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AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

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Donating for Life



Members of the Knights of Columbus Fair Oaks Council join Sacramento Life Center staff to celebrate the new 4D ultrasound machine they recently donated to the nonprofit. Photo: Thébaud Communications

**By Kristin Thébaud,
Thébaud Communications**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Knights of Columbus Fair Oaks Council recently donated a 4D Voluson S8 ultrasound machine worth \$47,000 to local nonprofit Sacramento Life Center, which provides free medical services and resources to low-income pregnant women and teens. The local Knights of Columbus group secured the machine, thanks in part to the nonprofit 4US-Adopt-A-Center that provided a quarter of the funding needed.

"We are so very thankful to the Knights of Columbus and 4US-Adopt-A-Center for this amazing piece of technology that we never could have afforded without them," said Marie Leatherby, executive director, Sacramento Life Center. "Thanks to this machine, our patients will not only have more information about their baby's health, they will be able to see facial features and a detailed portrait so they can feel even more connected."

Now in its 50th anniversary year, the Sacramento Life Center offers compassion, support, resources and free medical care to women and couples facing an unplanned or unsupported pregnancy. The Sacramento Life Center's licensed Sac Valley Pregnancy Clinic includes a primary clinic and mobile clinic that provide all services for free, including pregnancy tests, STD tests, ultrasounds, pap smears, well woman exams, patient advocacy for men and women, education and resource referrals. Staff also assists patients in signing up for Medi-Cal Presumptive Eligibility for Pregnant Women and provides a wide range of baby supplies through its onsite baby needs closet, including diapers, clothes, formula, wipes and more. The nonprofit also offers a 24-hour hotline and program for women who have experienced pregnancy loss.

In 2018, the Sacramento Life Center achieved accreditation by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, which ensures the group has

met nationally recognized standards for the provision of high-quality health care. For more information about the Sacramento Life Center's Sac Valley Pregnancy Clinic, visit SVPClinic.com. For more information about the Sacramento Life Center or to make a donation, visit SacLife.org.

"Weaving through our web of contacts to get this ultrasound donation accomplished really connected individuals who demonstrate America's best," said Henry Luckie, Knights of Columbus Fair Oaks Council member. "We are proud to help the Sacramento Life Center in their work."

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization. It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church, their communities, families and young people. For more information about the Knights of Columbus Fair Oaks Council #6066, visit KOF6066.org. ★

Microbusiness Grant Program to Make Big Local Impact

**By Allison Harris,
Sacramento County**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County encourages microbusinesses in the county that have been adversely affected by the pandemic to apply to receive relief grants of \$2,500. The new Microbusiness Grant Program is funded by the State of California's Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA) and administered by Sacramento County. These new micro-business grants do not need to be repaid, and the application period will be open April 1-29, 2022.

Often operating as solopreneurs, freelancers and small business owners, a microbusiness typically receives less than \$50,000 in revenue annually and has fewer than five full-time employees. Examples of microbusinesses include hair and make-up stylists, interior design professionals, graphic designers, caterers, photographers and event planners. To be eligible, applicants also need to have experienced a 10 percent or greater reduction in revenue in the 2019 to 2020 tax years. A complete list of grant eligibility requirements is available on the Sac4Micro website.

"Sacramento County has more than 52,000 business establishments," said Troy Givans, Director of Sacramento County Office of Economic Development. "Of those businesses, the microbusiness sector makes up approximately 67 percent countywide. The pandemic has been especially hard on our small business community, in particular, our minority-owned businesses. The County is excited to partner with CalOSBA to offer another resource to help the microbusinesses access funding to recover."

Additionally, Sacramento County is partnering with the California Capital Financial Development Corporation, California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento Metro Chamber and the Slavic Chamber of Commerce to provide in-language assistance and expand the program's reach into underserved communities.

For more information about Sacramento County's Microbusiness Grant Program, please visit www.sac4micro.org, or for more information about the California Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant Program, please visit www.careliefrant.com. ★

Water District Welcomes New Director

**Fair Oaks Water District
Press Release**

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - The Fair Oaks Water District Board of Directors has appointed Mr. Christian Petersen to fill an open Division 1 Director seat, noting his impressive resume and positive leadership qualities. The term of this appointment will expire in December 2022.

Mr. Petersen is no stranger to the Sacramento region water scene. With over 30 years of experience as a water professional, he is a subject matter expert on local groundwater and aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) projects. Mr. Petersen currently works as a Principal Hydrogeologist with GEI Consultants, specializing in groundwater management. His education includes a bachelor's degree in Geology from San Jose State University and master's degree in Hydrology from the University of Arizona.

Established in 1917, the Fair Oaks Water District is governed by five Board Members. The Board



Christian Petersen

Members are publicly elected to four-year staggered terms representing geographical divisions. Mr. Petersen was appointed to fill a vacated seat.

The Fair Oaks Water District (FOWD) stands as a committed and involved member of the community. With the appointment of Director

Petersen, five Board Members currently lead the District: Randy Marx as the current Board President, Mike McRae as the current Board Vice-President, Misha Sarkovich, Gary Page and Chris Petersen. Director Sarkovich and Director Marx are the longest-tenured FOWD Board Members, having each served nearly 18 years on the Board.

FOWD serves a population of approximately 37,000 people on approximately 6,053 acres. The District has prudently planned access to both surface water and groundwater for reliable delivery to approximately 14,000 residential and commercial service connections. With 31 Board approved employees, the FOWD maintains six groundwater wells, 180 miles of pipeline, a 3 million gallon water storage tank and an in-house billing system. FOWD also has the lowest rates for water delivery in the Sacramento region and no significant debt.

More information about the Fair Oaks Water District is available at fowd.com. ★

A Return to the Stage

SCSO to Debut in Renovated Concert Space

Story by Shaunna Boyd

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra (SCSO) are celebrating their 26th year performing in the Sacramento Region with a debut concert in the newly renovated SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center (1301 L Street, Sacramento, CA 95814) on Saturday, May 14 at 8 PM.

