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Can You Hear the Music?



Carmichael rocker Todd Morgan (center) and the Emblems lay down a beat for more than 500 fans in Fair Oaks Park last week. The group will also feature in the upcoming Carmichael Park concert series. Bass player is Matt Dudman; drummer is Andrew Philip.

Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - After a year of COVID-imposed silence, Fair Oaks community last week kicked off a modified public entertainment season. Carmichael-raised singer/guitarist Todd Morgan filled the arena with more than 500 fans and dancers.

Like many pro-entertainers, Morgan (30), has suffered an 18-month live-music drought. "It felt great to see everyone out again," he

said after two sets. "Though I love recording and writing, a huge part of what I love is performing – with a band – in front of an audience. I saw people at Fair Oaks who were little kids when they started coming to our shows. People I hadn't seen in years were back out. It was great seeing everyone having such a good time."

Morgan and the Emblems debuted what continues as a final-Thursdays event each month, ending September 30. Supported by the area's Park District, Chamber of Commerce and the Fair Oaks Theater Festival, the

season includes comedy acts on final Fridays and theater productions on final Saturdays. Thursday music is free; paid admission is required for Friday and Saturday shows.

Pared down and relocated, the Fair Oaks series continues a decades-old tradition. Because a huge rebuilding program is under way at Village Park amphitheater, a softball arena at nearby Fair Oaks Park provides the 2021 venue. Performers shake and rattle a mobile stage; fans bring chairs and rugs to the outfield. Food

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Behavioral Health Youth Advisory Board Established

By Samantha Mott, Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance establishing the Sacramento County Behavioral Health Youth Advisory Board (YAB); the next step in an ongoing effort to promote the engagement of youth in developing programs that affect the behavioral health and wellbeing of youth in Sacramento County.

"If we want to create successful programs that meet the needs of our youth we need the youth perspective to help guide the process," says Ryan Quist, Sacramento County Behavioral Health Director. "The creation of YAB provides an empowering and supportive space for youth to advocate for youth-friendly, culturally relevant programs."

As experts in their own lived experience, youth can offer the County a unique perspective to make County programs more effective and responsive to their needs. The YAB will serve as a diverse and empowered group of youth who will advise policy leaders on how to create a "youth behavioral health friendly" community, provide direct input and feedback regarding behavior health and wellness needs of youth, and create a network of trusted peer-to-peer messengers around youth behavioral health and well-being.

"Youth engagement in the creation of programs has been missing in our community," says Eboni Stallworth, California Youth Empowerment Network Board Member and youth mental health advocate. "This board creates a foundation for current and future youth to have their voices heard."

The YAB will be composed of 10 Sacramento County youth, ages 14-24, two youth representatives from each district. Once empaneled, the board will be trained and supported to work collaboratively with County Mental Health Board and the Youth Commission regarding programs and policies related to youth mental health. ★

"Recall San Juan" Seeks to Oust School Board Members

Story by Shauna Boyd

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - An effort is underway to recall the five members of the San Juan Unified School District (SJUSD) Board of Education – which governs schools in Arden-Arcade, Carmichael, Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks, Gold River, Orangevale, and parts of Sacramento.

Marina Gabel, the driving force behind "Recall San Juan," first grew concerned last summer when SJUSD shut down schools and transitioned to distance learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The shutdown prompted her to spend months navigating the legal requirements of a recall and rallying others to the cause.

A Recall San Juan press release dated June 10, 2021, alleges that the distance learning model has had detrimental effects on students, such as learning loss, declining attendance, and student mental fatigue

and depression.

As COVID cases dropped earlier this year and Sacramento County entered the less-restrictive Red Tier, SJUSD reopened for a hybrid model of learning. On March 22, students had the option to return to their classrooms two days a week, while supportive remote instruction continued the rest of the week. When physical distancing requirements were updated from 6 ft. to 3 ft. inside classrooms, SJUSD began offering in-person learning in the mornings four days a week starting on April 26.

According to Gabel and others involved in the recall effort, these changes weren't enough. "Our main reason is to get schools open full time with no reason for them to ever do this to our kids again. We need people on the Board that will listen to the parents," said Gabel.

Raina Carson is also involved in Recall San Juan, and she agrees that SJUSD should have opened

schools full time as soon as possible. Carson has stated that the Board members did not defend students' rights to access public school buildings.

When asked to comment on the recall effort, SJUSD Communication Coordinator Raj Rai answered on behalf of the Board, stating that "at all times, the district complied with the requirements of state and local health officials, which impacted school capacities and necessitated alternative learning models for the 2020-2021 school year." Rai also stated that SJUSD was "among the first school districts in Sacramento County to offer students at ALL grade levels the option to return to some form of in-person learning."

Even when SJUSD was able to offer the option for in-person learning, Rai explained that "many of our families chose to remain in the distance learning model." Returning to a full five days a week

schedule for some families while maintaining the distance learning option preferred by other families would have meant reassigning thousands of students to new classrooms and teachers with just a little more than a month before the end of the school year. "Valuing the relationships that were built between teacher and student, and between student to student, returning four days a week in the mornings was the option that was the least disruptive for all," explained Rai.

The SJUSD 2021-2022 school year will start on August 12 with the traditional full-day schedule five days a week, which was announced at a Board meeting in May and through a message sent to all families with students enrolled in SJUSD schools.

But Recall San Juan wants to send a message to the Board, letting them know that some families in the district oppose the choices they made. At the

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WE SUPPORT OUR MILITARY

Sons of the American Revolution Seeks New Members

By Thomas J. Sullivan

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Are you descended from a Revolutionary War patriot?

It's time to look more closely at your family tree, say members of the Sacramento Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) as the 250th anniversary of the American revolution draws near.

The chapter is actively looking for men whose ancestors fought and sacrificed for the nation we have today, said chapter treasurer Donald B. Littlefield. Littlefield currently serves as treasurer and board member of the SAR, Sacramento Chapter. In April, he finished his term as president of the California Society Sons of the American Revolution for 2020-2021. He also served as a chapter officer in 2010, 2011, 2017 and 2018.

Littlefield outlined the history of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), helpful tips to determine membership eligibility and examples of how and where Sacramento chapter members actively participate in our local community.

Members of SAR seek to preserve the memory of those whose service and sacrifice during the American Revolution secured independence for the American people. Through their example of public service, they also seek to encourage a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers.

Littlefield said its members also actively add to and encourage further historical research regarding general



Sacramento SAR color guard members wear Revolutionary War-era uniforms and participate in civic and patriotic events and observances throughout the year. These include celebration of the Fourth of July, Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day, Flag Day, Patriots Day, Bill of Rights Day, Yorktown Day, Constitution Day, and important battles of the Revolutionary War. Photo provided by SAR

history of the American Revolution. In general, SAR members seek to encourage an appreciation for true patriotism, a respect for our national symbols, and the value of American citizenship.

SAR is a historical, educational, and patriotic United States 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Its members are direct descendants of those patriots that achieved the independence of the American people.

