impact of wildfires, especially those who are more vulnerable. Justice calls for empowering these women with this information," she said. ★



With Mary Jane Popp

# Easter Blessings

Christian or not, Easter is a special time. History can attest to the many traditions and rituals. But what is most important in all of them is that it is a time for renewal...of life...of hope...and especially after we have lived through three years of a pandemic we never dreamed of...a look at the future and not the past. Perhaps it is time to just enjoy the little things that make Easter so special and put a smile on our faces and food for our soul. But there is fun too. Ever wonder where some of the symbols of Easter originated. It's a mixed bag, but here are some theories.

Peter Cottontail will come hopping down the bunny trail once again. He is universal and secular, but I found some interesting history about this funny bunny. Here's one that surprised me. Perhaps the hare and not the rabbit should be the leader of the pack. Since ancient times the hare has been the symbol of the moon. Legend has it the hare never closes its eyes, not even for a single blink. Maybe it's because of the fact that hares, not rabbits are born with their eyes open. Rabbits are born blind. Fertility might have some bearing on the picture since rabbits beat hares in being more prolific. So many more bunnies can hop down that bunny trail.

How about those colored eggs? Some historical reasons for them too. At the Passover Seder, a hard-boiled egg dipped in salt water symbolizes both new life as well as the Passover sacrifice offered at the Temple in Jerusalem. The ancient Persians painted eggs for

Nowrooz, their New Year celebration falling on the Spring Equinox. In Christian tradition, the egg was a symbol of new life as a chick might hatch from the egg. In Medieval times, eggs were forbidden during Lent, and then eggs were on the menu after the strict Lenten fast. Wonder if they were scrambled or sunnyside up?

And oh those lovely Lilies. They came from Bermuda. Goes back to the 1880's when Ms Thomas P. Sargent fell in love with their beauty blooming in Spring. She brought back bulbs to her home in Philadelphia from Bermuda. Bet you can't bring plants past customs these days. But today, they are a permanent symbol of Easter too.

Can't leave out chocolate. Chocolate eggs began in 19th century France and Germany and soon spread to the rest of Europe and eventually the United states. Children were told to make nests or baskets so the Easter Bunny could leave them there. I'd go on an Easter egg hunt for chocolate any time! So after the Lenten time sacrifice, what a treat. Bring on the chocolate in any form anytime!

So there. Got some traditions of your own? Dig them out from the past and share them. Caring for each other is so important in our times of war, disease, hate and crime. The bottom line is we can make it through these times with that blessing of new life and rebirth that is the promise for a better tomorrow. ★

**HAPPY BUNNY DAY!!!**



By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

# Does The Holy Spirit Of God Live In You?

when they meet an unbeliever, to speak words of encouragement and new hope for their life. He guides a new believer using the Scriptures for answers, to answer questions about their journey. His help and guidance are never ending. He showers God's infinite love and help on every life that accepts Jesus and their Lord and Savior shedding every ounce of His blood to save them.

The Holy Spirit of God knows everything about a believer and when the time is right, He gifts them with an appropriate gift for them to use to serve the Lord's Kingdom on earth. The gifts are varied and numerous and He

knows exactly the one that is appropriate for each person to bring honor to the Heavenly Father God, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

**START TODAY:** Begin reading the Bible and studying the Scriptures. Pray and talk to God about all your concerns, He will answer! Just as you feel guided, serve the Lord and be an instrument of His love in the world around you. At just the right time He will gift you and you will be totally amazed and very grateful.

*Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian author of seven books; American River Messenger Columnist since 2006. Marlysjn@gmail.com.* ★

# Newsom Wins Feud With Oil Industry — or Did He?



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

of why you're being taken advantage of," Newsom said last week as he signed the bill. "There's a new sheriff in town in California, where we brought Big Oil to their knees. And I'm proud of this state."

It was a characteristic bit of hyperbole on Newsom's part. It will take months, and perhaps years, before the energy commission takes any action to set profit margins, much less enforce them.

"Nothing is going to happen in the short term," Newsom acknowledged. "Gas prices are not going to drop immediately."

Industry officials indicated that they would sue if they consider some of the proposed regulations too onerous, which could tie things up indefinitely.

"We need to wait and see what becomes of this," a spokeswoman for the Western States Petroleum Association said.

