



Carmichael Times

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APRIL 30, 2021

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Water District to File Lawsuits

Board Announces Lawsuit Against Three Former Employees over Audit Findings



As a result of the Special Procedures Audit Report findings, the Water District will make recommended changes within the organization, implementing an additional special procedures audit as part of the yearly audit and the review and revision of existing policies to ensure transparency. MPG file photo

Story by Shauna Boyd

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - At the April 20 meeting of the Carmichael Water District Board of Directors, the Board received the Special Procedures Audit Report completed by Richardson & Company. The Audit was authorized last July to review employee benefits provided by the District that were never authorized by the Board.

The Audit reviewed District documents from 2010 through July 2020, finding that various Employee Benefits Packages were implemented over the years, providing unapproved benefits to a number of employees. Additional benefits not outlined in the unofficial benefits packages were also granted to some senior management staff.

The majority of unapproved benefits were received by former General Manager Steve Nugent, who retired at the end of December 2019; former Assistant General Manager

Lynette Moreno, who retired at the end of December 2020; and Human Resources Director Lori Kalisiak. The Richardson & Company report states that during the 10 years under review, these three individuals created and implemented unapproved employee benefits packages, through which they each received “tens of thousands of dollars in compensatory time-off, unauthorized insurance premiums, leave pay-outs, and excess reimbursements without the knowledge, authorization, or approval of the Board.”

The report specifies that “while the three members of management staff received the majority of the unauthorized benefits and public monies, seven other employees also benefited.” It is unknown whether the other employees were aware that the benefits were unauthorized.

In total, the report showed that employees received \$640,043.43 in unapproved benefits from 2010 to

2020.

General Manager Cathy Lee asked the Board to accept the report, stating that as a result of the findings, the District will make changes within the organization. The recommended changes include reorganization to establish separation of duties; hiring managers with specialized skills, training, and licensures; implementing an additional special procedures audit as part of the yearly audit; the inclusion of additional pay and benefits details in the annual budget; and the review and revision of existing policies to ensure transparency.

During public comment, David Hanscom said it appeared that “no one’s paying attention to what’s going on in the chicken coop. ... You’re responsible for what goes on there. So, you need to be looking at it periodically, and waiting 10 years until we’ve got a problem this big, I don’t know, I’m just discouraged

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As Kitten Season Begins Fosters and Donations Needed



Animal shelters around the country are gearing up for what is known as “kitten season.” Photo: Pixabay

**Sacramento County
 News Press Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Animal shelters around the country are gearing up for what is known as “kitten season,” when cats begin to give birth to countless kitten litters. Typically beginning in late spring and continuing throughout summer, kitten season stretches the already-thin resources animal shelters and rescues have when the influx of unwanted kittens and cats crowd shelter and kennel space.

The Bradshaw Shelter’s Foster Care Program helps save lives and space during this hectic season.

“Fostering animals provides a second chance at life for animals who are too young, sick or injured to be available for adoption,” said Dave Dickinson, Director, Sacramento County Bradshaw Animal Shelter. “Fosters provide a safe, loving, temporary place to live where the animals can thrive until they are ready to be adopted to their forever homes.”

Residents interested in becoming fosters should submit a foster application to FosterRescueProgram@saccounty.net. The shelter provides all food, bedding, supplies, toys and more at no cost to the foster. Fostering is a great way to help alleviate the impact of kitten season at your local shelter and can provide temporary companionship for those still working from home.

However, working outside of the home doesn’t need to be an impediment to becoming a foster; most animals in foster care do not require constant monitoring. Typically, most animals who need fostering are kittens and puppies less than two months old.

As far as space for fostering, a bathroom, laundry room or spare bedroom is typically appropriate. The time commitment for fostering can be anywhere from one to six weeks, depending on their size at the time of fostering. Additional foster needs include caring for sick or injured animals, nursing mothers and litters, animals who need a break from the shelter, and more.

For more information
Continued on page 3

Where Your Vote Really Counts



Carmichael’s top professionals posed with awards at 2019 Best of Carmichael Celebrations.

Story and photo
 by Susan Maxwell Skinner

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Elections are thankfully well behind us. But balloting has begun for the Best of Carmichael awards and businesses are energizing bases. Though the local popularity contest was last year derailed by COVID restrictions;

2021’s competition will occur with traditional online voting. Organizers hope to schedule a fundraiser awards gala for later this year.

The annual run-off allows consumers to support favorite merchants, non-profits and services. No voter registration is needed; supporters go online to elect favorites in 20-plus categories. These include

best restaurant; best financial service; best real estate company; best dentist; best senior home – and many more entities that make CA 95608 a commercial hub. Citations, kudos, media exposure and bragging rights reward victors.

Local residency is not required to vote – contestants can solicit support
Continued on page 3

Life's a Gift to Nurture

Wild Life Care Association Sends Animals on their Way

By Cecilia Lee Feser

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The composition roof is on the new aviary, all the wood framing and most of the bird safe wiring. The insides will be finished by the volunteers. Meaning, all natural wood perches, getting the feeders and water bowls mounted inside. Final touch, painting. It was voted on a darker green color, to blend with their wild life theme.

The second trip to Aviary building site was to get more info on how the building is coming along. I went inside the Care center for pictures of the different kind of animals currently being cared for. First, I heard pith, pith, pith of the air hammer and the generator running hard. Then I saw Jim Brown taking off some support boards, now that the Aviary could stand on its own. I wanted to know more about how he got the supplies. Jim told me a Facebook group supporting all updates on what is happening with The Wild Life Care Association, had raised the donations. Over \$8000 dollars was raised for this project. This would go for the wood, nails, bird wire and whatever odds and ends that would be needed. So they started building. I mentioned last week, the crew building the aviary, are volunteers from Wells Construction Company. They worked SMOOOTTHH around each other, comfortable! They bought the wood from 'Homewood' in Rocklin, a huge help with supplies.

Over my shoulder, I told him it was looking very good, and walked into the nursery.

There I was met by Terri Muzik who would be my escort. Before we could see the animals, she mentioned to me, all volunteers who worked around Skunks, Raccoons, Foxes and Bats, must, have a current rabies shot.

Also, stay quiet, "inside voices", to keep the animals calm. She then took me inside where I met, Zoe Stephens, the nursery supervisor, getting ready to hand feed a baby mourning dove. "Formula to feed animals, comes in a powdered form, mixed with warm water and then fed by syringe. Sometimes though, babies are so new born, the formula has to be fed through a tube that is placed down to their stomach. We get them fed one way or the other!!!" she said.

