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Carmichael Times

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Opening Day

Carmichael Little League Celebrates 70th Anniversary



Members of the A's make their way onto the field on Opening Day on Saturday, March 12 at the La Sierra Community Center.

Story and photos by Shaun Holkko, sports editor

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - For the first time since 2019, the Carmichael Little League held Opening Day to kick off a new baseball season Saturday at the La Sierra Community Center.

Jason Daffron is in his second year as President of the Carmichael Little League. Daffron, manager of the 50/70 A's, has been coaching in the

league for nine years and has served on the board of directors for six.

"I coach because of my son (Aidan who is 11)," Daffron said. "I love being out here with the kids. It's not really the wins and losses, it's more of just having fun, that's why I'm out here."

The Carmichael Little League was one day away from holding Opening Day back in 2020 until the coronavirus pandemic shut down sports around the world.

"We rode our bikes to the field everyday thinking about this," Daffron said about Opening Day.

Justin McGivney is the league's field coordinator and coaches both his sons, Alonso, 11, and Alejandro, 9. McGivney manages the junior Giants and serves as an assistant coach for the AAA Blue Jays.

"It was hard that very first year during COVID because nobody knew what was going on and they wouldn't

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Democrats Kill Proposal to Lower Gas Prices

By Assemblyman James Gallagher

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Monday, March 14, Assembly Democrats killed a Republican proposal to immediately bring down the price of gas by suspending California's 51-cent-per-gallon gas tax. California drivers face the highest gas prices in the country, and at \$5.74 per gallon; fuel costs here are \$1.41 per gallon above the national average.

"Capitol Democrats had the chance to provide struggling Californians with immediate relief at the gas pump. They refused," said Assemblyman James Gallagher (Yuba City). "High gas prices and inflation are devastating California families, but Capitol Democrats' only solution seems to be 'buy a Tesla.'"

During the Assembly floor session, Republicans moved to advance AB 1638, which would suspend California's state gas tax for six months, and backfill the revenue from the state's budget surplus, which could exceed \$69 billion. The motion was killed on a 18-40 vote, with all Republicans voting to suspend the tax. Not a single Democrat voted for the effort. ★

Prop 47: Enough is Enough!

By Assemblyman James Gallagher

California communities are under assault by a rise in crime that's hitting neighborhoods throughout our state.

Thieves walk into stores, fill up their backpacks and stroll out without a care in the world. Organized rings of thieves are committing brazen smash-and-grabs. Open air drug use and fentanyl overdoses are common on our streets at high-end retail boutiques. Soft-on-crime policies have failed Californians.

Proposition 47 is a huge culprit, reducing penalties for many crimes to a slap on the wrist. Now, a majority of Californians support bringing back more serious consequences for people who break the law.

Californians deserve to live in communities safe from violent crime and rampant theft. That is why I teamed up with Assemblymember Kevin Kiley and a dozen other legislators to introduce AB 1599 that would repeal Proposition 47 and rein in California's crime wave. Enough is enough! It's time to start holding criminals accountable. ★

Cultivating Through the Tulips



Weeding among 1000 tulips are Jensen Botanical Garden volunteers Paul Tanner (left), Susan Scott, Beverly Scott, Rick Scott and Marti Ikehara.

Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - A perennial treat for flower lovers, tulips are now in bloom at Carmichael's Jensen Botanical Gardens. Flowering will peak over the next two weeks.

The display follows February's host of golden daffodils on the park

slope dubbed "daffodil hill." Azalea, camellia and dogwood flowers reach an April crescendo and rhododendron will join the march in May. By then, roses will be rioting on the park's southern exposure.

"Spring's my favorite season," says Friends of Jensen Garden leader Beverly Scott. "I tell visitors: don't just look at beds—look up. Our trees

are in flower and you don't want to miss what's above you. We have a huge cherry laurel blooming now. It smells divine."

Though the gardens are a popular spot for the romantically inclined, bouquet plucking is forbidden and in spring, volunteers erect signage to caution: 'Please Don't

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Carmichael Attorney Targets Frivolous ADA Lawsuits

By Thomas J. Sullivan

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - A Carmichael attorney, Catherine Corfee of the Corfee Stone Law Corp. (Corfee Stone) is cautioning local businesses on Fair Oaks Blvd., and Sacramento County to be especially alert to an individual who is known throughout California for filing frequent ADA lawsuits against small businesses for the purpose of recovering attorney's fees.

Signed into law in July 1990 by President George H.W. Bush, the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) aims to make buildings and transportation accessible for those with disabilities and to protect them from discrimination in employment. Store owners and restaurants can often face a fine of \$4,000 for each individual ADA violation.

According to Corfee, the plaintiff, Brian Whitaker, a quadriplegic who uses a wheelchair, has filed more than 1,000 ADA lawsuits across California since the COVID-19 pandemic began last year, according to published news reports.

In his recent filings, Whitaker alleges that he was "barred from full and equal access to the business, was denied access because of insufficient ADA parking, a non-ADA dining table, and/or the sales counter was too high."

Attorney Dennis Price, of the San Diego law firm Potter Handy, which has a specialized division called the Center for Disability Access and which has represented Mr. Whitaker, did not respond to the Messenger's request for comment.

In her blog, Corfee outlines steps which local

business owners and restaurants should be taking to protect themselves against serial ADA filings by individuals such as Whitaker, who in her opinion, "seek only money and never return to patronize the business they may sue."

"As of January 20, 2022, our law firm tracked plaintiff Brian Whitaker's recent ADA complaints which have been filed against businesses in Fair Oaks, and Sacramento," Corfee said. "Many of these targeted businesses are located on Fair Oaks Blvd."

If a business is mailed a notice of an ADA complaint in any form they should take action quickly and promptly seek legal counsel before responding, Corfee said.

"If a defendant does not respond to the ADA complaint, the plaintiff such as Whitaker, who alleges an ADA violation against a business owner, can obtain a default judgment and possibly attorney's fees," she said. The likely cost for legal defense in an ADA case when not taken in time, could drain a business financially.

Corfee, a graduate of UC Berkeley and the McGeorge School of Law, has been in professional legal practice since 1991. She has practiced ADA and California disability access law since 1985 and has published case law on the subject. She also worked for two prior United States Magistrate judges in the Eastern District Court of California.

