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Race for the Cure
at Relay for Life**

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Promoted
to General**

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AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

VOLUME 17 • ISSUE 24

Serving Fair Oaks, Orangevale & Sacramento County

DECEMBER 16, 2022

**SEE
INSIDE**

**NATIVE SUPPORTS
'TAKE CHARGE
AND MOVE OUT'
MISSION**



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**OV CHRISTMAS
TREE AND MORE!**



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**'THERE IS NO
GIFT WITHOUT
A GIVER'**



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New Honorary Mayor Named



Jen raised \$13,068 for two charities that support youth. Seen here with Garrett McDermitt, Navya Alqarwani, and Lauren Mannerino. Photo by Judy Andrews

By Judy Andrews

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Did you know Fair Oaks has a new honorary mayor? Her name is Jennifer 'Jen' Rodriguez, sole proprietor of Skinned and Lashed located in the Village. Jen was named Fair Oaks' 44th Honorary Mayor in October and she's already busy in the new role.

The Honorary Mayor program was introduced by the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce in 1979 as a fun and non-political way to raise money for the community. Funds raised by candidates are split 50/50 with charity

and with the chamber.

To recap a previous announcement, Jen raised \$13,068 (through generous donations and sponsorships) for two local charities—Fair Oaks Youth Advisory Board and Family FreeRide—which was the most money raised among three candidates in a 3-month long campaign. It earned her the prestigious title of 2022/2023 Honorary Mayor of Fair Oaks.

She chose these organizations because both support our "future leaders" in the community. No one has raised money on their behalf in a

past mayor's race.

"Someone suggested I'd be great at running for honorary mayor," she said. "I literally laughed in their face. But, then I'm always up for a challenge—because if you're not doing things outside your comfort zone, you're not growing."

Although Jen is fairly new to the chamber (she joined in January 2022), she's certainly no stranger to the community.

"I love the cozy small-town feel of Fair Oaks where everyone knows each other. People I meet love Fair

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**RSV, Flu
and COVID-19
Rates Are
Rising in
Sac County**

Sacramento County
News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - This winter, there is growing concern about the convergence of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), flu and COVID-19, a phenomenon some have termed a "triple threat" or "triple-demic." All three viruses cause respiratory illness with the potential to lead to serious illness or death. Local hospitals are already feeling the impacts of these illnesses, but there are actions we can all take to decrease the likelihood of getting or spreading these viruses.

RSV and flu normally surge each winter. This year, California has experienced more cases earlier in the season and more severe illness, especially among younger (under 5 years old) and older (65+ years old) residents. After several months of declining COVID-19 rates, Sacramento County's rates have increased steadily over the last month. The county's CDC COVID-19 Community Level has increased from Low to Medium, which means that everyone should consider wearing a mask in indoor public places, according to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Guidance for Face Coverings. Masks are also recommended in crowded indoor public places for vulnerable people or those with household or social contact with vulnerable people.

The increase in cases also activates mask requirements in certain settings, as set by CDPH. Homeless shelters, emergency shelters, cooling and heating centers, and state and local correctional facilities and detention centers are required by CDPH to reinstate universal masking requirements for staff and residents. Masks remain required in healthcare settings, long-term care settings and adult and senior care facilities.

Dr. Olivia Kasirye, Sacramento County Public Health Officer, reminds residents, "As we gather this winter with family and friends, it is important to remember the tools we have to stay healthy and safe. Updated COVID-19 boosters and flu shots help provide essential protection. Consider wearing a mask in indoor public places and wash your hands frequently. If you're sick, whether it's with COVID-19 or something else, stay home so you don't spread it to others." ★

Freedom Christian School Now Enrolling

By Thomas J. Sullivan

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Freedom Christian School (FCS) at 7736 Sunset Avenue in Fair Oaks has been a quality school for students from many different evangelical churches in the Sacramento area since 1982.

FCS has offered a family-oriented, biblically based, technologically advanced, K-8th grade academic experience for families who value what matters most.

Having resumed in-person instruction from TK (transitional Kindergarten) through grade six, FCS is actively looking to increase TK enrollment through this calendar year and looking for students to enroll in its seventh and eighth grade programs which will resume in the future, said Mrs. Laura Koehn, FCS school principal.

"We're excited to be back, and we're in an enrollment rebuilding phase," Koehn said.

"We're especially



Mrs. Laura Koehn, administrator, of Freedom Christian School with her students at 7736 Sunset Avenue in Fair Oaks, Calif. Photo courtesy of Freedom Christian School.

looking for families with young four-year-olds who would like to enroll in our pre-K program," she said. "Many families held back enrolling their children in TK due to the pandemic, and coming into the classroom, and need academic support in building basic skills."

Interested parents should call or email her for enrollment information and

special pricing for multiple students, she said.

Daily TK activities begin with extended care at 7 am with dismissal at 3:10 pm. Extended day care is also available. Fun daily activities include hands-on math, creative writing, language and phonics with learning centers, science, social studies and journaling activities mixed in. Extra classes in computers,

music, sign language, Spanish, art and physical education are also offered.

"We're committed to providing a biblically based, academically excellent education in a nurturing, family environment where its students can effectively accomplish the purpose for which they were created and impact the world for Christ," she said.

At FCS, all students learn the skills necessary for academic success, but also how to use critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity to accomplish their goals now and in the future.

Teachers nurture the young digital generation by engaging in students by traditional study methods of book, pen and paper and with contemporary Chrome lap books, incorporating an increased amount of project-based learning in the classroom.

"We believe that education is the process of developing a person spiritually, intellectually,

Continued on page 3

OV Businesses Rally for Youth as OV Monarchs Soccer Race for the Cure at Relay for Life



The U14 OV Monarchs recently raised \$3,300 for the American Cancer Society. Courtesy photo

JustServe News Release

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - Orangevale businesses again rally behind the young women of the OV Monarchs soccer team, helping raise \$3,300 for the American Cancer Society in support of their 24-hour run at Relay for Life on October 1st.

“Participating in Relay for Life meant a lot to me,” shares Cameron Miller of the U14 Monarchs. “This was our second year and we had new additions to our team. I was excited for them to see what it was like and how fun it was.” Chloe Scott-Robinson, a fellow team member adds, “It was awesome doing something fun while helping out a good cause!”