With the new animal drop offs and then when they are ready to move on you never know what you will see when you come to work. A fun thing. There's many sized



containers for the different sized animals. From newborns to injured animals. From birds to, a current run on opossums. I saw baby opossums that did not even have their eyes open yet, in line to be fed. I also saw a two month old opossum being held before feeding.

There is very, very little interaction between animals being cared for and the caretakers. Their very goal is to get them back in the wild, so as little touching as possible. Heading out of "baby station", Terri started telling me a funny story that goes along with keeping the animals on the wild side. She told of water misters in the outside aviary. They are hooked up and work BUT, not unless it's really, really hot outside.

"Why"? I asked. She said, "because there are no water misters in the wild."

No, of course not. "We try not to get the birds used to things they won't run across once released. We don't want them so happy and comfortable they decide to stay here".

I was laughing as I visualized wild birds kicked back, the water misters going, a full bowl of feed, and water. Would you want to leave? Also, "Do you know what they call a flock of Crow's"? I shook my head no. "They are called a MURDER of crows!" Guess that's why scary movies use black crows when something chilling is about to happen.

We went to a little office where we could finally talk with adult voices. She reminded me the volunteers run the day to day. Some have been here for years but, ALWAYS, looking for more people who want the excitement of caring for the young, or sick or injured animals. If you're out there and want to work around the animals, call us at: 916-965-9453 or come by 5211 Patrol Rd. Sacramento, CA, and ask how you can help. We've received animal baby formula in cans, someone sent a whole box of the cans, some give towels, crates, water dishes, food dishes, etc. Especially, we need old newspapers for

bottom of cages, and of course, everyone's favorite item: CASH!! What really shows just how much the community supports us, is we get fun gifts through UPS. As, I was saying good bye here comes a UPS guy with a package. She got a huge grin and said, "I just love presents!!" We shook hands and I told her, "Remember me if some extraordinary animal comes in, and I'll be back." Please be good and kind to each other, until next week. ★



Above top: Holding a mourning dove is nursery supervisor "Zoe Stephens" who prepares to feed some formula. Above: Jim Brown is head of Wells Construction Company. Photos by Cecilia Lee Feser



Center: A two month old opossum resides at the care center for now. Above: A nestling of doves. Photo by Cecilia Lee Feser

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Host Your Next Event with Regional Parks

By Ken Casparis,
Sacramento City News

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Carmichael Businesses Hailed by Vote

Continued from page 1

from anywhere in the world - but nominated businesses must either operate in Carmichael or be members of the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce. Voters have several more weeks in which to cast ballots. Polls will close and results will be announced in May.

The event is run by the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce and publishers of the Carmichael Times. "We aim to spotlight businesses that are cornerstones of our community," says Chamber president Joe Green. "These people also give back to Carmichael. Results remind everyone of the great

products and services we have here at our fingertips."

Carmichael Kiwanis Club took dual 2019 awards for best service group and for hosting the annual Taste of Carmichael festival. River City Brewery supped up acclaim for preferred pub -- and additional kudos for winning most votes overall. Lido Café and Bakery took the cake for best restaurant. Eskaton Village rallied votes to secure best senior living. Carmichael Presbyterian's cup ranneth over with best-church praises.

While new winners emerge every year, numerous repeat victors have

prevailed. Bel Air #511 was elected best grocery store every year since the contest began. Katie Pexa's Farmers agency has won three times for best insurance provider. The competition has garnered increasing community excitement since its 2016 inception. Many thousands of voters participated in 2019 and 163 guests enjoyed sold-out celebrations at the Milagro Centre.

For event or sponsorship information, email the Chamber at execdir@carmichaelchamber.com. Anyone may nominate favorites by category at www.bestofcarmichael.com ★

Cooley's Rural California Infrastructure Act Passes First Policy Committee

By Marianne Conarroe,
Office of Assemb. Ken Cooley

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - On Monday, April 19th, the Assembly Committee on Emergency Management passed AB 1447 - the Rural California Infrastructure Act.

Local governments produce revenues from a variety of sources but almost all of those sources rely on population-based mechanisms. According to the Department of Finance, 28 of California's 58 counties had no population growth at all, or population loss from 2018 to 2019. When cities and counties lose residents, and their tax base, the amount of county resources available to pay for local upkeep not funded by state programs, suffers.

County fairgrounds which serve to highlight local culture as well as provide any number of disaster-related functions, including shelter in place orders, are consistently underfunded and in disrepair. Local roads maintained by counties have years of deferred maintenance which affects potential evacuation routes for residents as well as critical access for first responders. Small towns in unincorporated areas have no funding mechanism to repair or bring up to code historically significant buildings for the community to

enjoy. Without intervention from the state, rural parts of California will continue to suffer, and continue to see population loss as residents move to other parts of California for better quality of life and employment opportunities.

"Oftentimes in rural areas, local projects remain undone and unfinished for want of funding that is too much for the local governments to provide but too small to draw down state and federal funding," said Assemblyman Cooley. "How do we make sure that we are functioning as one state supporting the ability of all our communities to watch over their wellbeing, to enjoy their community life, and be safe for the future? My AB 1447 seeks to bridge that gap by providing \$1 billion in funding for rural parts of California for fairgrounds, disaster preparedness, or historic and cultural preservation projects." Cooley continued, "It is critical that we face these needs as a state, for all Californians and all communities."

AB 1447 is supported by the California State Association of Counties and moves to the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy next week.

For more information, please visit <http://asmdc.org/members/a08/> ★

As Kitten Season Begins Fosters and Donations Needed

Continued from page 1

about fostering, including fostering FAQs, visit the Sacramento County Bradshaw Animal Shelter website. To learn more about what to do if you find a kitten or litter of kittens, visit the feral cat information webpage.

Donations of essential kitten season supplies are also needed, including: Small litter pans; Heating pads; Small nursing bottles; Kitten formula and kitten food; Small pet carriers.

Donations are accepted at the Sacramento

County Bradshaw Animal Shelter's Animal Admissions Door at 3839 Bradshaw Road, Tuesday through Sunday, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. For a complete list of supplies needs, visit the shelter's Amazon Wishlist or the donation website. ★

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Tips to Spring Clean your Finances

By Karla Contreras,
Golden 1 Credit Union

We all know about spring cleaning your home, but now is also a great time to spring clean your finances. Your budget this spring may look different than in previous years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Maybe your finances suffered due to a loss of income, or maybe the money you saved on gas, eating out, and other entertainment has left a little extra in your bank account. With hope on the horizon as vaccine distribution increases and the rate of COVID-19 cases falls, it's important to evaluate your finances as we slowly move toward recovery.

