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AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 04

Serving Fair Oaks, Orangevale & Sacramento County

FEBRUARY 21, 2020

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Kindness is Contagious!



Principal Dr. Jennifer Lawson shows the Tree of Kindness which 6th graders produced, pasting cut-outs of their hands with written kind wishes towards others during the Kindness Challenge Week. Photo by Patrick Larenas

*"You got to try a little kindness
Yes show a little kindness
Just shine your light
for everyone to see"*

By Sal Arrigo, Jr.

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - Glen Campbell sang these words back in 1970. It does not matter if you know who this person was or not, but the

message is clear: we should try showing a little kindness every day. You do not have to look very far to see this spirit at Twin Lakes Elementary School in Orangevale. During the week of January 23, 2020, Twin Lakes had their annual "Kindness Week Challenge" where 6th grade student volunteers planned out events for the entire week to showcase that kindness can be contagious.

I had the pleasure of meeting two of the 6th grade planning committee students who told me, "This week impacts the school in a powerful way." I asked, how so? "Kids will listen to kids on being kind to one another." So what exactly does Twin Lakes do during Kindness Week? Principal Dr. Jennifer Lawson, who instituted the Kindness Challenge

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Spring FBI Teen Academy Application Deadline

Federal Bureau of Investigation Office of Public Affairs

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Sacramento Field Office encourages all high school juniors within the office's 34-county area of responsibility to apply to attend the FBI Teen Academy. All high school juniors—whether enrolled in public, private, charter, or home school—may apply.

The Spring 2020 FBI Teen Academy is on Friday, April 3, 2020, at the FBI Sacramento Field Office headquarters in Roseville, CA. Students chosen to attend the academy spend an informative, interactive day learning about the FBI's investigative priorities, participating in unique, interactive experiences, and engaging directly with FBI personnel. Graduates of the course are more aware of the threats their communities face, the challenges presented by the online environment, and the personal choices that can affect their future careers, better preparing them to mentor their peers.

Interested students must download the Spring 2020 FBI Teen Academy application from the FBI Sacramento Field Office's Community Outreach web page, obtain signatures on all forms, and complete an essay as directed in the application instructions. All application packages must arrive by mail, package delivery service, or be dropped off at FBI Sacramento Field Office Headquarters by 4 p.m. on Friday, March 6, 2020. Students cannot submit applications electronically.

The FBI Teen Academy is a free experience for students attending the academy class; however, families may incur personal expenses for any travel necessary to attend.

The FBI Sacramento Field Office serves 34 of California's 58 counties: Alpine, Amador, *Continued on page 7*

Coronavirus Update and Reminder About the Flu

By Brenda Bongiorno, Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County Public Health is closely monitoring the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) that originated in Wuhan, China and has spread to other parts of the world, including the U.S. Currently, there are no confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV in Sacramento County, and exposure risk of 2019-nCoV remains low in Northern California.

Working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health and the local medical community, Sacramento County Public Health has a plan in place to identify, isolate, test and investigate any potential cases of 2019-nCoV in Sacramento County.

Sacramento County Health Officer, Dr. Olivia Kasirye, reminds residents, "Currently the risk of exposure to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is low. Community healthcare providers are monitoring for acute respiratory illness cases and gathering recent travel information for specimen testing per CDC guidance. Like we do for other reportable communicable diseases, we are prepared and are conducting surveillance on this new virus strain."

Symptoms of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) are very similar to the flu, including: runny nose, headache, cough, sore throat, fever and shortness of breath.

To help prevent the spread of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), practice every day preventative actions:

Wash your hands often

with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer;

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands;

Avoid close contact with people who are sick;

Stay home when you are sick;

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash;

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces;

People experiencing worsening flu symptoms should seek medical attention – call ahead if recently traveled to China or have had contact with a person with confirmed 2019-nCoV while they were ill.

While the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is concerning, what poses a much greater and more

imminent risk in our community is the flu virus. According to the CDC, the flu virus caused roughly 61,000 flu deaths in the U.S. in the 2017-18 season.

You can protect yourself, your family and the community from getting the flu, simply by getting the flu shot. It's quick, it's easy, it's not too late and the shot provides the best protection against getting the flu. For immunization services, contact the Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) Immunization Assistance Program at 916-875-SHOT (7468) or use the HealthMap Flu Vaccine Finder.

The CDC website shares updated travel health information and frequent updates on the outbreak. To stay up-to-date on what is happening in Sacramento County, sign up for email and text updates or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.★



SUE FROST HAS BEEN ENDORSED BY THE MEN & WOMEN OF LAW ENFORCEMENT BECAUSE SHE WORKS WITH THEM TO KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOODS SAFE.

Paid for by Sue Frost for Supervisor 2020 ID #1380596



Constitution Specialist to Speak at SRWF Luncheon



Member Mariluz Bucannan meeting with Candidates Tamika Hamilton for US CD3, Lt. Col. Buzz Patterson for US CD7 and Chris Bish for US CD6. Photo Provided by SRWF

By Janet Gardner,
Sacramento Republican Women Federated

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Republican Women Federated once again provided an excellent opportunity for Republicans to share their Platforms in our "Whistle Stop" Candidate Forum at last month's luncheon. With close to 100 in attendance everyone was still able to meet their candidates.

Our next luncheon meeting will feature Guest Speaker Douglas V. Gibbs, United States Constitution Specialist. Doug is a Radio Host, Author, Public Speaker and outspoken proponent for the spread of constitutional literacy and patriotic advocacy. He is an award winning blogger and free-lance newspaper columnist whose articles appear in both print and online. You can learn more about him on his website page and Facebook page:

<http://www.douglasvgibbs.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/douglasvgibbs>

The upcoming luncheon will be on March 4, 2020 at North Ridge Country Club, 7600 Madison Avenue, Fair Oaks, CA.

Make your reservations early 916 733-1623 or online reservations www.sacramentorwf.org

Reservation Deadline is Friday, February 28, 2020 at noon
Lunch is Beef Ravioli with Housemade Marinara (includes coffee, tea and Cheesecake for dessert) \$29

Registration begins at 11 am-12 noon with Lunch at 12 noon.

Save April 1st for our April luncheon meeting when we will feature a consistent favorite, the Executive Director of Gun Owners of California, Sam Paredes.

Sacramento Republican Women Federated is an affiliate of the National Federation of Republican Women and is dedicated to educating women in Republican principles, increasing the effectiveness of women in the political cause and to introducing the platforms of candidates of the Republican Party in all elections. If you are interested in joining the club, you can contact our Membership Chair: Membership@sacramentorwf.org or go to www.sacramentorwf.org and join online.

The Tibetan Monks of Gaden Shartse Monastery Tour



The Tibetan Buddhist Monks from the Gaden Shartse Monastery's Sacred Arts of Tibet.
Photo credit Gaden Shartse Cultural Foundation

By Jesse Gilliam,
Sierra Friends of Tibet Auburn

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Sierra Friends of Tibet Auburn, in conjunction with the General Gomez Arts and Events center, is pleased to announce the return of the Tibetan Monks from Gaden Shartse Monastery's Sacred Earth and Healing Arts Tour February 24 - March 4 2020 presented at the General Gomez Arts and Event Center.