The organization's objective is to perpetuate a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers, Littlefield said. Members strive to carry out the promises expressed in the Preamble to the Constitution.

Littlefield said the Sacramento SAR chapter supports the men and women in military service,

law enforcement and fire safety on the chapter, state, and national level through their Partners in Patriotism (the American Legion, VFW, AmVets, etc.) to recognize the ongoing sacrifices of our service members throughout the world in activities such as Veterans Day and Memorial Day celebrations, and Wreaths Across America, held at national veteran's cemeteries.

"Our active members work on various programs, donating time and resources to keep our programs going," Littlefield said. "We need more new members who understand what we are, what we do, and want to be part of the important legacy we are trying to leave for our posterity," he said.

Individual Sacramento SAR chapter members visibly inspire patriotism

through their color guard which participates in local parades and ceremonies and posts the national colors.

SAR color guard members wear Revolutionary War-era uniforms and participate in civic and patriotic events and observances such as the Fourth of July, Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day, Flag Day, Patriots Day, Bill of Rights Day, Yorktown Day, Constitution Day, and important battles of the Revolutionary War.

Historically, the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) is the largest male lineage organization in the United States and consists of 50 state-level societies with more than 500 local chapters, several international societies (including Canada, France, Germany, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom), and over 36,000 active members.

In all, some 220,000 men have joined since the SAR was founded in 1889 on the 100th anniversary of the inauguration of George Washington as our first president.

"We perpetuate the stories of patriotism, courage, sacrifice, tragedy, and triumph of the men who achieved the independence of the American people in the belief that these stories are universal ones of man's eternal struggle against tyranny, relevant to all time, will inspire and strengthen each succeeding generation as it too is called upon to defend our freedoms on the battlefield and in our public institutions," Littlefield said.

Prominent SAR members include 16 U.S. presidents, U.S. senators and representatives, local business and community leaders, as well as foreign dignitaries such as Sir Winston Churchill,

and Kings Juan Carlos I and Felipe VI of Spain.

Throughout its history, SAR members have also answered their country's call in every major American conflict beginning with the battle of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, and continuing to the present day, with military service Operation Desert Storm, Bosnia, and the recent actions in Afghanistan and Iraq. SAR members have also received the highest awards America can bestow, including the Medal of Honor.

Where to Begin?

A search for a Revolutionary War male family ancestor begins seven to nine generations back.

"Most men seeking membership at this time are looking at ancestors who would probably be their 4th to 6th great-grandparents," said Littlefield.

"Consider that by doubling the number of ancestors in each succeeding generation (two parents, four grandparents, eight great grandparents, etc.), we might have over 3,000 direct ancestors who were alive during the Revolution," he said.

"It is likely that if you had any ancestral line living in this country for many years, you could possibly find one or more patriots in your family tree. The search can be rewarding, as you learn how your own family participated in the ongoing history of this country," he said.

Interested applicants can begin their journey at www.sar.org/how-to-apply and visit sar-sacramento.org. Email webmaster@sar-sacramento.org for more information. ★

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Can You Hear the Music?



Carmichael rocker Todd Morgan (center) and the Emblems kicks off his Fair Oaks Park gig for an audience of more than 500 fans. Bass player is Matt Dudman; drummer is Andrew Phillip. The group will also feature in the upcoming Carmichael Park concert series.

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trucks feed the hungry; beer and wine sales benefit the non-profit Fair Oaks Theater Festival. “Dancing is not only allowed – it’s encouraged,” said Fair Oaks Recreation and District staffer Katy Coss. “After a year without concerts, it’s great to see people shaking off the cobwebs.”

Though crowd size is not numerically restricted, admission ends when the fenced outfield is full. Late-comers may enjoy music from the car park and other parts of the reserve. The rock theme continues with the KMC Band on July 29; Wasted Space entertains on August 26; On Air is booked for September 30. Arena admission begins 6:30 pm. Downbeat is 7:30 pm.

Other communities have revived live events in tune with easing COVID restrictions. The City of Roseville this month

began a June-to-September series of tribute band performances at Vernon Street Town Square. On July 10, Carmichael Recreation and Park District will kick off eight consecutive Saturday concerts. Due to 2021 budget shortfalls, the District made a painful choice between live music and a July 4 fireworks display. “We simply could not afford both this year,” explained CRPD administrator Mike Blondino. “It came down to 17 minutes of fireworks at \$17,000 – or eight weeks of concerts. We decided the concerts would serve more people for a more worthwhile length of time.”

For information on the Fair Oaks Parks entertainment schedule, visit www.forpd.org/261/Concerts-in-the-Park

Learn about Carmichael Park’s concert series at www.carmichaelpark.com ★

“Recall San Juan” Seeks to Oust School Board Members

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June 2021 Board meeting, Gabel spoke during public comment: “The recall effort is underway. Our voices will not be silenced.”

In addition to students losing a year and a half of full-time in-person instruction, Gabel also shared another of her personal reasons for pursuing the recall. She said her son – a 10-year-old student in fifth grade – was assigned to a teacher who had been with the school for just a year. She asked that her son be transferred into a class taught by an experienced teacher with whom he was already familiar, but school policy required a reason for the transfer. Because classes were held over Zoom, Gabel said she found her reason: “I now had full access into the classroom and everything my son was exposed to by his teacher,” including

“critical race theory, racism, gender stereotyping, and suicide.”

She demanded that her son be transferred, and the school did comply. Gabel believes that issues about race, gender, and mental health should not be taught in K-12 classrooms – and she has signed her son up for “weekly counseling sessions” as a result of those lessons.

The SJUSD does not include Critical Race Theory (CRT) as part of its curriculum. CRT is a theoretical framework for examining structural and institutional racism, typically studied in post-secondary education and used in legal analysis. “CRT is not part of our K-12 curriculum,” Rai explained. “However, lessons that address race and social justice are embedded in classes in alignment with state

standards and our district’s 8-Point Commitment to Educational Justice.”

Rai continued: “At San Juan Unified we believe diversity is a valuable asset that strengthens and enriches our community. We recognize that we have achievement gaps in our system and educating students about issues such as ending racism and creating equity is one way we can work towards closing those gaps.”

The Recall San Juan movement is insistent that SJUSD needs new leadership. “We have people all over the district collecting petitions,” said Gabel. The petition timeline and number of required signatures are calculated based on the number of registered voters in the district, and Recall San Juan has until October 19 to gather the 20,044 signatures necessary to trigger the recall. ★

Nielsen: ‘This is a Fake Budget’

From the Office of Senator Nielsen

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Senator Jim Nielsen, R-Red Bluff, today issued the following statement on the passage of the Democrats’ Budget Act of 2021:

This is a fake budget and the Democrat-controlled budget process, with no public input or transparency, is a sham.

Over the years, there have been a number of challenging budget bills with deficits. This year,

California has a substantial surplus. The temptation is to spend it and that’s exactly what the Democrats are doing.

The Democrats’ irresponsible budget is funding long-term spending using short-term dollars, which might further burden future budgets and get the state, as it has before, into financial trouble.