The following are four tips to help you clean your finances and grow your money. **Deep clean your budget** - The first step to deep clean your budget is to organize and take inventory of your finances - review your income, your debts, and how much you owe.

Discuss with your whole family ways you might be able to reduce expenses such as cancelling certain streaming services or cutting back on special treats. Instead, use that money to pay off any debt, or set a goal to save toward that debt payoff. Keeping track of your budget is the best way to stay on track with your financial goals.

Remember it usually takes about three months of budgeting before you can make it stick.

Sweep away bad spending habits - Bad spending habits can lead to debt. For example, impulse buying or certain spending habits (like not working with a monthly budget) could cause you to lose track of your money. While small purchases may not seem significant at the time, they can quickly add up. Review your bank statements and calculate how much money you spend each month on habitual or impulse spending. Try to cut

down on these purchases by 10%, or try to give them up for a certain time period and see how you are impacted.

Not having a budget puts you in the position to "spend as you go." If you don't plan ahead, you could come up short.

Refill your emergency fund - An emergency fund is very important, especially in the tumultuous times we've been in for the last year. Even if you set aside a small amount, every little bit helps. Take baby steps. It's important to get your family involved as well, especially as it can help teach children to save starting at an early age.

Ideally, an emergency, or rainy day fund, would cover 3-6 months of essential living expenses. Identify what those essential living expenses are for you and your family and set a plan to dictate how much you need to save each month or each week to reach that goal.

Experts recommend setting aside 10% of your paycheck if possible. If that is not possible, then do whatever you and your family can do comfortably, even if it is a small amount.

Detox your debt - None of us like to have debt hanging over our heads. One of the best ways to handle debt is to evaluate if you need debt consolidation. Ask yourself - *Are you getting overwhelmed with debt you already have? Are you missing payments? Are you having trouble making payments on time? Are you confusing the due dates?* Debt consolidation brings all of those different interest rates and due dates into one lump sum loan with a fixed rate, fixed loan amount, and one due date.

By being intentional and really paying attention to your finances, these tips can help put you on the right track to watch your money grow instead of watching your money go. ★

How Do You Know You're Ready for Retirement?

Commentary
by Patti and
Milledge Hart,
News and Experts

An intriguing find once emerged from a RAND Corp. survey on Americans and their working conditions. It turned out that 40 percent of employees 65 and older had previously retired, but something lured them back to the working world.

In some cases, financial troubles might have been the cause. But often the reason is that people neglect an important component in their retirement planning. They don't think about what they will do with their extra time, or how they will give their life the meaning and purpose work provided, says Patti Hart, co-author with her husband, Milledge, of *The Resolutionist: Welcome to the Anti-Retirement Movement* (www.antiretirement.com).

"Money is certainly important, but it's not the only thing that determines whether your retirement is a success," she says. "It may be that you are financially ready to retire, but are a long way from being emotionally ready."

The Harts offer tips for figuring out when to retire and for making sure you're successful when you do:

Know your catalysts. Identify milestones or signs that will let you know you are ready to embark on a new post-work life, Milledge Hart says. Yes, that could be when you've accumulated a certain amount of savings. But it might also be related to when your spouse quits their job, or when your

children graduate college and head out on their own. Maybe your plan is to work until your health gives out. "Knowing your catalysts can mean the difference between successfully transitioning to a fulfilled life after your career is over, or boomeranging back to the full-time workforce simply because you didn't know why you quit to begin with," he says.

Plan ahead to avoid separation anxiety from work. For many people, moving from the excitement and fulfillment of a career to the quietness of retirement is too much, Patti Hart says. They develop a form of "separation anxiety," longing for their old way of life rather than venturing boldly into the new one. "You need to make a plan for what you want to do in your new post-career life so you aren't floundering when you get there," she says.


Get comfortable with the uncomfortable. At work, people are thrown into uncomfortable situations and have no choice but to face them head on. In retirement, it's easier to avoid discomfort, but doing so diminishes your confidence, and you miss out on opportunities for personal growth and fun, Milledge Hart says. "It would seem counterintuitive to think that being uncomfortable brings happiness, but it does," he says. "Go at life as if it's an adventure - because it is. When you accomplish something you didn't think you could, you get a jolt of endorphins that drives you to your next challenge."

Learn to be your own best friend. Even when

people want to try a new hobby or activity, they sometimes are afraid to do it alone. "In retirement, you might not have the social network you once did," Patti Hart says. "You may long for a good friend you can rely on." But if you think about it, she says, you already have that friend - yourself. So as you prepare for retirement, be ready to go solo on occasion. "When you get to this stage, you will often find that some things on your list are on your list alone," she says. "No one in your universe shares your interest or has the time to join you. That's all right. If you are going to continue to grow, you need to sometimes feel like you did something completely on your own."

"Don't convince yourself that in retirement you are going to be destined to a life of watching evening game shows and baking pies, unless of course that is what you love to do," Milledge Hart says. "My advice is nothing is off limits, so reach for the stars. Look forward rather than backward, and embrace the new you."


Patti and Milledge Hart, co-authors of The Resolutionist: Welcome to the Anti-Retirement Movement (www.antiretirement.com), spent more than 30 years as executive leaders in numerous technology and investment banking businesses. Today, in what they refer to as the "Resolutionist" - rather than retirement - phase of their lives, they are applying their resources and skills in new ways to advance philanthropic and corporate activities around the globe. ★




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I'VE BEEN BUSY...

I've been busy in the Carmichael area! Below is a sample of my recent sales portfolio. With 33 years of experience under my belt, I have a complete handle on the Carmichael market. Before you decide to list your home, give me a call!



