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AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

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JUNE 11, 2021

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Grad Parades Celebrate Seniors



Bella Vista Girl Grads celebrate the end of their high school days with waves and big smiles. Photo credit Greg Willey

By MaryAnne Povey

ORANGEVALE/FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - What better way to celebrate surviving the end of an unprecedented school year, than to have a parade! That's exactly what both graduating classes from Casa Roble and Bella Vista did, thanks to parents who took matters into their own hands, not knowing if in-person graduations would take place.

"We didn't know until late spring that we would be having a "real graduation," said Melissa Conley, Casa parent volunteer, "We wanted to make sure that we were going to celebrate our kids one way or another, so we planned this, and it was great!"

Continuing a great tradition started last year by the Casa Roble 2020 graduating class, both Casa Roble and Bella Vista parents coordinated a parade with cooperation of the Sunrise

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After a tough ride to end their Casa Roble high school career these grads drive off into a new life. Photo by Tim Engle

Measure J Big-Ticket Projects Going to Bid Soon

Story by Shaunna Boyd

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - At the June meeting of the Measure J Bond Oversight Committee (BOC), Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District Administrator Mike Aho provided updates about Measure-J funded projects.

As part of the improvement plans for Village and Plaza parks, the Amphitheatre, and the Community Clubhouse – all of which will soon be going to bid – the District plans to consolidate the parcels into one large, integrated park. As part of this effort, the District discovered that a portion of property at the corner of California Ave. and Temescal St. is not officially owned by the District. The property was gifted to the District approximately 45 years ago by a private owner. Although the District has assumed ownership since that time, no official paperwork was ever filed regarding the property transfer. Because the District has been operating as the landowner for decades, and the original landowner or their heirs could not be located, the County issued a legal ruling that the District "will receive this property by default," said Aho.

While dealing with that legal issue, the District also realized that the original path of California Ave. ran closer to the Community Clubhouse than it does today. Although the original road had been incorporated into the parking lot, the right of way had never been officially abandoned, so that process must now be completed.

As part of this process, yet another issue came to light: A water line running from California to Temescal is outside of the utility right of way, instead running under the original roadway. The pipe was installed in the 1970s and will need to be replaced in 10-20 years, which would then require the destruction – followed by reinstallation – of various parking lots, sidewalks, and landscaping. Aho said it makes the most sense to replace the water line now, moving it under the current roadway.

"It's easier for the Water District to service this line when it's in the public right of way," said Aho, and "it's better for the public if we don't tear the park up again." The total cost for this work is estimated at \$121,274. The Water

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Back in Business for ALA 383



Saint Andrews Society of Sacramento's all Scottish members meet monthly for a good meal before their board meeting. Members are also members of the Scottish American Military Society (SAMS), a military service organization. Left to right: Travis Chatters, Tom Melton, Jim Morgan, Ed Moore, Chuck Meng, Bruce Locken, Doug Walters. Photo by Elise Spleiss

By Elise Spleiss

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Life is slowly returning to VFW Post 6158 on Kruitof Lane in Fair Oaks after a year-long closure due to COVID-19. American Legion Post 383 and American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit 383 meet at this facility.

In addition to the camaradery and fellowship once

again being enjoyed by local veterans, two long overdue activities at the post came together again on May 17.

Monday night fundraiser dinners provided by American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit 383 members resumed, along with the unit's mentorship of their delegate for the 2021 annual summer Girl's State virtual leadership and

citizenship program.

Tomorrow's leaders are being trained today. The 78th Session of the California ALA Girls State will take place the end of June.

Ava Brown, a junior at Folsom High School was selected and is being sponsored by this unit for the week-long virtual 'hands on' experience. Participation is highly

competitive. Brown was chosen from 13 applicants at Folsom High.

Hundreds of delegates from all 50 states will get real life experience, as well as can be done via Zoom, learning about all aspects of American government. Participants are assigned to a county, then a city, both named after women in California history. Each

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The New Young Pastor at Sunrise Community Church

By Marlys Johnsen Norris

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Dr. Luke (42) is the son of David and Marilyn Miller of Vancouver, Canada. He was attending Briercrest College in Caronport, Saskatchewan where he first saw his beloved wife Sara Kraushaar in the church college choir. He could not wait to meet her. They were married on May 30, 2004 and have two delightful sons Levy (8) and Ari (11). Pastor Luke is passionate to reach the youth of today! Luke received a BA degree at Briercrest.

He was raised in a very loving faithful Christian family. When he was around seven years old he went to summer camp. There he heard a lot of biblical teaching and came home with lots of questions. His father took him aside and spent a lot of time talking and answering many of his questions. Then, his father prayed with him, and Luke accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. His parents taught him to honor God in whatever he did. They encouraged him to do his best throughout his life.

Pastor Luke was especially close to his grandfather all of his life. His loving grandfather taught him how to play golf. In High School he loved to learn and play sports, music and golf. His first job was helping and working at a hockey rink. Today, he is teaching and takes his two boys to play golf and enjoys taking them to the local golf range.

One of the most



The Millers: Levy (9), Sara, Ari (11) and Dr. Luke Miller. Photo provided by Marlys Norris

“defining moments of Luke’s life” was when he was leaving Australia. He had been studying the biblical epistle to the Romans and as he sat in the airplane seat “all-of-a sudden” a picture of his Christian life flashed before him. The presence of God filled the moment, and this became an important dynamic turning point for his entire life.

There are times in all Christian lives when the “love of God becomes real” to us. Pastor Luke shares his experience of this happening when his wonderful grandfather died. During the ceremony, the song “There is

a Redeemer” was sung and that touched that inner place within him. He realized how much God had done in his life and the presence of God was always very close.

He remembered and was deeply grateful that at a very young age of seven at camp when he was taught and had learned God’s spoken words to all His creation especially in John 3:16. “For God so greatly loved and dearly priced the world that He (even) gave up His only Beloved (unique) Son, so that who-so-ever believes in (trusts, clings to, relies on) Him may not perish – come to destruction,

be lost – but have eternal (everlasting life.” (Amplified Version)

By the age of thirty-two Luke traveled to many countries (Australia, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Venezuela, Malaysia, Singapore, China, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, France, Mexico, Croatia and Monaco). The areas where they stayed the longest he learned several different languages (Hebrew, Ugaritic, Middle Egyptian, Aramaic, and Akkadian).

The longest time was in Israel for 3 1/2 years. These years he attended

the Hebrew University in Jerusalem where he received a MA degree. There he learned the technique for academics, playing music on the drums, as well as studying and reading lots of books. These years he continued to worship and serve in a neighborhood church. God was guiding and directing his life and soon he became a young beginning minister in Regina, Saskatchewan at the Calvary Baptist Church. Later he also received a Ph.D degree in Leiden, Holland.

Luke’s First Preaching Assignment: Then something very

“special” happened that inspired the events of his entire future as a Pastor. With God’s guidance Luke’s passion to reach and touch souls became his real reality. One winter was severe and the roads were closed. The senior minister telephoned him and told him that he most likely would not make it to church to give the message and Luke was given his very first preaching job.

Luke’s prayer for himself today resonates in the fact that “he is not ashamed of the Gospel” as he walks in God’s will for his life. The words of God are the love of his life as he relentlessly studies God’s words to help others learn and follow it in their lives. He is passionate about the neighborhood people and those who do not yet know the Lord. He lives in God’s sovereign will, honoring Almighty God.