This much anticipated event (beginning Feb 24 at 6pm) will provide a variety of Tibetan cultural presentations for 10 days giving area residents and visitors a chance to experience first-hand the unique culture of the Tibetan people and the rich traditions of Tibet and Tibetan Buddhism. This will include the creation of a beautiful Sand Mandala, carefully constructed over the course of their 10 day visit, following ancient Buddhist symbolic designs. Each grain of sand will be carefully laid down by hand using techniques unchanged for millennia. The public will be able to observe and enjoy this moving and meditative process as the monks work. Come throughout the 10 days to fully experience the ever changing work in process. The Gomez Arts and Events Center will be open daily for Mandala viewing from 10:00 am until 6:00pm.

When the mandala is finished, there will be a special ritual to bless the mandala and mark its completion. Following



Completed Sand Mandala. Photo credit Tripp Mikich

the blessing the mandala will be ritually dissolved (always a 'standing room only' event), highlighting by example the Buddhist view of impermanence. The sand is then swept up into a pile with small portions of the sand being offered as gifts to members of the audience. The rest of the sand is taken to a body of water where, after a short ceremony, it will be poured into the water as a blessing to purify the environment and all the beings that inhabit it.

Other events will include:

- Dharma Teachings
- Public Talks
- Group and Individual Healings
- Workshops and Family Events
- Land - Home - Business Blessings

The General Gomez Arts and Event Center
808 Lincoln Way, Auburn CA 95603

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Market - Days: 8am - 10pm
Food Court - 7 Days: 11am - 8:30pm
(Chinese: 11:30am - 8:30pm)

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

	REG. \$16.99/EA \$10.99 /ea		REG. \$4.99/EA \$2.99 /ea
Breaded Calamari Rings 32 oz • 2 lb		Fruit Mochi 3 Kinds 7.6 oz • 2 kg	

WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS

	\$3.59 /lb		\$2.99 /lb		\$3.29 /lb
Beef T-Bone Steak Filet de T-Bone		Beef Rump Bottom Round Roast Pkg. Contains 1 Top Sirloin		Beef Bottom Round Steak - Boneless Pkg. Contains Beef as Bone	
	\$3.99 /lb		\$1.59 /lb		\$1.99 /lb
Beef Porterhouse Steak Filet de Porterhouse		Pork Loin Roast Boneless Loin de Cordero Assado with Bone		Pork Loin Chops Boneless Chignons de Cordero with Bone	

Advertised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 19 - FEBRUARY 25, 2020.

FRESH PRODUCE

SALES FOR PRODUCE WILL BEGIN ON WEDNESDAYS @ 12:00PM

	2.83		10.81		1.69		59¢		1.99
Whole White Mushrooms 8 oz		Limes		Romaine Hearts 3 Pk		Jicama		Fuji Apples 3 lb	
	89¢		2.99		79¢		8.99		1.29
Mexican Squash		White Potato 10 lb Bag		Crown Broccoli		Young Thai Coconut 6 Ct		Opo Squash	

AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY

	69¢ /ea		99¢ /ea		59¢ /ea		\$2.99 /ea		99¢ /ea
CVS Coconut Water w/ Pulp 16.5 fl oz		Vanilla Extract 8.4 fl oz		Hunts Tomato Sauce 8 oz		Frank's Red Hot Original 12 fl oz		Nestle Media Cream 7.6 - 8 fl oz	

ASIAN GROCERY

	\$1.59 /ea		\$4.59 /ea		99¢ /ea		\$2.29 /ea		\$1.99 /ea
Bottle of Soy Sauce		6 Pack		Soybean Oil		Nissin Noodle		Condensed Milk	

EUROPEAN GROCERY

	\$6.99 /ea		\$7.99 /ea		\$5.99 /ea		\$3.99 /ea		\$9.99 /ea
Wella's Sunflower & Coconut Oil Blend 2 Liters		Pyrrol Pure Entry Comb 150 gr		Almond Tea English Tea No. 1 100 1/2 Oz		Tosoni Ladyfinger 500 gr		Valrhona French Soft Shave Milk Chocolate 600 gr	

KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY

	9.99 /ea		4.99 /ea		99¢ /ea		1.99 /ea		2.99 /ea		2.99 /ea
Light Milk & Brown Rice 25 lb Bag		Soybean Oil		Jack Falls 2 Kinds		Organic Sweet Brown Rice 2 lb		Sweet Potato Noodles 15 lb		CJ Korean Bibb Lettuce 2.56 lb	
	2.99 /ea		1.99 /ea		1.49 /ea		3.99 /ea		1.99 /ea		4.99 /ea
Rice 14.10 lb		Beef Bulgoggi 5 x 3.5 oz		Napa Cabbage 26 x 4.5 oz		Beef Bulgoggi 5 x 3.5 oz		Cory Root w/ Vegetables 3.5 Kinds 7 oz		Yogurt 15.25 lb	

HOUSEWARES

	\$299.99		\$109.99
DinChae Premium Pressure Cooker - 5 Colors - 10 Cup		Electric Rice Cooker - 10.5 Cup	
	\$29.99		3.99
Electric Rice Cooker - 4.5 Cup		Electric Rice Cooker - 4.5 Cup	
	4.99		6.99
Electric Rice Cooker - 4.5 Cup		Electric Rice Cooker - 4.5 Cup	

FROZEN & FISH DEPARTMENT

	\$4.99 /ea		\$6.99 /ea
Japanese Baked Cake 4 Kinds 280 g		Fresh Dried Pollack 200 g	

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HAPPY HOURS KARAOKE SPECIAL

Sun- Thu Come before 6pm (Valid Time)
Fri- Sat Come before 5pm (Valid Time)

FOR 6 PEOPLE \$66.00	FOR 18 PEOPLE \$228.00
3 Hours Karaoke • Pizza • Pitcher Soda • 2 Main Dishes (Small Room) (14 inch) (Up to 3 pitchers) (9 Dishes to Choose From)	3 Hours Karaoke • 3 Pizzas • Pitcher Soda • 7 Main Dishes (Large Room) (14 inch) (Up to 9 pitchers) (9 Dishes to Choose From)
FOR 8 PEOPLE \$88.00	FOR 28 PEOPLE \$299.00
3 Hours Karaoke • Pizza • Pitcher Soda • 3 Main Dishes (Medium Room) (14 inch) (Up to 4 pitchers) (9 Dishes to Choose From)	3 Hours Karaoke • 3 Pizzas • Pitcher Soda • 9 Main Dishes (Party Room) (14 inch) (Up to 12 pitchers)
FOR 12 PEOPLE \$158.00	9 DISHES TO CHOOSE FROM
3 Hours Karaoke • 2 Pizzas • Pitcher Soda • 5 Main Dishes (Family Room) (14 inch) (Up to 7 pitchers) (9 Dishes to Choose From)	Hamburger • Cheese Burger • Club Sandwich • Chicken Nuggets
FOR 14 PEOPLE \$174.00	
3 Hours Karaoke • 2 Pizzas • Pitcher Soda • 5 Main Dishes (Family Room) (14 inch) (Up to 7 pitchers) (9 Dishes to Choose From)	

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SacRT Expands Microtransit Service to Six Additional Communities



On-Demand Shuttle Service is Now Available in Nine Areas. Photo Courtesy SacRT

By Jessica Gonzalez, Sacramento Regional Transit

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) has expanded its popular on-demand microtransit service to six new communities and has a new app for all SmarTRide users. The expansion of this service makes SacRT the largest microtransit provider in the country with 42 shuttles.