"Most everyone chooses to settle with Mr. Whitaker because of the expensive cost of litigating," she said.

Many ADA cases can become a "game" for attorney's fees as the disabled person's attorney tries to



Catherine Corfee has practiced ADA and California disability access law since 1985. Photo provided by Catherine Corfee

protract litigation to earn more money in fees to later reclaim such in a settlement, a motion, and/or at trial.

Her firm has lowered its price to file a motion to dismiss an ADA claim when the defendant makes the perfect ADA changes and implements an ADA policy and procedure, she said.

"The only remedy under the ADA is "injunctive relief," Corfee explains, which is a "fix-it order" plus attorneys' fees and costs. "The best thing a business can do is to fix (cited ADA discrepancies) perfectly, and in advance of a lawsuit," she said.

"We can also prepare for

our business clients ADA policy and procedural manuals, much like an employee handbook," she said.

Corfee said she recommends the retention of an ADA compliance expert, such as a Certified Access Specialist (CASp), to physically inspect a business or commercial facility to provide specific access recommendations.

In Corfee's opinion, business owners should also think twice, however, about hiring just any random CASp.

While a CASp may be an expert on the ADA access standards, they are often not attorneys who are licensed to

read and fully keep up with the many court decisions interpreting the ADA and California Building Codes," she said.

"They should also hire an experienced CASp who will not "throw the book at them and overwhelm them with too many codes to fix," she said.

Corfee recommended her clients hire an ADA attorney to oversee the CASp so that his or her report is not discoverable by the plaintiff.

"If they get a hold of a CASp report of "all" potential ADA violations, then they can use it against the defendant and amend the lawsuit to add more barriers," she said.

"Having an attorney direct the CASp makes his report "privileged" pursuant to the attorney-consultant privilege is recommended," she said.

Corfee offers four helpful tips which business owners should follow to ensure ADA compliance or properly respond to a filed complaint.

Tips include:

1. Retain a CASp who has litigation experience, been deposed and who has filed declarations in courts or as an expert.
2. Retain a good ADA attorney who cares about winning, more than collecting your money and ensure the attorney directs the CASp, so that the CASp's report is privileged per the attorney-consultant privilege, and provides solutions, rather than just identifies ADA violations.
3. Take steps to fix the ADA matter within 120 days or within 180 days if a building permit is needed. "If the business does have a CASp inspection, and fixes the most important

barriers in 120 days, or a disabled plaintiff does sue, a business may not be found presumptively not liable for statutory damages," Corfee said.

4. Have the CASp return before 120 days to write the A+ report demonstrating the business owner has perfect ADA compliance, and save all receipts, bids, payments made, as there are tax credits available for completed ADA work.

"At Corfee Stone, we feel that we know the best CASps, and can offer excellent alternative solutions to help business owners minimize their legal expenses when they have to make specific ADA improvements," she said.

Corfee said she prefers to perform her own physical site inspections and share her knowledge of the California building code.

"Many ADA attorneys rely solely on their (designated) CASp and do not know the codes themselves, as I do," she said.

Clients who hire her law firm can count on her expertise and experience to develop a keen strategy to leverage settlements.

Visit the Corfee Stone Law Corp. on the web at: corfeestonelaw.com

Local business owners with specific questions regarding the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) or compliance with law can call Catherine Corfee directly at (916) 487-5441, or by cell phone at (916) 812-7322 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. to schedule a minimum one-hour business consultation. She is also available by email at corfee.catherine@gmail.com or corfee.assistant@gmail.com ★

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Opening Day for Little League

Continued from page 1

let us come on the field," McGivney said. "So, we would just come out as dads and just let kids hit balls, but we couldn't organize with the little league. So that one season off was hard.

"My oldest son, that was his 12-year-old season," McGivney continued. "There were six kids in that division who were hitting (the baseball) over the fence in practice. So that was the first year those kids were actually hitting home runs and they didn't get a chance to try it in a game. And then they move up to the bigger field where it's way harder to do. There's nothing more fun than being a 12-year-old hitting a home run. So, we lost that season, but other kids lost their last season."

According to Daffron, this has been the most "normal season" the league has had in three years. In 2021, the league was able to have a season but was unable to do off-the-field gatherings such as a pancake breakfast and opening day festivities.

"Everybody wants to play baseball, everyone wants to be out here," Daffron said. "You always think about COVID in the back of your mind, but I think a lot of people are a lot more comfortable now and this feels like a normal season."

Going into this season, the league has the most teams and players they've had since 2017 with almost 300 players and 25 teams according to Daffron.



Younger little leaguers throwing the ceremonial first pitch of the season to older little leaguers at Opening Day on Saturday, March 12 at the La Sierra Community Center.

Cole Carpenter, 6, is one of the new players, suited up in his orange and black Giants uniform. Carpenter said batting is his favorite part of baseball and that he wants to play catcher because he's bad at it and wants to practice. Carpenter was unable to play T-Ball in 2021 so he's thrilled to be playing this year in the A Division.

Aside from reuniting with old friends, taking team photos, eating from food trucks and much more, the Carmichael Little League community took time Saturday before the 70th season began to honor one of their own that they lost suddenly in Feb. 2020.

J'aime Rosales, a mother of three, said her neighbor Dennis Telleen was a big and gruff "throwback" coach to those who knew him best. Telleen demanded the

best out of his players and that they worked hard, as long as they were having fun.

To honor Telleen, the AAA field where he spent most of his time coaching has been renamed, "The Dennis R. Telleen Memorial Field."

"There are two things you can control: Always having the best attitude, and giving your best effort," the sign created in Telleen's memory reads.

Atreo Torres, 11, plays catcher and first base for the Red Sox. Torres said his favorite memory playing little league was when he was on the Cubs playing for Telleen. Torres also said his favorite thing about little league is the opening ceremony and pancake breakfast, so you can be sure that Torres was excited to have both those events return this year.

Local Little Leagues are non-profit organizations that are made possible by sponsors.

"It just makes a big difference out here to have a sponsorship," Daffron said. "Putting new scoreboards or bleachers (in). This is a non-profit, everything goes towards the league. Things are worn out. A lot of our equipment is 20 to 30 to 40 years old. That's what sponsorship money goes to. Dirt, just keeping the fields up, it's a lot more work than people realize. Our field coordinator is out here every day. Sponsorships please, we need them."