Pastor Luke and Sara will always remember what God has done in their lives establishing a blessed future journey here in Fair Oaks as well as in the years to come! Luke’s prayers and heart is for them to always “be tuned into God’s will for their family life” desiring to be serving and discerning what the will of God wants him to do. His favorite books in the Holy Bible are Psalms and Ecclesiastes. He invites you to come and visit them at Sunrise Community Church! Pastor Luke and Sara truly believe “Everything will be done in God’s Time and Season!” To God be all honor and glory. ★

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Back in Business for ALA 383

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runs her own campaign to get elected to positions on the county-wide level to the California Supreme Court. One of the goals is for participants to realize how they, as an individual, can make a difference.

On this evening, Brown, along with three Folsom High volunteers helped with the dinner, working on registration, and preparing and serving meals to members of the post and other guests.

Another group which meets at the post is Saint Andrews (all Scottish) Society of Sacramento. Members meet monthly for a good meal before their board meeting. Their purpose is to encourage Scottish traditions and culture through charitable efforts, social events and much more. Members are also members of the Scottish American Military Society (SAMS), a military service organization.

Following a short break, Brown and her friends helped serve an identical meal to members of the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks prior to their meeting in another part of the post. Hard work is no stranger to these ladies.

Last year's Girl's State delegate, Anna said of her experience, "I felt proud to represent my high school at Girl's State last year.



Friends from Folsom High School (L-R) pose after an evening of service: Nitalie, Anna, 2020 Girls State delegate; Moushmi, Ava, 2021 Girl's State delegate; Alice. Photo by Elise Spleiss

Hearing the City Moms and organization heads speak was amazing, in the sense that it felt like a warm community bond was formed in the little time we had."

Anna added that after talking about community issues with fellow delegates in her city, "It was nice to just talk to the other like-minded delegates who care about their community and our part within them."

Ava will return to report to her now fellow ALA members on what she learned from her week interacting with other Girl's State participants.

On Tuesday May 25, ALA 383 members again gathered to honor their loved ones who had died in the line of duty or following their service. In the lovely Memorial Garden members showed a photo of their

loved one(s), spoke their name(s), branch of service, and war or wars they had served. Stories of miracles and heroism were shared. A bell was rung following each name followed by a moment of silence.

At the meeting following the service, Ava Brown was accepted into membership as an ALA Junior Member.

Monday night fundraiser meals take place every 1st and 3rd Monday and are open to the public for a cost of \$10.00. A no-host bar opens at 5:30 p.m. Meals are served at 6:00 p.m. For information or to make a reservation email ovsuz@comcast.net.

New members are welcome in the American Legion Auxiliary. For information on requirements email ovsuz@comcast.net ★

Grad Parades Celebrate Seniors

Continued from page 1
Mall management.

Bella Vista held their parade a day prior to their graduation and Casa Roble held their parade the day after graduation. Both events were filled with happy participants in decorated cars, wearing graduation robes and huge smiles parading in front of family, friends and fans lining the parade route.

Casa's parade was kicked off with congratulatory remarks from County Supervisor Sue Frost, a trumpet solo from Orangevale musician "Chaz" who played "Pomp and Circumstance" and

the Star Spangled Banner played by the Citrus Heights Marching Band. The parade was led by Sac Metro Fire and streamed by Orangevale Live who interviewed students that thanked parents, teachers and the community for all their support.

By all accounts, both parades were a huge success with heartfelt reviews and accolades from those who watched in person and online.

"This is a tradition we hope will continue for years to come," Conley added. Congratulations to the graduating Class of 2021! We wish you all the best! ★



Cars and family fans lined up for the big celebration at Bella Vista. Photo credit Greg Willey



Big Love, Big Support and Bad Cars showed up to honor the graduates. Photo credit Greg Willey



Look out World! A message of enthusiasm from these Casa Roble grads. Photo by Matt and Heidi Lettau



A truck load of Casa Roble Rams school spirit heading into a new world. Photo by Matt and Heidi Lettau



A triumphant wave good-bye to their high school days. Photo by Tim Engle

Fair Oaks Chamber Corner



By Dot Boyd, Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce

Who knew there was a sequel to last month's story about New Life Community Church giving grants to local businesses?! After awarding seven restaurants with grants of \$5,000 each, NLCC still had \$5000 left to share. FO Chamber Executive Director Kim Pitillo loved being the messenger to deliver ten \$500 checks to some very surprised and grateful recipients: Adamen at Biker Bar, Alina at Sherwood Florist, Angela Nokes of Massages by Angela, Dot Boyd, Senior Safety Specialist (yours truly), Fonda Jo Franyovich of Finishes by Fonda Jo, Karyn BarthMoore of Love Your Skin, Ronda

Leuty of California Ave Skin & Body Works, Olive Branch, Terry at Shadow Glen Riding Stables, and Trude Vasquez of Ships & Trips Travel. I can speak for myself that I was moved to tears when Kim knocked on my door with this generous gift! A huge thank you to New Life Community Church!

Year after year, the Woman's Thursday Club of Fair Oaks has given out scholarships to outstanding graduating seniors at our local high schools. Hats off to Trude Vasquez for chairing the WTC Fashion Show committee which is the major funding source of the scholarships. Even during a pandemic, WTC awarded scholarships to nine accomplished students! Bella Vista: Sophia Butler, Ashley Judish, Delanie Kendall, Gia Prange; Casa Roble: Lindsay Duncan; Del Campo: Valerie Aring, Corinn Burgess, Lizzy Povey, and Jennifer Rosas. Delanie Kendall is our past FO Jr. Honorary Mayor and besides a full load of classes, music, and sports, she has been

actively involved in our FOCC FOYO – FO Youth Outreach group. This may be the first time two sisters have received the WTC scholarship, with older sister Cassie Kendall, former Miss Fair Oaks and part of FOYO, having received hers in 2018! Congratulations to all!!

More great news! Concerts in the Park are happening thanks to FO Recreation & Park District, FO Foundation for Leisure & the Arts, and FOCC. They have booked some of the most popular local bands for June 24th, July 29th, August 26th, and September 30th, on the softball field at Fair Oaks Park from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. The concerts are free and seating is first come, first served. There will be food trucks and beverages sold. No food, beverages or coolers will be allowed in. Please see the special instructions and complete restrictions at www.fairoakschamber.com. Follow Fair Oaks Concerts in the Park on Facebook to stay in the know.

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Dezy's Beef, Bread and Beer is Here!!



Participants at the ribbon cutting included from left: Julie King, Honorary Orangevale Mayor Cliff Wylie, District 4 Supervisor Sue Frost, Jack Frost, MA Povey, & Derek Clark. Photo provided by MaryAnne Povey

By MaryAnne Povey

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - Dezy's Bread is back! And it's not alone! "Dezy" formerly of Dezy Market and OV famous for his one-of-a-kind Sangak bread has moved to a new location at 9346 Greenback Lane, #4, in the OV Downtown Plaza. Besides his new location, Dezy has expanded his menu to now include steak, ground beef and chicken kabobs made from the highest quality meat and seasoned with care. They're sure to become another fan favorite like his bread. And just to make it go down smooth, Dezy's menu offers a nice selection of ice cold beer, wine, and seltzers.

The soft grand opening of Dezy's Beef, Bread and Beer, was celebrated with an Orangevale Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting ceremony, surrounded by community leaders and County Supervisor Sue Frost who congratulated Dezy for his perseverance in achieving his dream.

Before Dezy cut the ceremonial red ribbon he thanked the community for their support and pointed to the American flag hanging on a nearby flag pole saying, "I'm so grateful for that flag. This is the reason I'm here. It means everything to me."