“We have seen great success with our other SmarTRide zones and we are excited to be able to provide this innovative mobility option to more communities,” said SacRT General Manager/CEO Henry Li. “This expansion is a huge milestone for SacRT as we continue to explore new transit options and improve access and mobility for our riders.”

Similar to other ride-hailing services, SmarTRide relies on a smartphone app to schedule customized trips. The app, called SacRT SmarTRide, is powered by Via, the world’s leading provider and developer of on-demand mobility solutions. Via’s advanced algorithms enable multiple riders to seamlessly share the vehicle in an efficient manner.

“We are thrilled to partner with our innovative friends at SacRT to bring Via’s technology to Sacramento,” said Daniel Ramot, co-founder and CEO of Via. “The all-new SmarTRide service is now the largest on-demand microtransit project in the United States, making it an excellent example of how public transportation and technology can work together to make a city smarter.”

The service relies on small, neighborhood-friendly shuttle buses to

easily maneuver on residential streets, and they conveniently accommodate people with disabilities.

The new service areas include: Arden, Carmichael, Downtown-Midtown-East Sacramento, Folsom, Gerber-Calvine, North Sacramento. The new service zones offer corner-to-corner service where passengers are picked up and dropped off at the nearest corner or “virtual bus stop,” which is usually within a block or two of their pickup or drop-off location, ensuring pickups and drop-offs are as efficient as possible.

Riders in the previously launched services zones in Citrus Heights-Antelope-Said SacRT General Manager/CEO Henry Li. “This expansion is a huge milestone for SacRT as we continue to explore new transit options and improve access and mobility for our riders.”

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Groups of five or more are free; all riders must travel in a group of five or more from the same pick-up location to the same destination.

“SacRT is truly embracing the future of mobility by providing a more comfortable, convenient, and affordable way to move around their community,” said Sacramento Board Chair and SacRT Board Chair Patrick Kennedy.

The new SmarTRide service is provided through Measure A funding. SacRT was awarded with a \$12 million grant by the Sacramento Transportation Authority to help expand microtransit into new communities throughout the region.

“The STA is committed to improving transportation options in Sacramento County. We are pleased to see SacRT’s commitment to enhancing public transit and access for residents. We believe that SmarTRide does this by providing convenient transportation that is also affordable,” said STA Chair Darren Suen.

As part of the SmarTRide expansion, SacRT also rolled out six electric SmarTRide shuttles in the Downtown-Midtown-East Sacramento service area. In the next six months, three additional electric SmarTRide shuttles will be operating in the Franklin-South Sacramento zone. Those three shuttles are being provided by Electrify America.

SmarTRide has been in operation since February 2018, when it rolled out as a pilot service in Citrus Heights. To date, SacRT has provided more than 160,000 SmarTRide trips.

More information on the service, including maps of the service areas and hours of operation, is available at SacRT.com/smartride. ★

Baby Basket Drive Raises \$16K

By Kristin Thébaud, Kristin Thébaud Communications

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Life Center’s sixth annual Baby Basket Drive for new moms raised \$16,000 from the community in December, which will buy 320 baskets for Sacramento Life Center patients throughout 2020. The drive is held each December to kickstart the 500 baby baskets needed so that every Sacramento Life Center patient who gives birth in the coming year can receive a basket of needed items, including formula, diapers, newborn clothes, pacifiers and more. Last year’s drive raised \$10,000.

Donations will be accepted throughout 2020 and can be made online at www.saclife.org by writing Baby Basket Drive in the message box on the donation page. Gifts can be made in any increment, but a donation of \$50 buys one basket.



A patient and her children receive a baby basket from Sacramento Life Center, thanks to the group’s Baby Basket Drive held each December. Photo by Kristin Thébaud Communications

“One of the most overwhelming feelings is learning that you’re pregnant and fearing you won’t have the resources to care for your vulnerable baby,” said Marie Leatherby, executive director, Sacramento Life Center. “Sometimes something as simple as a gift of diapers and newborn clothes can give expecting mothers the confidence that they have a support system to help raise their child. These baskets give expecting mothers proof that they will always have a family here at the Sacramento Life Center and supporters out in the community rooting for their family.” ★

Kindness is Contagious!

Continued from page 1

several years ago, told me, “the kids make up the agenda; we have dress up days, musical performances and during our Kindness Challenge Week, students collect items for the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank.”

As Dr. Lawson gave me a campus tour to witness the kids in action, she pointed out that the kids themselves lead the activities and that leadership is one of the lessons the school wants to develop from the Kindness Challenge. Andrea Hostetter, the transitional kindergarten teacher, summed up the Kindness Challenge this way – “We love it!” Ms. Hostetter hit the nail on the head when she told me to, “observe the kids working on projects at the moment. They are learning at this early age that they have an impact in doing good for others. We just need to nurture this as they progress in school.”

Ms. Karyn Thompson, a 5th grade teacher, said this of the Kindness Challenge, “we celebrate each other and give recognition in being kind.” In fact, one recent tragedy exemplified being kind to your neighbor. The students showed their spirit when they helped collect various items for people who lost everything when fires destroyed so much of the town

of Paradise and surrounding communities in November 2018.

Throughout the Twin Lakes campus, there are messages that reflect kindness in a variety of ways. Students are encouraged to write down what they are grateful for in their everyday lives. These reflections are then displayed around the school’s gymnasium for all to read. This got me thinking – what am I grateful for at this very moment? In fact, you as the reader should make a list of three things you are most grateful for right now. It’s not complicated, but if it proves to be a challenge to you, here is a sampling of categories the students at Twin Lakes Elementary have been grateful for – family, friends, school and health.

As a part of continuing to increase kindness around Twin Lakes Elementary, Dr. Lawson is embracing a partnership with the Kiwanis Club of Orangevale – Fair Oaks, and plans are being made to establish a Kiwanis K-Kids Club on campus to further develop and support the kids’ efforts to not only make a difference at this educational level, but to keep the momentum going as they grow into young adults and beyond.