SOLD	
6628 Chiquita Way.....	\$1,325,000
5244 Fair Oaks Boulevard.....	\$1,250,000
2337 California Avenue.....	\$940,000
6476 Chiquita Way.....	\$860,000
6644 Stanley Avenue.....	\$725,000
5514 Tierra Gardens Lane.....	\$730,000
5738 Crofters Lane.....	\$590,000
4045 Oak Villa Circle.....	\$268,000
3204 Ashwood Lane.....	\$285,000
6610 Stanley Avenue.....	\$968,000
6125 Stanley Avenue.....	\$435,000
5608 Vall Court.....	\$315,000
6105 Holt Lane.....	\$852,500
5920 Marlin Circle.....	\$327,000
4709 Crestview Drive.....	\$355,000
4932 Heatherdale Lane.....	\$359,000
6636 Lincoln Avenue.....	\$379,900
6608 Stanley Avenue.....	\$380,000
5249 Monitor Avenue.....	\$492,000
3730 Orangerie Way.....	\$399,500
5321 Flagstone Street.....	\$400,000
3422 Riverdale Way.....	\$529,000
2070 Santa Lucia Way.....	\$535,000
5929 Don Way.....	\$512,000


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BEST OF CARMICHAEL 2019
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Sac Native Participates in Chemical, Biological and Radiological Drill Aboard USS Tulsa



PACIFIC OCEAN Hull Maintenance Technician 1st Class Phoeun Tem, right, from Sacramento, Calif., adjusts a gas mask for Logistics Specialist 2nd Class Ernesto Espinosa, left, from Chicago, during a chemical, biological and radiological drill aboard the Independence-variant littoral combat ship USS Tulsa (LCS 16). Tulsa is currently operating in U.S. 3rd Fleet area of operations. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Colby A. Mothershead

By Ethan M Carter, Navy Office of Community Outreach

PACIFIC OCEAN (MPG) - With more than 90 percent of all trade traveling by sea, and 95 percent of the world's international

phone and internet traffic carried through fiber optic cables lying on the ocean floor, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity and security of the United States is directly linked to a strong and ready Navy. ★

District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert to Run for Attorney General



Anne Marie Schubert candidate for California Attorney General 2022 and current Sacramento County District Attorney. Photo: Office of Sacramento District Attorney

From Anne Marie Schubert for Attorney General

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert has announced she will be a candidate for Attorney General of California in 2022. Schubert made her announcement Monday morning while flanked by numerous crime victims, including victims of the infamous Golden State Killer.

"I am running for Attorney General because California's criminal justice system is in chaos," said Schubert.

"When policy makers and reckless prosecutors talk

tough about protecting all of us, yet turn around and refuse to take action to protect any of us - that's chaos. When politicians talk tough and tell you they will protect the vulnerable, yet they refuse to make hate crimes, domestic violence, child abuse, human trafficking of a child and rape of an unconscious person a violent crime - that's chaos. When politicians pass law after law or issue directive after directive that erode criminal accountability and public safety - that's chaos. When convicted murderers are celebrating in their jail cells that they're going to get out of prison because of these policies - that's chaos.

"Let me be clear - the newly appointed Attorney General helped create this chaos by voting for and supporting policies and laws that are not only destroying the rights of crime victims but are destroying public safety in this state."

In his introduction of Schubert, Marc Klaas, father of murder victim Polly Klaas, said: "Today is a great day for California. One of our state's most accomplished

prosecutors and a hero to crime victims has decided to run to be California's top public safety official. Anne Marie Schubert's passion for victims and for justice is unsurpassed. Her record and accomplishments are unrivaled."

While Anne Marie Schubert may be best known for the successful investigation, arrest and conviction of the Golden State Killer and for leading the successful effort to expose the state's \$30 billion EDD scandal, she has spent over 30 years as a top prosecutor, protecting kids from sexual predators and human trafficking and making sure violent criminals are held accountable for their crimes. She is an international expert in DNA/Cold Case investigations and prosecutions.

Schubert's experience stands in great contrast to recently appointed Attorney General Rob Bonta, a former State Assemblyman who was appointed to the job in spite of having no experience in public safety or as a prosecutor.

Visit SchubertForAG.com for more information. ★

Water District to File Lawsuits

Continued from page 1

with it." Hanscom said the Board needs to be looking inward and reviewing the District's policies and day-to-day operations more thoroughly.

Director Ron Greenwood said, "We've discovered things that were wrong, and we're doing everything we can to correct them, make them right. And that goes from policy to bylaws to our structure. And I think we're looking inward, because we're thinking, 'What can we do to make our District better, keep our water supply reliable and protect it, and ensure quality?' And I think that's what we're elected to do as elected officials."

But Greenwood said, "I'm concerned that you're concerned. ... because we're not doing our job right if we're not keeping our people content with the job that we're doing for them."

Human Resources Coordinator Lori Kalisiak also spoke during public comment, stating that she, along with former Assistant Manager Moreno and former General Manager Nugent,

"strongly object to the Board approving or accepting the Special Procedures Audit Report." Kalisiak requested that, if the report related to the Closed Session regarding possible litigation, the Board discuss the item at a later date "so that this report can be reviewed by our legal counsel, and so our legal counsel can provide a formal written response."

Kalisiak said, "The report wrongly impugns the reputation of three long-term employees, who have spent many years making the District a better place, without sufficient notice or the opportunity for us or the other impacted employees to dispute the faulty conclusions and/or statements made therein. For example, I played no part in the development of these policies and was not even the human resources coordinator until the policies were already in effect. To the extent this Board approves and accepts the report, it does so with the knowledge that there is substantial documentation that refutes the facts, statements, and conclusions therein."

Nugent and Moreno held the positions of general

manager and assistant general manager, respectively, starting in July 2003. Nugent worked for the District for 30 years, and Moreno for 21. Kalisiak started as administrative and human resources support specialist in March 2010, and then took on the role of human resources coordinator in October 2011.

After reviewing the Audit Report during the regular meeting, the Board adjourned to Closed Session. Board President Mark Emmerson later reported that they had "voted unanimously to authorize a special counsel ... to file a lawsuit in Sacramento County Superior Court against former General Manager Steve Nugent, former Assistant General Manager Lynette Moreno, and Human Resources Coordinator Lori Kalisiak for the purpose of recovering the value of employee benefits that they obtained for themselves and other employees without Board authorization or knowledge."

As of April 21, the day after the meeting, Kalisiak was terminated as a District employee. ★

Assemblyman Cooley Honors Lindsey Liebig as Woman of the Year

From the Office of Assemblyman Ken Cooley

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - April 23, 2021 Assemblyman Ken Cooley presented a resolution honoring Lindsey Liebig as Woman of the Year 2021 at the Fire Station in Herald, CA.

Every year, the California State Legislature honors women from their districts for their various contributions for local communities. Raised in Herald and Southern Sacramento County, Lindsey Liebig is the Executive Director of the Sacramento County Farm Bureau, a non-profit organization representing farmers and ranchers in Sacramento County.

"It is an honor to know Lindsey and to highlight her dedication to our local farmers and the agriculture industry," said Assemblyman Cooley. "I am grateful Lindsey returned to her home county after college as she continues to inspire our future generations of local farmers and ranchers."