For those who don't know, Dezy is a highly decorated veteran of the US Army Infantry. Prior to joining the military, Dezy worked as an Embassy Liaison for the Swiss Embassy US Interest Section in Tehran. Dezy also worked for the Department of Defense for many years before retiring and embarking on his dream of starting his own business.

If you are looking to try something new,



Dezy celebrates his Grand Opening of Dezy's Beef, Bread and Beer in conjunction with the Orangevale Chamber of Commerce. Photos provided by MaryAnne Povey



that's great to eat on site or take "to go" you'll want to come here! Just look for the flags and you'll find Dezy! Be sure to check out his "Happy Hour" specials Monday - Thursday, from 3 pm - 6 pm. It's the perfect time to try the sampler for \$8.99 and enjoy \$5 beers! His regular business hours are Monday - Saturday 10:30 am - 5:30 pm or Sunday 10:30 - 3:00 pm. Dezy offers discounts to veterans, seniors, first responders and anyone who joins his fan club. Sign up at www.DezysBBB.com ★



The Kiwanis Corner

By Sal Arrigo, Jr.

Kiwanis likes to Horse Around!

The Kiwanis Club of Orangevale - Fair Oaks really does like to horse around- and we proved it with our 1st Annual Kiwanis Kids and Horses family event held on May 21, 2021, at the Shadow Glen Stables in Fair Oaks.

Nearly 70 excited youngsters and their families attended our inaugural event and a good time was had by all. Since the Kiwanis mission is to support children first, the children were the most excited of all. Those who opted to ride climbed aboard their horses and were given a brief lesson about how to instruct the horse to move forward, turn left or right, or to stop completely. Then they were off to participate in a 25-minute trail ride on the stable grounds.

A big thank you goes to the Trail Guide Crew-- Amber, Lori, Bella, Kent and Luke and many more-who donated their time and talent to this wonderful event. A very special thank you goes to the owner of Shadow Glen Stables, Terry Howard, for generously donating his facility for this special event.

Throughout the event, I observed families taking pictures and encouraging their children to enjoy their horse-ride experience. Following their individual horse ride, participants had the option of going on a group wagon



Little Ella Martin gets a horsey ride lesson for the 1st Kiwanis Kids and Horses event at Shadow Glen Stables in Fair Oaks. Photo by Sal Arrigo, Jr.

ride to further enjoy the evening. Afterward, a dinner graciously provided by Chick-fil-A of Granite Bay and the Kiwanis Club awaited them.

This was a terrific event, and one we hope to offer every year. The families thanked us for organizing it and many stated that they look forward to further activities with the Kiwanis Club. The Kiwanis members also had a blast and delighted in this opportunity to talk with parents and children.

Do you want to take part in organizing and staffing the many upcoming events that Kiwanis has planned? Come and visit Kiwanis at El Gallo

Mexican Restaurant, located at 11773 Fair Oaks Blvd., on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Meetings begin at 6:30 pm. We also have social gatherings on the 4th Tuesday of every month (the location varies). Find us on Facebook. [com/KiwanisclubofOFO](https://www.facebook.com/KiwanisclubofOFO) or email us for more information at kiwanisclubofifo@gmail.com.

The Kiwanis Club of Orangevale - Fair Oaks is a tax exempt, nonprofit organization. Our tax I.D. # is 85-0549857.

Sal Arrigo, Jr., is the immediate past president of the Kiwanis Club of Orangevale - Fair Oaks. The Kiwanis Corner is published monthly ★

Fatal Overdoses are Up 35.5% in California, 14th Highest Nationwide

By Emily Lamb, QuoteWizard News

SEATTLE, WA (MPG) - QuoteWizard®, a LendingTree company, and one of the nation's leading online insurance marketplaces, released a new report on a growing number of drug overdose deaths in America.

We found that the number of fatal overdoses has increased by more than 27% since the start of the pandemic. Nationwide, more than 87,000 died of an overdose in 2020, compared to 69,000 in 2019.

A complete breakdown of overdose deaths by state and drug category is available at the link below. The graphics and images included in the report are free to use with a courtesy and study link <https://quotewizard.com/news/posts/drug-overdose-deaths-in-america>

Key findings: Nationwide, 87,203 people died of an overdose in 2020, compared

to 68,757 in 2019. Louisiana, Kentucky and West Virginia have had the highest increases in overdose-related deaths. Pennsylvania, Florida and California had the highest numbers of overdose deaths overall. Combined, opioids account for nearly 70% of overdose deaths.

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Rotary Helps Fund Extra Day of Food Bank Distribution



From the left: Diana Cralle, President of the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks; Keith Wright, Executive Director of the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank; and Nick Broad, incoming president of the Fair Oaks Rotary Foundation. Photo provided by Rotary Club of Fair Oaks

Rotary Club of Fair Oaks

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - The Rotary Club of Fair Oaks and the Orangevale/Fair Oaks Food Bank have enjoyed a warm relationship over the past few years. Rotary has provided volunteers to assist in the distribution of food to needy families at the main location, as well as at the remote location at the New Life Church in Fair Oaks. (Hours of operation can be found on the Food Bank's website www.orangevalefoodbank.org)

Club of Fair Oaks presented the Food Bank with a check for \$15,000! These funds help to pay for the extra day of food distribution from September 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021, as well as to help purchase and install a permanent structure. This structure will help keep Sacramento's hot sun and pesky rain from deterring volunteers and families from giving and receiving food. Last year, Rotary gave the Food Bank funds to install solar panels on the roof of their Main St. facility (drastically reducing the

largest monthly expense!). The Food Bank now has a vegetable garden on the premises that produces nourishing food that can be added to the weekly distribution. Currently, approximately 500 families are served each month. If you are interested in how you can help the Food Bank, or become involved with the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks, simply contact each group on their websites. www.rotaryfairoaks.org - www.orangevalefoodbank.org ★



Keep Circulating

We go from day to day with our heart keeping us beating the drum of our dreams. But do we really understand what it takes to keep it going? **Dr. Susan Smith-Jones** gave me some insight on my POPPOFF Radio Show recently. According to **Dr. Jones**, our cardiovascular system is made up of heart and blood vessels. It transports oxygen and other nutrients to all organs and tissues in our body. And it removes carbon dioxide and other waste products. If the arteries, veins, and capillaries were all laid out end-to-end, would you believe it would extend as far as 60,000 miles long? And the heart is pumping blood throughout. So maintaining healthy circulation is a must.

Here's the important news. **Dr. Jones** told me the quality of foods we eat has a tremendous bearing on our circulatory health. High-fiber, plant-based foods like fruits, veggies, legumes, nuts, and seeds offer the essential vitamins, minerals, and nutrients the body and circulation need to survive. Why? Atherosclerosis is when plaque builds up along the walls of our arteries. Risk factors that can contribute to plaque buildup include high blood pressure, high cholesterol, tobacco use, diabetes, unhealthy diet, low levels of physical health activity, and being overweight or obese. Atherosclerosis can gradually make the arteries narrower, affecting the amount of blood flowing through them. So the organs and tissues may lack oxygen. When atherosclerosis affects the heart arteries, it's called coronary heart disease. Other arteries can also be affected as well...peripheral artery disease. That can affect blood flow to your

legs, feet, arms, and hands. Sometimes an artery may become completely blocked by plaque or a blood clot. Then a heart attack or stroke can occur.

She went on to point out that nitric oxide is a molecule that's produced naturally by our body, and it's important for circulation because it supports vasodilation, meaning it relaxes the inner muscles of the blood vessels, causing them to widen and increase circulation. Some of the best food sources of nitric oxide include beets, celery, lettuce, carrots, green beans, collard greens, parsley, cabbage, and spinach. Here are a few more foods that support healthy circulation...cayenne pepper, pomegranate, onions, cinnamon, garlic, salmon, beets, turmeric, leafy greens, citrus fruits, walnuts, tomatoes, berries, and ginger.