Following the Budget Act will be dozens of so-called budget trailer bills. Many will contain major policy provisions that



Jim Nielsen

will circumvent the normal deliberative legislative process.

Today, I argued for caution and a ‘No’ vote. ★

Sacramento Public Library is Fine Free

Sacramento Public Library News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As of July 1, Sacramento Public Library (SPL) will be fine free. The library board voted unanimously to permanently end fines on overdue Sacramento Public Library materials last month.

“This is long overdue for the Sacramento region and a game changer for the communities we serve,”

said Library Director & CEO Rivkah Sass. “By eliminating overdue fines, we’re able to remove barriers to learning resources and opportunities that are especially critical in these times and that go far beyond books.

Last year, the library temporarily suspended overdue fines to increase library access during the pandemic. Such fines can deter users from checking out materials, and prevent

access to vital library services. A Sacramento Public Library card unlocks the payroll in front of more than 40 online resources, language learning tools and thousands of professional classes and tutorials with Gale Courses and LinkedIn Learning.

Library patrons who have overdue books can return them at any library location without incurring late charges. Learn more at www.saclibrary.org. ★

Fatal Motorcycle Collision

By Lt. Chad Morris, Citrus Heights Police Department

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - On June 21st, at approximately 8:05 PM, the Citrus Heights Police Department received a 911 call regarding a collision involving a motorcycle in the area of Birdcage Street near Greenback Lane. Our officers arrived on the scene and located a motorcycle, which had sustained significant damage. The rider of the motorcycle was pronounced deceased as a result of injuries sustained during the collision.

Based on the preliminary investigation, it appears the motorcyclist was traveling northbound on Birdcage Street when a vehicle entered the roadway and caused the motorcyclist to swerve and strike a tree. The

vehicle involved in the incident remained on-scene and the driver is cooperating with the investigation. We are early in our investigation; however, it appears that speed was the contributing factor to this tragic accident.

The Citrus Heights Police Department’s Traffic Unit responded and processed the collision scene. Both northbound and southbound lanes of Birdcage Street have since been reopened. The identity of the deceased party is being withheld pending notification of the next of kin by the Sacramento County Coroner’s Office.

Any witnesses to the collision are encouraged to contact the Citrus Heights Police Department at (916) 727-5500. Additionally, the Citrus Heights Police Department wants to remind all drivers to be attentive to the roadway and other motorists. ★

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To contact the Kiwanis Club of Orangevale-Fair Oaks
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www.facebook.com/KiwanisClubofOFO

A Dog Gone Good Story



Lily Bennet has just won the Best Junior Handler award with Gunner, a Wirehaired Pointing Griffon, at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show 2021 in New York. Photo: Tanner Congleton Photography

By MaryAnne Povey

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - A lot of people love their dogs, but Lily Bennet, 16, of Orangevale takes loving her dogs to the next level! From the early age of 7 years old, Lily had a natural knack for working with animals, most especially, dogs. She joined 4 H and by the time she was 9 years old, began competing in local kennel club competitions and winning too! And that winning streak hasn't stopped. Lily most recently won the coveted title of Best Junior Handler in the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show 2021 and a \$10k scholarship earlier this month in New York. The show marked the 145th year for this long-standing annual dog competition.

In a twist of fate, this almost didn't happen, as her beloved dog Goose, a Wirehaired Pointing Griffon, suffered a serious medical condition called "bloat" that prevented him from going with Lily to compete in New York. Thankfully, Lily's swift response in taking Goose to the vet saved his life. With that under control, Lily and her mom had to come up with a "Plan B" to find another dog to compete. As luck would have it, Goose's stepbrother, Gunner, located in Pennsylvania, stepped in to save the day. Lily had to fill out the proper paperwork to make it official, and then get to work. She spent all of two days working with Gunner and nearly six hours grooming him to seal the bond before the competition. The rest is history.

"I was so nervous, I was shaking like a leaf," Lily laughed, "As I walked into the ring, I kept thinking of the quote from the movie "Cars", "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee" and my other favorite saying, "fake it till you make it."

Those mottos have served her well

as she has also made history as the only junior to be a finalist in the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon category.

When asked if dog handling was a family tradition, Lily's mom Cindy said they have traced their roots back to Lily's great grandfather who was a dog handler nearly 100 years ago, not to mention an Olympic gymnast qualifier and a Rotarian also.

What's impressive about Lily is not just her natural ability with her dogs, but her poise and maturity too. She's got a twinkle in her eye that makes her sparkle and a positive energy that makes her furry friends not just adore her, but obey her too.

Beyond training and competing, Lily has a heart for giving. She has raised funds for charities including Wagon Angels, a program through the Portland Roadsters who decorate wagons for children in wheelchairs, another program called The High School Challenge, assisting students pursuing careers in the auto industry, and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, raising over \$50k which earned her a Presidential Service Award!

While the excitement of the big win is still fresh for Lily, she is back to work, training multiple dogs daily and has her eye set on competing at the world competition this fall in Russia and possibly Spain this spring.

"I'm looking forward to meeting other handlers and seeing how they show, and learning how they do things over there," said Lily.

When asked if she's going for another big win, she humbly replied, "I'm going for the experience, and we'll see what happens."

If anyone is interested in helping Lily's fundraising efforts for her world competition, stay tuned for upcoming fundraising events! ★

Move to by-Trustee Area Elections Resumes

San Juan Unified School District

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - San Juan Unified School District will resume the process of transitioning to by-trustee area elections on July 1, after it was paused under a state executive order during the COVID-19 pandemic to protect public health and safety.

During a special meeting on July 1, the district's demographer will review the process and criteria used to develop trustee area maps and the board will hear public input.

Currently, the district uses an election method referred to as 'at-large' in which all candidates for the board are on each voter's ballot. Voters then vote for up to the number of currently open seats with those receiving the most votes from across the district being elected. In a by-trustee area election, the district is divided into smaller areas each represented by one board member. Candidates for the board must reside in the area they will represent

and voters only select one candidate from those in their area.

Map options will be made available for review by July 6, and a second special meeting of the board will be held on July 13, providing for a presentation by the demographer on the maps and an opportunity for public input. Community meetings on July 20 and 22, will be held at multiple locations throughout the district, as well as online, offering additional opportunities for input which can also be submitted online at any time by visiting <https://www.sanjuan.edu/elections>.

The board will hold a final special meeting on July 27, 2021, providing for public hearings before selecting the final map to adopt, and resolution to move on to the County Commission for approval. The County Commission must take action by August 10.

In March of 2020, the Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution beginning the formal process to move to

by-trustee area elections. After an initial presentation and public hearing, Governor Newsom issued executive order N-48-20 in April of 2020 which paused the timeline for the process to protect public health and safety during the pandemic. The board voted to pause the process in compliance with the executive order.

With Governor Newsom's executive order pausing such processes due to the COVID-19 pandemic expiring after June 30, the district will resume the transition and complete the process within the legally required timeframe.