Another caveat: The legislation is aimed at regulating "gross gasoline refining margins." However, the state's foremost expert on the subject, Severin Borenstein of UC Berkeley's Energy Institute, told legislators at a hearing for Newsom's second version of the crack-down that most of the sharp hikes in retail prices occurred as gasoline was being moved from wholesalers to the retail level. Thus, limiting profits on refining might not have a major effect on retail prices.

Finally, the last few passages of the legislation, which got almost no media attention, indicate that the energy commission will not

only regulate refinery profits but must strive to ensure the industry's ability to supply enough fuel over the next few decades for a "reliable, safe, equitable, and affordable transition away from petroleum fuels" to battery-powered vehicles.

That could be the trickiest aspect of the whole issue, and one with the greatest potential impact on the motoring public.

The new law essentially transforms the refining industry into a public utility, much like the suppliers of electricity and natural gas. That means not only attempting to regulate prices but making sure the industry earns enough money to keep it in business for two or three decades, while some Californians continue to drive gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles.

Newsom has banned the sale of such vehicles after 2035, but that doesn't mean they will suddenly disappear. Moreover, the technology to replace diesel-fueled trucks that carry freight into and out of the state is still in its infancy, and residents of other states seeking to drive into California will expect that they can fuel their cars.

How will California regulate petroleum fuel prices while simultaneously trying to both eliminate refiners and make sure they continue to produce enough fuel to meet demand indefinitely?

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

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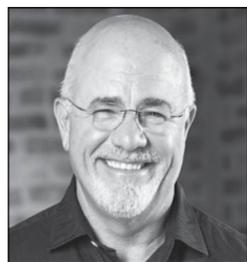
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## Dave Ramsey Says

didn't have a mortgage at all, would you take out a loan against your home to buy a rental property? Let me give you a hint. The answer should be a big, fat no.

The shortest distance between where you are right now and a high-quality financial life – including wealth building – is getting your home and other debt paid off. Then, use the cash flow that's freed up, and the increased peace of mind, to rapidly pile up a bunch of money and buy another rental property.

There's nothing wrong with owning rental properties and other kinds of real estate, Valerie. I love real estate, and today, I have several rental properties of my own. The difference is I bought all of mine with cash. I didn't go into debt for them. I learned my lesson about debt the hard way over 30 years ago, and I don't want you to take a chance

on suffering through all that crap too.

Use the money from the sale of the cabin to pay off your home and other debt, and to make sure you've got a solid emergency fund of 3–6 months of expenses set aside. After that, if you want to start saving aggressively for another rental, go for it. Just make sure it's a smart buy when the time comes and that you pay for it in cash!

– Dave

*Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of "The Ramsey Show," heard by more than 18 million listeners. He has appeared on "Good Morning America," "CBS This Morning," "Today," Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, He also serves as CEO of Ramsey Solutions.* ★

### Pay Off My Home, or Buy a Rental?

Dear Dave,

I'm going to sell a rental cabin I own, and the sale should bring me about \$388,000. Should I take the proceeds from the sale and use it to pay off my home and other debt or use the money to buy another, similar rental property where I could collect about \$1,500 per month in rent? Right now, I owe \$200,000 on my home, and I have just under \$50,000 in miscellaneous debt.

– Valerie

Dear Valerie,

Let me start by asking you a question. If your home were paid for and you



### By County Supervisor Sue Frost

*Through the generosity of the American River Messenger, this column serves to provide an update about matters affecting the unincorporated community of Orangevale.*

Rachael King (On left in photo above right) was a manager at the Noodles Restaurant in Folsom and was a proud recipient of the September 2018 Sacramento County Food Safety Award of Excellence. Four months later she died after taking a pill that unbeknown to her was laced with Fentanyl.

It's difficult to share this with you and I want you to know that I talked about it with Rachael's parents who allowed me to share some of her story. Rachael was a valedictorian and an aspiring chef with dreams and a bright future. She was the only daughter, and her death was a devastating blow to her parents, brother and all who loved her. Her parents have tried to advocate for justice and have been an inspiration behind important programs emerging as the increase in Fentanyl deaths cannot be ignored. I am dedicating this newsletter to Rachael. I believe she would want to warn others about "Fentanyl - One Pill Can Kill."