Dr. Susan Smith-Jones taught students at UCLA how to be healthy and fit for thirty years. She has made extraordinary contributions in the fields of well-being, anti-aging, optimum nutrition, and balanced living. She is founder and president of Health Unlimited. She has written over thirty books on these subjects with her latest **"Wired for High-Leve Wellness"** Simple ways to rejuvenate, meditate, and prosper. Don't forget to sign up for her monthly "Healthy Living Newsletters" at her website www.SusanSmithJones.com. And it's absolutely free and filled with great information and delightful thoughts on how to be healthy and stay healthy physically and mentally. During this time of pandemic and so many fears, we need to stay healthy and add happy to the mix too! All you have to do is believe!!! ★

Women's Empowerment Receives \$45k in Grants from Kaiser and State Farm

By Kristin Thebaud, Thebaud Communications

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Women's Empowerment in Sacramento recently received a \$25,000 grant from Kaiser Permanente Northern California Community Benefit Programs and a \$20,000 grant from State Farm to fund employment readiness and paid job training for Sacramento women experiencing homelessness. The grant from Kaiser also will support Women's Empowerment's recovery and domestic violence learning and support groups. The grant from State Farm also will fund financial literacy curriculum. Women's Empowerment is celebrating 20 years of helping women experiencing homelessness find homes and

jobs. The group celebrated its 1,700th graduate in March.

"This is a milestone year for Women's Empowerment, and we would not be here without the generous funding of local companies and foundations that are committed to ending homelessness for women and children in Sacramento," said Lisa Culp, founding executive director, Women's Empowerment. "We are grateful to Kaiser and State Farm for recognizing the important work we do and for understanding that new barriers continue to arise for women experiencing homelessness. Our partners are ensuring Sacramento women and their children can still rise from homelessness amidst a pandemic, high unemployment and housing crisis." ★

Can California Shut Down Failed Projects?



By Dan Walters CALMatters

We human beings hate to admit failure. Even though our brains may know when some endeavor has failed, our emotions and our egos may drive us to continue trying to make it work.

Indeed, the syndrome has developed its own linguistic phrases, such as "throwing good money after bad," or "sunk costs," or "cutting our losses."

Private businesses are usually – but not always – willing to shut down or sell off ventures that don't pan out. Ford Motor Co. famously jettisoned the Edsel, a car named after the beloved son of founder Henry Ford, when the car failed to attract enough buyers. But the Boeing Co. stuck with an elongated version of its 737 jetliner even after two crashed and killed 346 people, and is still trying to make it acceptable.

Government officials are generally less willing to admit failure, perhaps because, unlike business executives, they have no personal financial stakes in outcomes. Their guiding, albeit informal, rule is that launching new programs enhances one's standing while shutting down those that fail just angers their stakeholders.

California's recent history

is replete with examples of programs and projects that deserved merciful deaths but have continued to soak up billions of dollars in taxpayer money.

The woebegone bullet train project is the most spectacular. Voters were promised a statewide network of high-speed trains when they passed a \$9.95 billion bond issue in 2008. Thirteen years later, we have only a few concrete structures in the Fresno area — no track, no trains and no certain date when even a relatively short segment will be operative despite the many billions of dollars spent, or wasted, so far.

It would take a book – a thick book – to fully describe all of the state government's highly touted, very expensive digital information projects that have failed to deliver the promised benefits. While it lacks the scale of the bullet train and the failed information technology projects, Calbright may fall into the same category.

It's former Gov. Jerry Brown's pet project – an online community college that would offer high-quality, low-cost instruction to help working Californians upgrade their job skills.

Tens of millions of dollars have been sunk into Calbright over the past few years but it's actually provided instruction only to a few dozen students — at an enormous per-student cost, of course.

Last month, State Auditor Elaine Howle catalogued Calbright's failures, declaring that "A primary reason...is that

its former executive team failed to develop and execute effective strategies for launching the college."

If Calbright doesn't shape up by next year, Howle told the Legislature, it should be axed. Five days before Howle issued her report, the state Assembly voted unanimously for legislation that "makes the California Online Community College Act inoperative at the end of the 2022-23 academic year."

To be fair, the legislation, Assembly Bill 1432, does not merely reflect an unwillingness to continue a project that has fallen short of its lofty goals. The bill is sponsored by the union that represents faculty at the state's 115 local community colleges and it opposed Calbright from the onset, fearing that it would undermine the existing system.

However, Calbright's obvious shortcomings made it vulnerable to a political death sentence. The fight over its fate now shifts to the state Senate, or perhaps will be decided when legislative leaders and Gov. Gavin Newsom negotiate a final 2021-22 budget deal behind closed doors this month.

If Calbright is jettisoned, perhaps it would mark a new willingness to stop throwing good money after bad. Now how about that bullet train to nowhere?

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

Suspect Arrested: Lewd Acts with Child

By Sergeant Rod Grassmann, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Sheriff's Office/Sacramento Valley Hi Tech Crimes Task Force arrested Steven Richard Kester (75), of Orangevale, for multiple counts of felony Lewd and Lascivious Acts with a Child Under 14. Kester is a retired teacher and former substitute teacher for the Folsom Cordova Unified School

District (FCUSD) and other schools in the Sacramento area. This arrest is the result of a collaborative investigation by the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Kester is currently being held in the Sacramento County Main Jail without bail.

This is an active and ongoing criminal investigation. Any community members with information regarding this investigation are urged to contact the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office at (916) 874-5115. ★

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Our Heavenly Home

By Marlys Johnsen Norris,
Christian Author

A new thought came into my mind this morning I would like to share with you. It was about our life in heaven one day! All are chosen but not all will come! Arrival especially after the Rapture of the church there will be so many more people in heaven. This question came into my mind: How are they going to have a "personal intimate relationship" with God Almighty like we do today?

Pondering that thought God said to me, "Just the same way I do now!" Yes I know God is the same

today, yesterday and tomorrow - He never changes. The work process of Gods Holy Spirit IS: Inspiring, Teaching, Directing and Helping us to learn His laws for living our life. Those who are obedient to learning, are the ones who change and follow!

Then, I thought about the amount of people who will be in heaven and how is God ever going to have time for all of us? Must be similar to how He does it on earth! On this earth His love for each individual being is truly amazing! Possibly in heaven it will be even more amazing!

Then the thought came into my mind about the magnanimous and powerful ways God has already reached us on this earth through the virgin birth, life and death of Jesus Christ to save us from our sinful ways. And we have

the Words of God in the Holy Bible written thousands of years ago to help us understand. Plus God is giving us the gift of eternal life in heaven through His Beloved Son with Him one day.

Then God has miraculously foreseen for us to one day enjoy living forever in heaven with - God, the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Guide, Holy Spirit bring tears to my eyes about the dynamic love of our Creator God and His plan of redemption for those who will BELIEVE! We live with 'THANKSGIVING IN OUR HEARTS.'

Marlys Johnsen Norris
Christian Author and
ARM Columnist since 2006
Stephen's Minister
Marlysjn@gmail.com
PO Box 114,
Orangevale, CA 95662 ★

Social Security Matters

Will My Retirement Benefits Be Cut Because of My State Pension?



By Russell Gloor,
AMAC Certified Social
Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I took early retirement at 20 years from the Louisiana public school system in 1996. Since then, I have continued to work in private schools (except for 2 years in public). I now have over 20 years in the Social Security system. Are they going to take money out of my tiny early LA retirement check or lower my Social Security check? Is it true I can continue working and draw Social Security? I have reached full retirement age - I am 68.