2020 Census data was delayed and has not yet been made available. To meet the required timelines, the current map designs will use data from the 2010 Census and then be revisited later this fall once the newer data is available.

Visit <https://www.sanjuan.edu/elections> for the latest information on the process, full timelines, and maps once they are available. ★

GONE FISHING


*I've finished life's chores assigned to me
So put me on a boat headed out to sea.
Please send along my fishing pole
For I've been invited to the fishin' hole.*

*Where every day is a day to fish,
To fill your heart with every wish.
Don't worry, or feel sad for me,
I'm fishin' with the Master of the sea.*

*We will miss each other for awhile,
But you will come and bring your smile.
That won't be long you will see,
Till we're together you and me.*

*To all of those that think of me,
Be happy as I go out to sea.
If others wonder why I'm missin'
Just tell 'em I've gone fishin'*

~ Delmar Pepper



Daniel Patrick Rust (Boone)
August 29, 1962 - June 10, 2021



Poppoff!
With Mary Jane Popp

Wedding Plan Dos And Don'ts

Planning a wedding can be a glorious time or a time filled with stress. Which do you want? With the pandemic, many weddings were postponed, but now they are back. **Lynne Goldberg** knows. She's been in the wedding and event planning industry over twenty years at **Ms Wedding Planner**. Here's what she shared on POPPOFF with me.

- 1. BEFORE ANYTHING, DETERMINE A BUDGET.** It's the total amount of money you both, along with your family are comfortable spending. This number will help determine the many choices you will be making.
- 2. NOW YOU HAVE THE MONEY SET, WRITE A LIST.** These are all the things you'd like to have starting with the most important and ending with things you could do without if the money runs out. Prioritize.
- 3. DECIDE WHAT SIZE AND TYPE WEDDING YOU'D LIKE.** Is it formal, casual or in between? Want a theme wedding or special setting like a beach or castle or farm or hotel? Want traditional or modern and how many guests? Visualize your wedding. Make sure you and your fiancé agree on that vision or it can be stressful. The more you agree, the simpler it'll be to plan.
- 4. PICK A DATE AND LOCATION.** It sounds easy, but you may live in different places and away from families. Don't forget to research weather, time of year, holidays even other events already booked.
- 5. NOW YOU HAVE THE BUDGET, VISION, LOCATION AND DATE.** You're ready to look for venues. If the ceremony is at a place of worship, make sure your date is open because

- ceremony space is most important.
- 6. NOW IT'S TIME TO LOOK FOR THE PARTY PLACE.** The venue sets the tone for the entire wedding reception and will most likely use up between one-third and one-half your budget. Choose wisely. It's important not to spend too much on the venue or you won't have any money left over for the rest of your list.
 - 7. THERE ARE MANY TYPES OF VENUES.** Get on the computer and research options in the location you've chosen. Don't rule out your home, parent's home or friend's home.
 - 8. AFTER SECURING THE CEREMONY AND RECEPTION SPACE, CREATE A WEDDING WEBSITE.** Send out a Save The Date Card with the date and wedding locations listed on the card so friends and family can put it on their calendar. Now it's time to look for that special dress and wedding colors.
 - 9. GO BACK TO YOUR LIST AND RESEARCH VENDORS IN ORDER OF PRIORITIES.** Since Music, Flowers, Photography, and Video are must haves, get the prices for all four and add them up before booking any of them. This assures you have enough money to spend on the rest of your list.
 - 10. MOST COUPLES SPEND A YEAR PLANNING THEIR WEDDING.** Remember, enjoy the journey. Carry a smile, sense of humor and an open mind and planning will be as much fun as your wedding day. You can check out more info at www.MsWeddingPlanner.com for many HAPPY YEARS!!! ★



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By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

Who Is The Great Deceiver?

If your life is NOT ever filled with disturbances, possibly your life is pleasing to the enemy of God. His natural language is filled with lies and deceit and he attempts of divide anyone he can from any knowledge of God. The enemy of God is a deceiver who does his best to defame and discredit the glory of God.

Satan's strategy is to cause indifference. He is against mankind and those who are ignorant about his existence will one day stand before God and regret it. If he can cause some to believe he doesn't exist he has almost won the battle for ones soul to end up in hell with him. He is a liar! He will infiltrate lives any way he can! Today in

Europe religions are being invaded and manifested with the Occult beliefs. It is happening in America as well!

Read and listen to what the Scripture states to those who listen and follow his lies.

"Ye are of your father, the devil, and the lust of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning and abodes not in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own, for he is a liar and a father of it. (John 8:44)

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the ruler (Satan/Devil) of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Eph. 6:12)

The Christian walk is one that takes all knowledge to really understand, know and believe and be obedient to the truth of God we receive. Time is

our ally. Once we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, He IN us is more powerful! *When one is obedient and has an intimate personal relationship with God, Satan cannot enslave! The power of the blood of Jesus protects us.* But he will attack! Doing what God has called and instructed you to do, he cannot defeat us, therefore do not fear him! Yet, know who the enemy is!

He will attempt to get you busy with lots of things! However, do not allow any one or any thing to pull you way from the Kingdom of God and His Family! Jesus Christ has defeated the enemy and helped us to live victoriously in God's love, grace, mercy and power Forever.

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Christian Author of 7 Books
ARM Columnist since 2006
Stephen's Minister
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Orangevale, CA 95662 ★

California's Pro-Housing Forces Score Big Win



By Dan Walters CALMatters

California's housing crisis is a multi-front guerrilla war, pitting those who want to lower legal and political barriers to construction against those who see new developments as threats to the environment and/or the ambience of their neighborhoods.

The conflict is waged in the Legislature, in the state housing bureaucracy, in city councils, in the courts and, increasingly, at the ballot box. Every new offensive assault by pro-housing forces meets stout resistance by defenders of the status quo and over time, it's been something of a stalemate.

Housing construction remains well below the levels needed to close the gap between supply and demand, resulting in ever-rising rents and home prices, ever-increasing angst for Californians priced out of the market and an adverse effect on the economy as workers migrate to more affordable communities elsewhere.

Get a veteran journalist's take on what's going on in California with a weekly round-up of Dan's column every Friday.

The Housing Crisis Act of 2019 was a major thrust by the pro-housing faction. Senate Bill 330 was aimed at blocking local government

policies, such as restrictive zoning, caps on building permits or unworkable design standards that limit new housing developments.

Not surprisingly, the legislation was opposed by local government officials as undermining their historic power to shape the tenor of their communities through controls on land use. However, it was passed by strong majorities in both legislative houses and signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom, who had promised to meet the housing crisis head-on.

While the legislation limited the authority of local government officials, it may turn out to be a groundbreaking limit on the power of local voters as well.

The legislation's passage more or less coincided with the Oceanside City Council's approval of a 585-home subdivision called North River Farms, which bills itself as a country village integrated with small-scale agriculture. The council rezoned land to make the project feasible.