Prior to becoming the executive director with the County Farm Bureau, Lindsey served as Program Director at the California Farm Bureau Federation. There she



Assemblyman Ken Cooley presents Lindsey Liebig a resolution honoring her as Woman of the Year 2021. Photo: Office of Assemblyman Ken Cooley

managed all aspects of the Young Farmers & Ranchers and Leadership Farm Bureau programs including committee management, conference and event planning and leadership development. She also assisted with membership services including membership demographics and recruitment and retention efforts.

Lindsey earned a Bachelor of Science in agricultural business from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. She is active in volunteering and is an elected member of Herald Fire Protection District Board of Directors and President of the Sacramento Farm Bureau Foundation for Ag Education. She is a Commissioner for the Sacramento County Local Area Formation Committee, is a member of the Delta Protection Commission

Advisory Committee, the Delta Stakeholder Engagement Committee, and the Delta Conveyance Design & Construction Authority.

"I'm humbled to receive this award and very appreciative of the recognition from Assemblymember Cooley," said Lindsey. "His dedication to our rural areas is instrumental in our ability to continue to protect and preserve the vitality of the vibrant communities in South Sacramento County."

Lindsey lives on her extended family's farm in southern Sacramento County, where they grow wine grapes. She oversees her late father's scholarship fund providing financial assistance to Galt Future Farmers of America for student and leadership development. ★


Thoughts on Combating Learning Loss

San Juan Unified School District

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Plans are being developed to provide support to help combat student learning loss due to the pandemic. Students, parents and the community are invited to share their thoughts on what programs or efforts could help through a Thoughtexchange. Visit www.sanjuan.edu/learninginput to participate.

If you haven't participated in a Thoughtexchange before, you'll have the chance to share as many thoughts and ideas on how learning loss can be addressed next year or this summer. Then, you'll get to see what others have shared and rank whether those ideas resonate with you.

Feedback collected will help inform the planning process for enrichment and recovery instructional programs. ★



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California Reverses, Now Shutting Prisons



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

As signatures on petitions It was 1981 and then-Gov. Jerry Brown had a problem. California's 12 prisons were bulging at the seams with more than 28,000 inmates, thanks largely to tougher sentencing laws he signed, and he was told to expect another 20,000 more inmates within a few years.

The state hadn't built a new prison in two decades, stretching back to when Brown's father, Pat Brown, was governor. The Department of Corrections, as the prison system was then called, wanted Brown to launch a major prison construction program to handle its rapidly growing inmate load.

The young governor, nearing the end of his second and final term, was reluctant to ask voters for billions of dollars in bond money to build new prisons. His state architect, Sim Van der Ryn, had even refused to endorse plans for new prisons, reflecting opposition by those on Brown's left flank.

Finally, after months of negotiations and debate within his administration, Brown took a minimalist approach, asking the Legislature to place a \$495 million prison bond issue

on the 1982 ballot, enough to build space for about 10,000 more inmates, a fraction of the projected need.

Voters approved the measure, and over the next two decades the number of prisons tripled. However, the state sidestepped the need for voter approval with a clever, if deceptive, system of financing that borrowed many billions of construction dollars. Under the "lease-revenue" system, a state agency legally separate from the prison system issued bonds to build prisons, then leased them to the corrections department.

Even though most inmates came from urban counties, particularly Los Angeles, their politicians resisted having new prisons. The single Los Angeles County prison was built in the remote Antelope Valley.

Therefore, most new prisons were located in rural communities eager for the payrolls that the human warehouses generated, with the first in Avenal, a tiny Kings County community that had once been an oil boom town.

Despite the frantic pace of prison construction, the inmate population still outpaced the number of new cells and eventually grew to six times what it had been in 1981, declining only when, during Brown's second governorship, federal judges intervened and declared that the overcrowded conditions were illegal.

Over the last half-decade, thanks to more lenient sentencing laws (some sponsored by Brown

2.0), diversion of felons into local jails and early releases due to COVID-19, inmate numbers have declined sharply to 94,000, scarcely half of the 173,000 peak and very close to the system's original design capacity.

It's now time, Gov. Gavin Newsom says, to start shutting down some of the state's three dozen prisons, citing the inmate decline and billions of dollars in looming costs to rehabilitate older facilities.

The first to go will be the 68-year-old Deuel Vocational Institution near Tracy. This month, it was announced that the second will be the California Correctional Center in Lassen County.

The Legislature's budget office projects that three more could be shuttered by 2025 and the local economic impacts could be heavy, particularly in rural areas. However, just as with the closure of unneeded military installations in the 1990s, that must be a secondary consideration. It's unfair to taxpayers to keep obsolete facilities open just because of their jobs.

That said, rural communities accepted prisons that politicians from urban areas refused and the state should foster the redevelopment of its prison sites for positive purposes, rather than leaving them as decaying eyesores of a previous era.

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

CLG NEWS UPDATES

Provided by Citizens for Legitimate Government (CLG) See legitgov.org

Six states to gain House seats as population growth slows | 26 April 2021 | Six states will see their congressional delegations grow in the next Congress, according to the first results from the U.S. Census Bureau's decennial survey of America's population... Texas is set to add two U.S. House seats to its delegation after a decade in which the state added more than 4 million new residents. Colorado, North Carolina, Florida and Oregon will all add one more seat. Montana will add a second district, 30 years after it lost that second seat in a previous round of apportionment.

Pharmaceutical Industry Dispatches Army of Lobbyists to Block Generic COVID-19 Vaccines - | 23 April 2021 | The pharmaceutical industry is pouring resources into the growing political fight over generic coronavirus vaccines. Newly filed disclosure forms from the first quarter of 2021 show that over 100 lobbyists have been mobilized to contact lawmakers and members of the Biden administration, urging them to oppose a proposed temporary waiver on intellectual property rights by the World Trade Organization that would allow generic vaccines to be produced globally. Pharmaceutical lobbyists working against the proposal include Mike McKay, a key fundraiser for House Democrats, now working on retainer for Pfizer, as well as several former staff members to the U.S. Office of Trade Representative, which oversees negotiations with the WTO. Several trade groups funded by pharmaceutical firms have also focused closely on defeating the generic proposal, new disclosures show.