Signed: State Retiree

Dear State Retiree: There are 27 US states (including Louisiana) which, to varying degrees, do not require state employees to contribute to the Federal Social Security program.

Retirees in those states with a pension earned while not contributing to Social Security, and who still earn enough Social Security credits (from other work) to be eligible for Social Security benefits, are affected by a regulation known as the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), which reduces the amount of your Social Security



payment. So, the answer to your question is yes, your Social Security benefit will be reduced as a result of your LA state pension and WEP (your LA retirement benefit won't be affected).

The amount of the reduction to your Social Security benefit will depend upon the number of years of "significant" earnings you have contributing to the Social Security (SS) program. With 20 or fewer years of SS-covered earnings, you would incur the maximum WEP reduction, which is either a) 50% of your LA State pension amount, or b) the maximum WEP reduction to your Social Security benefit would be \$413/month.

Since you say you have "over 20 years" contributing to Social Security, be aware that the size of the WEP reduction to your SS will be smaller for each year over 20 that you have significant SS-covered earnings. For example, with 21 years of SS earnings your WEP reduction would be \$371/month; with 25 years of SS contributions your WEP reduction would

be \$206/month; and with 30 years of SS contributions, WEP would no longer apply. As you can see, the WEP reduction to your SS benefit decreases proportionally with each year over 20 that you have significant earnings and contribute to Social Security, and WEP disappears with 30 years of significant SS earnings.

Be aware that WEP will not affect you until you are collecting both your LA state pension and your Social Security benefit, and that for each full year you continue to work and contribute to Social Security the WEP reduction will diminish. And since you've passed your full retirement age you can collect Social Security and work without your SS benefits being affected. But, in any case, you shouldn't delay claiming your Social Security benefit past age 70 because that is when your SS benefit will reach maximum.

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

To Scam or Not to Scam That Is the Phone Call

Dr. James L. Snyder

One day this past week, I decided to stay home and catch up on a little bit of reading. It's not often that I take a day and not go to the office and just pander around the house.

I had settled down with a stack of books I needed to go through and, of course, a hot cup of coffee to the left of me.

Then I got a phone call. I wasn't prepared for the phone call, so I answered, expecting to talk to someone.

It was a reminder that my car warranty had expired, and if I press number 1, I would be transferred to someone who could renew it. They also said that this is the last opportunity I have to renew my warranty.

I want to get the definition of the word "last." If this is the last opportunity I have, why have I received hundreds of these phone calls?

A few moments later, another phone call came.

I wrestle with the idea of, is it okay to lie to someone who is lying to you?

The lady on the phone congratulated me on winning two round-trip tickets to anywhere I wanted to go. All I needed to do was come to their headquarters and they would put us up for

three days and two nights, and the food was included.

I don't know how ideas dance into my head, but this one did.

I responded to the lady, "I'm sorry, but my religion does not allow me to fly on airplanes."

Sometimes religion can come in handy. I chuckled to myself the rest of the day. When I'm through chuckling, I will confess my sin.

Then I got a phone call I wasn't prepared for. This phone call was from Duke Energy.

According to the person on the phone, they sent me four notifications that my account was delinquent and my electricity would be cut off today. I owed Duke Energy \$998.59 for the last eight months that I have not paid.

If you want to get my attention just tell me you want my money.

"What can I do," I asked in desperation, "to keep from having my electricity cut off?"

"I can help you here," he said, "by lowering your payment to \$698.59."

"If there is anything wrong, we will be able to refund your payment, so there's no risk."

Then, I heard in my head, "ding dong, the witch is

dead."

He gave me a number and I knew it wasn't the right number. After I hung up, I looked up my Duke Energy account and called them, and much to my relief, they told me that it was a scam and that my account was up-to-date.

I thought about this, and perhaps this scam was a payment for lying about the airplane tickets. I could have really been had.

Thinking about what I really could have been involved in brought a little spirit of repentance to my heart. I thought about a verse in the Bible. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7).

When I do negative things, I will reap negative things. And I was about to reap something very negative. But the thing that makes the difference is recognizing it and then repenting.

Dr. James L. Snyder is 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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Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 7

CLUES

ACROSS

- Treble or bass
- Pharaoh's cobra
- Zeus' sister and wife, and character in Broadway musical "Xanadu"
- Hair-dwelling parasites
- Quinceañera or bat mitzvah, e.g.
- Puts money in the bank
- Pearl Harbor locale
- Flair
- Inuit boat
- Record-holding musical for most awards received by a single production, with The
- Broadway hit "Jagged Little"
- Comment to the audience
- Web address
- er at the pump
- Private chapel
- Keats' poem
- Quit
- Medley
- or do nothing
- Right-angle building extension
- Razor nick
- Like lemon
- Make a choice
- 1960s teen idol, Bobby

DOWN

- Hoof sound
- Yarn spinner
- Canyon sound
- Like medieval European society
- Was sick
- Fixed look
- Montblanc and such
- Musical with record number of Tony nominations
- Like most fairytale stepmothers
- Madrid's Club de Fútbol
- Pose a question
- Chef's prescription
- Toyota sports car model
- Shylock's practice
- Coffee pot
- Bob, choreographer with most Tony awards
- Break a leg or "have two left feet," e.g.
- Reduce pressure (2 words)
- Eye up and down
- Mediterranean appetizer
- Type of potato masher
- Ox connectors
- Tiresias in "Oedipus Rex," e.g.
- Feverish

36. NYC district
38. Washington, e.g.
40. Sun's descent
41. Onion-like herb
44. Seize by force
46. Obsolete office position
48. Spurious wing
49. Comedy and tragedy, on a Tony medallion
50. Attired
51. James Jones, multiple Tony winner
52. Old World duck
53. Like Silver's owner
54. H or O in H2O, e.g.
55. Make a raucous noise
56. Mogul equipment

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Find Puzzles on Page 7

C	L	E	F		A	S	P		H	E	R	A					
L	I	C	E		R	I	T	E		S	A	V	E	S			
O	A	H	U		E	L	A	N		U	M	I	A	K			
P	R	O	D	U	C	E	R	S		P	I	L	L				
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I	D	L	Y						W	A	S			T	E	M	P

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7

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

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Assemblyman Kiley Responds to Newsom's False Claims about Jobs Report

By Joshua Hoover, Office of Assemblyman Kevin Kiley

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Assemblyman Kevin Kiley (R-Rocklin) responded to Governor Gavin Newsom's claim that California is leading the nation's economic recovery.

"Does Governor Newsom really look around and think we're creating 40 percent of the nation's jobs?" Assemblyman Kiley asked. "California's economy continues to struggle as much as any state in the country. Yet rather than face this reality and correct course, the Governor is presenting us with a Potemkin village."

The facts outlined in the April jobs report paint a dismal economic picture for California. The state's 8.3 percent unemployment rate is unchanged from March and the second highest in the nation, well above the national rate of 6.3 percent; Florida's rate is 4.8 percent. The overall

number of unemployed Californians went down a mere 3,200. In addition, the labor force participation rate declined in California while increasing nationally.

Despite these sobering facts, Governor Newsom is citing the jobs report as evidence "California is continuing to lead the nation's economic recovery," claiming that California created nearly 40 percent of the nation's new jobs in April. In fact, the "unadjusted" figure is 14 percent.

California's poor economic performance in 2021 is a result of conscious planning by the Governor. His January budget proposal forecast 8.5 percent unemployment for the year and predicted jobs would not return the "pre-pandemic" levels until 2025.