With a desire to grow their recreation soccer skills in new environments, the Monarchs started participating in regional tournaments last year. Coach Terry Miller joined with Relay for Life to fundraise for both the American Cancer Society and the team’s tournament fees, while also providing opportunity to mentor community advocacy and involvement.

“It was so very much worth raising money for Relay,” shares C. Miller. “Some family members of our team have had cancer, and it feels really good to do it in honor of them.”

Commending the impact sponsoring businesses have on youth, Patsy McGavock, Monarch parent shares, “I fell in love even more with the Orangevale community last year as I saw so many business owners encourage my daughter Becca, who could hardly read her notes yet within a day in our community was confidently inviting adults to join

her support of those suffering from cancer. I could not give her that experience on my own. I invited it with hope others would support her.”

A week later Becca brought 5 teammates with her, leading them in the same opportunity.

“When I see a young person like you come in – my answer is an immediate yes,” Michelle Famestad of Orangevale Copy told B. McGavock before she handed her a sponsorship check. “So often it is the parents, or an email,” she explains. “If the kids are doing the work, it’s important to encourage them. It’s teaching them public awareness and positive impact. I’m proud of them.”

Some sponsors won a special place in the Monarchs heart; Dezy’s Beef, Bread & Beer among them. “One business that sponsored me and my team is a place named Dezy’s,” shares C. Miller. “It was so fun. In order to get the sponsorship from him we have to prove ourselves as athletes by doing a whole bunch of exercises.” He then walked into each surrounding business challenging them to sponsor and had booked the Monarchs at an OV Rotary meeting before they left his business.

“I cannot express deeply enough the impact these business owners are making,” adds P. McGavock. “Julie King from The Last Tangle Salon not only sponsored but took time to mentor my very hesitant daughter. ‘Can you do one thing,’ she asked. ‘Just smile as you read,’ and Becca’s face lit up. Then she confidently stated how Becca was going to invite so many people to do a good thing, coached her

on ways to reach out and referred her to other businesses with a challenge to meet her donation. That was Becca’s springboard.”

One of the most tender moments was with Dawn Williamson of Warehouse Interiors, a top tier sponsor, who was recently diagnosed with cancer when the girls entered her business. “The Monarchs cause touched my heart because of what I’ve gone through,” she recalls a year later, upon sponsoring again. “And I wanted to support the communities youth. The small town I grew up in didn’t have the resources for youth sports. I’m passionate about kids having opportunities in activities they love.”

“We can’t thank you enough,” says P. McGavock. “All of you: OV Dairy Queen, Swenson Law Firm, Hot Off the Griddle, OV Grocery Outlet, Tonnos, Quik Stop, Blinds of Sacramento, New Element Ortho, Miracle Method Surface Refinishing, Handyman Network, Audrey Smith-Wibert State Farm, Sacramento SUP Outlet, 7 Day Tires, First Class Dental, John’s Pet Groomer, OV Good Year, Lupitas, MA Stiner Construction ... I wish I could share each story from our experience with you.”

“I encourage other businesses to do the same,” says Williamson, “to dedicate resources to our youth, be the support behind them so they can go on to help youth when they are older.”

Famestad adds, “Support them and encourage them when they come in, so they will keep doing it. That positive impact, it’s important.” ★

Feeding and Caring for Unhoused Pets

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Goldie was very wary of the team from the Bradshaw Animal Shelter as they walked into her encampment. Tethered to a makeshift pole with two ropes tied together, she stood and barked, tail tucked under her body as she shook – unsure of the situation. But as soon as the top popped on a can of wet dog food and it was offered to her, she immediately came forward to taste the special treat.

Goldie is a tan pit bull mix, living with her unhoused owner on a corner lot off Orange Ave. She looks healthy and happy – glad to be with her owner and certainly not underfed but weighing in at nearly 60 lbs, all dog owners know, it can be expensive to feed large dogs.

Goldie’s owner is so grateful for the large bag of dog food left for both Goldie and his brother’s dog who he is caring for. He asks Animal Control Officer Jessica Solano for advice on how to introduce the dogs to each other, so they can cohabitate peacefully. After providing several suggestions for successful introductions, Officer Solano promises to return the next day with a basket muzzle, to allow the dogs to safely meet, and hopefully become friends.

Before heading out for this effort, Officer Solano emptied out the Pet Pantry at the shelter, a stockpile of donations for pets in need – typically donated by the residents of Sacramento County. Some treats, bones and toys – in addition to food. In order to fill up the truck with enough food to feed unhoused pets, Officer Solano grabbed several bags of food from the shelter’s food supply.

Officer Solano locates another dog, a Belgian Malinois puppy, a dozen yards away, tied to a leash that is staked into the ground. These types of tethers are common to see for pets in the unhoused community, often due to the lack of stable alternatives. His owner isn’t in the encampment, but the pup bounds right up to Officer Solano and allows her to check him for fleas. She makes a



Goldie is a tan pit bull mix, living with her unhoused owner on a corner lot off Orange Ave. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

mental note to bring back flea treatment when she returns the next day. After giving the pup a can of wet food as well, the team leaves three large bags of dog food at the encampment.

The next stop is at a nearby library, where Officer Solano spots an unhoused woman with four small dogs in and around a shopping cart, sitting in front of the library using its wifi for her laptop. As she spots the animal control truck coming, she quickly leashes her dogs to the cart with ropes that are nearly threadbare. The fear on her face suggested she thought she’d be cited for having her dogs unleashed. Instead, Officer Solano brings her dog food for her little brood and also leaves new leashes to help keep the dogs safe.

As the team continues to move through the south unincorporated county, they pass a row of cars, trucks and RVs parked on the side of the road with at least one dog crate visible. Officer Solano makes her way vehicle by vehicle, asking if anyone has animals in need of food. Turns out there were two large dogs, a small dog and one cat living in the encampment – all with owners extremely grateful for the food, but more grateful for the fact that they were seen and cared for.

The team’s final stop was another RV parked along South Watt with two dogs chained up outside. Officer Solano grabbed the last of the food in her truck to leave by the RV, but as the team approached the RV, the owner came walking from the opposite direction, having made a quick trip over to the nearest gas station. One of the dogs barked and barked, even as her tail wagged, but the other dog was eager to play and gets pets – even from strangers. As the dog’s owner opened the door of the RV, another large dog came running out, ready to jump and lick and play. In addition to food, the team left large bones and harnesses to help contro the dogs.