California National Guard put fighter jet on alert in March 2020 for 'possible domestic mission' - report - An F-15C fighter was put on alert, sources told the Los Angeles Times | 24 April 2021 | California National Guard members say a fighter jet was put on standby for a "possible domestic mission" last year, raising concerns that the military could be used to disperse protesters in the early days of the coronavirus pandemic, according to a report. Four National Guard sources spoke to the Los Angeles Times about the matter, revealing that commanders were concerned about resistance to stay-at-home orders or chaos due to panic-buying. According to the sources, an F-15C fighter was put on alert, which raised concerns among Guard members that the jet could be used to "buzz" crowds -- a tactic often used in combat zones to disperse the enemy. The orders were allegedly handed down orally or through text messages rather than formally in writing, which made them highly unusual, the sources told the Times. The Guard members described such a tactic as an "inappropriate" use of military force against U.S. citizens."It would have been a completely illegal order that disgraced the military," one source told the Times. "It could look like we're threatening civilians."

FTC takes censorship to a whole new level, charges and fines St. Louis man for questioning vaccines, promoting zinc and vitamin D | 22 April 2021 | The FTC recently charged a St. Louis man for making fraudulent claims about covid-19. The FTC is charging Eric Nepute and Quickwork LLC in a federal court for the heinous crime of advertising zinc and vitamin D to combat covid-19. Nepute is charged with ten counts of violating the Covid-19 Consumer Protection Act and the Federal Trade Commission Act. The FTC alleges that Nepute falsely advertised his products, which contain vitamin D and zinc -- two important supplements that are scientifically proven to block viral replication and prevent hospitalization. In 2020, the U.S. Congress quietly installed a new censorship clause in a coronavirus emergency response and relief package. In HR 133, Congress gave the FTC supreme authority to target, arrest and fine anyone who doesn't follow the government's narrative on lock downs, masks, quarantines and vaccines. Anyone who promotes a healthy immune system can now be charged and fined for the "criminal" act of helping people treat and overcome respiratory infection.

The U.S. Postal Service is running a 'covert operations program' that monitors Americans' social media posts | 21 April 2021 | The law enforcement arm of the U.S. Postal Service has been quietly running a program that tracks and collects Americans' social media posts, including those about planned protests, according to a document obtained by Yahoo News. The details of the surveillance effort, known as iCOP, or Internet Covert Operations Program, have not previously been made public. The work involves having analysts trawl through social media sites to look for what the document describes as "inflammatory" postings and then sharing that information across government agencies.★

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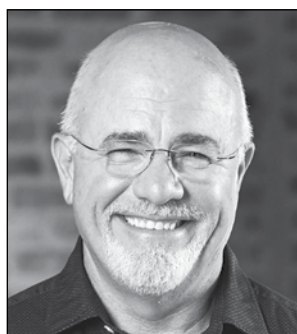
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Dave Ramsey Says

play around with single stocks. There's just too much risk there for me. Since I don't invest in single stocks, I don't recommend others do it, either. I look at two things when it comes to investing – real estate and mutual funds.

I always pay cash for income-producing real estate. And when it comes to mutual funds, I invest in good, growth stock mutual funds with a solid track record of at least 10 years. Now, I don't get mad at people if they want to dabble in single stocks a little, but I wouldn't recommend having more than 10 percent of your investment portfolio wrapped up in them. The numbers on playing single stocks are just not that good for the individual, and besides that, I don't like losing money!

If I woke up in your shoes, I'd move the 25 percent you have in single stocks into good mutual funds. And I wouldn't use a brokerage

account. I'd stick with a quality financial advisor, one who has the heart of a teacher. I think you'll end up doing better with your money in the long haul this way. It might be a little boring, but boring is good when it comes to stuff like this. Exciting means you stand a good chance of losing a lot of money.

You've got a good income, especially for a single guy who's 24, so I'd make those adjustments and live like the inheritance money wasn't there. Stay away from debt, live on a reasonable budget, and make sure you're putting 15 percent of your income away for retirement. Then, when it's time a few years down the road, use some of that inheritance money to pay cash for a nice home.

If you can manage to do all that, the money you inherited – even with buying a home – will likely grow to millions of dollars by the time you're ready to retire.

Pretty cool situation, Drew!

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 16 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions. ★

SMUD Asks Customers to Make Safe Before Digging

SMUD News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Spring is the time to begin outdoor projects. From small projects like planting a tree or building a fence, to big ones like putting in a swimming pool, be sure to call 811 before you dig.

Notifying Underground Service Alert (USA) North a minimum of two full business days before beginning to dig will determine if there are any dangerous or costly underground utilities in the area. The service is free by phone or internet.

Whether you are doing the job yourself or hiring a professional, be smart and dig safe by calling 811 or visiting usanorth811.org to request a utility-locate before each ground disturbance job; using the website via smartphone for your notification can also save you time. The notification is valid for 28 days, so if the excavation

project goes beyond this timeframe, notify USA North again to renew your ticket.

SMUD and other area utilities such as gas, water, and telecommunications will respond to determine whether they have underground facilities within your project area, and if so, the locations will be marked at the excavation site. Underground utility lines are not always located in the street; some utilities may be located in back or front yard easements or even driveways. Digging into an underground utility line can cause power outages and/or personal injury or death.

Be aware, it is the law to notify USA North via 811 before you dig. Besides the legal requirement, it's the way to stay safe and avoid financial and legal responsibility for repairs and/or injuries. For more information, visit usanorth811.org. ★

Live Like the Money isn't There

Dear Dave,
I'm 24, single, and I make \$60,000 a year. I'm also debt-free and live in an apartment, plus I have about \$550,000 in a brokerage account that's made up of 75 percent mutual funds and 25 percent single stocks. The money in the brokerage account was originally an inheritance of \$280,000 that has grown since I received it in 2007. Am I putting my money toward the best investment possibilities right now?

– Drew
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Residents in Sacramento Region Indicted for International Drug Trafficking

Department of Justice,
Eastern District of California

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A federal grand jury returned a two-count indictment today against Parampreet Singh, 55, of Davis; Ranvir Singh, 38, of Sacramento; and Amandeep Multani, 33, of Roseville, charging them with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute at least 5 kilograms of cocaine, at least 1 kilogram of a mixture containing heroin, opium, and ketamine, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillip A. Talbert announced.

According to court documents, no later than August 2020, an investigation began into a drug trafficking organization that was based in Sacramento and extended to the greater Toronto Area in Canada. Parampreet Singh, Ranvir Singh and Multani allegedly were facilitating the trafficking of cocaine, heroin, opium, and ketamine across international borders. Between October 2020 and March 2021, the defendants arranged multiple kilogram-level drug deals with a Canadian undercover officer using encrypted applications on their cellphones.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Homeland Security Investigations, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the York Regional Police in Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the Placer County Special Investigations Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorney David W. Spencer is prosecuting the case.