"As the Legislature debates the budget in the coming weeks, I'll continue to advocate for a fundamental course correction that sets high expectations for a swift

recovery and unleashes California's full economic potential." This includes: Taking a science-based approach to school openings rather than being 50th in the country, so parents can return to work. Taking a science-based approach to business openings rather than being 50th in the country, so businesses can resume operations without fear of further shutdowns. Taking a science-based approach to masking rather than ignoring the CDC's guidance. Structuring unemployment assistance to incentivize a return to work. Forgiving all COVID-related fines, penalties, and license revocations. Providing liability protection for businesses, while reforming PAGA and other litigation traps. Offering meaningful tax relief such as Net Operating Loss carrybacks. Removing arbitrary barriers to work such as Assembly Bill 5. Addressing the "surplus" with durable tax reform rather than arbitrary one-time payments. ★

California State Board of Equalization Adopts \$126.8 Billion in Assessed Property Value

By Peter Kim, California State Board of Equalization

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California State Board of Equalization (BOE) unanimously adopted the \$126.8 billion in assessed property values of 341 companies within California, which include telephone, gas, and electric companies, independent power producers, regulated railroads, and intercounty pipelines. In the upcoming fiscal year, schools and local communities statewide will receive a total of approximately \$1.99 billion in property tax revenue resulting from the Board exercising one of its core constitutional functions.

"The BOE's critical role protects the tax dollars

schools and local communities depend on every day," said BOE Chairman Antonio Vazquez. "On behalf of the entire Board, I commend BOE staff for their expertise and hard work as today's action translates to funding teachers, public safety officials, parks, and roads across California."

Whereas most property in California is assessed by the 58 County Assessors, the BOE serves as the "59th assessor" by directly assessing certain public utilities, regulated railroads, and intercounty pipelines throughout the state. Also, since these properties are not subject to Proposition 13, the BOE annually determines the market value or the "unitary value" of property that includes improvements, personal property, and land.

The BOE develops the fair market value by considering market conditions, use of and income generated by the property, replacement costs, investments in the property, regulatory climate, depreciation, and other factors as of the January 1 lien date.

For fiscal year 2021-22, there was a 6.7% increase in the total value from last year in the amount of \$7.9 billion which will generate approximately more than \$124 million additional tax dollars. County governments will use the values set by the BOE to levy the local property taxes.

The entire list of assessed property values and more information on the State-Assessed Properties Program is available on the BOE website. ★

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A Busy Playmakers Summer

Local Non-Profit Offers Free Inclusive Sports for At-Risk Kids

Story by Shaunna Boyd

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Playmakers Organization is a local non-profit that offers free inclusive sports events for at-risk kids, including foster kids and kids with developmental differences. “Today, inclusiveness is more important than ever,” said Playmakers founder Greg Roeszler (Coach Roz). The Playmakers goal is to provide resources and support to families while giving kids the opportunity to participate in sports. Coach Roz said, “Team experiences help in their overall development, giving kids a sense of team and a sense of accountability.”

All kids deserve the chance to participate, play, and thrive – but not all kids have the same opportunities. At-risk kids are already more likely to be living in a home without a father figure, and Coach Roz explained that the risk increases even more if the child has a disability. Living in a single-parent home comes with challenges that make it more difficult to participate in team sports.

Foster children also face barriers to team sports. Frequent moves to new homes and schools create a lack of stability, making it nearly impossible for them to continue with a team sport. And foster families often can’t afford the high cost of traditional team sports, nor the commitment to multiple practices each week.

To bridge this gap in opportunity, The Playmakers Organization has a busy summer planned, with activities and events that will reach more than 2,000 kids and their families. The summer will begin with football camps in Buffalo,



The hurdles drill tests participants’ speed and agility. Photo by Shaunna Boyd



Participants practice their hitting techniques while breaking through the dummy bags. Photo by Shaunna Boyd

New York; Omaha, Nebraska; and Orange City, Iowa. Here in the Sacramento Region, the Playmaker River City Fun Day cornhole tournament will

be held July 10 at River City Church, and The Harrison Phillips Man of the Year Golf Tournament will be held in Rancho Murieta on July

11-12. The Mike McGlinchey Playmaker Football Camp will be on July 17 at the Fremont School for the Deaf, and the Izzie Lueken Soccer Camp will

be held August 7 (location to be determined).

New this year, Playmakers is launching an All-Inclusive Sports league with weekly games. With a baseball season, football season, and basketball season, participants will be able to engage with sports year-round. The practice and game will be held on the same day, and kids can attend as often as they are able. Coach Roz explained that kids will be able to come whenever they can and they’ll have a uniform, a coach, a referee, teammates, and “people cheering for them.”

To reach the kids most in need, Playmakers is partnering with Autism Speaks; Big Brothers Big Sisters; and Defending the Cause Regional Alliance, which coordinates with foster agencies and advocates for children in the foster system.

Since Playmakers is designed to support kids and enrich their lives, Coach Roz wanted them to have a voice in the organization’s direction. The Playmakers Children’s Board of Directors gives kids a unique opportunity to learn leadership skills and responsibility. He says the most important thing for all children is to have someone “just communicate with them and develop a relationship with them.”

The league and camps are completely free to kids and their families. As a non-profit, Playmakers depends on generous donations from the community, and there are always various opportunities for volunteers and sponsorships.

Visit www.ThePlaymakers.org to learn more about The Playmakers Organization and sign up for upcoming events. ★

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Sacramento Teachers of the Year Recognized at River Cats Game



Vicky Warren, 9th - 12th Grade (Health, Art), Casa Roble Fundamental High School pictured with SCOE Superintendent David Gordon (left) and SchoolsFirst FCU CEO Bill Cheney (right). Photo provided by Bouchard Communications Group

By Elizabeth Anderson, Bouchard Communications Group

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - For the first time in two years, Sacramento-area Teachers of the Year were honored at a River Cats game on Sunday, May 23, at Sutter Health Park. The celebration did not happen last year due to the pandemic. As a result, this year's event had a larger than normal slate of 27 honorees being celebrated for both the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years.

SchoolsFirst FCU is sponsoring the celebration. "We are proud to serve the educational community throughout the Sacramento region, and are grateful of these deserving teachers who work tirelessly to contribute to the foundation of our community and a student's future. We are especially appreciative of all they've done to teach and support students and their families during this most difficult year," said SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union's President and CEO, Bill Cheney. "It is an honor to partner with the Sacramento County Office of Education and the Sacramento River Cats organization to celebrate these leaders in education."

The Teachers of the Year recognized included: 2019-2020 School Year

Jessica Kahn, K-5th Grade (Counseling Enriched Program), White Rock Elementary; **Diane M. Beeken Boyd**, English, Mesa Verde High School; **Svetlana Popov**, Mathematics, Rio Americano High School
2020 - 2021 School Year

Monica Burlando, 3rd Grade, Misson Avenue Open Elementary School; **Vicky Warren**, 9th - 12th Grade (Health, Art),

Casa Roble Fundamental High School Honorees were treated to two tickets to the Sunday River Cats game, food vouchers, and special swag. They also received special recognition in the stadium during the game. In addition, four of the teachers that were selected as Sacramento County Teachers of the Year, were honored on the field in a special pre-game recognition, including Belinda Foster, Lynda Bettencourt, Gewon Richards, and Julie Fong.

"Teachers dedicate their lives to supporting and nurturing our children and deserve recognition. We are grateful to the Sacramento River Cats and SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union for leading the way in celebrating our area's top teachers and helping more people better understand their essential role in our community," said David W. Gordon, Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools.