The day was a success – feeding and providing care for a dozen pets. But the need is much larger than that. Hundreds, if not thousands of pets are living with unhoused owners. If you’d like to donate food or resources to help feed unhoused pets, learn more about how to help pets stay with their owners.

For more information about how the County is serving the unhoused human population, visit the Homeless Initiatives website. ★

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Board Approves New Agreement to Serve Homeless

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Following months of diligent and deliberate work by elected officials and staff, the Board of Supervisors approved on Tuesday, December 6, a partnership agreement to increase outreach, shelter and services to people experiencing homelessness, particularly within the boundaries of the City of Sacramento.

The five-year agreement identifies the roles and responsibilities of the City and County and demonstrates a shared commitment to reducing unsheltered homelessness through systems-level changes and strategies identified by the recently adopted Local Homeless Action Plan. It includes joint outreach teams, hundreds of additional shelter beds and a commitment to do "whatever it takes" to meet the behavioral health needs of people experiencing homelessness.

As part of the agreement, the City and County will create 10 new "encampment engagement teams" - staffed by workers from both organizations -- to provide intensive outreach, assessment, navigation, service delivery and shelter placements to as many people as possible in encampments within the City limits. Teams will include behavioral health workers from the County who have the ability and qualifications to provide a behavioral health assessment and enroll or link people to an appropriate level of mental health and substance use services. Additional services, including individual needs assessments, shelter referrals, linkages with supportive services, and general navigation support will be provided by the City's Department of Community Response (DCR) and through contracted outreach providers funded by Managed Care Plans as part of the



Sacramento City and County leaders announce a new five-year agreement identifying the roles and responsibilities of each entity to move forward and help solve the homeless crisis and its associated mental health aspects. In the image from left to right: Sacramento Mayor Pro Tem Eric Guerra (front), Sacramento County Supervisor Rich Desmond (back), Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, Sacramento County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy (speaking at podium), Councilmember Jeff Harris, County Executive Ann Edwards, and City Manager Howard Chan. Photo courtesy of Office of Mayor Darrell Steinberg

CalAIM initiative. There are currently two teams that have been mobilized within city limits since October.

The City has identified the initial locations to deploy these multi-disciplinary teams based on its assessment of which camps present the greatest health and safety risk. Services such as solid waste removal, code enforcement and public safety protocol will be provided. The teams will develop an individual plan for each encampment based on the unique circumstances and needs of the camp occupants, and have the ability to spend the necessary time in each camp to find individualized solutions. Best practices suggest that on-going, multiple visits over time are needed to establish trust with camp occupants along with real-time access to services and shelter; these teams are oriented to dedicate this level of effort.

County behavioral health workers will conduct behavioral health assessments in the field and in City shelters and enroll people in services. They will have the ability to write 5150 holds and petition the court to require people to receive outpatient treatment under

Laura's Law as appropriate. While it will take six months to ramp up the full 10 teams, City and County teams have already begun working together in top-priority sites in advance of the agreement's adoption.

The County, through the agreement, also will commit to establishing and funding a new Community Outreach Recovery Empowerment (CORE) Behavioral Health Center within City limits and expanding its substance use disorder residential treatment.

In addition, the County will commit to adding 200 shelter beds within 12 months and 200 more shelter beds within 36 months. If the City provides a shovel-ready site, the County will agree to operate 200 additional shelter beds within the City.

The agreement also sets forth provisions for accountability and measuring progress with reports in open session to both the City Council and County Board of Supervisors.

For more information on the Partnership Agreement, read the Fact Sheet.

For more information on what the County is doing to address homelessness, visit the Homeless Initiatives website. ★

Freedom Christian School Now Enrolling

Continued from page 1

socially and physically through understanding and applying truth," Koehn said. Students engage in activities such as chapels, outreach projects, small group Bible study and prayer which allow students to experience a real, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ.

"We're excited to see our students learn and grow spiritually as they advance to the next academic grade."

Staff members are dedicated professionals credentialed by the Association of Christian Schools, who encourage all students to pursue high academic standards as well as personal spiritual growth goals in an environment of

respect and support. As a TK-8th grade school, FCS offers core course offerings and electives to meet the needs of all students.

"When they graduate, we've done our best to equip our students to live a productive, godly life and train them to pursue truth and its varied applications as they fulfill their purpose in a global society," Koehn said.

Freedom Christian School is located at 7736 Sunset Avenue in Fair Oaks. Call 888-317-1228 for more information or to set up a tour. Visit FreedomChristianSchool.com or email office@fcs-online.org for enrollment information. ★

Keep Your Light Shining for Christmas



Christmas in Fair Oaks Tree Lighting was held at Fair Oaks Park on December 3. Despite the rain, many families and neighbors showed up to enjoy the festivities, including the annual lighting of the 30-foot-tall tree. Photo courtesy of Judy Andrews



Vote Now!

Contest Rules

Business must be located in Fair Oaks or be a Fair Oaks Chamber member. All votes must be cast online at BestofFairOaks.com

Only one vote per category per person. All voting entries must have complete information or the votes will not be counted.

Best of Fair Oaks winners will be presented at this year's "Best of Fair Oaks" event (see info below).

You're Invited!

Tickets are expected to sell out fast.

Don't miss your chance to attend the 7th annual "Best of Fair Oaks" event.

This year's event will be held:

Where: North Ridge Country Club, 7600 Madison Ave, Fair Oaks

When: Thursday January 26, 2023

Cost: Contact the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce for details

FairOaksChamber.com or call 916-967-2903

New Honorary Mayor of Fair Oaks



Jen at her Skinned and Lashed salon. Photos by Laura Gentry Photography

Continued from page 1

Oaks just as much as I do. It's a good feeling."

Jen became an esthetician in 2015 just prior to opening Skinned and Lashed in the Village. Set in the heart of old Fair Oaks, the salon offers an extensive menu of professional skincare services for men and women including facials, peels, lash extensions, waxing, and tanning.

Skinned and Lashed was also voted Best Salon and Beauty in Fair Oaks in 2021, and is in the running for a 2022 Best of Fair Oaks award in the same category. (Voting ends on Dec. 22.)