For more information on how to become a sponsor, please contact Sponsorship Coordinator Megan Prudler at meganwprudler@gmail.com or (916) 712-1040. ★



The Carmichael Little League snack shack received a new paint job just in time for the 2022 season!



Members of the 50/70 A's march as a team to the field on Opening Day on Saturday, March 12 at the La Sierra Community Center



The T-Ball Division Giants of the Carmichael Little League pose for a team photo on Opening Day on Saturday, March 12 at the La Sierra Community Center.

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CDAА Supports Newsom’s Care Court for Mentally Ill Homeless

CDAА Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - While we are still awaiting details, the California District Attorneys Association (CDAА) supports the concept of Governor Gavin Newsom’s Care Court; a proposal that would provide mandatory treatment for mentally ill homeless people.

“This innovative and humane approach would help the thousands of Californians on the street suffering from mental illness who don’t have the wherewithal to volunteer for medical and psychiatric care,” said Greg Totten, CDAА’s Chief Executive Officer.

In his State of the State Address, Governor Newsom proposed Care Court, which he said would create civil court divisions in every county that could have the power to mandate mental health treatment for people with

debilitating psychosis.

“By providing new treatment options to those who are most vulnerable and most in need, California can humanely address the human suffering connected to homelessness while also improving public safety for all of our communities,” said Jeff Reising, Yolo County District Attorney and President of CDAА.

The Governor has not yet provided details of the plan but suggested it could become state law this year. We look forward to being a part of a robust conversation about a policy that is desperately needed.

The California District Attorneys Association is a statewide training and advocacy organization representing elected district attorneys, city attorneys with criminal divisions, and more than 3,500 prosecutors. ★

Aftershock Festival 2022 Lineup Announced

By Ken Casparis, Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Aftershock Music Festival will once again be returning to Sacramento County’s Discovery Park this October! After shattering attendance records last year, event organizer, Danny Wimmer Presents, has announced another tremendous lineup.

This year’s festival headliners include Slipknot, KISS, My Chemical Romance and Foo Fighters. Other big names like Rob Zombie, A Day to Remember, Evanescence, Papa Roach and more have also joined the lineup.

“We are so excited to welcome rock fans from all over the country back to Discovery Park this October,” said Liz Bellas, Director of Regional Parks. “We welcome the opportunity to show off some of the amenities and amazing versatility of the Regional Parks system.”

Last year’s sold-out event set a record with 145,000 attendees and was estimated



Aftershock 2022 will be held the weekend of Oct. 6 – 9. Photo courtesy of Supervisor Phil Serna.

to have brought in \$30 million to the local economy, according to Visit Sacramento. Roughly 75 percent of attendees traveled to Aftershock from outside the region.

“Aftershock’s extraordinary line-up this year - including one of my favorite bands, Foo Fighters - shows just how committed we are to enhancing live music experiences in Sacramento County,” said First District Supervisor, Phil Serna.

Aftershock 2022 will be held the weekend of Oct. 6 – 9. For a complete lineup and to purchase tickets, visit the Aftershock Festival website at aftershockfestival.com/★

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Newsom Paints Rosy Picture, Ignores Big Issues



By Dan Walters
CALMatters.org

California is a shining example of economic and social progress, a beacon to the rest of the nation and the rest of the world.

Doubt it? It must be true because Gov. Gavin Newsom said it Tuesday in his fourth State of the State address, declaring, “now, in the midst of so much turmoil with stacking stresses and dramatic social and economic change, California is doing what we have done for generations, lighting out the territory ahead of the rest, expanding the horizon of what’s possible.”

He called it “The California Way” and said it “means rejecting old binaries and finding new solutions to big problems ...”

However, Newsom ignored many “big problems” as he portrayed a state on the cutting edge of virtually everything positive.

By any measure, the state has an immense shortage of housing that has driven costs through the roof and given California the nation’s highest poverty rate. But neither the housing crisis nor the poverty rate crossed his lips.

He also sidestepped another crisis — a drought that threatens to devastate California’s agricultural industry and, in

the longer run, clobber the entire economy.

Instead, Newsom portrayed the economy in the rosier terms, saying, “When it comes to the economy, California is unmatched.

“We dominate in research, innovation, entrepreneurialism, venture capital — and remain the world’s fifth largest economy. Our GDP growth has consistently outpaced not only the rest of the country — but most other large, western democracies. Nearly a million new jobs in the last 12 months. In December alone, 25% of America’s jobs were created right here in California. More new business starts during the worst of the pandemic than Texas and Florida combined.”

Sounds great, right? But Newsom avoided the fact that California has the nation’s highest unemployment rate at 6.5%, nearly three percentage points higher than the national rate and three times as high as some states.

How about education? “I’m talking about a real transformation of our public education system, like we’re doing right here in California,” Newsom claimed. “By creating choices — real choices — for parents and unprecedented support for their kids.”

What about the devastation that COVID-19 visited upon the state’s nearly six million public school students, and the widening “achievement gap” between poor students and their more advantaged classmates? What about California’s chronically poor performance on nationwide

academic tests? Not a word.

Newsom bragged about the state’s leading role in reducing greenhouse gases and reducing the dominance of hydrocarbons in transportation and utilities.

“At a time when we’ve been heating up and burning up, one thing we cannot do is repeat the mistakes of the past,” Newsom said. “Embracing polluters. Drilling even more oil, which only leads to even more extreme weather, more extreme drought, more wildfire.”

However, he said nothing about California’s looming shortage of electrical power, already evident on hot summer days. Nor has he spelled out how the economic impacts of the conversion to an all-electric society will be alleviated.

Newsom did mention crime, at least in passing, but offered faint solace to victims of the state’s rising crime rates, particularly the wave of homicide in the major cities.

“Our approach is to be neither indifferent to the realities of the present day, nor revert to heavy-handed policies that have marked the failures of the past,” Newsom said, citing more money for both law enforcement and “new programs to tackle the root causes of crime, doubling down on proven violence prevention programs.”

Bottom line: As a State of State speech, it was shockingly deficient. It sounded more like a kickoff to his re-election campaign.