And the kindness that you show every day... Will help someone along their way... you got to try a little kindness ... ★

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March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Election

- **All voters will be mailed a ballot**
 - Ballots will be mailed to voters the week of February 3rd.
- **You can return your ballot starting February 3rd**
 - By mail
 - At a Ballot Drop Box
 - At a Vote Center
- **Vote Centers have replaced traditional polling places**
 - Voters can vote at any Vote Center in the County
 - Vote Centers open starting February 22nd

- **Remember to update your registration if you**
 - Move
 - Change your name
 - Change your political party
 - Change your signature

You can find a full list of Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations in your County Voter Information Guide, in your mail ballot packet, on the SacVote App, or at www.elections.saccounty.net

Visit www.elections.saccounty.net or call toll free (800) 762-8019

Celebrating Special Needs Kids Through Sports

Where's My Ballot?

New Tool Launched to Help Voters Track the Status of their Vote-by-Mail Ballots



All kids can learn to cooperate and compete in a friendly, character-building sports event. Photo by Shaunna Boyd

Story and photo by Shaunna Boyd

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Playmakers Organization – a local non-profit that coaches character through sports – is hosting a series of basketball game events for special needs kids in the Sacramento Region.

The next game will be held on Saturday, February 29 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Oak Hills Church (1100 Blue Ravine Rd. in Folsom). Oak Hills Church is a vital Playmakers partner, and Playmakers Board member Jerry Viers said having that location provided for the event is “priceless.”

Viers has been a Playmakers volunteer for two years now, and he has watched his daughter Clarissa thrive in the Playmakers programs. Viers recently joined the Playmakers Board and is organizing the upcoming basketball game. He’s excited to be “in

the driver’s seat” for this event.

“Seeing where Playmakers is going with special needs kids really hits home for me,” said Viers. “I was disabled at the age of 14, and I never had these types of opportunities.” Viers believes that all kids deserve to fully participate in activities they enjoy, which is why he is such a strong supporter of The Playmakers Organization. “I’m in awe,” he said. “Seeing the kids running, playing, and participating in sports makes me so proud.” Viers is very grateful to be working with Playmakers to make a difference in the lives of so many kids.

Playmakers teaches kids the value of working together as part of a team while challenging themselves to do their best. These games give special needs kids a sense of confidence and inclusion. Every player is encouraged and celebrated

throughout the game by the cheers and applause of the audience, their teammates, and the opposing teams.

The players will be split into multiple teams that will participate in a tournament-style game. Folsom High School football players will work with the teams, assisting and supporting the kids throughout the game.

The event is open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend. The event will also feature a catered lunch donated by Chick-fil-A of Folsom. Registration for the event is open now. To sign up a special needs child to participate in the game, email viers_jerry@yahoo.com.

Playmakers sponsors for this event are Oak Hills Church, Chick-fil-A of Folsom, and Bayside Church of Citrus Heights. For more information about the programs offered by The Playmakers Organization, visit www.ThePlaymakers.org. ★

Secretary of State Special Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Secretary of State’s office has launched the new “Where’s My Ballot?” tool. Voters can now sign up at WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov to receive automated notifications about their vote-by-mail ballots by email, text (SMS), or voice call.

“Shoppers are already used to receiving updates on their online retail purchases, from shipment to delivery. Now we can offer the same service to voters,” Secretary of State Alex Padilla said. “Voters who sign up for ‘Where’s My Ballot?’ can rest assured that their vote-by-mail ballots are accounted for at every stage of delivery. Signing-up takes just a couple of minutes, and voters will enjoy automatic updates on the delivery status of their vote-by-mail

ballot for each and every election.”

“As vote-by-mail continues to grow among California voters, I urge every county elections office to adopt the “Where’s My Ballot?” tool — our latest step in further modernizing elections in California. “Where’s My Ballot” will also further strengthen voter confidence in the integrity of our democracy,” Padilla added.

Voters who sign up for “Where’s My Ballot?” will receive automatic updates when: The county elections office mails the voter’s ballot, the county has counted the voter’s ballot, or if there are any issues with the voter’s ballot.

Voters who sign up for “Where’s My Ballot?” will also receive communications from their county elections office about important election deadlines and critical updates such as polling place changes.

The “Where’s My Ballot” tool will only be available to a voter if their county elections office has adopted the tool. State law currently does not require counties to use the tool. “Where’s my Ballot” is offered to county elections offices at no cost. The Secretary of State’s office contracted with BallotTrax to customize a ballot tracking tool for California. BallotTrax has successfully deployed a similar tool in jurisdictions across the United States.

25 counties are currently offering “Where’s My Ballot?” to their voters, including

Sacramento, Amador, El Dorado, Placer, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba and counties in southern California.

AB 2218, signed 2018, required the Secretary of State’s office to provide a ballot tracking service to county elections offices. ★

Sacramento County Attorney's Association Endorses Rich Desmond for Supervisor

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Rich Desmond, candidate for Sacramento County Supervisor District 3, announced that his campaign has been endorsed by the Sacramento County Attorney's Association (SCAA).

The Sacramento County Attorney's Association was founded to promote and maintain the professional interests, skills, and wellbeing of attorneys employed by the County of Sacramento in the offices of the District Attorney and Public Defender.

The SCAA Executive Board released

the following statement in an endorsement letter to Rich Desmond for Supervisor:

“We sincerely appreciate your commitment and dedication to working on behalf of the residents of Sacramento County and our members. Your focus on problem solving and ability to work in partnership with diverse interests will serve the population of Sacramento County well. We wish you the best of luck in the campaign and look forward to working with you in the future.”

From the Office of Rich Desmond ★

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Measure J Construction Will Impact Parking and Annual Village Events

Story by Shaunna Boyd

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - On February 4, the Measure J Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) held its first meeting of the new year. The first order of business was to elect new officers for the 2020-2021 term. Adria Walker, the prior Vice Chair, was nominated to take over as BOC Chair and Gary Juels was nominated for Vice Chair. Both were unanimously approved by the BOC members.

Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District (FORPD) administrator Mike Aho updated the BOC about the progress of Measure J projects. The first major project — replacing the poured-in-place (PIP) playground surfaces at District playgrounds — has been completed. “We’re well under budget,” said Aho. The allotted budget for the project was \$813,050, but the actual cost was around \$500,000. During the project, the District opted to remove sand features from various playgrounds to avoid the high-level of wear and tear the sand causes on the playground surface. They also added high-wear pads under slides and swings to increase durability. These measures should dramatically increase the lifespan of the PIP.

Plans for the Swallow Way Park project are underway, with work expected to begin in July 2020. Aho said the current design was reached after 10 neighborhood outreach meetings; the park features a “multi-generational” playground, which will include artificial turf



Plans for the softball fields at Phoenix Park are currently on hold. Photo by Patrick Larenas

“pods” with stationary rocks and logs for toddlers to climb and explore, traditional play equipment for school-age kids, and even a 20-foot-tall climbing tower for older kids and adults.