The SCSO will partner with guest chorus Schola Cantorum of Sacred Heart Church in Sacramento to perform the dramatic and romantic Requiem by Giuseppe Verdi, which is billed as a work of virtuosic brilliance. Verdi wrote the work in Latin, and the performers will sing it in Latin with the English translation printed in the programs and projected above the stage. "It's a powerful and operatic work that demands large choral forces," said SCSO President and CEO Jim McCormick. So, SCSO Music Director Donald Kendrick will conduct 175 chorus singers, four accomplished soloists, and 52 orchestra members – for a total force of 232 performers on stage.

The artists are eager to finally perform in the renovated concert venue after the forced hiatus due to COVID-19. During the shutdown, the SCSO members were planning their comeback, raising more than \$120,000 to pay for new choral risers. McCormick said the investment was "a legacy for the future," showcasing the courage and dedication of the SCSO to put in that work without any indication of when they'd be back on the stage. "It says something



The Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra (SCSO) will return to the stage on May 14 for their first performance since 2019, debuting in the newly renovated SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center. Photo of past performances by Ronald B. Johnson

about our resilience," said McCormick.

And now, with the upcoming performance on those new risers, McCormick said it feels like SCSO is "rising again." The risers will wrap around the orchestra, which McCormick said will create an incredible "balance of sound." With the sopranos behind the violins, the tenors and altos behind the brass and woodwind instruments, and the basses singing behind the cellos, the complementary tones will blend together seamlessly on the stage. And a new Constellation Sound System will amplify all the performers with a natural, high-quality sound. McCormick said these new features will "raise the quality and level of professionalism."

The concert will be dedicated to the people of Ukraine and all oppressed people, and it will open with a performance of the Ukrainian National Anthem.

McCormick said that "music is so healing" and Requiem is often referred to as "the Mass for humanity," expressing great sadness but also great hope, so the performance is fitting "at a time of war when people are in need of solace."

The SCSO recorded a performance of Verdi's Requiem 11 years ago at the Mondovi Center in Davis, CA, and those CDs will be available for sale for \$10 each, with proceeds going to Ukrainian relief. Additional donations for Ukraine will also be accepted.

The performance will also honor the memory of Sacramento's celebrated restaurateur Biba Caggiano, who passed away in August 2019. "She put Sacramento on the map when it comes to food," said McCormick. "She was fiercely Italian, and no one was more Italian than Giuseppe Verdi," so the SCSO felt the Requiem

they held Zoom meetings to practice, it couldn't replicate the joy of singing together in one space. McCormick said this community of singers have dearly missed "the journey" of regular rehearsals and performances, and they are excited for their return to the stage.

After the concert, a reception will be held in the lobby so attendees can meet the talented orchestra members and singers – including distinguished soloists Jennifer Forni, Soprano; Linda Baird, Mezzo Soprano; Robert Breault, Tenor; and Timothy Jones, Baritone who are flying in from across the country for this performance.

SCSO Music Director

Donald Kendrick, who has been conducting for more than 30 years, said, "We're very excited to bring this piece of music, the best thing [Verdi] ever wrote in his life, to the newly refurbished theater, debuting the new risers, and employing the new sound system. ...

This performance promises to be one of the most significant things we have done in a long time."

Kendrick said it will be an "unbelievable, unforgettable evening."

Through its performances, the SCSO seeks to transform our communities through the power of music, believing that the performance and appreciation of live music are vital to the well-being of society. Music elevates our experiences; it evokes the deepest mysteries of life and inspires all who hear it. And live music in particular creates a sense of shared experience that cannot be replicated: "That's what great music does; it provides a platform to bring people together," said McCormick, "it's a coming together of a community."

Tickets are on sale now. For more info, visit <https://sacramentochoral.org>. ★



SCSO will perform Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem, with a full force of chorus singers, orchestra members, and accomplished soloists. Photos of past performances by Ronald B. Johnson



performance would be an ideal time to honor her legacy.

McCormick said the concert will be a significant moment for the audience, coming back to experience live orchestral and choral music after the lengthy shutdown, and also very therapeutic for the performers, who haven't been able to sing together in person for the last two years. Although



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Barnes appointed to Undersheriff

Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Press Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County Sheriff Scott Jones announced today that Chief Deputy James (Jim) Barnes will be the office's new Undersheriff.

This is Sheriff Jones' fifth and final Undersheriff appointment; he will replace retiring Undersheriff Maness. In regards to his second-in-command, Sheriff Jones stated, "Undersheriff Barnes is someone I have relied upon for some time for his leadership and vision. The Sheriff's Office and the community will be well served with him in this position."

The Undersheriff is largely responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Sheriff's Office and functions as the Sheriff in his

absence. Undersheriff Jim Barnes replaces Undersheriff Erik Maness, who served as Undersheriff for 6 years and retired today after 32 years of service in the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office.

Undersheriff Barnes began his career in law enforcement in 1998 as a Sacramento County Deputy Sheriff. He worked in corrections, patrol and investigations until promoting to sergeant in 2008. In 2014 he was promoted to lieutenant where he worked as the Operations Commander for the Central Patrol Division. Undersheriff Barnes was subsequently promoted to Captain in 2018 and Chief Deputy in 2021, taking on additional visionary and leadership roles with each promotion.

Undersheriff Barnes has a Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University



New Sacramento County Undersheriff James Barnes. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office

at Sacramento and is current president of the Pig Bowl-Guns & Hoses Charity. Undersheriff Barnes champions a philosophy that recognizes thriving harmonious communities are created and sustained when law enforcement works as a partner with community, businesses and faith-based leaders. ★

Paperless Billing Now Offered by Revenue Recovery

By Ken Casparis, Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Department of Finance's Revenue Recovery Division, which provides billing and collection services for the County, has a great new tool to help customers manage their payments and pay their bills online!

This tool, Revenue Recovery Online, makes managing payments a breeze! With Revenue Recovery Online you can:

Sign up for paperless & receive statements via email; View previous statements, correspondence and payment history; Set up payment reminders; Pay Online; and, Set up auto pay, so you never miss a due date

This new paperless billing option will help Revenue Recovery customers avoid potential postal delays while also offering a greener alternative to mailed paper bills.