Parampreet Singh was ordered to be released upon posting a \$6 million secured bond. Ranvir Singh was ordered to be released upon posting a \$700,000 secured bond. Amandeep Multani was ordered detained pending trial.

If convicted, each defendant faces a maximum statutory penalty of life in prison and a \$10 million fine. Any sentence, however, would be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of any applicable statutory factors and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables. The charges are only allegations; the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. ★

Pinwheels for Child Abuse Prevention Month



To honor National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Sacramento County Child Protective Services staff "planted" more than 350 silver and blue pinwheels at the CPS office on Bradshaw Center Road. Photo courtesy Sacramento County Media

By Andrea Sandoval,
Sacramento County

To honor National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Sacramento County Child Protective Services staff "planted" more than 350 silver and blue pinwheels at the CPS office on Bradshaw Center Road on April 1. On average, CPS social workers investigate 749 reports of child abuse or neglect every month.

In 2008, Prevent Child Abuse America, introduced the pinwheel as the national symbol for child abuse prevention through Pinwheels for Prevention®. The pinwheels represented childlike whimsy and lightheartedness. Since then, agencies including child advocacy centers across the nation have been planting Pinwheel Gardens to raise awareness of child abuse and neglect and to support the healthy development of our nation's children.

"It is important for social workers and staff to be part of the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign to have a visual representation of their tireless effort to keep children in our community safe," said Michelle Callejas, Director of the Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services. "COVID-19 would not stop us from planting the pinwheels; our team socially distanced and wore PPE to ensure safety.

"It's important to show our appreciation for social workers and our partners who provide community-based services to strengthen families and support child safety. Together, they have a profound impact each day in the lives of children and families across our community. The pinwheels are a reminder that

we should all want each child in our community to have a safe and happy childhood."

Tips for preventing child abuse and neglect: Be a friend to a parent you know. Ask how their children are doing. Draw on your own experiences to provide reassurance and support. If a parent seems to be struggling, offer to babysit or run errands, or just lend a friendly ear. Show you understand. **Be a friend to a child you know.** Remember their names. Smile when you talk with them. Ask them about their day at school. Send them a card in the mail. Show you care. **Talk to your neighbors about looking out for one another's children.** Encourage a supportive spirit among parents in your apartment building or on your block. Show that you are involved. **Give your used clothing, furniture and toys to another family to use.** This can help relieve the stress of financial burdens on parents. **Volunteer your time and money** for programs in your community that support children and families.

Watch the video on the 2021 Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign garden planting.

To learn more about the Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services including additional information about child abuse, visit the Child Protective Services webpage. Information is also available to learn more about Family Resource Centers and Community Incubator Leads (neighborhoods charged with prevention and intervention efforts to reduce disproportionate African American child deaths). To report child abuse in Sacramento County, call the 24-hour Child Abuse Hotline 916-875-5437, and in case of an emergency, call 911 for law enforcement. ★

Brother Arrested for Involuntary Manslaughter of Sibling

By Sergeant
Rod Grassmann,
Sacramento Sheriff's
Department

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On March 08, 2021, the Sacramento County Coroner's Office notified

Homicide Detectives of a suspicious death involving Anwar Husain, a 27-year-old special needs male with Down Syndrome. A month's long investigation led to the arrest of Anwar's older brother on April 13, 2021, by the Sacramento

County Sheriff's Office. 30-year-old Akram Husain was booked into the Sacramento County Main Jail on a single count of Involuntary Manslaughter with \$100,000 bail. There is no further information available at this time. ★

Metro Fire Arrests Suspect in Overnight Arson Fire

By Captain Chris Vestal,
Sac Metro Fire

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (Metro Fire or the District) Fire Investigations Unit arrested John Paul Walters on April 24, 2021 after an early morning house fire in Gold River. Reported at approximately 5:00 am Metro Fire personnel were able to prevent the fire from spreading to nearby vegetation and residences.

In conjunction with the Rancho Cordova Police Department and Sacramento County Sheriff's Office, a suspect in the fire was identified and located and subsequently arrested. He was booked into the Sacramento County jail on two charges of Arson to an Inhabited Structure (PC 451.b).

The occupants of the home on Discovery Village Ln. in Gold River were alerted to the presence of a fire by



Firefighters ascended the roof of the Gold River home on Saturday, April 24, 2021. Photo: Sac Metro Fire

working smoke alarms which allowed them to escape without injury. The home sustained significant damage as a result of the fire and the occupants were displaced as a result.

Anyone with information on this, or any fire occurring

within Metro Fire's jurisdiction, should contact the Arson Tip Line by phone at (916) 859-3775 or by email at arsontip@metrofire.ca.gov.

For further information and details please contact Metro Fire's on duty PIO at (916) 859-4589. ★

ASK THE DMV



Learn more about accessing DMV services online in 2021

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the California DMV is increasing the number of transactions that can be completed without a visit to a field office. The DMV has several methods to serve customers, including online self-service options, through DMV Now kiosks, or via a DMV business partner so that customers can "visit" the DMV by other means. The following questions cover some of the most convenient ways to access DMV services and complete essential transactions without stepping foot in a field office.

Q: I AM OVER 70 AND RECEIVED A LETTER IN THE MAIL THAT STATES I NEED TO RENEW MY LICENSE, BUT I CANNOT GET TO THE DMV BEFORE MY RENEWAL DATE. WHAT CAN I DO?

A: The California DMV is working to help all Californians stay safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially our state's senior drivers. Nearly all California drivers are now eligible to renew their license online or by mail – even if their renewal notice indicates an office visit is required.

Californians age 70 and older with a noncommercial driver's license are now eligible to renew online or by mail, eliminating the need to visit a California Department of Motor Vehicles office. Licenses with an expiration date starting March 1, 2020 are eligible.

This new option waives the requirement for many seniors to visit a DMV office during the COVID-19 pandemic. Californians with a suspended license are not eligible.

Drivers over the age of 70 can find information on DMV services, safety guidelines, and other resources by visiting www.dmv.ca.gov/seniors.

Q: I STILL NEED TO GET MY REAL ID. CAN I DO THIS ONLINE?

A: As of March 23, 2020, the federal government has extended the REAL ID enforcement date to October 1, 2021. However, an in-person field office visit is still required to complete your application for a REAL ID.