Do you remember "Every 15 Minutes" or "Arrive Alive Drive Sober?" For those who don't know, they are reality-based programs designed to challenge teenage students and parents to think before driving drunk. I recently attended a similar program at Folsom High School that was hosted by Arrive Alive California, Inc. Their program is called "Fentanyl - One Pill Can Kill." I was a proud champion of this program which was funded by Sacramento County's ARPA in response to the growing drug problem in our region. During their program I heard personal testimonies from parents, shocking statistics, and an ambulance professional shared that if someone overdoses and you call 911, the health professionals do not report your drug activities. They talked about the symptoms. If the person is unconscious, small pupils, shallow breathing, vomiting, inability to speak, faint heartbeat, limp arms and legs, or discolored lips or fingernails, call 911.

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that comes in many prescription

## Orangevale Community Update

### Fentanyl One Pill Can Kill



forms. It is similar to morphine, but I am told it is up to 100 times more potent. It is typically used to treat severe or chronic pain for people who are physically tolerant to other opioids. Since 2020 the use of opioids, especially Fentanyl, has grown exponentially. In the past three years, according to Sacramento District Attorney Thien Ho, there have been 360 Fentanyl poisoning deaths in Sacramento County. That is more than gun-related homicides, he said.

For those who want justice, it is challenging. In general, most Fentanyl deaths are listed as accidental overdoses. They accepted the pill from a friend or paid a dealer for a street drug, not realizing it was laced with Fentanyl. The pills look just like prescription pills. At the crime scene, people may say that the person was fine when they went to bed and there was no indication of a problem, but for law enforcement to pursue a murder investigation they would need to show intent to kill or reckless disregard or indifference to human life. Further, if the case report lists accidental death, then the case follow-up is under that assumption, and it is not technically a murder investigation. This has been a heartbreaking disappointment for family members who are screaming for justice and want to prevent the future loss of innocent lives.

I recently met with Sacramento D.A. Thien Ho to discuss the justice dilemma. He expressed the seriousness of this matter and shared that he has a four-part plan. Then he told me about how cases are built piece by piece, and he is establishing processes to set the stage for documenting a case on record. Then we talked about the difference between implied malice and express malice. Implied malice refers to a person's intention to cause grievous bodily harm. Express malice murders include killings where the person intended to cause death. In contrast, implied malice includes killings that occurred while a person

was committing a felony or when deaths resulted from an action that displayed a depraved indifference.

District Attorney Ho's plan includes a "Watson Warning" which is given to defendants who are found guilty of selling Fentanyl. If they sell Fentanyl again and cause injury or death, they can be charged with a much more serious crime - including murder. He is calling for Regional Response Teams. Sacramento is working with other County's (Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Placer) to learn about how they are building out their response. He is partnering with our Sheriff and other agencies to create Fentanyl Response Teams. There will be a protocol in place to retrieve phones to look at texting and collect evidence. A drug task force would trace dealer connections and when a dealer is associated with several deaths it is possible to begin to build a case on record that shows reckless disregard. Other Partnerships with the U.S. Attorney General and the Eastern District will be pursuing more legal solutions and finally the Education Programs such as the Fentanyl - One Pill Can Kill is a program that is targeting youth in schools to help them understand, "FENTANYL - ONE PILL CAN KILL!"

We cannot bring Rachael back, but her life was a precious gift to our world and it mattered. If you have pain of any kind, buyer beware... One Fentanyl Pill Can Kill. Other drugs and even marijuana vaping have been laced with Fentanyl and killed innocent people! The best advice when considering recreational street drugs is "Just Say NO!"

*Thank you for reading – and as always, if you want to contact me, call me at 916-874-5491, or e-mail me at SupervisorFrost@sacounty.gov. Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost represents the 4th District, which includes the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, North Highlands, Rio Linda, Elverta, and Rancho Murietta* ★

## Easter Egg Hunt at Christ the King Lutheran Church



### Christ the King Lutheran Church News Release

**ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG)** - Come and join some Easter fun on April 8 @ 10:00 am at Christ the King Lutheran Church (5811 Walnut Ave. Orangevale, CA). This is their 15th Annual Easter Egg Hunt! Enjoy arts and crafts, silly songs, story time, goodies to eat and lots of Easter Eggs to hunt! All ages are welcome! For more information, please call 916-988-2484 or [ChristTheKingOV.com](http://ChristTheKingOV.com). ★

15th Annual Easter Egg Hunt! Enjoy arts and crafts, silly songs, story time, goodies to eat and lots of Easter Eggs to hunt! Image by gloverbh222 from Pixabay

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## STUDENTS MAKING THE GRADE

We recognize the following local students who have achieved scholastic honors at their institutions of higher learning.