One challenge with the Swallow Way Park is a narrow, hidden walkthrough from the west side of the property. It’s a common shortcut to Hazel Ave. for locals in the neighborhood, but its lack of visibility makes it an attractive nuisance. Aho said the walkthrough is frequently littered with garbage and used needles. The District hoped to quit-claim deed that portion of the property to an adjacent property owner so it could be incorporated into that property, removing the walkthrough all together. Aho said that although the property owner previously expressed interest in acquiring the property, his wife has

since objected to the idea. The District is now exploring other options to deal with the walkthrough, such as blocking both entrances with locked gates. Aho said, “It will be dead space.”

The plans for the softball fields at Phoenix Park are currently on hold after a request from the San Juan Unified School District (SJUSD). Aho said that SJUSD has identified some “non-essential land” near La Vista School, which is located near San Juan Ave. and Winding Way. SJUSD asked for a meeting to discuss the possibility of the Park District building the softball fields on this extra land. Aho said the benefits of building the fields on the SJUSD land is that there would be room to build three fields instead of the two that are planned for Phoenix Park. Aho said that

if the FORPD Board decides to spend Measure J money to build softball fields on SJUSD land, the agreement would need to include some guarantees such as a long-term lease with the option to purchase: SJUSD “needs to give us something.”

The most critical need identified during community outreach meetings for Phoenix Park was parking improvement. If the FORPD Board does decide to move the location of the planned softball fields, Aho anticipates that the parking improvement portion of the project at Phoenix Park would still move forward as planned.

The District leveraged Measure J funds as a matching requirement in order to apply for almost \$6 million in Prop. 68 grant funding. The District still has not heard whether the

application was approved, but Aho said the state plans to announce the allocations sometime during the winter of 2020. “So maybe by March,” said Aho.

The Prop. 68 funds, if approved, are earmarked for improvements to the Veterans Memorial Amphitheatre. That project is also tied into plans to improve Village Park, Plaza Park, and the Community Clubhouse. But Aho said the District plans to move forward with those projects regardless of whether the theatre funding comes through.

These projects — which are expected to start in summer/fall of 2020 — are all designed to improve and enhance the Village, but the construction will impact Village business owners. The District held a meeting on January 29 to update business owners about the project

plans and to listen to their concerns. Aho said that the meeting was well-attended, and that the business owners expressed a lot of concerns about remaining profitable during an extended construction period.

The main concern during construction is going to be parking. Aho said that business owners are worried that reduced parking will mean reduced business. To address this concern, the District is reaching out to private property owners to discuss whether their land could be used as additional parking. The Fair Oaks Village Enhancement Committee is also working to find parking solutions. Some members of the BOC suggested using the construction period as an opportunity to encourage more ride sharing and biking into the Village.

Another concern is that construction will impact many of the annual events held in the Village. For 2020, Fiesta Days and Concerts in the Park will move forward as usual. But the Chicken Festival 2020 will have to be held at Fair Oaks Park instead, and the District is still brainstorming ideas for how to address Christmas in the Village 2020.

In 2021, the majority of events will be impacted. The District is planning creative solutions to keep people involved in Village events during construction, such as smaller pop-up events like art shows and pub crawls.

BOC meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is scheduled for March 3 at 6:30 PM in the Old Fair Oaks Library, 4200 Temescal St. ★

MEMORIAL NOTICE

Dorothy Virginia Cabodi
December 3, 1916 to January 20, 2020

It is with sadness that we share the passing of Dorothy Virginia Cabodi on January 20, 2020. She quietly passed away at home at the age of 103. She leaves behind four children, seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. She was born to the late Frank and Jean Howell on December 3, 1916, in Detroit, Michigan and had one brother Jerry Howell.

At two and a half years old she and her family moved to Oakland, CA, where she graduated from Fremont High School in 1934. After graduation, she moved to Sacramento where she met her husband Marco Anthony Cabodi of 44 years. They moved to Fair Oaks and built their first home in 1940 on the same property where she resided until her death.

Dorothy was an avid sports fan. She loved the San Francisco Giants and the Sacramento Kings. She also loved playing tennis and golf. She was actively involved in her



community as evidenced by her 60 years of service in the Orangevale Women’s Club. She played in local Bunco and Karaoke groups and belonged to the Fair Oaks Historical Society.

Dorothy is preceded in death by her husband Marco (Mickey).

She is survived by her two daughters, Ginny Cozby (Ed); Susan Roper (Craig); her two sons Gary Cabodi (Leslye); Mickey Cabodi (Ellen).

Dorothy was larger than life. She was someone who inspired others and lived every day it to the fullest! She will be deeply missed by her family and friends. Memorial donations in Dorothy’s name can be made to the Orangevale Woman’s Club Attn: Dorothy’s Fund P.O. Box 502 Orangevale, CA 95662.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Orangevale Community Center 6826 Hazel Ave Orangevale, CA on April 11, 2020 at 12 p.m.



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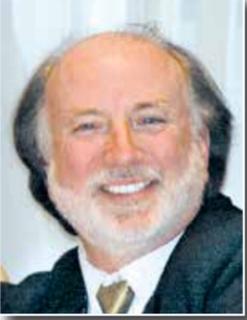
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POPOFF!

with **Mary Jane Popp**

HARDINESS

We all know that stress can cause havoc in your life from disruptions to severe illnesses. But what if you had the tools to overcome stress and increase personal growth? Is hardiness the key? **Steven Stein and Paul Bartone** both say yes. So they put it all together in their book they call **“Hardiness.”** They want to make stress work for you to achieve your life goals. Retired Colonel **Dr. Paul Bartone** joined me on POPPOFF to give us the ins and outs of dealing with that thing called stress. **Dr. Bartone** is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Institute for National Security Policy at National University. Over his 25 year career in the U.S. Army, he served as commander of the U.S. Medical Research Unit-Europe and later taught leadership and psychology at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. I can go on and on about his credentials, but let’s get to that stress thing we have to deal with.

First question is why are some people overwhelmed by the slightest disruption or change in their lives, while others seem to make it through catastrophes relatively unscathed? Or, that two people, experiencing the exact same event, such as a job loss, managing a big merger or fighting a serious illness, can react in completely different ways? Could it be this thing called hardiness? According to **Dr. Bartone**, “It’s your ability to resist damaging effects of stress that has a major influence on a person’s capacity to adapt and cope effectively with difficult or unexpected conditions.”

“**Hardiness**” details how three facets of commitment, challenge, and control work together in synchrony, creating a mindset or worldview that is highly effective and helps make people more resilient. The constellation of qualities, called hardiness, is found in people who stay healthy and continue to perform well in life, despite experiencing a range of stressful conditions.

Let’s explore these three conditions to see how they work

1) COMMITMENT. People with high-commitment see life as

overall meaningful and worthwhile, even though there is sometimes pain and disappointment. They strive for personal competence. They pursue their interests with vigor, are deeply involved in their work, and socially engaged with others. They are reflective about themselves and aware of their own feelings and reactions.

2) CHALLENGE. People with high-challenge enjoy variety and tend to see change and disruptions in life as interesting opportunities to learn and grow. They understand that problems are a part of life. They set out to solve them rather than run from them.