Despite its bucolic nature, North River Farms was opposed by existing residents of the area and some environmental groups. They launched a recall campaign against one of the council members who voted for the project and eventually placed a measure on the 2020 ballot to overturn the council's decision, which was passed by a 2-1 margin of the city's voters.

Thereupon, the project's developer, sued to overturn the referendum, alleging that it violated the Housing Crisis Act of 2019 and last month, Superior Court Judge Richard Whitney

declared that the new law did apply to the referendum.

In overturning the election results, Whitney said SB 330's clear aim was to "maximize the development of housing" by overriding any local action or policy that attempts to limit construction.

Whitney's ruling will no doubt face appeals to higher courts and could collide with a 2017 state Supreme Court decree, in a case involving taxation, that ballot measures are not subject to the same limits applied to local governments.

Writing the 5-2 majority opinion, Supreme Court Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar declared, "Multiple provisions of the state constitution explicitly constrain the power of local governments to raise taxes. But we will not lightly apply such restrictions on local governments to voter initiatives."

There is also a larger issue posed by the Oceanside case – whether zoning changes are legislative acts subject to referendum or merely administrative actions that are exempt from such challenges. Oregon, for instance, has flatly prohibited the use of referenda to oppose zoning changes.

The Oceanside case is not an isolated example of employing referenda to block projects. If Whitney is upheld, it will be a major victory for pro-housing forces by eliminating one arrow in the quiver of those who resist new development.

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

Where Do Wrinkles Come From?

Dr. James L. Snyder

Several months ago, I had two cataracts removed from my eyes. How they got there, I don't know. As far as I can remember, they never asked my permission, and furthermore, they never paid rent for being there.

According to the eye doctor, and doctors are never wrong, I now have 2020 vision. I've never had such vision since I was ten years old.

All I really need now are reading glasses, and my vision is quite good.

That sounds like a good thing on the surface, but every good thing has a little dark corner somewhere hidden.

The good part is that I can see excellently.

The bad part is that I can see excellently.

I didn't quite understand this until just recently it came to full view.

What shocked me so much was that as I looked at my face to prepare to shave, I noticed some things I never noticed before. Those things were "wrinkles."

Not only did I have one wrinkle, but for some reason, that wrinkle brought all his family with him. And, to make matters worse, the first wrinkle never asked

permission to take up residence on my face.

But there they were, and I was staring at them for the very first time.

I do not know the real purpose of wrinkles or where in the world they come from or where I can send them.

But what are wrinkles really for? What is the purpose of a wrinkle? And, where did they come from? And, do I need to wear a mask?

Because of my confusion in this area, I thought I would take the chance of asking the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage about my wrinkles.

Cautiously I approached her and said, "I discovered I have some wrinkles on my face, and I don't know where they came from? Do you know what I could do?"

Obviously, she thought I was joking because I couldn't get her to stop laughing.

When she finally calmed down, she said, "You've had wrinkles for as long as I can remember." Then she began laughing again.

When she quieted down again, she said, "The purpose of wrinkles is to keep track of your age. Every wrinkle represents a certain age in your life." Then she broke down in laughter

again. Obviously, this is funny to her.

The next time I was in front of the mirror, I carefully looked at my wrinkles and tried to count them. If what she says is true, I must be 397 years old.

I'm not sure what to do with my wrinkles, but I'm not going to have plastic surgery.

I need to accept things as they are and not allow something as silly as a wrinkle define who I am. If I do that, I will never come to any kind of reality about myself. I surely am not my wrinkle.

Thinking about this, I was reminded of a verse in the Bible. "Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before my face" (Psalm 5:8).

My face has more important things to do than fuss over wrinkles. I need to trust the Lord each day to set before my face the way that he wants me to go for his glory.

Dr. James L. Snyder
pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com. ★

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- CLUES**
- ACROSS
- * Code, or self-censorship guidelines for movies
 - Ship pronoun
 - vera plant
 - Tiny piece of anything
 - Dateless one
 - Twist and distort
 - "Animal House" party garb
 - Cantatrice's offering
 - Frost-covered
 - *Mary ____, star of 52 films and recipient of 1976 Academy Honorary Award
 - Rounded protuberance
 - Breaks off
 - Crime scene acronym
 - One who insists on implementing #1 Across
 - Anxiety, pl.
 - U.N. working-conditions agency
 - A-one
 - Do like exhaust pipe
 - Students' dwellings
 - Between sol and ti
 - Parkinson's disease drug
 - Larger-than-life
 - For the most part
 - Aviv
 - Allow to rejoin
 - Between Paleocene and Oligocene
 - FEMA provisions, e.g.
 - *Instrument central to 1945's "A Song to Remember"
 - Manage without help
 - *Marx Brothers' 1933 classic
 - Florentine iris
 - Fourth largest Great Lake
 - *Hitchcock's "The Man Who ____ Too Much"
 - Make children, biblical
 - Malicious look
 - Highest volcano in Europe
 - Object of worship
 - Always, in verse
 - Like happy people's glasses
- DOWN
- *Humphrey Bogart's Fedora, e.g.
 - At the summit
 - Hanna-Barbera anthropomorphic bear
 - Kellogg's Sugar ____
 - Leather razor sharpener
 - Often used to pull #22 Across
 - Archaic expression of surprise
 - *Like "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"
 - Mary's pet
 - Nabisco sandwich
 - Former times
 - *"The Snows of Kilimanjaro" type of adventure
 - Straining sound
 - Nautical measures
 - Party bowlful
 - Pressed beverage
 - Skip the big wedding
 - Waterwheel
 - *Drew Barrymore's grandfather
 - What actors do
 - Mature, as in fruit
 - Like an expired cracker
 - Surveyor's map
 - *"Mai" follower
 - *Hattie ____, first

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18				19			20			
21				22						
23	24	25		26			27	28	29	
30			31	32	33		34			
35		36		37			38			
39				40			41		42	
43			44				45		46	
47				48	49					
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55				56			57		58	
59				60			61			
62				63			64			

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6			1	8				
	7			3				
		9	8			2	1	
		6	5			1	9	
	3	4		1	6			
2	7			3	8			
			7			2		
		8	4					6

Solutions on Page 6

Find Puzzles on Page 6

H	A	Y	S		S	H	E		A	L	O	E					
A	T	O	M		S	T	A	G		G	N	A	R	L			
T	O	G	A		A	R	I	A		R	I	M	E	D			
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		D	O	R	M	S		L	A	H		L	D	O	P	A	
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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 6

6	2	9	4	1	7	8	3	5
8	1	7	2	5	3	9	6	4
3	4	5	9	8	6	7	2	1
7	8	6	5	2	4	1	9	3
1	5	2	3	6	9	4	8	7
9	3	4	8	7	1	6	5	2
2	7	1	6	3	8	5	4	9
4	6	3	7	9	5	2	1	8
5	9	8	1	4	2	3	7	6

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Rebuilding Small Businesses: Volunteers Wanted

By Ami Neiberger Miller,
The Hannon Group

OXEN HILL, MD (MPG) - Are you a successful corporate executive with deep business knowledge? Or a social media maven who guided a corporate brand to big time success? Maybe, you're a public speaker and trainer that can inspire small business owners to climb to new heights of success. Or a savvy entrepreneur who has launched successful startups?