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

California’s Green Energy Mania Threatens Grid Reliability



Commentary
by Ted Gaines

California is failing at the government basics. Public safety, homelessness, roads, and water storage are all in shambles. But as long as that shameful list is, it’s about to get longer. With summer around the corner, when demand is at its zenith, our energy supply will not be up to the task.

California’s headlong rush towards zero-carbon power will cost consumers through wildly expensive electricity rates and lower grid reliability. That’s a lose-lose for California families and businesses who want to avoid blackouts and avoid energy poverty.

Golden State politicians and Progressives — groups with an almost total overlap — live in dread fear of possible changes in weather decades in the future. Instead of planning for localized mitigations to deal with changing climate, they’ve decided to remake our entire energy sector, replacing affordable, dependable sources with their opposites.

A case in point is the closing of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant, scheduled to stop operations in 2025. Despite disingenuous claims that PG&E is choosing to close this facility, they are being forced into closure by California regulators who can make relicensing extraordinarily time consuming and expensive.

How important is Diablo Canyon? It currently produces about as much power as all the rooftop solar in the entire state. And unlike solar and wind, this power is available on-demand, 24/7. PG&E, the plant’s owner, alleges it will replace all the lost power with so-called green, renewable resources, but what if it can’t?

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), a non-profit dedicated to promoting grid reliability, thinks it won’t. NERC notes that California already has insufficient reserve power to meet demand during a heat wave. Closing Diablo Canyon will only contribute to declining reserve margins, according to NERC.

All of that is to say that blackouts are coming when it gets hot in California, as it does every summer. Don’t be surprised when your AC won’t click on, or you’re burning candles for light in this supposedly advanced state. The blackouts are entirely predictable and a direct

result of California energy policy making our grid unreliable by replacing on-demand replacing with intermittent ones.

And remember, California is pushing people into electric cars through incentives and government decrees. Many people will be charging up those EVs when they get home from work, right after solar energy production peaks. We are creating dreadful imbalances that will lead to energy rationing in one of the wealthiest areas in the world.

Venture capitalist Marc Andreessen recently tweeted about the Ukrainian crisis and its effect on our energy markets and independence, “Build 1,000 new state of the art nuclear power plants in the US and Europe, right now. We won’t, but we should.” He’s right all the way around regarding energy independence and reliance on aggressive rogue states such as Russia for our energy.

But it’s the last line that hits closest to home in California. We need to reverse our green energy mania that prices electricity like a luxury good and guarantees blackouts. Dependable, affordable energy is within our grasp if we commit to predictable, on-demand resources such as nuclear and natural gas. We won’t, but we should.

For more information, visit www.boe.ca.gov/ Gaines. ★

Copart to Pay \$800,000 for Hazardous Waste Settlement

Sacramento County District Attorney

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert announced that the Sacramento County District Attorney’s Office, joined the Contra Costa County District Attorney’s Office and 15 other California District Attorneys and City Attorneys, in a settlement with Copart for injunctive relief, civil penalties, and enforcement costs totaling \$800,000.

After an investigation into the waste management practices of Copart, the prosecuting offices filed a civil complaint alleging Copart disposed of hazardous waste items into the trash. The items disposed of consisted of used office supplies, and items removed from vehicles being prepared for sale such as personal

items, small electronics, personal care, automotive, and other consumer products. These practices ultimately lead to hazardous waste being improperly transported to and disposed of in municipal landfills instead of authorized hazardous waste disposal facilities.

When contacted by prosecutors, Copart was cooperative with the investigation. Copart facilities have prepared and implemented new policies and procedures and enhanced their existing training programs designed to properly manage and dispose of all items that are regulated as hazardous waste.

The judgment agreed to by the parties provides for \$650,000 in civil penalties, \$150,000 in costs of enforcement and a permanent injunction prohibiting Copart from violating hazardous waste laws and requiring Copart to implement compliance assurance measures. ★

Upgrade Your Bathroom Efficiency with Help From SSWD

SSWD staff

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Did you know... more than half of the water used inside your home is used in your bathroom? Toilet flushes, showers, baths, brushing teeth, and shaving all add up to hundreds of gallons each month.

Fortunately, there are ways to make your bathroom more efficient and Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) is here to help.

SSWD is offering a complimentary indoor water use efficiency kit to its customers. The kit includes:

- Two WaterSense-labeled high-efficiency showerheads that can help you save 2,700 gallons of water per year. WaterSense-labeled showerheads are independently certified to use at least 20 percent less water and work as well or better than standard models.
- Two WaterSense-labeled bathroom faucet aerators and one kitchen faucet

aerator that can help the average family save over 700 gallons of water per year.

- Toilet Leak Detection Dye Tabs that can help you determine if your toilet has a leak. Simply add the dye tab to the toilet tank, wait 10 to 15 minutes, and if the color from the dye tab appears in the bowl, you have a toilet leak.

Toilet leaks are most often cause by a worn toilet flapper. Fortunately, they are easy to fix. Here’s how:

- Turn off the water to the toilet and remove the flapper
- Take it to your hardware store and find a similar model
- Install and your leak should be flushed away!

SSWD also has rebates available for upgrading old toilets to new high-efficiency models. To request an efficiency kit or find out more about available rebates, please visit SSWD.org. ★

MEMORIAL

DONALD G. BRAATZ

5/11/1930 – 2/22/2022

Donald G. Braatz died peacefully in his sleep February 22, 2022 at the age of 91. Don was born in Waukegan, Illinois to Ramona (Bloom) and Donald H. Braatz on May 11, 1930. Both his parents were born in Wisconsin. Don was preceded in death by his devoted wife of 65 years, Cleone (Sullivan) Braatz.

Don was a Korean Veteran and served in the U.S. Air Force for 20 years, retiring from Travis A.F.B. In the Air Force he served in the medical field of x-ray and nuclear medicine and helped to build the first American x-ray field unit in Korea during the Korean War. Upon retirement from the service in 1971, he joined Sutter Hospitals in Sacramento working to develop and expand the imaging department over the next 20 years.

Don was an avid outdoorsman and helped to instill a deep respect and connection to nature in his family. Don and Cleone shared a love for travel that began while serving in the Air Force and continued throughout their lives. They grew their love of travel through involvement with the Sutter Sailors and various trips and cruises across the globe with family and friends. Don was an avid golfer and an active member of the Carmichael Elks Lodge #2103 for over 50 years.