3) CONTROL. People with high-control simply believe that their own actions make a real difference on the results that follow and that what they do has effects on outcomes, even though the future is uncertain and frightening!

And that’s just a smattering of what **Dr. Paul Bartone and Dr. Steven Stein** have to say in **“Hardiness”** Making stress work for you to achieve your life goals. Based on 40 years of scientific research, they have confirmed the importance of hardiness. Go out there and **BE HARDY!!!** ★



By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

Oh yes you are! So, please don’t be deceived. Truth is now being twisted and perverted to mean something other than what it actually is. Truth must be tested and tried, plus verified with what the Bible that states is: **Real truth will set you free!**

The Spirit of Anti-Christ prevails everywhere in our culture today. This spirit is against all that is Holy and good and it is diametrically opposed to Jesus Christ. They speak and teach against Christ and bring rebellion against God with their first attack on those who follow Jesus Christ. Their aim is to remove God from our country, from every human heart creating doubt and unbelief at every turn.

It is no longer enough

You Are Someone Very Special -

to claim we believe, one must actually know what we believe and why we believe it! We must be able to discern between truth and error, be fully persuaded with what the Word of God instructs. It is not the beautiful sayings or photo hung on our walls but **what we believe and who is in our heart.**

And what we believe in - is proved by how we live out the instructions and knowledge of God’s Word in our daily lives. Actions prove if we are “for or against” God.

We may need to re-evaluate our concept of God. All too often, we equate God as being like man, with the same frailties, likes and dislikes. Because we refer to Him as Father and Son, we equate Him as being human. Yes, in some miraculous way God/Jesus came in human form, but God is actually so-much-more than our finite minds can ever conceive or even understand!

Do we forget He created all that is? Do we forget His magnanimity and His greatness as Creator/God?

Why would the Word of God states **“We only see through a glass darkly?”** and little by little in the past 2,000 years prophecies have been fulfilled as written in the Old Testament? Men inspired by God’s own Spirit wrote them down!

If we just examine the names of God in the Bible, we can catch only a glimpse of His greatness and majesty. Creator Heavenly Father – Jesus Christ God’s Son – and His Holy Spirit!

One might use one of these names when they pray to find a deeper meaning to their answered prayers. When we think of God, we must enlarge and change our concept of Him. God is love and God is Spirit!

He calls us to honor and revere Him in our lives. When our concept of God lines up with Biblical truth we begin to truly know the true essence of just who God actually IS.

Marlys Johnsen Norris Christian Author, Stephen’s Minister Author of 7 Books Marlysjn@gmail.com ★

Did I Just Call Myself?

Dr. James L. Snyder

I am old enough to remember those days when there was nothing like cell phones. Oh, those quiet, golden silent days. At the time, I did not realize just how wonderful that time was.

I well remember the day I bought my first cell phone. I hesitated because I enjoyed my quiet time. However, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was enthusiastic about getting cell phones.

All went well for the first couple of years. Then, a new phenomenon developed. My cell phone was ringing all the time. Most of the time, from some silly old telemarketer trying to sell me something I didn’t need and certainly didn’t want.

I then had an idea. I know it is not often I have an idea, but when I do, boy, is it an idea. When they asked me how I am, I tell them in all the monotonous detail I can think of at the time. I go on and on how bad my day is and how terrible life feels. Then there is that familiar “click,” and they’ve hung up on me.

After all, they asked how I was doing, and I was simply responding to their question.

I am not multilingual, but

I can speak gibberish better than anybody I know. At least, that’s what my wife tells me. So, if I have this talent, why not use it?

The first time I used this gibberish language, the person on the other end said, “Speak English, please.” To which I continued with my gibberish. They repeat their request, and I continue with my gibberish. Finally, there comes that familiar sound I look forward to, “Click.” One call was for pain in my body. Someone sent in my name, reporting that I had pain in my body, and they had a medicine that could help me with all my pain.

“Where do you have pain in your body?”

“Well,” I said as seriously as possible, “I have this terrific pain in my neck.”

This information excited the telemarketer, and he wanted to know how I got this pain and where it came from. To which I said, “My pain in the neck comes from people like you calling me every day.”

“Click.”

I look forward to those calls. Then, the other day I got a strange call on my cell phone. I looked to see who was calling, and to my surprise, it was me. It was my

name and phone number that showed up on my cell phone screen. I was calling myself.

I cannot tell you how anxious I was to talk to myself. I was going to give myself a piece of my mind. Of course, it would be good to talk to myself about certain things.

So, I answered the phone. “Hello, Pastor Snyder, how in the world are you?”

To my great disappointment, it was not me calling me. Rather, it was some telemarketer wanting to know how much my electric bill was each month.

I remember what David said, and he did not have a cell phone. “Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live” (Psalm 116:2).

I do not need a cell phone to call God because I have put my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and I now am connected with God.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamessnyder2@att.net. His web site is www.jamessnyderministries.com. ★



Dare to Live Without Limits

by **Bryan Golden**

You Can't Replace Your Good Reputation



Do you have a good reputation? Are you considered honest and trustworthy? Can you be counted on to keep your commitments? When you give someone your word, do you honor it? Are you dependable? Are you courteous, polite, and respectful of others?

Your reputation is based on what you do, not just what you say. Not only do you want to say the right things, you must back up your words with positive actions. A solid reputation is built by doing what you say you will do. A great reputation is priceless. A great reputation is built over a lifetime. Yet, you can destroy your reputation instantly. There are constant headlines about people who have reached the pinnacle of success and then irreparably ruined their reputation by their aberrant behavior.

Once sullied, your reputation can never be fully restored. It can’t be replenished like a savings account. This may not be fair, but it’s the way it is. Therefore, your reputation must be protected and guarded as an irreplaceable asset. Since every action you take has consequences, either good or bad, you must always think before you act.

Excuses will not fix a broken reputation. You can’t blame other people or circumstances. You are responsible for your actions. Always ask yourself if the

actions you want to take will enhance, or detract from the quality of your life.

Building and maintaining a great reputation isn’t complicated. Think before you act or speak. Always be considerate, honest, and trustworthy. Keep all of your commitments. Honor your word. Be dependable. Treat others with respect and courtesy. You will have a great reputation by engaging in these behaviors.

What is the value of your reputation? A good, solid reputation will serve you for a lifetime. It will enhance virtually every aspect of your life. A sullied reputation will haunt you. You won’t be trusted. Your motives will always be suspect. You will attract negative people and circumstances.

It’s easy to destroy your reputation. All it takes is one destructive action. Here are some of the many ways you can ruin your reputation. Act unethically. Harm others physically or mentally. Repeatedly use bad judgement by continuously behaving in a way which produces negative consequences.

Have a price. This is an amount of money for which you will abandon your principles in order to act unethically. Having a price means you are willing to throw away your reputation if you are paid enough. As an added impact, you are forever vulnerable to

blackmail and additional manipulation.