Jen's toy poodle named Little Guy (or LG) sometimes joins her at work where he loves to hang out in the window.

So, what does an honorary mayor actually do?

Aside from being present at ribbon cuttings, chamber events, and other community and social activities, the mayor serves as a goodwill ambassador for the community on behalf of the chamber. Jen recently braved the rain on Dec. 3 to attend Christmas in Fair Oaks Tree Lighting and helped "light" the 30-foot tree standing in Fair Oaks Park.

"My favorite thing about the chamber is the camaraderie of it all," she said. "Although I've always had the support of people in this community, being a chamber member has helped spotlight my business more than I ever imagined. I can't complain!" ★

Santa, Buddy the Elf, OV Christmas Tree and More!



Santa enjoyed visiting with lots of good little boys and girls and hearing how he could make Christmas better for them this year! Photo by Cathy Kurtz

By MaryAnne Povey

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - Once again, families young and old came out to celebrate the 17th Annual Orangevale Christmas Tree Lighting! Nearly 1000 spectators came to the Orangevale Community Center to enjoy the annual tradition which included musical performances from Kidz Korner Preschool, Casa Rams Jr. Cheer, Rainwater Music Co, Casa and Pasteur bands and the Rhythm Club Band.

Buddy the Elf was back from the North Pole to emcee the evening along with Santa, who did the honors of lighting the Christmas tree in front of a packed crowd of cheerful onlookers. Barry Ross, OV Parks Administrator and Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost were there to celebrate the evening and assist in the official countdown of the tree lighting.

Santa visited with many good little boys and girls for as long as he could until it was time for the evening's finale. He came out to a cheering crowd and high fived the circle of excited fans before getting in the bucket provided by Easy Stumps tree service to be hoisted to the top of the giant community tree.

Before Santa left to get back to the North Pole, we asked him about his most memorable moments of his visit to Orangevale. While stroking his beard he said, Noel was most impressed with the thoughtful and contemplative responses to the question, "How can Santa make Christmas better for them this year?" One child asked for more time with family, another asked for a job for his mom and a few others asked for snow! My heart was filled with joy!

Special thanks to Darren Lang of Easy Stumps for providing the lift for Santa as well as these local business sponsors: Orangevale Water Company



Buddy the Elf; MaryAnne Povey, OV Live; Barry Ross, OV Parks; Darren Lang, EasyStumps; Sue Frost, County Supervisor, and Santa pose in front of the newly lighted Christmas tree!! Photo by Cathy Kurtz

for the Choo Choo Express Train, the Orangevale Grange for providing hot dogs, the Orangevale History Project for serving popcorn, the Orangevale Chamber of Commerce for assisting Santa, the Orangevale Women's Club for their fabulous cookies, Les Schwab for donating water, and Orangevale Food Bank, Party in No Time, Advance America and Casa Interact Club for sponsoring activity booths for the kids!

The evening was capped off with the cheering crowd helping Santa with the countdown, and the giant tree lighting up perfectly on cue for all to see! It was a great evening of community coming together to celebrate! Here's wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! ★

Do I Need to File a Missing Persons Report?

Dr. James L. Snyder

Every week comes and goes, and some go faster than others. Such was last week.

I had my semiannual doctor's visit. After all, he has kids that need to go to college. After his complete examination of me, he said, "You're doing great."

I asked him to repeat that several times, because The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was there, and I wanted her to hear it from someone other than me.

My wife put together the plan for the day so that we could accomplish many things in one day. So the doctor's visit was first.

Then we had to go to the police station.

My bank informed me that somebody had counterfeited one of my checks and even my signature for \$1800.

So after the doctor's visit, we went to the police department to file a complaint.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said, "You can go in, and I'll stay here in the car."

After I presented my case, the police officer said, "What is your address?"

I told him, and he said, "I'm afraid that's in the

county, and we cannot process that complaint because we are here in the city." Therefore I had to take my complaint to the Sheriff's office.

I left the police department, and looked for my wife's car. It was nowhere to be found.

At the time, I didn't know what to do because, as "luck would have it," I did not bring my cell phone. Isn't it interesting, I never need my cell phone unless I don't have it with me?

I was tempted to return to the police department and file a missing person report.

Then one of those crazy thoughts bounced into my head. I know exactly where she would go. She isn't known as the Thrift Store Queen for naught.

As I was standing there thinking of what to do next, a woman passed by, and I stopped her and said, "Ma'am do you know if there's a thrift store nearby?"

She laughed and said, "Yes, but it's usually just for women."

Smiling as I looked at her, I said, "Where would that thrift store be?"

"What are you looking for," she asked, "maybe there's one I could direct you to."

I was nervous, but

without thinking I said, "I'm looking for a wife."

"Well," she said laughing, "a thrift store is the best place to find a wife that I know of."

Then she pointed up the row and said there was a thrift store at the end of that line. She added, "You'll find a lot of wives in that store so that you can make your own choice." Then, walking away, she laughed hysterically.

I could see something that looked like a thrift store way down at the end. So I started walking and when I arrived at that thrift store, guess who was inside?

On our way home, I couldn't help but think of the Bible verse in Isaiah 41:10. "Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

No matter what my fears might be, I know that God is going to guide me through that situation for his honor and glory.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com, website www.james-snyderministries.com. ★

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Business Wants Voters to Overturn Legislative Decrees



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Over the last decade, as Democrats solidified their dominance of the state Capitol, they have repeatedly attempted to change how private businesses operate in California

Those efforts have taken many specific forms, including mandates on employee benefits, making it easier for unions to organize workers, and regulating — or even prohibiting — products and services offered to customers.

All such efforts were aimed, their legislative and interest group sponsors said, at expanding equity and accountability for the benefit of workers and consumers.

Whatever their motives, as those efforts proliferate, the affected businesses have done what they could to block or at least modify what was happening. Nevertheless, those seeking more governmental regulation of business practices have scored some major victories and in response, affected businesses have increasingly used referenda to erase new laws or initiatives to repeal or modify them.

Those countermeasures have a mixed record of success, to wit:

— In 2014, the Legislature passed and then-Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation to ban single-use plastic bags

for groceries or other consumer goods. An industry referendum to block the new law failed in 2016.

— In 2018, the Legislature eliminated cash bail for criminal defendants. Two years later, the bail bond industry persuaded voters to reject the law.