Effective Oct. 1, 2021, the United

States Postal Service revised its service standards for certain first-class mail items that increase the delivery time from 1-3 days to 5 days. This new standard may delay customers' receipt of mail from us and our receipt of mail from them (including payments).

Revenue Recovery sends out close to 100,000 customer statements every month. It is estimated that the standard 45-foot pine tree can produce roughly 10,000 sheets of paper, so every year, Revenue Recovery uses roughly 120 greenhouse gas absorbing pine trees worth of paper, excluding envelopes and other correspondence.

To avoid delays in receiving your Revenue Recovery statement or other time sensitive correspondence from us, and to help us go green, sign up today for Revenue Recovery Online today. We will email you and let you know when your statement is available to view online. It's simple and secure! ★

Ukraine: A Cause Worth Fighting For

Story and photos by Elise Speiss

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - It was the day that changed their lives forever, February 24, 2022. Friends and relatives in Ukraine started calling. Facebook was full of reports of bombings. It was unreal.

The Ukrainian community in the Sacramento region is a close-knit group from all walks of life who work well with all people in their lives. It is estimated to be over 100,000 Ukrainians in the greater Sacramento region, many who came for their religious freedom.

Therefore, when the attack by Russia on their homeland began, it was a smooth transition, turning their attention from their everyday lives, to working together strategizing plans to get help as soon as possible to their families in the Ukraine. In the words of community leader Vlad Skots, "America/Ukraine we are one family we help each other, this is everyone's problem."

This proved true as immediately, neighbors, friends, businesses and others in the community were reaching out to see how they could come alongside their friends and co-workers who now needed their help.

The Ukrainian American



At Bethany Slavic Missionary Church from left to right: Pastor Viktor, Church Administrator, Youth pastor Pastor Zachary and his son Jeremiah; Pastor Oleg with his wife Lyudmila and daughter Anna; Pastor Vitaliy with his wife Natalya, and guest speaker Dr. Leo Frank, professor of Bible theology.

(UA) House in Rancho Cordova is a "nonprofit focused on promoting business relations between Ukraine and the United States." It is now in the forefront of working to get aid to their family and friends.

According to their website, "On February 26, a citywide interfaith prayer service for Ukraine was held at the Spring of Life Baptist Church, a Ukrainian church in Orangevale together with the UA House. It was opened by senior pastor of the church, Vadim Dashkevich. Together with pastors, priests, government officials, public officials, public figures and

the Mayor of Sacramento, we prayed to our Lord for Ukraine." As Vlad said, "We rely on God for many things, but for others we must rely on ourselves. We must do everything we can for ourselves."

One of the families who immigrated here and have successfully found the "American Dream" to be a reality is the Skots family. Stephan Skots, owner of USKO Ukrainian Realty in Sacramento, the oldest of 10 brothers, was the first to arrive. He came in 1997 at the age of 20 to escape Communism. He now has five daughters, the last three girls were born in the U.S. He employs 25 agents. He

offers his office for regular fellowship breakfasts meetings for Ukrainian community leaders to continue keep up with the status of the war and their people's needs.

Four of his brothers from ages 19 to 24 followed him. Their parents, had connections in the U.S. and wanted them to come here for a good education. Stephan learned English at Adult School and opened a business. He brought his brothers here, sponsored and took care of them. He sent them to school and they worked together. The five remaining brothers are still in Ukraine with their parents.

Vlad Skots is Chairman and Co-founder of Ukrainian American House in Rancho Cordova and CEO of USKO Express, Inc, a national trucking company founded in 2006.

Vlad grew up in a very small village in western Ukraine, the seventh of 10 brothers, no sisters. He came here in 2001, knowing no English. He attended school during the day, worked as a janitor, in construction and a truck driver. As a truck driver, driving through all 48 states in America and marveling at their beauty, he fell in love with the transportation business and started his own company." He now has 100 employees.

He appreciated that he, "as a simple guy who grew up in a small village and came here with only a high school diploma, without money, parents or language could build and operate a successful business."

Two other organizations have been instrumental in bringing the Ukraine community together to help spearhead this daunting task.

Branch Manager Mikhail Tkach, Ukrainian Federal Credit Union in Citrus Heights, is helping with fundraising. They provide money grams and money transfers free of charge to credit union members.

Bethany Slavic Missionary Church in Sacramento is a mainstay of the Ukrainian community. With a congregation of over 1,000, the church and its pastor lead the Ukrainian community. All requests for help go through the team at the church.

According to Vlad Skot, the three things needed most are: 1) Prayer! "We pray about it all. God can help us the most"; 2) Funds to purchase medical supplies and for defense items which can be purchased locally; 3) "Contact your legislatures, raise your voice, they have a moral imperative to help Ukraine more than they are now".

He sees more help from the public and businesses than the government. Many have commented that from 1989 to today - before this war - a new generation has grown up in Ukraine. Their country is different than their parents' and grandparents', more developed, more open, with freedom of religion, freedom of politics, no fear of persecution. Only God knows how this will end.

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Attending a River Cats Game?

By Shaun Holkko, sports editor

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As the weather begins to warm up, many Sacramentans are beginning to search for activities to do this summer.

One activity that could be fun for the whole family is going out to Sutter Health Park in West Sacramento for a River Cats game. The Triple-A affiliate of the San Francisco Giants kicked off a new season on Tuesday, April 5.

It has been a dramatic last three years for the River Cats organization. In 2019, the last "normal" Minor League Baseball (MiLB) season played before the COVID-19 pandemic, Sacramento stood atop the Triple-A world as champions.

Next in 2020, the River Cats were unable to immediately defend their crown as the entire 2020 MiLB season was cancelled because of the pandemic. Then in 2021, the minor leagues returned and Sacramento was unable to repeat as champions.

For fans who have been unable to attend a game since 2019, there are a few differences at the home of the River Cats, aside from the name of the venue shifting from Raley Field to Sutter Health Park.