SchoolsFirst FCU, the largest credit union in the country focused on serving school employees, is dedicated to improving the financial lives of its Members and providing World-Class Member service. SchoolsFirst FCU was founded in 1934 as Orange County Teachers Credit Union, when 126 school employees pooled \$1,200 and established a cooperative financial institution to help improve each other's lives. Today they serve more than 1.1 million school employees and their families with a full range of financial products and services – from savings and loans to investment, retirement and insurance products. SchoolsFirst FCU ended 2020 with more than \$23 billion in assets and remains the largest credit union in California, and the fifth largest nationwide. ★

San Juan Unified Names 2021/2022 Teachers of the Year

SJUSD Press Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - When Trajan Elementary School 4th and 5th grade combination teacher Michele Horner was surprised with flowers and balloons in her classroom, she began shaking.

She hadn't expected to be named one of San Juan Unified's Teachers of the Year for the 2021-2022 school year.

Likewise, Bella Vista High School teacher Michael Lee stood in shock at his announcement, stating this surprise made his week.

At San Juan Unified, teachers are not just chosen for their student-focus, but their site leadership, willingness to make adjustments, and their focus on ensuring our students are being taken care of emotionally and socially during this difficult year.



Michele Horner teaches 4th and 5th grade combination class at Trajan Elementary School in Orangevale, Calif. Photo: SJUSD

the Year, she wrote about this past year and how it has been different than any other. Adding, she feels teachers will need to do more to help students overcome the trauma and obstacles this last year may have come with.

"As this past year has been unprecedented, I think education is going to need to take a broader instructional view than just reading and writing," Horner said. "Teachers will need to explicitly teach their students stress-management and mindfulness techniques so they can process emotions when they come up. If educators create this space for their learners, students will recover from the trauma of this past year and begin to learn again."

In Lee's application he went further in detail about what it means to create this space for students not just during trauma but everyday to connect with students through thoughtful changes.

"An engaged, energetic, hard-working teacher will always do well for kids, but these kids are less equipped for a sit down, be quiet and listen classroom." He added, "kids need to know you are there for them, there for their success, have high expectations for them and yet create an environment that is both interesting and fun to 'this' generation."

Both Lee and Horner are now nominated to be the Sacramento County Office of Education Teacher of the Year. ★



Michael Lee teaches a variety of classes at Bella Vista High School in Fair Oaks, Calif. Photo: SJUSD

Both these teachers have spent years mastering their crafts and learning how to connect with students in this district.

Lee began teaching at Bella Vista High School 29 years ago and has been at the school ever since. Lee has taught Economics, Driver's Education/ Health, AP Psychology, Psychology, Math A, U.S. History, Physical Education, Freshman Orientation and is planning to start a new class on campus: Sports Psychology.

As for Horner, she has taught at the district for the past 21 years, with the last seven spent at Trajan Elementary School.

In Horner's application for Teacher of

Measure J Big-Ticket Projects Going to Bid Soon

Continued from page 1
District will have to cover the cost for the pipe, so the Park District has submitted a proposal that will need to be approved by the Boards of Directors of both the Water District and the Park District.

Bids open this month for demolition of the former salon building, with work expected to start at the end of July. But Aho said he can't give a reliable estimate for construction starting in the parks until the water line issue is resolved, since that work will be done at the same time as the park improvements. "We don't want to close streets and impact people anymore than we have to," said Aho.

Construction on Streg Park starts this month, with expected completion in October. A section of the property that Aho called "a maintenance nightmare" is planned to be quitclaimed to an adjacent homeowner. Tree removal was recently completed on that section; the work was paid for by the homeowner but will be reimbursed by the District if for some reason the quitclaim isn't approved by the County.

The Board recently approved a plan for installing pickleball courts (a sport Aho said is quickly gaining popularity) over the skatepark in Fair Oaks Park. The skatepark would be moved to the location of a lightly used basketball court at the same park. The Board approved \$475,000 of Measure J funds for this

project. Public outreach still needs to be conducted as part of the design phase.

The plan to increase parking at Phoenix Park will also move forward, with a \$1.6 million cost estimate approved by the Board. An existing dirt and gravel lot will be paved, creating approximately 70 parking spaces. To save money on construction costs, additional dirt lots at Fair Oaks Preschool and Miller Park will also be looped into the project, but those will not be funded by Measure J.

A budget of \$4.1 million was already approved for softball fields at Phoenix Park, but the District plans to shift those plans to the La Vista property. The District is negotiating terms with the San Juan School District to lease the property, with terms outlining an eventual purchase of the land. The girls softball teams already play at La Vista, so Aho said creating established facilities there makes the most sense – and adding additional users to Phoenix would only increase the existing parking issue.

Aho asked the BOC to provide input on a potential Measure J project that will be presented to the Board: replacing lighting fixtures at the Miller Park tennis courts. Updating the fixtures to LED lighting will cost approximately \$70,000 and will save the District \$12,000 annually. There is \$9,000 in a sports field lighting account that can only be used to update

lighting at softball or baseball fields, so lighting at the Fair Oaks Park softball fields can be looped into the project so those funds can be accessed. Including the softball lighting will likely double the estimated cost, as well as the estimated annual savings. The majority of BOC members supported the project.

Allocated Measure J money includes \$200,000 for Streg Park, \$461,232 for completed playground resurfacing, and \$30,000 for the completed Bike Pump Track at Phoenix. Projects that will soon be going to bid include \$7.4 million for Village/Plaza Park, \$7.9 million for the Amphitheatre, and \$3.5 million for Community Clubhouse upgrades and other associated costs. With the estimated costs for the Phoenix parking lot, La Vista softball fields, and Pickleball/Skatepark, the total of Measure J funding budgeted so far is \$25.6 million, out of \$26.9 approved through the bond. If all these projects move forward at the estimated budgets, just over \$1.2 million of Measure J funds will remain.

The District was recently awarded \$422,952 in grant funds from the state, while also hoping for approval of various other grant applications totaling over \$10.6 million. If those grants are approved, Aho said the money will replace Measure J funds in certain projects, which would free up more Measure J funds for other projects. ★

Host Your Next Event with Regional Parks

By Ken Casparis, Sacramento City News

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks is excited to welcome back youth sports and recreation, and they have multiple locations available to host your next event while adhering to current COVID-19 guidelines.

With the loosening of the state's restrictions related to youth sports and special events, Regional Parks would like to remind residents of the wonderful facilities available to them.

"We know people are ready to get back to special events, and we're ready to welcome them back," said Liz Bellas, Director of Regional Parks. "Whether you need a single sports field or ten, a wedding venue, or a running event location, we are able to comfortably accommodate your needs!"

Regional Parks' sporting event and outdoor recreation areas include: **Cherry Island Sports Complex** is home to ten full-size sports fields in a natural regional park setting. The complex has a history of hosting tournaments and competitions throughout the year and serves as a training venue for local clubs. **The American River Parkway** runs from Discovery Park in the west to Hazel Ave in the east. Whether you are hosting a running race or an archery competition, you will find beautiful facilities along the American River Parkway. **Gibson Ranch Regional Park** has an equestrian center, a lake, Ranch House for weddings, a playground, and many picnic sites! If you're looking to host your next event in a country setting, look no further than Gibson Ranch. **Golf Courses** – Regional Parks owns and manages three

championship golf courses and one nine-hole executive golf course for residents and visitors to enjoy. The courses offer a variety of settings and designs for a wide range of player skills.

As COVID-19 conditions change, so do the restrictions.