— In 2019, legislators passed a sweeping law that reduced the ability of businesses to use freelance workers under contract. Rideshare and delivery companies such as Uber and Lyft placed a measure on the 2020 ballot to exempt themselves from the new law. Voters passed it, but it's since been challenged in court.

— In 2020 the Legislature prohibited the sale of flavored tobacco products, saying they encourage young people to smoke. However, the tobacco industry's referendum to block the ban was rejected by voters this year.

Corporate use of the ballot to thwart the Capitol's Democrats is likely to continue.

The fast food industry has submitted signatures for a referendum to overturn the creation of a new agency, dominated by unions and union-friendly appointees, that would set wages and working conditions for fast food employees. If it qualifies, the law would be suspended until voters decide the issue in 2024.

The oil industry is gathering signatures for a referendum to overturn a newly enacted law that would ban new oil wells within 3,200 feet of schools and other public facilities. If it qualifies, it also would go on the 2024 ballot.

Another oil industry

referendum is likely if the Legislature passes Newsom's proposal to impose limits on its profits from gasoline sales and impose financial penalties for exceeding them.

Newsom's original proposal was an excess profits tax, which would not have been subject to referendum because the state constitution declares that tax measures cannot be challenged via referendum.

However, non-tax laws, unless passed with two-thirds margins as "urgency measures," are subject to referendum. If Newsom's limit/penalty law is enacted next year as a non-urgency measure, the industry would have a 90-day window in which to qualify a referendum. The law would be suspended until voters had the final word.

The proliferation of business-sponsored ballot measures to overturn what legislators and the governor decree has angered groups, such as unions and environmental and consumer rights organizations, that support more oversight of business practices. They are pressing the Legislature to make the qualification of ballot measures more difficult.

However, Newsom and his predecessor, Jerry Brown, have opposed such changes for the simple reason that governors sometimes turn to the ballot themselves to enact laws that the Legislature is unwilling to pass.

That's the real scandal. Dan Walters has been a journalist for nearly 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers. ★



By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

This morning I just happened to watch and listen intently to Joel Osteen's message and was really thrilled to hear a pastor speak such a positive message of truth from God's Holy Word.. He told about a lady that was very ill with terminal cancer. She was a woman of faith and every day she claimed a promise from God's Word for the healing of her body. It did not happen overnight but in time she believed

God's Healing is Available

God had healed her body and went to the doctor.

After examining her, the doctor said "I don't understand this, but there is no evidence of cancer in your whole body anymore." The woman rejoiced knowing and believing that God had completely healed her body!

Our faith in a mighty powerful loving God is capable of doing many things but too many people question and never exercise the little bit of faith they might have. They may even go to church every Sunday and hear messages about how the tiny faith of a tiny mustard seed is all the

faith they need to move a mountain in their life when they pray and ask God to change some circumstance of their life. Yes that is all the faith we need! Try it and see what God does in your life.

Locate a book of "Bible Promises" or go to the Concordance in your Bible and look up the word Promises and read them all, then claim some for your life and see what God does for you. He loves you!

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

Native supports U.S. Navy's 'Take Charge and Move Out' Mission

By Stephanie Fox, Navy Office of Community Outreach

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, OK (MPG) - A Fair Oaks, California, native is serving in the U.S. Navy as part of the nation's nuclear deterrence mission at Strategic Communications Wing One (STRATCOMMWING ONE).

Its TACAMO ("Take Charge and Move Out") mission provides airborne communication links to nuclear missile units of U.S. Strategic Command.

Chief Petty Officer Timothy Jacobson, a 2003 Casa Roble High School graduate, joined the Navy 18 years ago.

"I joined the Navy because I wanted to do something other than the traditional high school to college track," said Jacobson.

The Navy's presence aboard an Air Force base in the middle of America may seem like an odd location given its distance from any ocean; however, the central location allows for the deployment of aircraft to both coasts and the Gulf of Mexico on a moment's notice. This quick response is key to the success of the nuclear deterrence mission.

The Navy command consists of a Wing staff, the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training, and three Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadrons: The "Ironmen" of VQ 3, the "Shadows" of VQ 4 and the "Roughnecks" of VQ 7.

Jacobson serves as a naval aircrewman with VQ 4.

"My favorite thing about my job is the people I get to work with," said Jacobson.

STRATCOMMWING One employs more than 1,300 active-duty sailors and 100 contractors to provide maintenance, security, operations, administration, training and logistic support for the Boeing E-6 Mercury aircraft fleet, an airborne command post and communications relay based on the Boeing 707.

Their mission stems from the original 1961 Cold War order known as 'Take Charge and Move Out!' Adapted as TACAMO and now the command's nickname, the men and women of TACAMO continue to provide a survivable communication link between national decision makers and the nation's nuclear weapons.

The commander-in-chief issues orders to members of the military who operate nuclear weapons aboard submarines,



Casa Roble High School Class of 2023 graduate Timothy Jacobson joined the Navy 18 years ago. Photo courtesy of Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Anna-Liesse Hussey

aircraft or in land-based missile silos. Sailors aboard TACAMO E-6 Mercury aircraft provide the one-of-a-kind and most-survivable communication needed for this critical mission.

With more than 90 percent of all trade traveling by sea, and 95 percent of the world's international phone and internet traffic carried through fiber optic cables lying on the ocean floor, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity and security of the United States is directly linked to a strong and ready Navy.

Serving in the Navy means Jacobson is part of a team that is taking on new importance in America's focus on rebuilding military readiness, strengthening alliances and reforming business practices in support of the National Defense Strategy.

"The Navy contributes to the National Defense Strategy because we can do it all: sea, land and air," said Jacobson.

Jacobson and the sailors they serve with have many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during their military service.

"My proudest Navy accomplishment is getting to travel and see the people I work with succeed," said Jacobson.

As Jacobson and other sailors continue to perform missions, they take pride in serving their country in the United States Navy. "To me, serving in the Navy means being a part of something bigger than myself," added Jacobson. ★

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Bera Helps Secure \$15.2 Million for County Health Department

Office of Representative Ami Bera, M.D.