Don is survived by his daughter and son-in-law Linda Braatz Brown and David Brown of Upland, CA; his grandchildren Michelle (Eric) Blanchette of Orlando, FL, Clinton Burrows IV of Bullhead City, AZ, Katherine

Brown-Lieberman of Upland, CA, and Shane Burrows of Sacramento, CA; his great-grandchildren Joseph Yoshito of Phoenix, AZ, Cleone Burrows of Bullhead City, AZ, Kale Blanchette of Orlando, FL and Kailey Brown-Lieberman of Upland, CA and a loving circle of extended family and friends, many of whom he mentored along the way. The family would like to extend deeply felt gratitude to Heritage Nursing (Upland, CA), Dove Tree Manor (Rialto, CA) and Aegis Hospice for providing gentle care during the final weeks of Don’s life.

Burial will be held at the Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, CA. on April 8, 2022 with a Celebration of Life to be held at his daughter’s that evening. In lieu of flowers, family is requesting that a donation to the Carmichael Elks Lodge #2103 Youth Fund be considered.

Historic Sac State Turnaround Ends in First Round of Big Sky Tournament

By Shaun Holkko,
sports editor

BOISE, ID (MPG) - This isn't Mark Campbell's first rebuilding project.

The Hornets' (14-16, 10-11 Big Sky Conference) first-year head coach has been involved with rebuilding a women's college basketball program twice before, at Oregon State and then the University of Oregon, eventually leading both teams to the Final Four.

Which is why it should come as no surprise that in Campbell's first season at Sacramento State, his team improved by 11 games, elevating their win total from three to 14 in just one season. Additionally, 14-16 is the best first year record that Campbell has been a part of in a rebuilding project.

Before Campbell and his staff came to town, the Hornets had not won 14 games in a season for six years. The turnaround of the 2021-22 Sac State women's basketball team now ranks as the fourth largest in Big Sky history.

Sac State's impressive run came to an end Monday, March 7 in Boise, Idaho as the seventh seeded Hornets were defeated in the first round of the Big Sky Tournament by the tenth seeded Weber State Wildcats (11-19, 7-14) by a final score of 74-64.

The start of the game Monday could not have gone any better if you were rooting for the Hornets, as they got out



Sac State head coach Mark Campbell speaks to his team during a timeout amid a 74-64 loss to Weber State on Monday, March 7 at the Big Sky Tournament in Boise, Idaho. Photo courtesy of Brooks Nuñez - Skyline Sports, skylinesportsmt.com

to an 11-2 lead after four minutes of action. The Wildcats began to chip away at the deficit, but Sac State led by six after one quarter, 20-14. The first period ended up being the only quarter the Hornets won all night.

Weber State edged Sac State in second quarter scoring 13-12 but trailed by five entering the locker room at halftime 32-27.

"In the first half, we shot ourselves in the foot," Campbell said. "We played incredible defense, made them miss. I think in the first half they had 17 offensive rebounds. If you finish those possessions, the game wouldn't have

been a five-point game at halftime.

"Unfortunately, we played good enough defense in the first half and couldn't finish the possessions. We gave them hope and gave them life."

The Hornets extended their lead to seven just over a minute into the second half at 38-31. Then the Wildcats went on an 18-6 run over the final eight plus minutes of the third quarter to take a five-point lead into the fourth period.

Weber State outscored Sac State by 10 in the third quarter, 22-12, which ultimately ended up being the difference in the game.

In a high scoring final 10 minutes of action, the Wildcats kept control, outscoring the Hornets 25-20.

"At the end of the day, they scored 47 points in the second half," Campbell said. "We couldn't guard them in the second half and that's kind of been our Achilles heel. How far we went was always going to be dictated on how well we could defend and rebound and tonight we didn't do it well enough."

Big Sky Newcomer of the Year Isnelle Natabou got into foul trouble early in the game limiting her impact against Weber State. The sophomore

center played 24 minutes, scoring 10 points on 5-of-6 from the field and grabbing six rebounds (three offensive).

"I have struggled with early fouls in the game during (the) whole season and I'm very foul-prone," Natabou said. "It really helped me when my teammates and coach told me that I have to calm down. Because I know the rules, I know what I should be doing."

Without Natabou, the Hornets struggled on the boards being outrebounded 38 to 25. 18 of those rebounds came on the offensive glass for the Wildcats, leading to 21

second chance points. In a game they lost by 10, Sac State was outscored by 12 in second chance points.

Big Sky Most Valuable Player of the Year Lianna Tillman led all scorers with a game-high 23 points on 10-of-25 field goal attempts and four assists. The Sac State graduate transfer was a perfect 3-of-3 from the free-throw line but missed all seven 3-point tries in her final collegiate appearance.

"For Lianna to have the season that she had, you guys it's truly remarkable," Campbell said. "The only player in all of college basketball that had numbers similar to her is Caitlin Clark at Iowa who might be the National Player of the Year."

Weber State senior guard Aloma Solovi had a team-high 20 points, six assists and two steals. Junior forward Daryn Hickok followed closely behind for the Wildcats with 19 points on 4-of-6 from the field and a stellar 11-of-12 from the charity stripe. By herself, Hickok made one more free throw than the entire Hornets team.

Both teams had four starters score in double figures.

"It's painful anytime your season comes to an end," Campbell said.

"I'm just incredibly proud of this group and what they accomplished in our staff's first year. They just laid an incredible foundation that we'll be able to build upon." ★

Hornets' Season Ends with Loss to Top Seed Montana State

By Shaun Holkko,
sports editor

BOISE, ID (MPG) - The Sacramento State men's basketball team survived and advanced in the Big Sky Tournament once but were unable to repeat the same magic as their season came to an end Thursday, March 11.

The Hornets (11-18, 7-15 Big Sky Conference) began the tournament as the No. 8 seed taking on the No. 9 seed University of Idaho (9-22, 6-15). Sac State won a close game Wednesday, March 10 against the Vandals, 57-54.

However, Sac State met its match Thursday afternoon, falling to the No. 1 seed Montana State Bobcats (25-7, 17-4) by a score of 83-61, subsequently ending their season.