Take advantage of others by acting in a way which causes them any type of harm. Badmouth others. Create or spread rumors. Physically or psychologically bully someone. Any type of rude, nasty, or inconsiderate behavior harms you. Engage in any type of behavior you would not want to see on a newspaper’s front page.

As is readily apparent, it’s easy to permanently damage your reputation. Protecting it requires constant vigilance and awareness. Engaging in any ethical shortcuts takes you down a dead-end road, which leads off a cliff. There is no effortless path to success. Having unbendable principles protects your reputation.

Knowing what you will, and won’t do ahead of time, makes your decision making easy. You won’t have to worry about what to do, or be caught off guard. Having this solid foundation protects your reputation.

Treat your reputation as the invaluable asset it is. Say “no” to any activity which has the potential to damage your reputation. Don’t give in to peer pressure. Have solid ethics and morals which you won’t compromise.

NOW AVAILABLE: *Dare to Live Without Limits, the book. Visit www.BryanGolden.com or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at bryan@columnist.com or write him c/o this paper. © 2017 Bryan Golden* ★

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River Cats Renew Partnership with FanCompass Seeking to Enhance Fan Engagement

By Daniel Emmons, Sacramento River Cats

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento River Cats have announced the renewal and expansion of their partnership with FanCompass, a premier digital destination for fan engagement. There will be a host of new ways for fans to interact with the River Cats through rivercats.com, social media, the MiLB First Pitch app, and throughout Sutter Health Park on game days. The platform will also be the latest component of the River Cats' sustainability circle, with paperless forms and waivers that will cut down on waste at the ballpark.

The FanCompass platform will be integrated with rivercats.com, the First Pitch app, and River Cats social media channels, offering a seamless way for fans to participate in contests, River Cats baseball trivia, voting for players of the homestand or favorite food items, and even trying to predict things like the time the game will end or the total number of pitches thrown. Pushing the frontiers of engagement, FanCompass will further enable the River Cats to use the feedback from the digital platform to improve the overall experience of enjoying River Cats baseball.

"We are thrilled serve as an innovation lab for FanCompass and work alongside them to offer our fans even more ways to connect with the River Cats, both from inside and outside the ballpark," said River Cats General Manager Chip Maxson. "Their interactive platform will help us further execute on making Sutter Health Park a destination for affordable, family fun, while also helping with green initiatives by digitizing many necessary forms and waivers."

"It has been a pleasure to work with the River Cats, using our technology to continuously push innovation around the way the fanbase interacts with the team," said FanCompass CEO Jamie Pardi. "A leader in Minor League Baseball, the River Cats have been a perfect partner, sharing our vision of enhancing fan engagement and

the overall fan experience."

FanCompass is a Northern-California based company, currently working with teams across 12 sports leagues globally, and offering unique and interactive campaigns, geared toward fans of every major sport around the world.

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Safe Credit Union Announces 2020 Scholarship Program

By Carole Ferguson, Safe Credit Union

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Parents Clash with State Senator Over Parental Rights & Sex Ed in Contentious Capitol Hearing

By Greg Burt, CaliforniaFamily.org

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) – (JANUARY 27, 2020) - “I’m not immoral. I’m not a liar... It’s not condescending,” Senator Connie Leyva said defending herself before a crowd of offended parents gathered in the Senate Education Committee at California’s state capitol earlier this month. Her audience of over 140 were there to advocate for a sex education transparency bill, SB 673, Senator Mike Morrell had introduced for elementary school students.

Leyva’s cries of innocence came after her audience reacted to being told their overblown reaction to sex education lessons, she considered “age-appropriate,” was due to misinformation about what is in the curriculum. Leyva also speculated the controversy generated by the state’s sex education stemmed from parents “afraid” to talk to their children about sex.

Those comments didn’t go over well with parents and organizations who have been monitoring the increasingly graphic sexuality lessons being introduced to younger and younger children since the implementation of California’s comprehensive sex education law, AB 329. One of those parents was Denise Pursche. She testified at the hearing of how Mt. Diablo Unified School District officials stonewalled her attempts to see 11 comprehensive sex education lessons for her twin fifth graders. According to Denise, once she finally got to see the content after a month of asking, she understood why the district was hiding the sexually graphic curriculum. Denise said some of the lessons were definitely not age-appropriate for her 10-year-olds. To ensure parental oversight and to prevent the sex education curriculum from being hidden from parents, Denise decided to draw up a legislative proposal that turned into SB 673. The bill had two simple provisions: It required school districts that teach elementary-age comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention to put that curriculum online for easy and convenient parental review. Secondly, it restores the right of parents of elementary-age students (TK-6th grade) to opt their children into comprehensive sexual health and HIV prevention education courses, rather than passively opt their children out.

Over the past several months, Senators on the Senate Education Committee received tens of thousands of letters and phone calls in support of SB 673. On top of this, 47,500 people signed an online change.org petition advocating for the bill.

Then on January 15 parental rights and faith-based organizations, including the California Family Council, gathered supporters at the capitol as the Senate Education Committee, chaired by Senator Leyva, heard testimony for and against SB 673. The hearing remained tame at the beginning.

Witnesses for the bill, like National Center for Law and Policy President Dean Broyles, reiterated how the Supreme Court had repeatedly affirmed that parents have “the fundamental right to direct the care and upbringing of their children, not the state.” He told stories of how his organization had received many complaints from families across California who faced “barriers to accessing and reviewing the sexuality programs in their schools.”

Also speaking in favor of SB 673 was Dr. Ahmed Soboh, a dentist and the chairman of the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California. “Every parent no matter your age, your gender, or your religion cares about the freedom to educate and protect their children,” Soboh testified. “I cannot clean kids’ teeth without a very detailed consent signed by one of the parents... I’m sure that cleaning the teeth of a 10-year-old boy or girl is much less serious than teaching them about sexuality.”

Testifying in opposition to the bill were representatives from the California State PTA and Equality California. An opt-in “creates a barrier that would result in students being unnecessarily and unintentionally withheld from class and deny many students who are low income, homeless, or in foster care the public education they deserve because of other parents’ views,” argued Tami Martin, Legislative Manager for Equality California.

Marilyn Lucey, speaking on behalf of 700,000 California PTA members, said her organization didn’t like the opt-in parent signature required by the bill, but was favorable to requiring sex education lessons being put online for easy access.

After several legislators asked questions and made statements, the hearing became

tense after Sen. Leyva starting making remarks that upset the audience. It started when Denise testified that her own superintendent wanted to offer an opt-in for sex education lessons, “but the law prohibited it.” Leyva piped up immediately speaking directly to Denise. “I would say to your superintendent, below seventh grade, K-6, every elementary school district in the state has the opt-in right.” This was a false statement, and the parents in the crowd knew it. Leyva’s own legislative analysis states existing law “prohibits a school district from requiring active parental consent (“opt-in”) for sexual health education for pupils of any grade.”

Senator Morrell tried to correct her, but she doubled down. “It’s already there, Senator Morrell,” Leyva insisted.