- ❖ **AMBER CARROLL (Orangevale)** was initiated into the Arizona State University Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa, the National Leadership Honor Society.
- ❖ **JUSTIN HEBERLEIN (Fair Oaks)** was named to the Fall 2022 Dean's List at Washburn University (Topeka, KS)

Southern New Hampshire University (Manchester, NH) named the following students to the Fall 2022 President's List (P)/Dean's List (D)

- ❖ **GARRISON BOTTS (Antelope) (P)**
- ❖ **CAROL BUANTEGLO (Fair Oaks) (P)**
- ❖ **WENDI COOK (Fair Oaks) (P)**
- ❖ **JAMES FERRIGNO (N. Highlands) (P)**

American River Messenger, Jan. 2023

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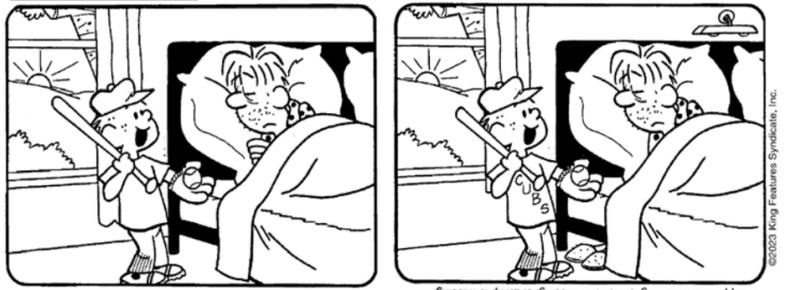


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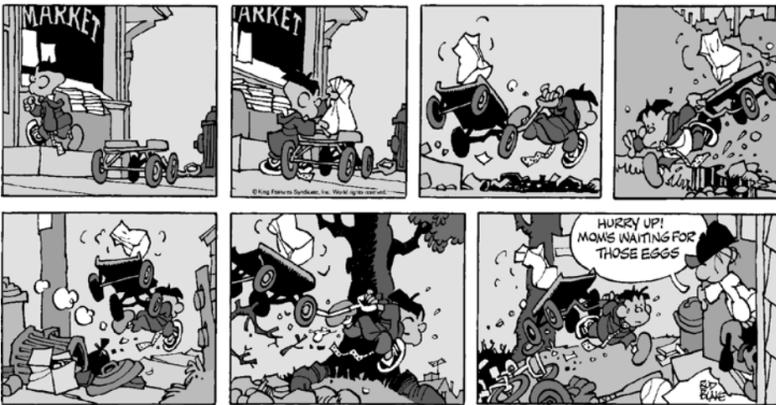
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**CLUES**

**ACROSS**

- Emir, alt. sp.
- Comic book cry
- \*One of 27 in hand
- Dhaka, formerly
- Half man, half goat
- Pressure ulcers, e.g.
- Type of wrap
- Old fashioned "before"
- Do like ivy
- \*Smooth, skeletal or cardiac
- \*"Gray's \_\_\_\_"
- Gardener's tool
- Detected by olfactory system
- Acronym-named sandwich
- Sore throat voice
- Retires from military service
- Steak option
- Place at angle
- Double, in French
- \*Certain apple's namesake
- Fork pokers
- Heavy metal's Quiet
- \*Pelvis bone
- \*Hardened keratin plate
- Wedding promise?
- Mandela
- \*Part of eye, not flower
- Tokyo, formerly
- Alpine transport
- Cuckoo
- \*Vein to "go for"
- \*Cell body, axon and dendrite
- Use the other side of pencil
- Caviar alternative
- Mafia's top dogs
- \*The best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft
- Fuss
- Modern correspondence
- Opposite of want
- Japanese currency
- Pep gathering