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On November 29, 2022, Representative Ami Bera, M.D. (CA-07) announced that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has awarded the Sacramento County Health Department \$15,264,533 in funding to improve its public health infrastructure and strengthen its ability to recruit and retain public health care workers. The funding is provided

through the American Rescue Plan, which Rep. Bera championed and voted for in March 2021.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of having a public health infrastructure that can prevent, detect, and respond to emerging health threats," said Representative Bera, who previously served as Chief Medical Officer for Sacramento County. "As a doctor, I am proud to help secure over \$15 million in federal funding to help Sacramento County

improve our health care services and keep our communities safe and healthy."

The CDC Public Health Infrastructure Grant Program provides flexible awards directly to state, local, and territorial health departments, to help ensure they have the people, services, and systems they need to promote and protect health in their communities. The grant includes significant resources that Sacramento County can use to recruit, retain, and train its health care workforce. ★

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 15. Neutral shade
 16. Orderly arrangement
 17. Romanian monetary unit
 18. Button on electrical outlet
 19. *Frosty's nose
 21. *Gingerbread Man, e.g.
 23. Drench
 24. What a willow did?
 25. Famous song by The Jackson 5
 28. Cone-shaped quarters
 30. *Snow mover
 35. A bit of water
 37. Pakistani language
 39. Measured in knots
 40. Tatted fabric
 41. **A Visit from St. Nicholas' poet
 43. Tropical edible root
 44. Paintings in Orthodox church
 46. Not swim or swum
 47. Frozen puddle accident
 48. Small skullcap
 50. Dresden's river
 52. Captain's turf
 53. Drop of sorrow
 55. "Slippery" tree
 57. *Frozen spike
 60. *Three-horse sleigh ride
 63. Words to live by
 64. Caviar alternative
 66. On D'Artagnan's hat
 68. Group of wives
 69. Boiling emotion
 70. Furnish with a fund
 71. Travelers' stops
 72. Poetic "even"
 73. Buy second-hand
- DOWN**
1. Agha, alt. sp.
 2. Artist Chagall's first name
 3. Poet Pound's first name
 4. Draws close
 5. Fungus damage (2 words)
 6. Shake's cousin?
 7. * fishing
 8. Two, in cards
 9. Station finder button
 10. Not final
 11. Curved molding
 12. Kind of nurse
 15. Bouillions
 20. Laudanum ingredient
 22. Saturn's wife
 24. As opposed to widow
 25. Impromptu
 26. Emergency pedal
 27. *Hot treat
 29. Major-leaguers
 31. Prefers
 32. Butcher shop offering, pl.
 33. Ghostlike
 34. Parkinson's drug
 36. Philadelphia's Ivy League member
 38. Russian mountain chain
 42. *Fireplace glob
 45. TV offering
 49. Reef fish
 51. Kind of bride
 54. Eagle's home
 56. Hundred Acre Wood creator

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 59. Bad day for Caesar
 60. Not quite an adult
 61. Spiral-horned African antelope
 62. Singer-songwriter Tori
 63. Tai's partner
 65. Miner's bounty
 67. Female sheep

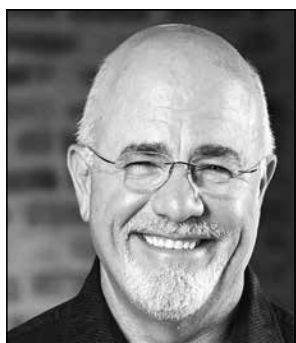
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Dave Ramsey Says

Dear Karla,

In their later years? I'm not trying to be mean, but they're already in their later years.

I'm really sorry you're in this situation. Even though you're in your 50s, he's still your dad, and I know this hurts your heart. It's probably even tougher to accept the fact that he's being manipulative. I mean, seriously. What dad calls up his daughter with the idea he's entitled to \$55,000 of her money and starts acting like a travel agent for guilt trips in the process? That's just wrong.

Look, if the relationship and the situation were different, we might have something to talk about. With your net worth, you're not going to miss \$55,000 out of \$2 to 3 million. In a good relationship, I'd help my mom or dad like that in a heartbeat - just to help them out because they're older. But this situation already is what it is. Something tells me this isn't the first time he's behaved in a manipulative way. And if you say yes to this, then I've got a feeling it isn't the first time

you've caved into him. I'm worried you won't be able to live with yourself if you do this, and that it may cause a big rift between you and your husband.

It's wrong of your dad to treat you this way and put you in this situation. If you want to tell him your money's tied up, which it is, or you just don't like the way it feels, that's fine. But my advice is to try to step back from the emotions and come to the realization in your own head that no is a complete answer.

You don't have an ethical or moral obligation to give manipulative people money just because they're related to you.

- 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. ★

A Travel Agent for Guilt Trips

Dear Dave,

My dad and his wife asked my husband and I for \$55,000. They want the money so they can pay off their debt. We're debt-free and have a net worth of between \$2 to 3 million, but we're also retired. We don't keep that much in the bank, so we'd have to draw from our retirement accounts - which is something we don't want to do. They've already approached other family members about this too. His wife is owed money at some point from a family settlement, but they don't want to wait that long. My dad said we should do this if we want them to get ahead and have anything left in their later years. My dad is 80, and his wife is in her late 70s. My husband and I are both in our 50s. Please tell me how to handle this.

- Karla



Christmas Makes Memories

Christmas has always had a special place in my heart. There was a time that we decorated every room in the house, and yes, including the bathrooms. As we age, however, it doesn't seem like every room needs to be adorned. But some decorations are special, and we try to get them out and share them with friends.

First and foremost is the super duper tree with its twinkling lights and so many memory decorations gathered through the years from family and friends. I love the ones that tell a story. Would you believe a microphone because I do a radio talk show or a glass slipper because I love sparkly shoes, or doggies that reflect our love for our pooches?

I do love my Christmas village, and every year we added new structures from the dynamic lighthouse to the steeples of the beautiful church. Oh, and don't forget the sweet shop, the veterinarian stop, the Bijou, the community theatre and even a department store and more.

Father Christmas is a magnificent feature designed by a dear friend of ours many years ago. She made him from scratch with materials and laces from around the world. She even gave him a heart because she always thought of him as real. She made every created doll with loving care. He stands some three feet tall, a gold and silver wonder with sparkling crystal eyes and natural hair and a crown of gold. A true wonder to see.

Then there's the nativity, all hand-carved from wood from the wise men, Mary and Joseph, a little drummer boy and of course, the baby Jesus. This was a gift from Rick's (my husband's) parents. They brought back the set from Switzerland, their heritage.