"Definitely a lot has changed in the world



A young River Cats fan and his father pose for a photo with a Joey Bart sign during the 2021 season at Sutter Health Park in West Sacramento. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento River Cats

and over here at Sutter Health Park (since 2019)," said Troy Loparco, Vice President of Ticket Sales & Marketing. "Some of the main things you would notice that would be different (is) we're doing mobile ticketing. So that's going to be in the parking lot as well as tickets are going to be all digital. We are a cashless facility as well. Our clear bag policy would be the other big change that we have."

Sutter Health Park will be accepting payments via debit and credit cards as well as mobile wallets like

Apple Pay and Google Pay. For those fans who are tech savvy, you can now order food on the MiLB at-bat app allowing yourself to order food from your seat before receiving an alert via text message letting you know that your order is ready.

For those who may be old school, preferring physical tickets and cash money, fear not as employees at Sutter Health Park are ready and willing to help.

"We do have mobile ticketing assistance," Loparco said. "As you're

coming up, you'll see there's a mobile ticketing booth that we'll have out there if anybody does have any extra questions before they get to the ticket window or before they're coming into the stadium. So, we do have other avenues of help as well."

However, the mobile ticketing booth is not your only source of assistance when attending a River Cats game.

"Of course in advance if they ever wanted to email into tickets@rivercats.com or even call into our "HITS" line which is

916-371-HITS (4487) with any questions before they come out, we're always happy to help in advance to make it as smooth as possible," Loparco said. "And we're always going to be sending out 'know before you go' information as well."

When last season began, Sutter Health Park sold tickets in pods to follow local health guidance. Although, when the state of California reopened in June 2021, the ballpark followed suit opening back up to 100% attendance, as it will be for the 2022 season.

"We are an outdoor, open-air facility," Loparco said. "What we've been doing is just staying up to date and as accurate and timely with any CDC guidelines that we have in the state and county."

The River Cats have 25 fireworks nights planned on the 75-game 2022 home schedule. The first fireworks show will be on Friday, April 8, which is also Solon Bobblehead Giveaway night. The Solons were a minor league baseball team that played in Sacramento off and on from 1903 to 1976.

Single game and ticket packages can be purchased over the phone at (916) 371-HITS, email at tickets@rivercats.com or online at rivercats.com.

"Our main goal is to be the best facility to come have a family friendly time out here at the ballpark," Loparco said. "Come enjoy River Cats baseball and everything that we have going on in the community."

"I think after the last two years, people are really looking for a fun time to spend with their friends, their families, in a safe, fun, clean environment. I think that's what we provide out here at Sutter Health Park. As long as everybody comes out smiling, happy and ready to cheer on the River Cats, I think they'll be ready to go." ★

Will This be a Bounce Back Season?

Story and photo by Shaun Holkko, sports editor

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - There's just something special about night baseball.

The Sacramento River Cats, the Triple-A affiliate of the San Francisco Giants, opened the 2022 season Tuesday, April 5, under the lights at Sutter Health Park against the Sugar Land Space Cowboys.

For River Cats outfielder Bryce Johnson, when the sun goes down, he excels.

"Being able to play underneath the lights, I always love night games," Johnson said. "We just played all these spring games during the day. So being able to get underneath the lights and in front of everybody feels great. That's my favorite part about it is playing night baseball. There's nothing that beats it."

The switch-hitting outfielder said he had played in one Opening Day night game previously when he was with the Giants' Single-A affiliate, the San Jose Giants, in 2018.



Members of the local press interview various River Cats players at media day on Saturday, April 2 at Sutter Health Park in West Sacramento.

Unsurprisingly, that happened to be one of his best games of the season.

From Single-A to the big leagues, players around Major League Baseball are happy to be back and that the MLB lockout is over.

"(I'm excited) just to be playing," said right-handed pitcher Sean Hjelle. "Obviously, we had the lockout and everything happen. We didn't know how long things would be delayed. It's just good to be playing

and on time. I think minor leagues didn't lose any games so we're on time and it's just good to be back."

Many players like Hjelle didn't let the 99-day lockout affect their offseason preparation.

"You still had to take care of business and get your off-season workouts in because you never knew when it was going to happen and when it was going to end or what not," Hjelle said. "So, you just prepare for everything

starting on time and if it's delayed then you just go from there at that point."

One relatively fresh face for the River Cats is Ka'ai Tom who signed with the team before the conclusion of last season.

"I'm just very happy that San Francisco signed me at the end of the season last year," Tom said. "When I came over it was just a lot of fun. Everyone had good vibes and worked together. I'm just happy to be part

of this organization and being given an opportunity to hopefully make it to Oracle Park."

Tom achieved a lifelong goal at the beginning of the 2021 season, making his major league debut with the Oakland Athletics before eventually joining their rivals on the other side of the bay with a stop in Pittsburgh in between. The 5-foot-9 outfielder said spring training went "pretty good" and recognized his coaches for that.

"It's a credit to the coaching staff just being transparent," Tom said. "Letting you know what goals that they're expecting out of you. Asking our feedback and what we feel or anything. The transparency overall shows why we were successful last year as well and it's looking to be that way again."

The River Cats reached the pinnacle of Triple-A in 2019 when they won the championship. Then in 2020, the Minor League Baseball (MiLB) season was cancelled in its entirety due to the coronavirus pandemic. Finally, the River Cats were unable to defend their title in 2021.

Now in 2022, the team is poised for a bounce back season.

"We got some exciting players on this team," Johnson said. "Every night, every day, we're going to end up probably having someone doing something crazy, something pretty cool. So, I would say come out and check us out. (It's) not going to be boring, I can tell you that." ★

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By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

Do We Really Understand What a 'Family' Is?

God woke me up this morning with this idea and I really do not know what He wants me to write about it, but here goes!

Family begins with every single person born on this earth by the hand of God when we were formed in our mother's womb. Each human being is uniquely designed by our Creator/God and each of us are very different from each other. Not only in our looks but our ability to listen, understand, follow, respect and develop in various ways of understanding, personality and everything.