**DOWN**

- Annoying pop-ups
- \*Yes, \_\_\_\_!
- Beige
- E-wallet content
- Resentment
- Musketeer's sword
- \*Smallest bones location
- Work the dough
- Diamond in a cutting tool
- \*"Wonderfilled" cookie
- a.k.a. Indian Lilac
- Grammy of sports
- Like a Haunted Mansion visitor?
- Minimum
- Endorsement
- Al fresco
- \*It contains cerebellum and parietal lobe
- Big Dipper shape
- Hiker's path
- \*Largest organ
- Fogginess
- Speak one's mind
- \*AB+ or B-
- Vigorous fight
- Outback birds
- Dam-like structure
- Snail trail
- Like certain Crüe
- Giannis' league
- Cup holder
- Orderly arrangement
- Popular movie genre
- J in B. J. King
- Serve as motive
- Em's and Dorothy's last name
- CPD, in auto industry
- Glowing gas
- Iridescent gem
- Byproduct of wool combing
- Percy Bysshe Shelley's poem
- Canny

**CROSSWORD**

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# Aging Workers Are in Demand; They Are Reliable, Mature and Professional

**Commentary**  
by John Grimaldi, AMAC

WASHINGTON, DC, (MPG) - It's a given that the state of the U.S. economy over the past several years has caused many elders in our population to go back to work or, for those who are already in the workplace, to keep their jobs as long as they can. The inflationary cycle triggered by the policies of the Biden administration didn't make it easy for older workers to make ends meet. The cost of living has increased considerably over the past two years. But, according to a survey conducted by the Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies, "almost half of Baby Boomer workers (49 percent) expect to or already are working past age 70 or do not plan to retire. Their reasons for doing so are almost as likely to be healthy aging-related (78 percent) as financial-related (82 percent)."

The first boomers, those of us born between 1946 and 1964, celebrated our 65th birthdays in 2011 but many of them opted to keep working. The online employment agency, Indeed, says these aging workers are in demand. For one thing, "Baby boomers often aim to work as long as it takes to reach their goals and try to differentiate themselves by attaining the promotion, raise or acknowledgment they want. This generation has experienced the benefits



The senior services organization, Vantage Aging, says that this results "in a strong work ethic. With an older worker, you often find yourself with someone who works hard to get the job done right. Photo courtesy of Pixabay.

of hard work and dedication, which is something they expect from their employer."

What makes senior citizens particularly valued members of the American workforce? Reliability, maturity, and professionalism. The senior services organization, Vantage Aging, says that this results "in a strong work ethic. With an older worker, you often find yourself with someone who works hard to get the job done right.

It is estimated that the aging of the U.S. will continue for another four decades during which the numbers of the 65-year-old population will increase by more than 37 million, increasing from 46 million today to more than 98 million in 2060. The American Psychological Association reports that, going forward, "older adults will live longer than ever before: One out of every four 65-year-olds today will live past

age 90. This demographic shift has moved the focus of researchers, health care providers and policymakers from how to extend the lifespan to ways to improve the quality of our later years. Staying healthy, active, and productive are admirable goals for our nation's older adults. However, society's view of 'old age' has not always kept up with the reality of being old in America. Many current beliefs about aging were based

on information that is no longer valid given recent scientific advances."

The aging process is not kind to the elderly. Many of us will have memory issues, we might find some complex chores are harder than they used to be, and we might have difficulty staying focused. But the National Institute on Aging that o [NIA] tells us that "aging may also bring positive cognitive changes. For example, many studies have shown

older adults have more extensive vocabularies and greater knowledge of the depth of meaning of words than younger adults." However, the NIA also points out that "despite the changes in cognition that may come with age, older adults can still do many of the things they have enjoyed their whole lives. Research shows that older adults can still: learn new skills, form new memories, and Improve vocabulary and language skills." ★

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# CLG NEWS UPDATES

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## Nashville School Shooter who Killed Three Children was Transgender Woman, Police Say Audrey Elizabeth Hale, 28, was Killed by Police at the scene and has since Been Confirmed as the Shooter who Killed Six People at the Covenant School in Tennessee

27 March 2023 | Police searched her house and found a detailed map of the school, including potential entry points, and evidence she had clearly done surveillance before the shooting. Authorities also described her as a "lone zealot," who had written a manifesto ahead of the attack. Hale is believed to be a former student at The Covenant School in Nashville, where used two assault rifles and a pistol to kill six. Metropolitan Nashville Police Chief John Drake said: "We have a manifesto, we have some writings we're going over that pertain to this day, the actual incident. We have a map drawn out of how this was all going to take place."