With the loosening of the State's restrictions related to youth sports and special event, Regional Parks is excited to welcome back youth sports and recreation. Photo courtesy Dominika Roseclay

To reserve sport fields, picnic and BBQ sites, or other facilities, email Regional Parks at ParkEvents@SacCounty.net or call 916-875-6336. Visit the Regional Parks website to learn more about their other park amenities. ★

WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats



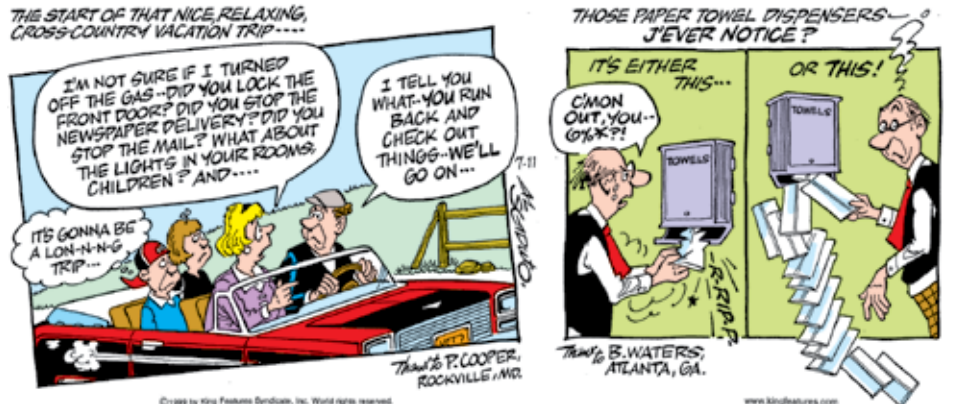
by Jeff Pickering

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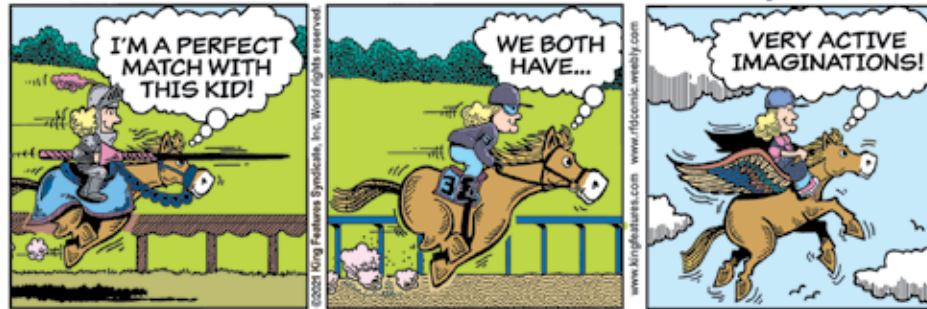
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<p>PRECIOUS CAT CAT LITTER 20 Lb Box Limit 2 Boxes Cat Attract \$12.99 Touch of Outdoors \$7.99</p>	<p>HEINZ PUP-PERONI DOG TREATS •Beef •Lean •Bacon •Prime Rib 25 Oz Pkg Limit 2 Pkgs \$9.49</p>	<p>CAREFRESH PET BEDDING 60 Liter (Ultra Not Included) \$16.49</p>
<p>WELLNESS DRY DOG FOOD 24-30 Lb Bag •Chicken •Senior •Healthy Weight •Grain Free Adult \$53.99 •Grain Free Lamb •Grain Free White Fish \$56.99</p>	<p>MERRICK'S WHOLE EARTH FARMS DRY DOG FOOD •Grain Free Chicken/Turkey •Grain Free Pork, Beef & Lamb 25 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags per Family \$7 OFF OUR REGULAR LOW PRICES</p>	

MIDWEST METAL PRODUCTS

•Exercise Pens •Contour Crates •Crates •Ovation Trainer All Varieties **20% OFF**
 OUR SUPER LOW PRICES

<p>TRUE CHEWS PREMIUM JERKY CUTS All Varieties 100% Natural 10-12 oz pkg (20-22 Oz bag \$13.99) \$7.99</p>	<p>FELINE GREENIES CAT TREATS (Smart Bites not Included) All Varieties \$1.99</p>
<p>RUFF DAWG TOUGH DOG TOYS All Varieties 20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES</p>	<p>J&W GROOMING PRODUCTS All Varieties 20% OFF OUR SUPER LOW PRICES •Brushes •Deshedding Tools •Flea Comb •Nail Clippers</p>

HAGEN FLUVAL FILTER SALE

MODEL.....TANK.....PET CLUB SALE	MODEL.....TANK.....PET CLUB SALE
107...25 GAL..... \$87.99	307...70 GAL..... \$131.99
207...40 GAL..... \$99.99	407...100 GAL..... \$169.99

AQUEON BOXED 10 GALLON TANK

With Economy Kit Just add Heater For Tropical Fish **\$44.99** Limit 1 Per Family

KORDON WATER CONDITIONERS	KORDON CORAL SEA
Amquel 16 Oz..... \$7.99	50 GAL SALT MIX WITH AMQUEL \$14.99
Amquel Plus 16 Oz..... \$8.99	
Novaqu Plus 16 Oz..... \$8.49	

<p>BONUS COUPON FRISKIES BUFFET CANNED CAT FOOD 5.5 Oz All Varieties Limit 1 Case With Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon Effective 6/9/21 - 6/15/21 ON SALE Everyday CHM PLU 367</p>	<p>BONUS COUPON WHISKAS TEMPTATIONS CAT TREATS •Selected Varieties - 3 Oz Limit 2 Pkgs with Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon Effective 6/9/21 - 6/15/21 \$1.39 CHM PLU 569</p>	<p>BONUS COUPON JONNY CAT CAT LINERS Jumbo Drawstring - 5 Ct Limit 1 Box with Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon Effective 6/9/21 - 6/15/21 \$2.09 CHM PLU 449</p>
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Helping Business Succeed

Does your business need **free and confidential help** with:

- Hazardous material plans?
- Managing hazardous materials and wastes?
- Starting a new business (restaurant, food truck/cart, automotive, manufacturing, or other business type)?
- Compliance before or after a regulatory inspection?
- One-on-one onsite help at your business with local, state, federal regulatory compliance and permits?
- Compliance with new and existing regulatory and permit procedures?

Service area:
County of Sacramento including the cities of Sacramento, Folsom, Citrus Heights, Rancho Cordova, Elk Grove, Galt.

The Business Environmental Resource Center (BERC) is a free and confidential non-regulatory consultation service designed to help start-up, new and existing businesses navigate and comply with environmental and regulatory permit requirements. BERC Consultants clearly help guide you through the process, which **saves you time and money!**

Regulatory and Permit Assistance : Hazardous materials and wastes (including electronic reporting), Health Permits for food businesses (food trucks/carts, restaurants, markets, gasoline stations, including homebased operations), Air quality, Building inspection, Business license, Economic Development, Planning/Zoning, Solid Waste & Recycling, Cal-OSHA, storm water and Waste Water.

What do businesses say about BERC help?

"I own a small auto repair business and can't afford to pay anyone to help me with Environmental Issues. BERC has helped me since 2009 and I greatly appreciate it!"-Automotive Owner.

"We consider BERC a critical member of our team. **BERC demystifies the industrial permitting process in a confidential, business supportive manner.** The **BERC staff are experts** on the overwhelming industrial permitting process, making permitting a business a simple process"-Senior Vice President, Corporate Community

BERC staff is available to help you with compliance assistance in a **free and confidential** manner.



Contact us today for **free and confidential help**:

(916)874-2100 or BERCadmin@saccounty.net

Visit our website: www.sacberc.org