Our actions and responses about living life are different even when we are born into the same family. Each

person is unique and precious, loved by Almighty God. Hopefully we learn We all are a part of His "human family" created in the whole world! *God desires us to not only "know about Him" but to "actually know Him as Father, Son and Holy Spirit" personally. Then, to listen and follow His Words of Instruction in the Holy Bible about living together as a family in this world". We are to respect and to love one another regardless of our differences!*

Our learning abilities are different as well as, our personalities to handle issues and problems that occur in our life time. Stress often causes people to react very differently.

Some don't seem to keep their mouth shut and attack with unkind words or actions. They upset the quiet ones who hold all their emotions inside and

are unable to say anything. It is time to forget about ones self and "love one another".

Also there are those who experience severe pain inside and can't stop the tears from flowing but don't know what to say or do. Yes, all a part of the same family but either neglect and disrespect for their own blood-kin and refuse to put themselves in a different holding position to LOVE and help the other person when the love within a family unit should "exemplify real love" for one another in all the events of a "family" unit.

Let us pray for the transforming loving power of God to reach every soul today!

Marlys Johnsen Norris
Christian Author
of 7 Books
ARM Columnist since
2006 Stephen's Minister
Marlysjn@gmail.com ★

'Job killer' List Tests Capitol's Ideological Bent



By Dan Walters CALMatters.org

California is a deep blue state, markedly and proudly hewing to the left of the nation's political centerline.

California's Legislature, utterly dominated by Democrats, leans a little further to the port side of the political scale.

That said, there are ideological fault lines within the Democrats legislative supermajorities, some fairly obvious, others faint. Their existence explains why outcomes are not always as predictable as one might think, given one-party domination.

A prime example of that unpredictability is what happened, or didn't happen, on legislation to overhaul medical care by having the state assume total control over its provision — a long-standing holy grail for the Democratic Party's progressive activists.

The state Senate had passed a version of the single-payer legislation in a previous session, but it was bottled up in the Assembly. Last year, a new version, Assembly Bill 1400, moved fairly easily through Assembly committees to reach the floor, but when the Legislature reconvened in January, it ultimately died

there without a vote.

"I don't believe it would have served the cause of getting single payer done by having the vote and having it go down in flames and further alienating members," the bill's author, San Jose Democrat Ash Kalra, told disappointed supporters later. He added that the measure, needing 41 votes to pass, was short by "double digits."

Gov. Gavin Newsom, who had been a strident advocate of single-payer health care while campaigning for the governorship, didn't make any effort to secure votes for it in the Assembly and most members were apparently unwilling, in an election year, to vote for something that would require an immense tax increase to implement.

The demise of AB 1400 was, among other things, another win for the California Chamber of Commerce's "job killer" list, an annual exercise by the state's business community to identify and block legislation that it considers to be the most onerous.

For a quarter-century, the list has served as a guide to the Capitol's ideological temperament because it generally includes the highest-priority legislation of those on the left, such as labor unions and environmental and consumer protection advocates.

Although the Legislature has trended to drift leftward since the list was first issued in 1997, the chamber and its allies have rung up an impressive kill ratio.

Typically, several dozens bills are placed on the list and it's rare for more than one or two to be passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor.

In 2021, for instance, 25 bills were targeted, and just two made it to Newsom's desk. He vetoed one and signed the other, Senate Bill 62, which eliminates piece work payment for garment industry workers.

The chamber's 90%+ record in stopping bills it designates as "job killers" faces another test this year. It has issued a preliminary list of 11 bills with more to be added later.

The 2022 list includes a new "wealth tax" on the state's richest residents, a bill that would allow workers to refuse to perform their jobs if they feel unsafe and an extension of the California Environmental Quality Act's mitigation provisions to effects on disadvantaged communities.

The latter two, along with several others, would expand opportunities for lawsuits to enforce their provisions — thus renewing the annual jousting between business groups and personal injury attorneys over who can sue for what action, dubbed "tort wars."

Fundamentally, the fate of bills on this year's list will be another indicator of just how far left the Legislature is willing to go.

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

What's so Cool about a Cucumber?

Dr. James L. Snyder

When it comes to vegetables, I am no connoisseur at all. The only vegetable I really like is carrot cake. According to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, that is not a vegetable.

We were driving somewhere, she was in the driver's seat, and I'm not quite sure what we passed, but she said to me, "Look at that. That's as cool as a cucumber if you ask me."

At the time, I looked at her and said, "What's so cool about a cucumber?"

As she was driving, she laughed and said to me, "Oh, you know what I mean."

For a veteran husband such as I, to know what his wife means when she says anything is beyond the realm of reality. I like to live in reality, but oftentimes, I don't.

I'm not sure what cucumbers are, and I don't want to ask my wife because then she will tell me and at the next lunch or dinner, there will be several cucumbers on my plate. So I don't want that to happen.

If a cucumber is the

standard of coolness, I will never be cool.

I could come up with different slogans, like, "As cool as an apple fritter."

I know my definition of fruit is not the same as my wife's definition. As long as we have been married, over 50 years, this is the only argument we have yet to settle. So I let her think she's right along this line, which makes me happy. Can you imagine if she ever found out that I was actually right along this line, how unhappy she would be?

I may not really understand the phrase, but I will say, to this date, our marriage has been "as cool as a cucumber." I may not understand it, but I am happy if it makes my wife happy.

Whatever a cucumber has to do with anything, I'm not too concerned about. Let her have her cucumbers as long as she lets me have my apple fritters. A good marriage allows the other to have their way as long as their way is not my way.

Even after 50 years, I'm still trying to navigate this marriage ship. So, the other day I thought I could make a little more progress in this.

I said to her, "My, you're as cool as a cucumber."

I thought I was making progress, but as soon as I said it, she looked at me and said, "So, you think I'm a cucumber?"

You try to get along, and sometimes it doesn't really get you too far ahead. I meant it in the best sense of the word, but she thought I was just joking. And here I thought she had high regards for a cucumber.