## Ukraine: Soldiers Storm Orthodox Monastery, Arrest Priest During Service, Cut Off Access to Sacred Caves, Close Three Orthodox Churches

24 March 2023 | Your tax dollars at work. The Zelensky Regime continues its war against Orthodox Christian Church in Ukraine. Zelensky cut off access to the sacred Kiev Caves Lavra National Reserve, additional caves, and three other Orthodox churches... In another incident last week a Christian man lost his fingertip when raiders tore open the doors of his Orthodox Church with a crowbar. And an Orthodox Church in Western Ukraine was raided during mass and the priest was arrested.

## Adam Kinzinger Linked to Pro-Ukraine Organization Which Allegedly Scammed People Out of Millions of Dollars

26 March 2023 | RINO Adam Kinzinger might be in serious hot water because a Ukraine-centered non-profit he is a board member of is being accused of scamming people out of millions of dollars. As reported by the Post Millennial, the story starts with a man named James Vasquez who formerly worked for Ripley's Heroes. Vasquez boasted about joining the Ukraine army in 2022 to fight the Russians and bragged about his supposed exploits, including "taking out seven Russian tanks." This caught Kinzinger's attention and he started promoting Vasquez. He urged Twitter to verify his account and posed together with the supposed hero. There was just one problem: Vasquez lied about everything. Now Ripley's Heroes is being investigated by the federal government.

## Arizona Supreme Court Breathes New Life Into Key Part of Kari Lake's Election Lawsuit

23 March 2023 | The Arizona Supreme Court has sent a key part of Kari Lake's election lawsuit back to trial court for review, breathing new life into the former gubernatorial candidate's legal challenge to the outcome that she says was unfair. In an order issued on March 22, the Arizona Supreme Court directed the trial court to review a key claim related to signature verification procedures on early ballots in Maricopa County, reviving Lake's hopes in her election challenge. "The signature verification process in Maricopa County is a house of cards. Thanks to this ruling, my team will get the chance to topple it," Lake said in a statement expressing satisfaction with the ruling... In her complaint to the Arizona Supreme Court, Lake raised seven legal issues with the request for review, including the allegation that 35,563 "unaccounted for ballots" were intermingled with other ballots at a processing facility and that procedures on testing tabulating machines weren't followed, and so the results of the election were at the very least "uncertain."

## Federal judge blocks key parts of California handgun law

21 March 2023 | A federal judge on Monday blocked key provisions of a California law that drastically restricts the sale of new handguns in the state, saying parts of the legislation violate the Second Amendment. A lawsuit challenging the law was filed last year by the California Rifle & Pistol Association and other gun rights supporters following a landmark 2022 decision from the U.S. Supreme Court that set new standards for evaluating firearm restrictions. The ruling left many laws aimed at regulating and limiting the sale and use of guns -- in California and nationwide -- at risk of being struck down. U.S. District Court Judge Cormac Carney, sitting in Santa Ana, wrote Monday that California's requirements for new handguns are unconstitutional and cannot be enforced.

## With His First Veto, Biden Puts Woke Capitalism Before American Workers and Retirees

27 March 2023 | Joe Biden issued his first veto against a bipartisan bill that sought to protect millions of Americans' retirement plans from woke investments. His action shows he prioritizes politics over Americans' financial security. Early this month, the U.S. House and Senate passed a bipartisan resolution to prevent fiduciaries of retirement plans from subordinating financial returns to woke causes. Biden chose to ignore all the concerns and warnings, including those from his own party. Instead, he used his first veto to preserve a so-called environmental, social, and governance, or ESG, rule that his administration adopted last year. His action confirms that despite his rhetoric of bipartisanship, he is an inflexible politician.

## Professor Suspended After Writing That Killing 'Right-Wing' Speakers Is 'Admirable'

27 March 2023 | A Wayne State University (WSU) professor was suspended with pay after writing on Facebook that it is more "admirable" to kill a right-wing speaker than it is to shout them down on a college campus, The New Guard reported. Steven Shaviro, a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences professor, wrote in a Facebook post on Sunday that while he does not "advocate violating federal and state criminal codes," it is "far more admirable to kill a racist, homophobic, or transphobic speaker than it is to shout them down," according to the New Guard. The professor was reportedly placed on leave and the incident was reported to law enforcement agencies for review. ★