I know so many folks don't send cards anymore. I get it. It takes time to write a special note and it's not cheap to send anymore. But I guess I'll always be old school. I love opening the card, reading the message and then hang the cards in our special space so we can enjoy them over and over again. I know it takes time



The nativity, all hand-carved from wood. Photos courtesy Mary Jane Popp



Father Christmas.

during a busy year, but I bet those we care about appreciate the effort.

And how can we forget the presents under the tree all dressed in festive paper and in colors galore. It really doesn't matter if it's a grand gift or perhaps something special because it's handmade. It's the thought that counts...the thought that someone cared to share a special moment.

It's all so magical as the house becomes a wonderland of loving memories. We keep it til the New Year, and then sadly, tuck it all away til the next Christmas. But the memories won't be tucked away. They will remain with us all year. Then it all begins again to make the love happen. But why wait til the next Christmas. Share that love and make memories all year long.

Wishing you a blessed
MERRY CHRISTMAS and a very HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

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'There is No Gift Without a Giver'

Story and photos by Shaun Holkko, assistant editor

ROSEVILLE, CA (MPG) - Each holiday season, consumers shop for the best gifts to give their loved ones for Christmas. Now this year, there is a new and easy way to give to those who are less fortunate: the "Light the World" Giving Machine.

The Giving Machine is sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS Church) and is located at the Westfield Galleria at Roseville. Organizers for the machine held a grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony at the mall on Wednesday, November 30.

"The machines don't do the giving, they are simply the facilitators for your giving," said Jay Pimentel, LDS Church area communication director and the ceremony's host. "These machines are set up here, and we set them up a few days ago to make sure they were up and running and working, and just in those few days there have already been 1,579 donations with people just walking by."

An entertaining part of the ceremony was when Pimentel explained how to use the machine. One member of the audience, dressed in old school clothing to portray fictional character Ebenezer Scrooge, did not understand the purpose of the machine.

Following some explanation from Pimentel and two other old-time characters, Mr. Scrooge became one of the biggest advocates of the giving machine that you could find at the Galleria.

According to Pimentel, in 2021, California's giving machine was in Oakland and raised over \$15 million. The LDS Church covers the administrative costs like credit card processing and operating fees. The giving machine in Roseville benefits five non-profit organizations that were represented Wednesday: the



Dignitaries pictured from left to right: Scott Stewart, Lincoln Stake president; Dr. John Jackson, William Jessup University president; Sheikh Yasir Khan, Al-Misbaah founder; Dow Wilson, Area 70 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) elder; and Jay Pimentel, LDS Church area communication director; at the Sacramento Giving Machine ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, November 30 at the Westfield Galleria at Roseville.

Placer Food Bank, H.A.R.T., Al-Misbaah, Catholic Charities and CSW.

"We are a Feeding America food bank. I know the name doesn't imply that, but we cover Placer, El Dorado and Nevada County," said Dave Martinez, executive director of the Placer Food Bank. "Currently we serve well over 100,000 individuals a month. This giving machine is very important for us this year. We have to deal with fires, snow, plus just how people are impacted day to day with the food cost. It's really hurting our middle class."

Each non-profit spoke about their organization and then selected from the machine an item to be donated to their respective causes. Other dignitaries in attendance included Roseville Mayor Krista Bernasconi, Rocklin Mayor Bill Haldin and Loomis Mayor Jennifer Knisley.



Once an item is selected for donation to the Sacramento Giving Machine, the placard falls to the bottom of the vending machine and creates a pile among the other items that were already donated.

William Jessup University President Dr. John Jackson was one of the last speakers and admitted to being an "absolute Scrooge" and disliking Christmas. Jackson said this was the case because he was young, newly married and "had no money."

"Every year I felt the stress of being able to find gifts at Christmas and every year I found myself in a really bad mood," Jackson recalled. "The worst part about this whole story is during that time I was a pastor, so I was a pastor Scrooge."

"I was supposed to put on a bright shiny face and celebrate Christmas... but I was angry and frustrated because every single Christmas we were young, poor and struggling to buy gifts and that was a frustrating experience."

When did things change? When Jackson and his wife welcomed their first child into the world and he "began to see Christmas through the eyes of awe and wonder." That's when his perspective shifted.

"The truth is, Christmas is really not ultimately only about the gift, it starts with the giver," Jackson explained. "If the heart of the giver is right then the meaning of the gift gets magnified. You're never more like God then when you're giving. There is no gift without a giver."

The Giving Machines will be open at the Galleria until January 2. ★

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 Food Court - 1 Day, 11am - 7:30pm
 Korean, Mex, Viet, P-3 0pm last call
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WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS

	\$3.99/lb		\$5.49/lb		\$5.99/lb
	\$2.99/lb		\$1.59/lb		\$1.99/lb

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For 6 people \$85.00	For 12 people \$185.00	For 18 people \$275.00	For 24 people \$350.00
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9 Dishes To Choose From

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\$1.99/lb	69¢/lb	\$3.49/ea	\$4.99/bag

AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY

Del Monte Pineapple Juice 46 Oz	Cinamomo Toast Crunch 12 oz	GM Cinnamon Toast Crunch 12 oz	Fujian Mago Noodles 2 Kinds 5 x 80 g	Jamitas Mexican Hominy 110 oz	Soft & Strong Bathroom Tissue 12 rolls
\$3.99/ea	\$2.99/ea	\$4.99/ea	\$4.99/ea	\$5.99/ea	\$5.99/ea

ASIAN GROCERY

Three Ladies Vietnamese Rice Vermicelli 2 lbs	TH Roasted Black Garlic 8.8 oz	DF Soup Pho Bo 26.7 Oz	Honey Bee Young Coconut Juice with Jelly 16.9 Oz	Qx & Palm Corned Beef 15 oz
\$5.99/ea	\$7.99/ea	\$2.49/ea	2/\$3.00	\$7.49/ea

EUROPEAN GROCERY

Olefino California Grape Leaves 16 oz	Stouffville Cherry Jam 350 gr	Schickel's Kravka Candy 1 lb	Manitou Water Cakes 200 g	Altina Sandwich Bread 220 gr
\$9.99/ea	\$1.79/ea	\$10.99/ea	\$2.49/ea	\$1.89/ea

KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY

Onkai White Rice 12 x 7.5 lb	Onkai's California Raisins 5 x 1.65 lb	Korona Real Ginseng Drink 20 x 1.69 lb	NH Scented Rice 1.84 lb	On Yul Corned Cuke 11.85 oz	Korona Shrimp Crackers 2.6 lb
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FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Bap Bar 3 Kinds 240 g	REG. \$5.99/ea	\$1.99/ea
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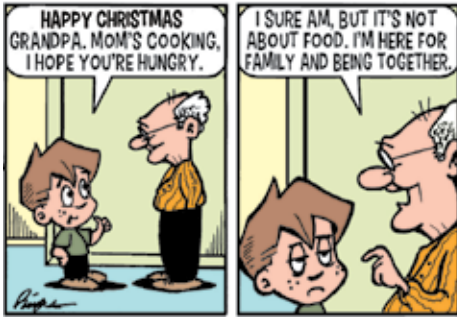
EUROPEAN DELI

Roasted Chicken	Krinos Olive Medley	Pitted Green Olives
\$8.49	\$4.09	\$4.09

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WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Out on a Limb

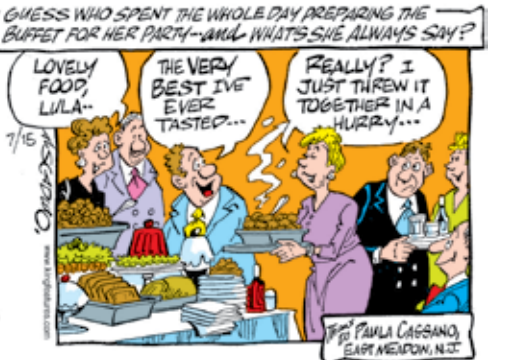


by Gary Kopervas

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO



R.F.D.



by Mike Marland



GRIN and BEAR IT



LAFF-A-DAY

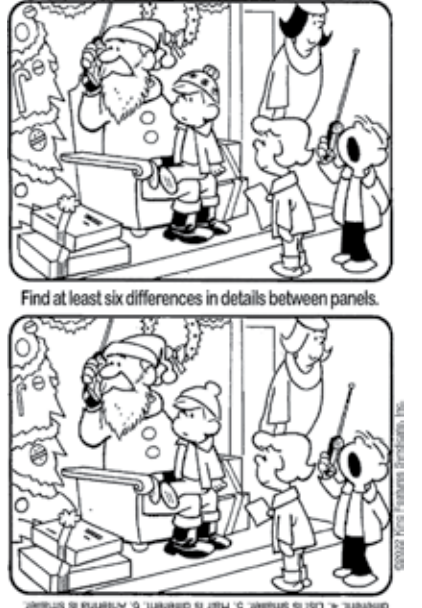


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•Chicken & Brown Rice 24 Lb
•Ultra Original (Reg & Lrg Breed) 26 Lb
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\$5 OFF
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US Air Force Chief of Staff Charles Brown Jr. pins Bud Anderson's epaulet with a Brigadier General star.

Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

MCCLELLAN, CA (MPG) - Culminating a legendary aviation career, WW II pilot Bud Anderson last week achieved the honorary rank of Brigadier General. America's only surviving Triple Ace will be 101 years old next month.

No less than Air Force Chief of Staff General Charles Q. Brown Jr. pinned Anderson's new insignia. The four-star General stopped at Aerospace Museum of California (McClellan) en route to unveiling the

new B-21 nuclear stealth bomber in Southern California. Both events, said General Brown, were equally historic.

"Shoulders the Air Force stands on are those of gentlemen like Bud Anderson," he said. "I certainly consider him General officer material."

More than 200 invited guests applauded the centenarian's appointment. In addition to Anderson's star insignia, he now has a gold trimmed standard. "I never expected my own flag," he marveled. "This blows my mind."

Auburn resident Anderson started his career at McClellan and

became General there 80 years later. He acknowledged modern fighter pilots inhabit different cockpits and a different world. "We flew completely by hand," he explained. "Today, it's all automatic stuff. But I'm as proud to wear this uniform today as I ever was. My message for young people is if they have the ambition to be in the Air Force, they should have at it. If you work hard, you can be what you want to be."

Anderson's legend includes 116 wartime combat missions. The fighter pilot earned Triple Ace status by shooting down 16 1/4 enemy aircraft. At 22,



Newly-promoted Brigadier General Bud Anderson gets a salute from seven-year-old fan Caden Mara at the Aerospace Museum of California.



US Air Force Chief of Staff Charles Brown Jr and Aerospace Museum Executive Director Commander Tom Jones (US Navy ret.) join newly-minted Brigadier General Bud Anderson for birthday cake. Anderson turns 101 next month.

he was made Major. Later a test pilot, he flew pioneer jet fighter missions and took the controls of more than 130 types of aircraft. Thirty years of Air Force service included duty in post-war Korea, Japan, Southeast Asia and the Pentagon.

Anderson's decorations include two Legion of Merits, five Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star, 16 air medals, France's Legion d'Honneur and Croix de Guerre awards. Through sheer longevity, the highest-scoring US fighter ace alive is also among few remaining Fighter Aces in the world.

A staunch supporter of the Aerospace Museum, his hangar appearances are supported by

hundreds of fans. For his promotion ceremony, Travis Air Force Base supplied a color guard, a brass band and a raft of uniformed personnel. Staffers and civilians joined the veteran in singing the Air Force Song, shared birthday cake and drank his health in bourbon.

Because Anderson famously named all his P-51s after the whiskey preferred by fighter buddies, the Aerospace Museum boasts an Old Crow manufacturers dispatched a ceremonial barrelhead (bearing the P-51 profile) from Kentucky. As Anderson and General Brown downed shots, the legend warned: "That's

dangerous stuff, sir." Top-brass military ceremonies normally involve months of preparation. To promote Bud Anderson before his 101th birthday – and to take advantage of the Chief of Staff's California visit – Aerospace Museum administrators pushed the event from concept to conclusion in weeks.

"It took Bud three years to become major during the war," said Museum CEO Tom Jones. "He was promoted to colonel 14 years later. After he retired in 1972, it took 50 more years for him to become a general."

"This was a once-in-a-lifetime event for Bud – and for all of us who were here." ★





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