If so, then consider volunteering with SCORE, the nation's largest network of volunteer, expert business mentors and help small businesses recover from the economic devastation wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Your skills are valuable, needed and appreciated by small business clients and entrepreneurs," according to SCORE CEO Bridget Weston. "Volunteer to join our community of more than 10,000 volunteers in 1,500 communities. You'll find a wealth of support and build back small business where you live."

Only about a third of small business owners reported turning a profit in 2020. Black and Hispanic-owned small businesses were particularly hard hit. Only 8.8% of Black business owners and 6.7% of Hispanic business owners reported profitability and growth last year, according to research conducted by SCORE.[1]

SCORE welcomes all volunteers and offers a variety of ways to get involved based on the time you have to give and



Consider volunteering with SCORE, the nation's largest network of volunteer, expert business mentors and help small businesses recover from the economic devastation wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo courtesy The Hannon Group

your interests and expertise. You don't have to be retired to volunteer with SCORE (which was formerly known as the Service Corps of Retired Executives), notes Weston. Today, half of SCORE's volunteers are actively employed or running their own businesses.

Volunteer roles include: **Subject matter expert** - Volunteer 2-10 hours per month and consult with mentors and business owners to answer questions in your area of expertise. Share your know-how and professional knowledge in e-commerce, accounting, human resources, social media or anything else and be an invaluable resource for small business owners.

Local workshop presenter - Share your mastery of a business topic or strategy and deliver local business training for small business owners. The time required can be as little as 2-10 hours for each presentation. **Business mentor** - SCORE mentors provide hands-on assistance to local small business owners or aspiring entrepreneurs, helping develop business plans and a roadmap for growth. Mentors have excellent interpersonal and communication skills, as well as broad expertise as a business owner or upper-level manager. This role requires training and then 15-20 hours per month of volunteer time. The benefits of volunteering with

SCORE include networking with local and national business experts and building new community relationships through the local SCORE chapter, notes Weston. Volunteers also expand their own skillsets through training and receive local and national recognition. Helping others is extremely rewarding, and many SCORE volunteers value supporting the small business community where they live and knowing they are making a genuine difference.

Volunteering through SCORE creates a positive, tangible impact. In 2020, SCORE volunteers donated nearly four million hours of service and helped start 45,027 new businesses. They also supported the creation of 119,562 jobs and mentored 143,651 small business clients, many of whom reported higher revenues and business growth.

"My hard work is worth it when I read the emails saying how grateful people are for SCORE's help," said Toma Talpa, a volunteer with SCORE Chicago. "I chose SCORE because of its mission and because of the people who volunteer. They are all passionate about helping entrepreneurs and business owners achieve their goals. It always amazes me that all of the resources and national workshops that SCORE provides are free to anyone."

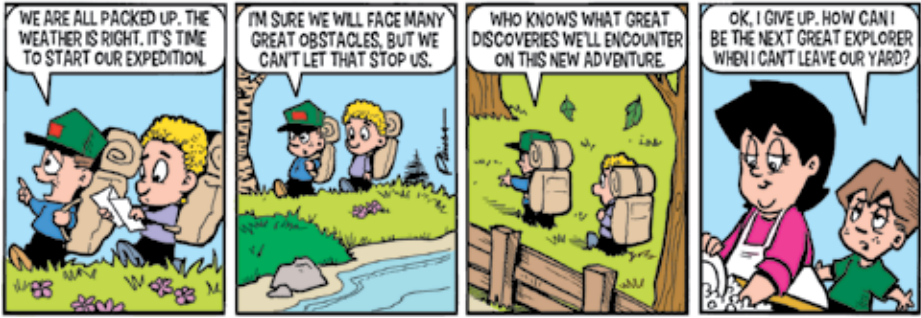
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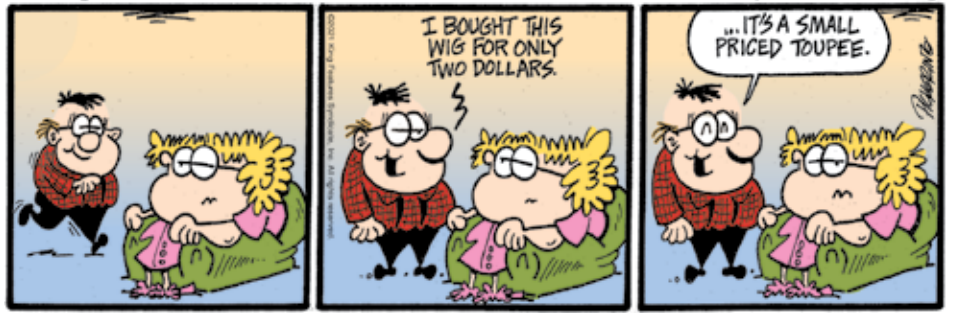
WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves



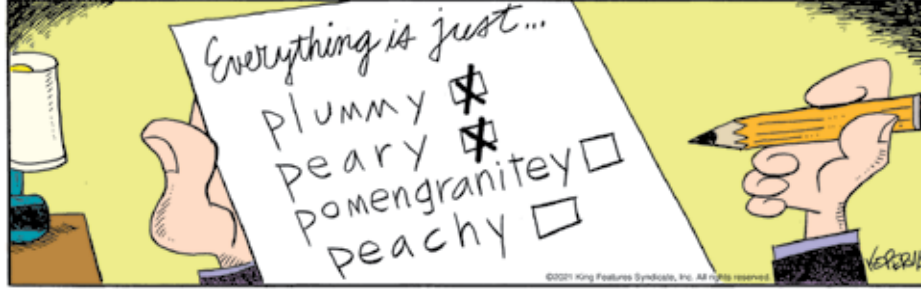
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The Spats