The first 14 minutes of action between the Hornets and Vandals was tightly contested and tied at 19. Then Sac State closed the half on a 12-3 run to take a nine-point lead at 31-22 into the locker room.

The Hornets remained in control with a double-digit lead throughout most of the second half, until Idaho made its run with about three minutes left. The Vandals were able to trim their deficit to one with seven seconds remaining, but two free throws from senior forward Bryce Fowler sealed the win for Sac State.

Fowler, who was named to the All-Big Sky second team, scored a game-high 26 points on 10-of-19 from the field with eight rebounds, four assists and two steals



Sac State junior guard Zach Chappell drives to the basket as he is guarded by Idaho sophomore guard Gabe Quinnett during a 57-54 win against the Vandals on Wednesday, March 10 at the Big Sky Tournament in Boise, Idaho. Photo courtesy of Brooks Nuñez - Skyline Sports, skylinesportsmt.com

against the Vandals.

"There's a little frustration with that. I definitely feel like I'm a first team player, top five player in the league," Fowler said about being named to the second team. "But that's kind of out of my control."

"I wouldn't say that fueled me at all, it definitely frustrated me, but I'm not going to change how I play because someone didn't think I was a top five player."

Sac State head coach Brandon Laird felt Fowler was deserving of much more

recognition from the conference than he received.

"Certainly, for us, it's all about Bryce," Laird said. "I'm going to say this just because he's my guy. And there's a lot of really great players in this conference so this is not a diss or disrespect to anybody. But in my opinion, he's the best player in the conference. He's the most versatile and the most valuable in terms of the different things he does for us. It's no secret at this point to anyone else, we're going to play through Bryce."

Sophomore forward

Cameron Wilbon had a strong performance of his own for the Hornets with 18 points, six rebounds, two assists and two steals. Junior guard Trevante Anderson was the only player to score in double figures for Idaho as he finished with 11 points.

"I feel like the biggest turning point in our season (was when) we had like a team meeting where the captains Bryce and Will (senior guard William FitzPatrick), they just put it all out there and told the whole team how they felt about everything," Wilbon said. "The team, we

all realized that we had to step it up each in different ways."

Thursday's game could not have started any better for Sac State, getting out to an early 8-0 lead. Fowler scored 14 of the Hornets' first 20 points in the first 10:41 of the game. The senior forward appeared to be well on his way to matching or surpassing his career-high of 39 points that he scored less than a week prior at the University of Montana.

"We just came out with a ton of energy, kind of gave

them a little punch in the face, I don't know if they were truly expecting it," Fowler said. "We just came out with a really hot start. We were the aggressors early on and that showed."

Unfortunately for Sac State, Fowler became stifled by Montana State senior forward Abdul Mohamed and would not score again until there was 3:16 remaining and the game was well out of reach. Fowler finished with a game-high 20 points on 9-of-18 field goal attempts and added seven rebounds.

The Bobcats, who had a first-round bye unlike the Hornets, shook off their jitters and settled in midway through the first half as they took their first lead at 19-18 following a 7-0 run. Montana State led by 11 at halftime, 39-28, and never looked back as they doubled their lead in the second half and ultimately won by 22 at 83-61.

"We kind of got a little fractured as a group when things went wrong," Fowler said. "We just couldn't maintain that connectiveness and that spirit we had in the first four to six minutes throughout the whole game."

Sac State junior guard Zach Chappell followed closely behind Fowler with 19 points and two rebounds. Montana State had five players score in double digits, led by senior guard Xavier Bishop who had 14 points, three rebounds and three assists.

The difference in the game Thursday was bench production, as the Bobcats outscored Sac State 35-7. ★

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • WHO AM I?

CLUES

ACROSS

- Campus military org.
- Pilgrimage to Mecca
- 1968 hit "Harper Valley"
- Turkish honorific
- "I captained the Millennium Falcon in "Star Wars"
- Inlet in Greenland
- Map out
- Pharaoh's symbol
- Austin Powers and Shrek to Mike Myers
- "I developed the theory of relativity"
- Sailor's hail
- Lyric poem
- Solar System center
- Portable stairs
- "I am Sgt. George Baker's inept comic strip character"
- Mine deposit
- Shape
- Fairy tale cannibal
- Feline sneakers
- Lawyer group
- "I have a coiled shell and eyes on stalks"
- Very dark black
- Free from obstruction
- Aviv
- Most buffoonish
- Rest or hydration for common cold, e.g.
- Hot springs resort
- "...he found a crooked sixpence upon a crooked"
- Japanese stringed instrument
- "I am a runaway slave, an abolitionist, and a best-selling author"
- Email destination
- Jasmine of "Aladdin," e.g.
- Food fish
- Silly
- Self-cleaning appliance
- Ad staple
- O in IOU
- P in m.p.g.
- Affirmative, colloquially

DOWN

- Do like Drake
- Eye up and down
- Bangkok native
- Like preserved peaches, sometimes
- Sharpened
- Like Huck Finn's dad, e.g.
- *Some people call me the Rocket Man
- *I starred as Pam in the "Meet the Parents" movies
- *I used to host a sports show with Mike Golic
- Commercials
- Buddhist's enlightenment
- Sham
- *I am a WWE Champion, an actor, and my nickname is geology-related
- Vision correctors, colloquially
- Greek letters on campus
- *My résumé includes Fly Girl and "American Idol" judge
- Curacao neighbor
- Evil one
- Fence board
- Popular gemstone

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County Animal Shelter Reopens to the Public

By Allison Harris, Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - On Wednesday, Feb. 23, Sacramento County's Bradshaw Animal Shelter made the transition to fully reopen to the public—doing away with adoption appointments and restricted hours.

Like many businesses, Sacramento County's Bradshaw Animal Shelter has been closed to the public due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The shelter initially closed its doors in March 2020 in response to state-mandated health regulations. While shelter staff continued to provide outstanding care for the shelter animals and animals in the community, the public was not able to access the shelter for services including adoptions. Furthermore, social distancing mandates and essential worker guidelines called for understaffing and loss of volunteers. This resulted in overcrowding of the animal population, which was temporarily resolved by the shelter's foster program and the implementation of a new



We welcome everyone to stop in and visit our shelter pets and beautiful facility. Photo courtesy Pixabay

adoption by appointment process.