“I’m not immoral. I’m not a liar... It’s not condescending,” Senator Connie Leyva responding to comments from parents during a capitol hearing for SB 673.

The trouble escalated near the end of the hearing when Leyva took the opportunity to give parents a “lecture,” as Senator Morrell called it, about parenting. After telling parents how she allowed her twin daughters to receive sex education in school, she questioned whether parents in the audience had even looked at the curriculum.

Leyva then proceeding to say there are rumors out there saying that California’s sex education curriculum includes teaching about anal sex, kinky sex, phone sex, etc. “If you look at the curriculum it is not there,” she insisted. Many of her audience members knew this wasn’t true. For

example here is a high school sex education lesson from a popular California publisher called “Be Real. Be Ready.” that encourages students to review in class a website called Scarleteen: Sex Ed for the Real World. The website includes graphic details about all the sexual practices, and then some, Leyva said wasn’t “there.”

At this point, sensing she was losing control of her hearing, Leyva turned to Senator Morrell for help. “Senator Morrell, maybe you can ask your witnesses to be respectful of the process,” she said.

Turning to the crowd Morrell tried to settle them down. “I would ask you to be respectful,” he said. Then turning back to Leyva Morrell said, “but also they’re parents you are lecturing, so...”

“I’m not lecturing,” Leyva shot back. “I’m giving my opinion. You know what, but we’re done. I’m recommending a no vote on the bill.” And with that statement, the debate was over. Morrell gave closing remarks and then the committee voted. Democrat senators Maria Elena Durazo, Steven M. Glazer, Connie Leyva, Mike McGuire, Richard Pan voted no, while Republican senators Scott Wilk and Ling Ling Chang voted yes.

Despite the defeat on this bill, the issue of sex education transparency and the rights of parents to oversee and supervise what children learn in public school continues. There is talk of splitting SB 673 into several bills and reintroducing them this legislative session. Details of that plan will be released in the next several weeks. *Reprinted by permission.* ★

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San Juan Unified Names Three as Classified Employees of the Year



David Harrell, the lead roofer for San Juan Unified and Bella Vista High School baseball coach, Kari Bleille, instructional assistant at San Juan High School and Rita Holverstott from Woodside K-8. Photo SJUSD

San Juan Unified School District

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - This year San Juan Unified presented three individuals with the 2020 Classified Employees of the Year award at the Jan. 28 school board meeting.

This award is presented to employees who work behind the scenes, from maintenance operations to instructional assistance, to ensure the success of each student and the San Juan Unified community.

David Harrell is one of the honorees and has been working with the district for nearly 30 years as a lead roofer. Coworkers say Harrell has an inner drive to keep our sites from having leaky roofs all year round and feels a sense of responsibility to the students and staff.

After working each day on our schools' roofs, Harrell heads to Bella Vista High School to coach baseball. A job he has taken on for many years.

"The most gratifying part of coaching is watching a student-athlete not only grow on the field but off the field as well," said Harrell. "You like to think that you are having a positive impact on their future through the lessons you are teaching."

Another honoree is Rita Holverstott from Woodside K-8. Holverstott is not only the librarian and media technician but works as the community liaison, a volunteer to the PTO and a member of the safety committee on campus.

As Holverstott read her nomination stating how crucial she is to Woodside and its holiday events, she had this to say about her

colleagues and award. "I would like to thank those who submitted my name to the district. Although uncomfortable with the attention, it feels good to know the work I do is noted and appreciated, above and beyond a paycheck," said Holverstott.

Finally, Kari Bleille, an instructional assistant at San Juan High School, was honored for her tremendous work over the last seven years. Colleagues said she is the type of individual who not only works to make sure students feel safe and welcomed on campus but each teacher does as well.

"I was very surprised to receive this award," said Bleille. "It is a tremendous honor to be selected and it means so much to be acknowledged for all that we do."

The teacher that nominated Bleille wrote in her submission that last year when a teacher lost a family member, Bleille stayed behind after everyone had left to help clean up their classroom. A small act that meant so much to the teacher that was going through a tough time.

When asked about the act Bleille said she's lucky to be part of such a dedicated team that has quickly become like family.

"Having a small school has given us the advantage of feeling like a family. We support each other through good times and bad," said Bleille. "When a coworker lost a close family member last year, we all felt her loss and wanted to help in any way we could."

The three nominees will be forwarded to the Sacramento County Office of Education as San Juan Unified's nominations for the countywide Classified Employees of the Year Program. ★

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • BLACK HISTORY MONTH

CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Sell illegally
 - Crime scene evidence
 - "From California to the New York Island," e.g.
 - Berth deck in relation to poop deck
 - Poetic over
 - Chocolate cake ingredient
 - Like Solitaire player
 - Go a-courting
 - Packing
 - "Go Tell It on the Mountain" author
 - "South Africa's first black president
 - Bag, à Paris
 - Schooner pole
 - #1 on Billboards Chart, e.g.
 - One way to memorize
 - Civil rights activist and Ferguson opponent
 - Single pip cards
 - Give a shot of novocaine
 - Call forth
 - Long John Silver's walk
 - Sauna product
 - Dashing style
 - Pariah, for medical reasons
 - Back arrow key
 - As opposed to gross
 - Kane and Goldberg, TV characters
 - Georgia ___ university
 - Poseidon's domain
 - MXN, as in currency
 - Snowman Olaf's favorite thing
 - 2019 eponymous movie character
 - Errand runner, at court
 - Matter of debate
 - Harry Potter's Hedwig
 - Ineffectual vomiting
 - Giblets part
 - Famous movie director, Spike

- Ruhr's industrial center
 - Played at military funerals
 - Flow alternative
 - Nostradamus and such
- DOWN**
- Hunk of something
 - Flavored with kola nuts
 - Absent without leave
 - Gives a helping hand
 - Antebellum
 - Pillow filler
 - ___ colonial or ___ classical
 - Oven emanation?
 - Lady's man
 - Ne plus ultra
 - Famous Coward
 - Man Ray's genre
 - Back of a saddle
 - Popular Byzantine artwork
 - Nile viper
 - Reminder of times past
 - "First African American to win Best Actress Oscar
 - More slippery
 - Allegro and lento, in music
 - Nobel Peace Prize laureate, 1984

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 9

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		
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48				49		50		51		52	
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57	58	59	60			61			62	63	64
65					66	67		68			
69					70			71			
72					73			74			

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- Like fair share
- Arch and ball location, pl.
- "On Debi Thomas' foot when she won Olympic medal
- Busybody, in Yiddish
- Work detail
- Bid, past tense
- Coffee shop order
- D'Artagnan's weapon of choice
- Get the picture
- "Harlem Renaissance poet
- Fur shawl
- Canada flyers
- Handle of #45 Down
- Most populous continent
- Invitation request
- Regrets
- Commoner
- Diamond's corner
- Walkie-talkie word
- Japanese money, pl.
- "Du Bois

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

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Solutions on Page 9

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