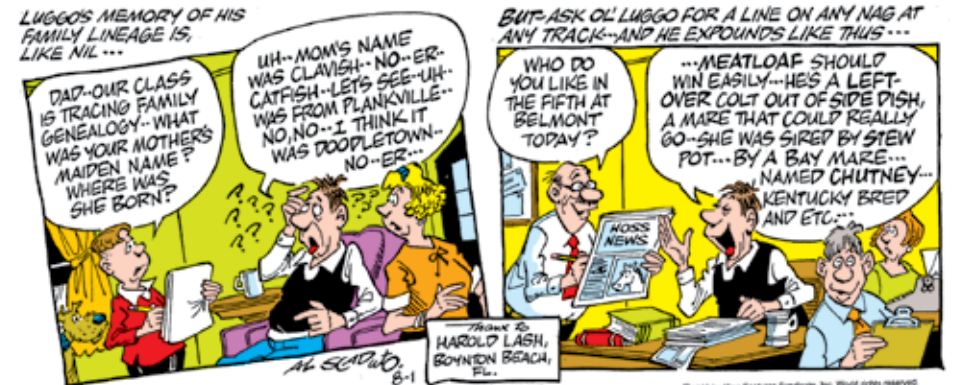
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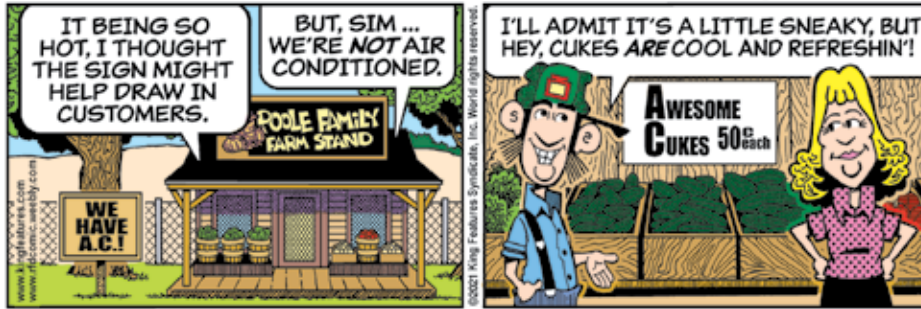
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THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO

R.F.D.



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GRIN AND BEAR IT



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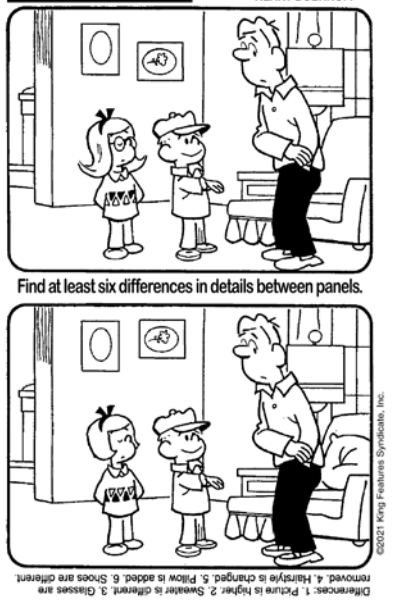


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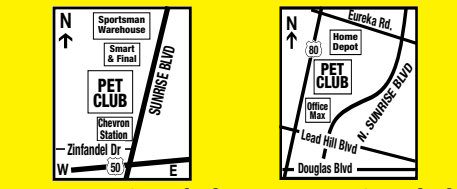
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• Puppy (Reg & Large Breed) • Senior (Reg & Lrg Breed)
• Lamb & Rice
• Healthy Weight
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Limit One Coupon Per Family
Price Valid Only With Coupon
Effective 6/30/21 - 7/6/21
\$2.09
CHM PLU 365

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WHISKY TEMPTATIONS CAT TREATS
All Varieties 3 Oz.
Limit 2 Pkgs with Coupon
Limit One Coupon Per Family
Price Valid Only With Coupon
Effective 6/30/21 - 7/6/21
\$1.39
CHM PLU 569

BONUS COUPON
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All Varieties 5.5 Oz.
Limit 1 Case
Limit One Coupon Per Family
Price Valid Only With Coupon
Effective 6/30/21 - 7/6/21
37¢
CHM PLU 364

Local Promoter Revives Acoustic Music Scene



Cheryl Guthrie McKinney and Angus McKinney of the AC McKinney Band on stage at Madrid Music Group's open mic session. Photo by Thomas J. Sullivan

By Thomas J. Sullivan

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Tiffany Madrid, founder of Madrid Music Group, is delighted to, at last, be able to resume her popular live acoustic open-mic music sessions to Carmichael.

Madrid will present acoustic open mic night on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Stage 76 Kitchen & Bar at 7600 Fair Oaks Boulevard in Carmichael. Local musicians are asked to sign up at 5:30 p.m. to perform either two original or cover songs. Performance is from 6 to 8 p.m.

While it may be a new venue, new health and sanitary guidelines do apply in a live music entertainment environment, Madrid said.

"It's still the same gathering of good local friends who enjoy making and listening to great original acoustic music," she said.

Opening night on Wednesday, June 10, saw 18 performers play before an appreciative capacity audience.

Madrid, a resident of Fair

Oaks, was part of a small group of friends in 2016 who just wanted to play, sing, and share their love for acoustic music in the greater Orangevale and Fair Oaks area. She had hosted open mic music nights at the former Love at First Bite Café at 7405 Winding Way and a coffee house in downtown Fair Oaks since 2019 but suspended her bi-monthly live music series with the onset of the pandemic.

"There are a lot of talented singer-songwriters in the Fair Oaks, Carmichael and surrounding areas who write their own material and are anxious to return to the stage," Madrid said. "Most musicians whom I've spoken to are eager to returning to playing live. They miss the energy and feedback of a live audience."

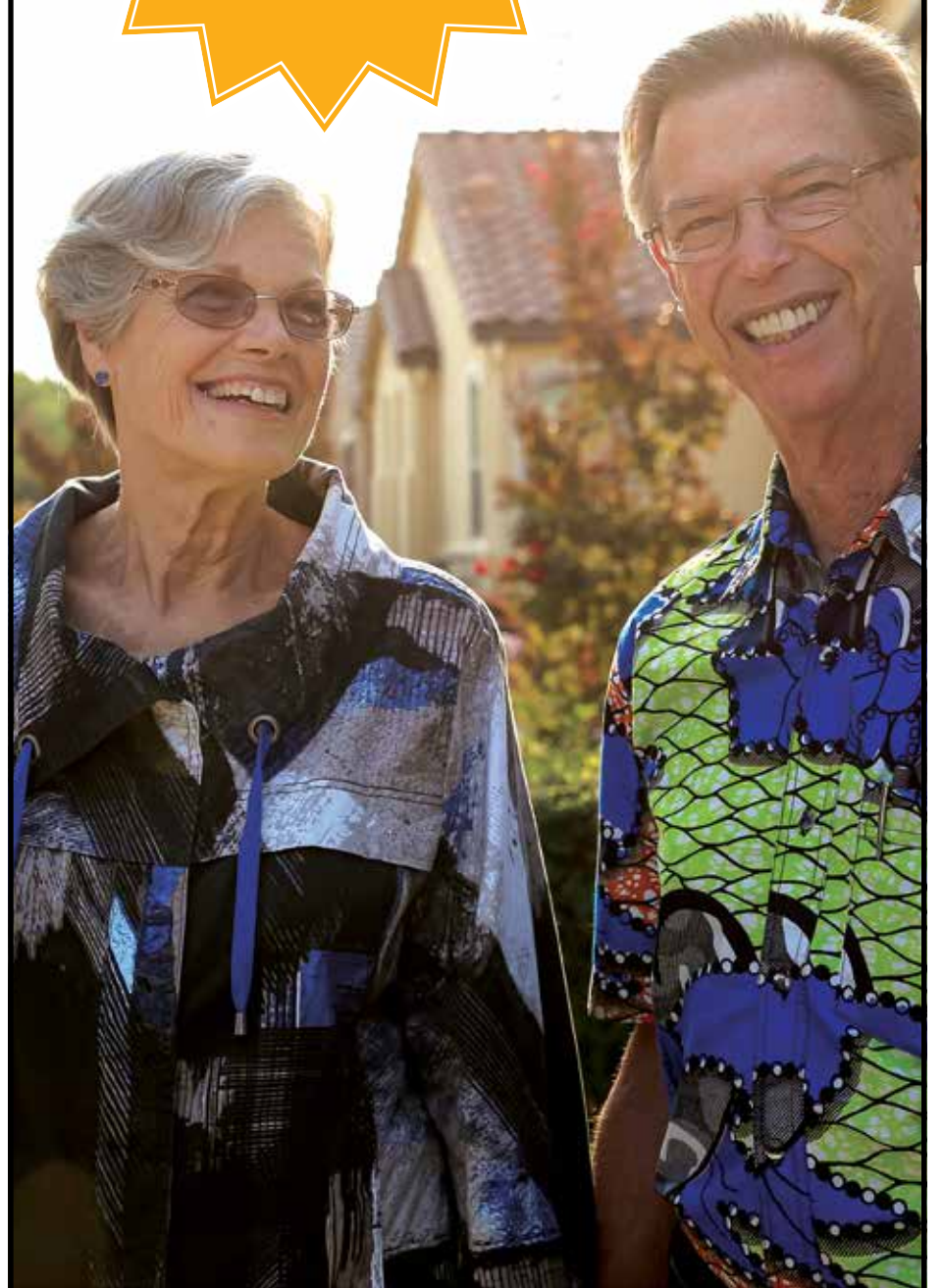
Madrid creates a very welcoming atmosphere for her artists and as before, the vibe is decidedly warm and casual. She serves as an emcee, introducing each performer, some who were braving performing live at Stage 76 for the very first time.