For the next two years and as mandates began to loosen up, the shelter operated in this capacity but began to host walk-in adoption events on weekends and with rescue partners. These events were very successful and helped animals get out of the shelter and into homes quickly – lessening the shelter population impact and increasing positive outcomes.

"We are very excited and proud to reopen without adoption appointments. It is time to achieve even higher lifesaving results and the feedback from

the public has been very positive," said Bradshaw Animal Shelter Director, Annette Bedsworth. "We welcome everyone to stop in and visit our shelter pets and beautiful facility. Help us continue our lifesaving mission and adopt today!"

Here is what you should know before you go:

The shelter is open Tuesday-Sunday, 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. (excluding holidays); The shelter is located at 3839 Bradshaw Rd, Sacramento, CA 95827; Adoptions are first-come, first-serve. Consider arriving early; You are free to browse the shelter without assistance from staff; Adoption applications and specials are available on the shelter's website; You can view adoptable animals before you arrive by visiting the adoptable animals webpage; Pet licensing is available in-person, online and via mail; If you cannot adopt, please consider volunteering, fostering or donating.

To learn more about the Bradshaw Animal Shelter and its lifesaving mission, visit animalcare.saccounty.gov. ★

Cultivating Through the Tulips



Visitor Evangeline Moret (4) admires one of the reserve's many camellia bushes.

Continued from page 1

Tiptoe Through the Tulips.' An old song still inspires silliness, concedes Scott: "Footsteps damage foliage and compact soil. When soil is hard, new plants have a tough time breaking through."

Scott and 20 volunteers don gloves for monthly workdays. "Even in winter, there's plenty to do," says their leader. "We add about 800 new bulbs every December." Bulb placement aims for kaleidoscopic impact. "If you plant red tulips together, there's no vivid contrast," says Scott. "But red next to yellow really pops. We don't plant in regimented lines – we want a random look. We like our tulips to dance."

Located near Marshall Avenue, the botanical oasis was first cultivated for one family. Oakland produce buyer Charles Jensen retired to Carmichael after WW II and set about creating a garden of botanic importance. Retaining old oaks, he cleared

brambles and trucked in maple, magnolia and dogwood saplings. Jensen's crowning achievement was a dawn redwood; one of a strain considered extinct until rediscovered in China in the 1940s. Grown from seed, the 90ft tree is thought to be the largest of its species on the West Coast.

After the botanist's death, citizens raised funds to buy the land from his heirs. Carmichael Park District acquired the garden in the 1970s. Though many original plantings are gone, Jensen's legacy remains a community gem. Carmichael Parks Foundation funds new planting and improvements.

In 2014, the botanical area was incorporated with CRPD's Sutter Avenue community gardens. The two adjacent parks now occupy 10 acres, collectively called Sutter-Jensen Community Park.

Anyone may visit Jensen Gardens. The reserve is located at 8520 Fair Oaks Blvd, Carmichael. ★

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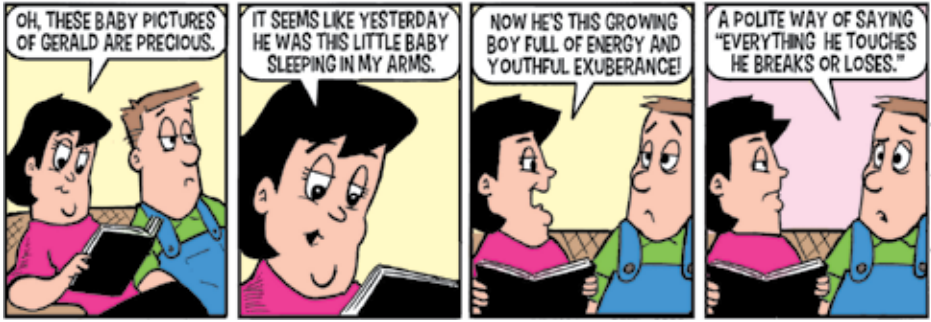
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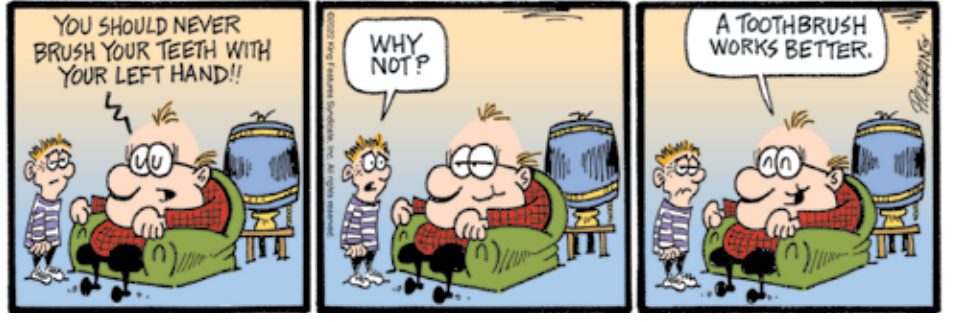
Amber Waves

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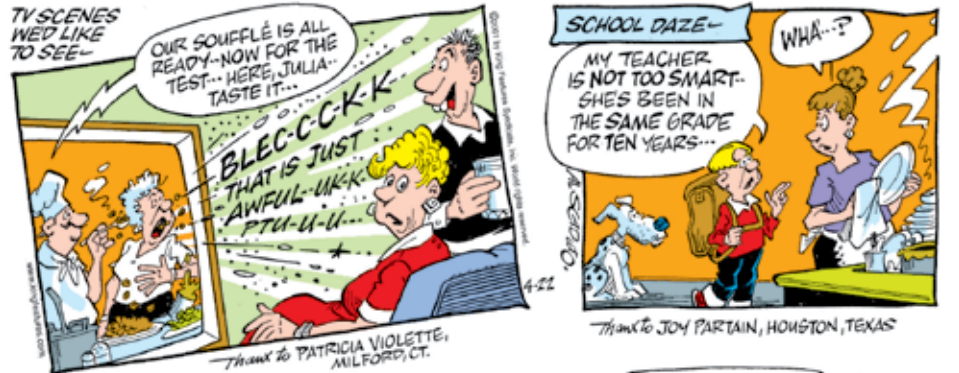
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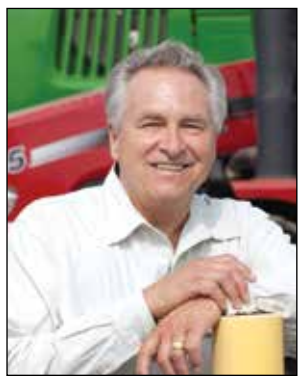


THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



Nielsen's Water Bill Killed: 'It's Absurd and Irresponsible'



Jim Nielsen

Office of Senator Jim Nielsen

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- As California's precious water continues to be flushed out to sea, Democrats killed Senate Bill 890, a measure Senator Jim Nielsen (R-Red Bluff) authored to secure funding to build and repair critical water infrastructure.