That proves that I'm not cool was a cucumber.

As I thought about this a wonderful passage of Scripture came to mind. "9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. 10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10).

I guess it's nice to know where you are in life And that you have a partner in life.

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. His website is www.jamesnyderministries.com. ★

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CLUES

ACROSS

- Synagogue read
- One in King's sematary
- Cabinet div.
- Grind down
- Aloha State's welcome
- Soup server
- Bikini ____, Marshall Islands
- Final, abbr.
- Donor's loss
- *Vonn and Miller Olympic sport
- *Ovechkin and Gretzky sport
- Alternative to trade
- Secret disclosure
- Computer-generated imagery, acr.
- Wise Men
- Remnant of the past
- Egg-layers
- Urban dwelling
- Printer contents
- Volcano in Sicily
- Poetic although
- Paella pot
- Dictation taker
- Like April 1st target
- Locker room supply
- Dirty or sleazy
- Fuddy-duddies, for short
- Stir fry pan
- Bread portion
- Mad King George's number
- *Pelé and Ronaldo sport
- *Sampras and Williams sport
- Luu greeting
- "____ my party, and I'll cry if I want to..."
- Sack fabric
- Cheat or trick
- Davy Jones' Locker locale
- Bert's buddy
- Coral barrier
- Poetic "ever"
- "The defense ____"

DOWN

- Oolong, e.g.
- Crumbs
- *#25 Down piece
- Off-the-cuff
- Mylar filling
- Socket insert
- Adult elver
- Tax of one tenth
- Like Darth Vader's side
- Drop-off spot
- Eugene O'Neill's piece
- One less than jack
- Hair holder
- African antelope
- Boat propeller
- Depart from the ground (2 words)
- *Fischer and Kasparov sport
- Reach a goal (2 words)
- Private
- *Palmer and Nicklaus sport
- Dirty money
- Wife's dad, e.g.
- Large violin family member
- *Bolt and Owens sport
- "A trap in #29 down
- Biblical pronoun
- Blast from the past
- Tin Man's prop
- Bambi's mom
- Sewing machine brand
- Do like phoenix
- Accustom
- Like gin in fiz
- Do like goo
- Kitchen head
- Russian autocrat
- Overnight lodgings
- Hissy fit
- What acronym and acrylic have in common
- *#29 Down prop
- Oui in English

CROSSWORD

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Family Fun in Fair Oaks



Judy Andrews. Photo credit Chrysti Tovani

By Judy Andrews, Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Looking for things to do with the family this spring? Check out these ideas where you'll find something for everyone!

Parking Lot Plant Sale, April 9

Calling all garden lovers! Enjoy a Parking Lot Plant Sale hosted by the Women's Thursday Club on Saturday, April 9, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 10625 Fair Oaks Blvd. Items for sale will include perennials, seedling, succulents, bouquets, pots, décor, and more. Cash donations will only be accepted.

Monthly Networking Mixer, April 13

Meet other business leaders and chamber members at the next Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce (FOCC) mixer

on Wednesday, April 13, from 7-9 p.m. at Palm Tree Brewing Company, 6121 Hazel Ave., Orangevale.

Easter Eggstravaganza, April 16

Mark your calendar for this popular family-fun tradition happening Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fair Oaks Park, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd. Kids will enjoy egg hunts, carnival rides, a petting zoo, and much more. Local vendors and food trucks will also be on site.

Kids Art Festival, April 30
Bring the family to a Kids Art

Festival happening Saturday, April 30, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Fair Oaks Park, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd. This creative-focused event day is sponsored by the Fair Oaks Parks & Recreation District and the San Juan Unified School District.

Food Truck & Classic Car Show, May 5

Check out some classic cars while enjoying delicious food at the next Classic Cars & Food Truck Mania happening Thursday, May 5, from 5-8 p.m. at Fair Oaks Park, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd. Classic car owners are invited to show-off your pre-1975 ride at no charge.

Tickets Available for Taste of Fair Oaks, May 20

You won't want to miss the 27th annual Taste of Fair Oaks happening May 20, from 6-9:30 p.m. at North Ridge Country Club. More than 60 restaurants, wineries, and microbreweries are expected to participate in the FOCC's largest fundraising event of the year! Get your tickets today at FairOaksChamber.com.

For more information on these events and how you can become a Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce member, please visit FairOaksChamber.com.

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New Citrus Heights DAR Member

By Thomas J. Sullivan

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Marla (O'Donnell) Oxley, a long-time Citrus Heights resident, and retired high school French teacher, is the newest member of the John A. Sutter branch of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in Citrus Heights.

Oxley is the proud descendant of five different American Revolutionary War patriots whose history she continues to uncover.

Her journey to officially submit her membership application to the DAR began in the early 1980s in the pre-Internet, long-distance telephone days, when Oxley was contacted by a distant relative, Joe Dilsaver, who was then looking into her family history.

Oxley, 69, grew up on Watson Way in Citrus Heights, attending Mariposa Elementary School in the early 1960s, the old Sylvan Junior High School before its demolition, and was one of the first group of graduating students who spent all four years at Bella Vista High School.

"I walked to Mariposa Avenue Elementary School when you could still walk up to Clearview Drive and then cut through the old grape orchard and enter through the back of the playground," she recalled.

She recalls fond memories of the community before its incorporation as a city. Today, she and her husband, Michael, who taught special education, are both retired



In a 1975 photo, Marla O'Donnell Oxley, standing back row, stands behind her grandmother, Selma Hess Morris. Her mother, Lola Faye Morris, wearing glasses, is to Selma's left. Marla's six-month old daughter, Erin Oxley (Byerly), wears a dress which was given to her by her great-great grandmother, Martha Brady, bottom right. Photo provided by Marla O'Donnell-Oxley

November 17, 1921, by a group of 18 Sacramento women who all had the common bond of being direct descendants of American Revolutionary War Patriots.

"I chose the Citrus Heights chapter, since I grew up in Citrus Heights and was the city which I returned to when I retired from teaching at Fairfield High School," she said.