# Social Security Matters

## Why Should a Non-working Spouse be Entitled to Social Security Benefits?



By **Russell Gloor**,  
AMAC Certified Social  
Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** Why can a non-working spouse claim half of their working spouse's benefit even though they have not contributed to the Social Security system? This doesn't seem right or fair to those of us who have contributed for years from our paychecks. **Signed: Inquisitive**

**Dear Inquisitive:** This is a question which needs a bit of historical background to properly explain: Social Security's original purpose when it was enacted in 1935 was to prevent America's seniors from living in poverty (remember, Social Security was enacted during the "Great Depression"). Even before the first Social Security check was sent to a retired worker in 1940, Congress had already changed the original Social Security law to, as well, provide anti-poverty benefits to non-working spouses of a worker (a predominant

family reality at that time) and surviving spouses, as well as to their minor children. Social Security's fundamental goal has always been to lift eligible Americans out of poverty, which it still does very effectively.

It's important to note that this change did not (and does not) detract in any way from the benefits provided to those who work and contribute to Social Security thus earning their own SS retirement benefit. In other words, those who receive their personally earned SS retirement benefit are not at all penalized if their non-working spouse also receives a benefit (albeit a considerably smaller amount) on the worker's record. Living expenses for two people are, simply, higher than for one, which was/is the rationale for also paying benefits to a dependent not eligible for Social Security benefits on their own work record. In the end, it all comes down to avoiding poverty.

Although the numbers vary somewhat by state, gender, and ethnicity, without Social Security about 38% of all Americans over age 65 would be living below the poverty line, whereas with Social Security only about 9% of Americans over 65 live below the poverty line. But that 9% number would

be significantly higher if non-working spouses and survivors of eligible workers were also not entitled to Social Security benefits.

While it is true that Social Security is facing future solvency issues, the thought of restricting benefits to only those who have worked and contributed to the program (and not to their non-working spouses or minor children) is not something being considered by anyone with Congressional influence, regardless of political affiliation. Doing so would be devastating to a large segment of the American population, severely increasing poverty – the very thing that Social Security is designed to prevent.

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

# What a Wacky World We Live In

Dr. James L. Snyder

I like the old saying, "Just when you think it can't get any worse, it does."

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I will be watching the news, and a story of some devastation somewhere in the world will come on.

When this happens, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will say, "What a wacky world we live in." And if anybody knows about wacky, it is she. After all, she married me.

Watching the news the other night, a similar story was being reported, and I looked at my wife and said, "What a wacky world we live in." I paused for a moment and then said, "It's not the world I grew up in." Then I laughed.

"Whatever made you think you have grown up?"

After she said that to me, I pondered for quite a few days on what does it actually mean to grow up? And, most importantly of all, does anybody ever grow up?

As we watched the news one night, she said, "What a wacky world we live in." At that point, I replied, "Maybe it's so wacky because people haven't grown up yet."

She went on a tirade explaining why most people have not grown up yet. I tried to listen carefully and take a few notes, but none made sense.

I couldn't keep it any longer, so I asked her, "What do you think I need to do to grow up?"

"Well," she started, "you should stop acting like a silly person."

I chuckled and said, "But what if I'm not acting?"

"So, if you are not acting, you are the silliest person I have ever known."

According to her, you can't be silly and grown-up at the same time.

"The next thing you need to do is stop thinking every situation is a joke."

Pondering this, I'm not sure I will ever grow up if that is true. I see a joke where The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage sees something serious. She's much more grown-up than I ever will be.

"There is a positive side to this wacky world of ours." The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me smiling. Then she continued, "If the world weren't as wacky as it is, people would see that you're wacky."

After all of this, I wonder

if it's worth growing up. What good does it do to grow up when those people around you aren't? Maybe wacky is not that bad.

On the bright side, I'm going to try.

I couldn't help but think of one of the strangest stories about David in 1 Samuel 21, "And he [David] changed his behaviour before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard. Then said Achish unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad: wherefore then have ye brought him to me? Have I need of mad men, that ye have brought this fellow to play the mad man in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?"

David used "wacky" to his advantage. That worked for him and after giving some thought, maybe that could work for my advantage. Of course, David was acting and I probably am not.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage in Ocala, FL. Call him at 1-352-216-3025 or e-mail [jamesnyder51@gmail.com](mailto:jamesnyder51@gmail.com). His website is [www.jamesnyderministries.com](http://www.jamesnyderministries.com). ★



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