"Another historic drought, billions in extra funding and legislative Democrats turn their backs on investing in critical water projects that affect the lives of all Californians? It's absurd and irresponsible," said Nielsen.

SB 890, jointly authored with Senator Andreas Borgeas

(R-Fresno), would have advanced the goals of Proposition 1 (2014) by making significant investments in California's aboveground water storage and conveyance infrastructure. Specifically, SB 890 would have established the Water Storage and Conveyance Fund to provide:

\$2.6 billion to complete the funding of Sites Reservoir in Colusa County; and, \$685 million to repair the Friant-Kern/Delta-Mendota Canals and the San Luis Field/San Joaquin Divisions of the California Aqueduct.

Completion of Sites Reservoir would ensure an additional 1.5 million acre-feet of water is stored during wet years and made available to cities, farms and the environment during times of drought.

California's Central Valley canals are in severe need of repair. Canal diversion and conveyance capacity have degraded due to substantial land subsidence caused by regional

groundwater overdraft.

The Legislature had the opportunity to fund these critical water infrastructure projects using taxpayer revenue that has already been collected. This is because under state law, infrastructure projects may be financed using revenue from the General Fund when it exceeds the State Appropriations Limit, or Gann limit.

The need for reliable and dependable above ground water storage and conveyance infrastructure is vital. The completion of Sites Reservoir and repairs on the Central Valley canals will go a long way toward preserving public health, protecting the environment and maintaining economic viability.

SB 890 was killed in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee.

To contact Senator Jim Nielsen, please call him at 916-651-4004, or via email at senator.nielsen@senate.ca.gov. Follow him @CASenatorJim. ★

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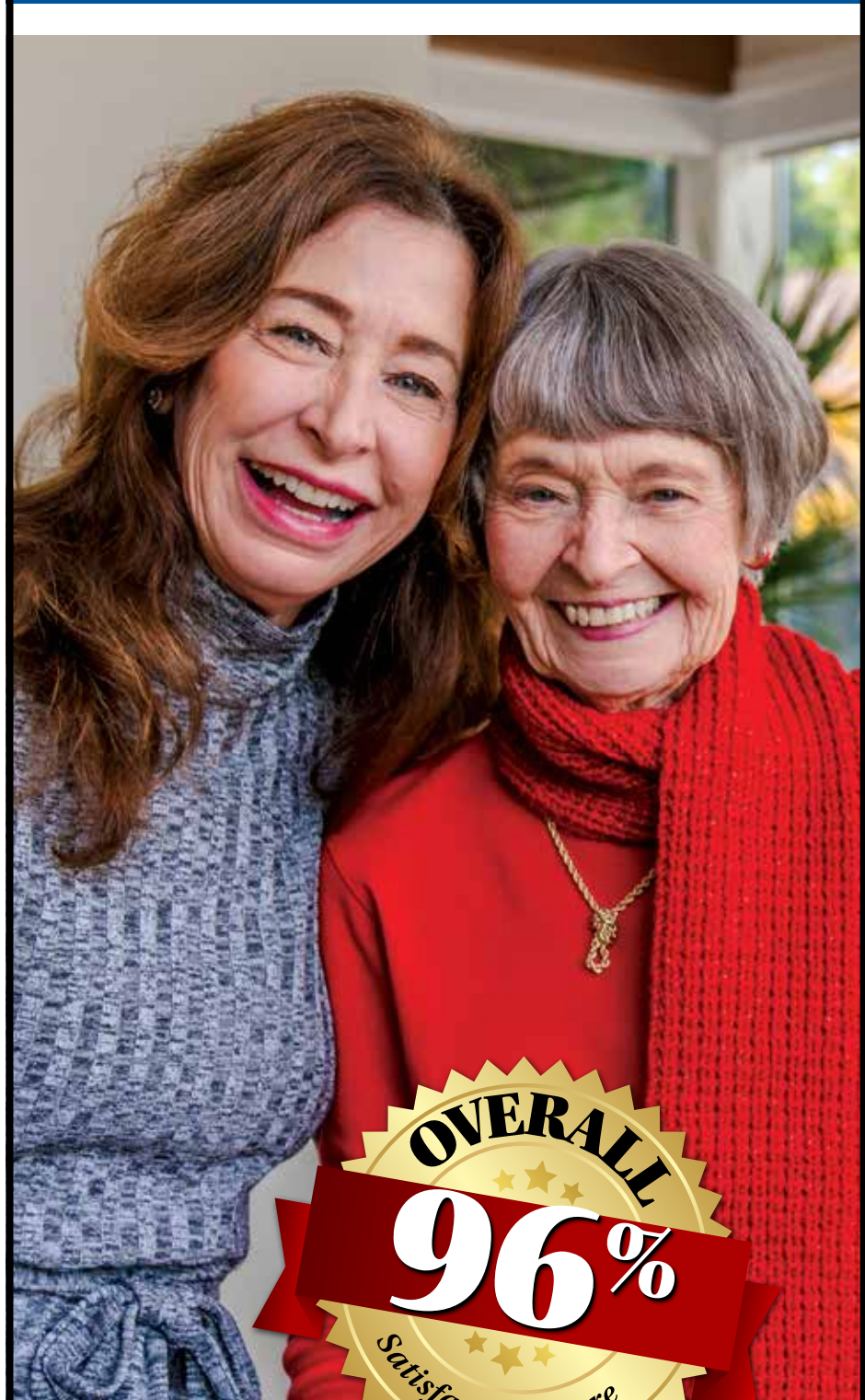


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