Oxley attended a local DAR meeting as a prospective member and learned that a genealogical expert would contact her to help formally research her American Revolution era family history.

"Every single step of the way has to be fully proven

"I am pleased that I am related to Matt Nutter through the matrilineal line in my family, beginning with my mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother as pictured in the photo along with my daughter Erin and me," Oxley said.

And there's an unexpected French connection for Oxley who loves the language and led multiple high school student trips to France during her teaching career.

"This line eventually traces itself back to France through Aramantha Mavity, wife of Matthew Nutter (my Patriot), whose mother was Marie Antoinette Raison, daughter of Louis Napoléon Raison de

with official documents. I had to produce birth, marriage, and death certificates for several generations, until I directly linked into my ancestors that are already established Patriots," Oxley said.

According to DAR records, one of her distant relatives, Peter Hess was born in Pennsylvania in 1755 and at age 23, served during the Revolutionary War as a prison guard in a unit commanded by Col. G. Pennington, New York Company, Pennsylvania volunteers in 1778.

"I originally wanted to pursue the Peter Hess line, but even though Peter is a recognized Patriot, there are some issues with his sons. I descend from his child, Samuel Hess. The problem is that in one of Peter's wills, there is no mention of Samuel, yet in another previously published will, Samuel is there," she said.

In addition to Hess, Oxley discovered that she was related to four other Revolutionary War-era patriots, and she was advised by Yost to pursue the easiest one first.

Another distant family member, Matthew Nutter, helped defend Fort Nutter, which was used by the Virginia state militia from 1776 to 1780 in conflicts with Native Americans. Thomas Nutter served as a captain in the Revolutionary army and died in early 1808. ★

la Genester, Jr., whose father died rather young during the French Revolution. His father was a nobleman, so I surmise that Louis Jr. was sent to Kentucky to escape execution."

What does her new membership in the DAR now mean to her?

"I can give back in the city which raised me. I have since met women of all ages that share common interests and who, like me, can trace themselves back to the American Revolution," she said.

Oxley said she also plans to join with her newfound DAR sisters in its many public activities which include cleaning headstones in Sylvan Cemetery and donating paperbacks to local schools for at-risk children learning to read. She wants to enroll in the DAR's genealogical research classes which will qualify her to research the applications of future DAR members.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a non-profit, non-political organization. Any woman 18 years old or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a Patriot of the American Revolutionary War is eligible to join.

The John Sutter chapter of the Daughters of American Revolution is located at 6633 Misty Creek Drive, Citrus Heights, CA 95621. ★



Easter Everlasting

The last couple of years have been a special time for Easter and hope and alas, heartache too. We have made it through two years of Covid, Delta, and Omicron and now we begin a third year of question marks as to how we will cope. But we made it, and now it's time for rebirth and renewal called Easter! So get out your traditional happy things from baskets of bunnies, from lilies to love sharing services. We need to look ahead and not back so we can keep hope going strong. Will there be trials?

Yes!

Can

we get

through it? I

have no doubt.

Just trust in your own traditions and beliefs. It doesn't matter how you celebrate as long as you have faith in what God gave us...strength and the way to make life better! So let's

get to those fun traditions and celebrate to the max with love in our hearts.

Peter Cottontail will once again lead the way. He is universal and secular, but I have been led to believe that the hare and not the rabbit should be the leader of the pack. Since ancient times, the hare has been the symbol for the moon. Why? 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 blind. Fertility might enter the picture too since rabbits beat hares big time being more prolific.

Got to have colored eggs right? Got a few historical reasons. At the Passover Seder, a hard-boiled egg dipped in salt water symbolizes both new life and the

Passover sacrifice offered at the temple in Jerusalem. The ancient Persians painted eggs for Nowrooz, their New Year celebration falling on the Spring Equinox. In Christian times, the egg was a symbol of new life as a chick might hatch from the egg.

And in Medieval Europe, eggs were forbidden during Lent and then eggs were on the menu after the strict Lenten fast.

Did you

know lilies

came from

Bermuda?

Goes back

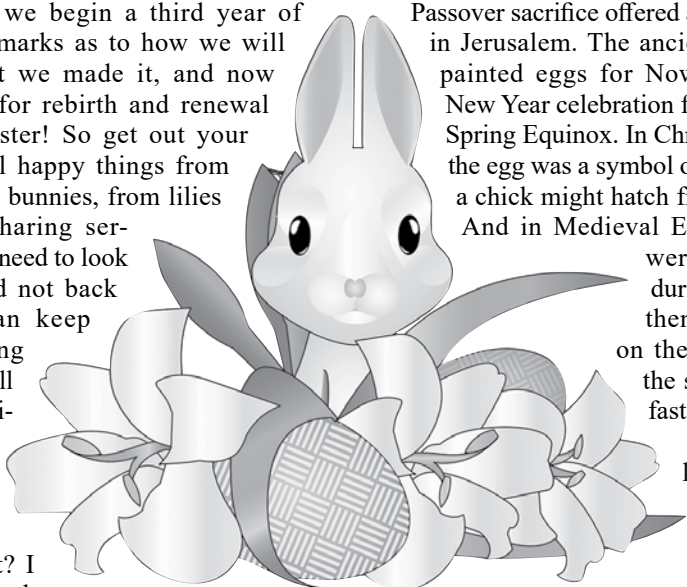
to the 1880's

when Ms Thomas P Sargent

fell in love with the beautiful lily that naturally blooms in spring and brought back

bulbs to her home in Philadelphia from Bermuda. Now they are a permanent symbol of Easter too.

And please don't forget to include in your prayers and reflections for those people in the Ukraine for the suffering they are enduring. That includes those still in country and the millions who have fled their country. Say an extra prayer that they will be able to return to what is left of their homes and cities to rebuild and once more be the free people they once were. There is much to be grateful for, and share that gratitude with those you love. It is truly a blessed time. May you and yours have a solemn celebration with the hope for a happy life and rebirth. ★



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Marla O'Donnell-Oxley posed by her certificate of DAR membership in her Citrus Heights home. Photo provided by Marla O'Donnell-Oxley

from the Fairfield Unified School District. They enjoy being grandparents to their two granddaughters, Bronte and Bridgit.