"On any given past evening, there may have been 10-12 people who wish to perform," she said. "Tonight's turnout was amazing."

Madrid, who is also a performer, grew up in Simi Valley in Southern California, before moving to Fair Oaks some 20 years ago. She is a mom of three and enjoyed a past professional career in real estate and finance before returning to music, her first love.

The Stage 76 Kitchen & Bar in Carmichael at 7600 Fair Oaks Boulevard features a great selection of beer and a full bar, offers American contemporary cuisine with a regional pedigree. Its stage and private room can also be booked for music, comedy, open mic and art events. View a sample menu at stage76kb.com/menu/

Madrid Music Group's Facebook page features video links to performances at their current location. For more information about the original acoustic music sessions, contact Tiffany Madrid at madrid-music916@gmail.com. ★



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Changes to Organics Recycling Law for Businesses Take Effect July 1



Effective July 1, 2021, all commercial waste generators in Sacramento that subscribe to 2 or more cubic yards of trash and recycling services combined per week are required to subscribe to organic material recycling services. This includes food waste and green waste. This law affects all business types, not just those that sell or make food.

The easiest way to become compliant is to contact your trash hauler and add organics recycling collection service. You may also be compliant if your business has alternative organic service. An Organic Material Recycling Compliance Form will need to be submitted if you recycle your organic material in an alternate way.

Waivers may be available to businesses that generate less than 20 gallons of organic material per week. Businesses who sell or produce food are ineligible to receive a 20-Gallon or Less Waiver. Ineligible businesses include restaurants, theaters, hotels, schools, gas stations, and coffee shops. A full list of ineligible business types can be found at WasteRightSac.com.

For more information or to complete the Organics Material Recycling Compliance Form for either alternative service or for a waiver please visit WasteRightSac.com.



Eaglets Taste Their Independence

Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The 2021 American River eaglets recently took flight. Thirteen-week-old juveniles Rio and Lago (Spanish for river and lake), both dispatched on the same 104-degree Fahrenheit day. In a fifth season of observing the rare family, this researcher photographed all nursery phases. As with any animal, the raptors' baby steps toward destiny were life-affirming to witness. Here's my record of Independence Day for two junior national icons.

June 10, 6 am: I note younger sibling Lago has outstripped his sister in confidence. His restless passage around the nursery pine suggests he might be first from the starting blocks. Mama delivers a morning fish and departs. After breakfast, Lago resumes "branching." He's scrambling to outer limbs and challenging Rio for her high perch. Wings beating, he executes 15-foot leaps between boughs. He's already achieving tiny, controlled flights.

9:15 am: The wunderkind seems to confer with his babysitting Papa. Perhaps the seasoned parent blesses him: Chocks away, go for it, kid.

10:45 am: After five hours of rising mercury, my cameras are overheating. I decide today's too hot for fly-day and plan a retreat.

10:55 am: Busy Lago pauses on an outer branch. Without preamble, utterance or downward glance, the tyke simply takes off. He wafts above bluff trees for a hundred yards. Maiden flights



First gulps from the American River brings relief from dehydration as a heatwave begins.

typically include drama. Fledglings get stuck in foreign trees and are terrified by the abyss between them and the nest. Re-launching often takes hours. Not this time. To my amazement, ace Lago turns for home without stopover.

11 am: In an explosion of pine needles, a textbook fledge is complete. Alpha sibling Rio gawks. Lago's dramatic silence says: Okay, so I'm king of the world. Now what?

11:30 am: Approving Papa joins his debutant.

Lago seems to feel rewards are in order. His cacophonous eaglet tantrum echoes through the canyon. Papa endures the screaming for a full 20 minutes before scorching away to hunt at high noon.

4 pm: I melt into a puddle of sweaty camouflage gear. Rio's still not moved since seeing her brother's feat. Papa's hunting across the canyon. Above me, the achiever still screams: Bring me fish!

Next day, June 11, 6 am: Beholding an empty

nest, I conclude Rio has also flown the coop. The morning brings unimagined fledgling experiences. The canyon is a noisy three-ring circus as liberated babies crash-land on unfamiliar trees and surfaces. Screaming like banshees at every turn, they flap homeward when fish are delivered.

7 am: Mama Bald leads her fledglings across the river. From a distance, I see them on a rocky shore, drinking deep. The artery has tantalized below their nursery for almost 13 weeks;

now they gulp of cool, shaded paradise. They wade to breast-depth then splash, like sparrows in a bird bath. In a river named for their nation, juvenile icons Rio and Lago discover a whole new world. And it's good.

God Bless America!

Footnote: Prescient parenting surely ensured survival for these babies. June's ruthless procession of triple-digit days caused great wildlife suffering and many dehydrated raptors were saved by rescue agencies. In five seasons of recording the

family's activities, two flawless maiden flights -- within hours -- have not previously occurred. This observer feels the adults knew a heatwave was looming and wanted the babies out of an unshaded nest. Their encouragement might have hurried fledges, so Rio and Lago reached life-saving water in the nick of time. Pictures shown were shot from great distances with powerful lenses. River users who see animals drinking on banks should allow them space to refresh and hunt. Their lives depend on it. ★

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