"I was contacted by Joe Dilsaver, then in his 80s, who was researching my family tree," she said. "Joe said he was looking for information about relatives of mine, particularly the Hess family tree, and in the pre-Internet era of long-distance telephone charges, we soon started writing back and forth to one another.

"He sent me a complete original copy of his research, in the form of a gigantic taped-together, folding pedigree chart which was large enough to cover our living room floor," Oxley said.

Oxley joined the internet websites My Heritage and Ancestry.com to do further research into the Hess family tree on her mother's side and find other relatives who had served during the American Revolution era. She noted the DAR logo was marked beside many of the earliest names on her family tree.

"Several months ago, I found, and submitted an online inquiry. They sent an application asking a lot of questions. Months later, I received emails from Rachelle Yost of the General John A. Sutter DAR branch and another from the Sacramento Chapter," she said.

The Sacramento chapter of the DAR has 175 members and was organized on

WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

OK, MARVIN, TODAY IS THE DAY I MAKE A STAND!
NO MORE WILL I LET YOU INTIMIDATE ME. NO MORE WILL I LIVE IN FEAR!
I'M NO LONGER GOING TO LET YOU CONSUME MY EVERY THOUGHT.
WOW, OK...SORRY, I'M NOT SURE WHO YOU ARE.

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

THERE'S A CLOG IN OUR TOILET!
RUB RUB RUB
THERE'S A WOODEN SHOE IN OUR TOILET??

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

LOOK, EVERYBODY...IT'S DUH-G! I BET HE CAN'T EVEN WALK AND CHEW CUD AT THE SAME TIME

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO

PLANE TALK WE'D RATHER NOT HEAR - YOU STRIKE UP A CONVERSATION WITH THE STRANGER NEXT TO YOU AND HE SAYS...
THIS FLIGHT COST ME \$169 ROUND TRIP...
AND YOU PAID \$299?
THANKS TO DEL BIXLER, 716 W. LAKE CIRCLE, SARASOTA, FL...
ANOTHER REASON FOR NO VISITORS -
S'LONG, MILPEN, OL' PAL - DON'T GO CHASING ANY NURSES - YOK-YOK...
MEAH-YOK-YOK...

R.F.D.

by Mike Marland

SELF-DRIVIN' VEHICLES! pff!
WHAT I WANT IS ONE THAT SELF-WASHES!

JE'VE NOTICE? THOSE TV ADS THAT FLASH THEIR PHONE NUMBERS GIVE YOU ABOUT TEN SECONDS TO RUMMAGE FOR A PENCIL AND PAPER - GOOD LUCK!
-PLACE YOUR ORDER - PHONE 1936-5800 - NOW BACK TO OUR PROGRAM -
A PENCIL! PAPER! WHERE'S PENCIL AN' PAPER? pff!!
WOOSH!

GRIN AND BEAR IT

"Someone stole my identity, and I wasn't myself!"

LAFF-A-DAY

"Otis, what's this I hear about your leaving us for a ranch-type home?"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

IT'S GOTTEN WHERE POLITICS, SPORTS AND SOCIAL ISSUES ARE SO POLARIZING ALL WE HAVE LEFT IS GRIPING ABOUT OUR WIVES.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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'It was the Cool Place to Be'

By Paul Scholl

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- One of Sacramento's best has chosen retirement. Phil Cowan, morning radio host of AM1380, aired his last show on April 1, 2022, between 6:00 and 9:00 am.

A retirement dinner event was held Tuesday evening, March 22, at The Ridge Golf Course in Auburn. Of course, it was a sold out event. The event was produced by AM1380 The Answer and its sister stations in Sacramento; 103.9 The Fish, 105.7 The Word, and Money 105.5.

Attendance included Scott Jones Sacramento County Sheriff; Doug LaMalfa, Congressman; Ted Gaines, Board of Equalization; Sue Frost, Sacramento County Supervisor; Suzanne Jones, Placer County Supervisor; Katy Grimes, editor of California Globe, along with their spouses and many other dignitaries, all of whom wanted to show their appreciation for Phil at his retirement event.

Mindi Russell, former CHP chaplain, graced the meal and gathering with an uplifting blessing.

Special guest, Larry Elder, radio talk show host and former candidate for governor, and Cowan presented a short program on the current events of national and state politics. It was the kind of segment the morning listeners loved to hear every morning on Phil's show.

Especially pleasing for Phil were the many call-in listeners to the program that made their trek to the event to show their love for the man that filled their mornings with entertainment, humor, a daily education on the ever-changing landscape of politics, and the many topics that were the pillars of the host's life journey. His discussions on music, classic cars and firearms were great entertainment all by themselves. He had never met many of the regular



Phil being presented with a retirement gift from the AM1380 Staff. All photos by Borelfoto.com



Paul Robins giving tribute to his long-time friend.



Phil's #1 Retirement Plan, spending time with his amazing wife Kathy.



Larry Elder and Phil Cowan.

callers, having only known them from their call-in voices over the years. It was as if they had just gathered at a big family reunion for the very first time.

One caller recently stated, "The reason your show is so great Phil is that it is a show for the people and by the people."

First and foremost to Phil is

his family. He spoke often on his show of his children, grand-children, and his ever-amazing wife, Kathy, professing in front of all his fans "Nothing would have

been possible without her".

Phil Cowan and Paul Robins co-hosted a daily radio show together for many years. A sweet addition to the program was Paul's send-off message to Phil, along with a few short stories about their friendship, and their famous Harley ride together from Sacramento to New York years ago.

Phil is a local legend, not just for the radio show, but for what he brought to the good people of the Sacramento Region through his life's body of work. He has been a true friend and supporter to so many it is impossible to describe it all here. Phil will be truly missed. May his retirement be long and joyous and fruitful.★



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