To limit the amount of time spent in a DMV office and to best prepare for your DMV visit, customers should start their REAL ID application online and use the REAL ID checklist to make sure they have the correct identification documents. The applicant can then upload their documents before coming to the office. After completing the online application and uploading identification documents, the applicant will receive a confirmation code that will be stored for up to one year which DMV employees can quickly access when they visit the DMV office – no appointment is needed. Learn more so you can be ready when the time is right for you to get a REAL ID at www.dmv.ca.gov. You may also renew an expiring license online and get a REAL ID at a later time.

To locate the DMV Now kiosk nearest you, please visit: www.cadmvnowkiosk.com/kiosks. Customers can also find DMV business partners to complete selected transactions by visiting www.dmv.ca.gov and clicking on "Locations" to find nearby partners.

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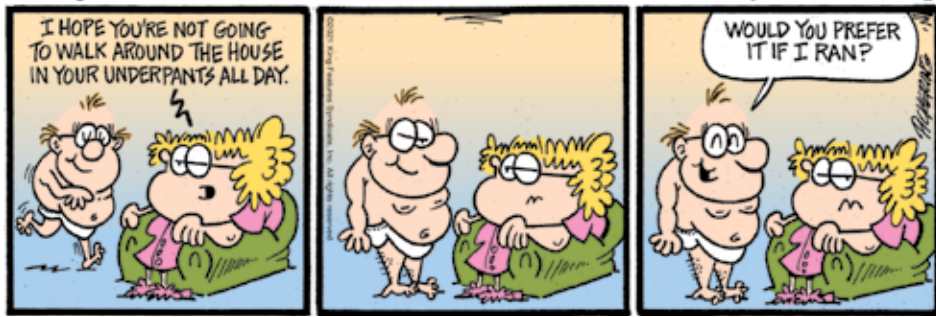
WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats



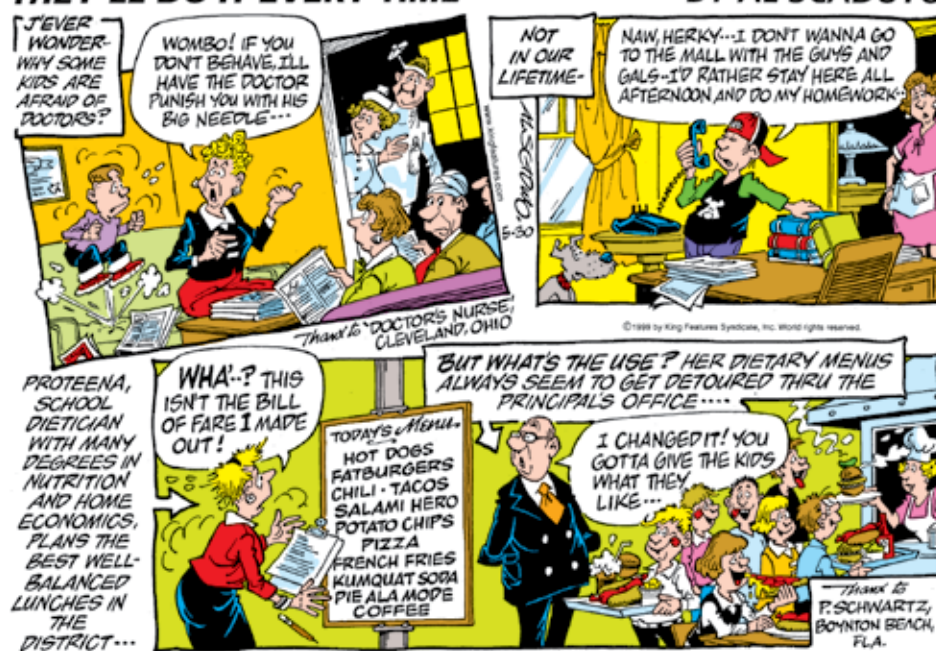
by Jeff Pickering

Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO

R.F.D.



by Mike Marland

GRIN and BEAR IT



LAFF-A-DAY

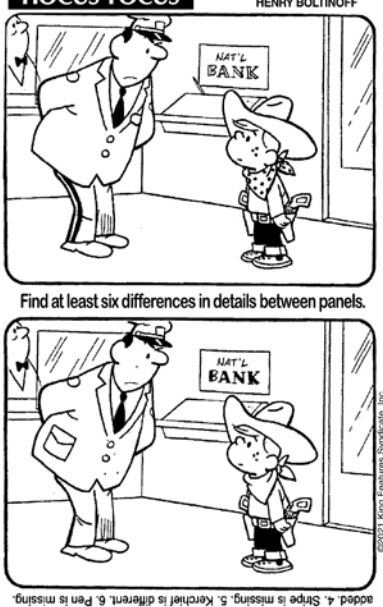


Just Like Cats & Dogs



by Dave T. Phipps

HOCUS-FOCUS



BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Sign is missing. 2. Badge is missing. 3. Pocket is missing. 4. Shape is missing. 5. Kerchief is different. 6. Pen is missing.

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\$1.49
CHM PLU 422

Ask Toni

What Is Medicare's "Lifetime Reserve Days?"



Toni King

Toni:

Can you explain why a hospital employee from the medical claims division asked my husband Phillip to sign a form stating that he is aware that he is

now in his "Lifetime Reserve Days" while he is waiting for his lung/heart double transplant?

Phillip went in the hospital in October for congested heart failure only to discover that his heart and lungs can no longer support him. The wait on his double transplant is taking longer than expected and I am concerned that the hospital will send him home or to a nursing home to wait and he will not receive the correct medical care. Please explain what Phillip needs to do. He is covered by a Medicare Supplement and he has had no problems with that plan.

Thanks, Susan from Tulsa, OK

Ms. Susan:

The hospital staff had Phillip sign the form about the "lifetime reserve days" because once he is past the Inpatient Hospitalization 60 Lifetime Reserve days, then Medicare stops paying and the stay is his responsibility.

Susan, there is a notice written in the summary of benefits for a Medicare Supplement and it states: **"**NOTICE: When your Medicare Part A hospital benefits are exhausted, the insurer stands in the place of Medicare and will pay whatever amount Medicare would have paid up to an additional 365 days as provided in the policy's "Core Benefits." During this time the hospital is prohibited from billing you for the balance based on any difference between its billed charges and the amount Medicare would have paid."**

Medicare Part A covers an inpatient hospital stay with a \$1488 deductible for days 1-60. Yes, an Inpatient hospital deductible of \$1488 can happen 6 times a year. This includes a semiprivate room

and board, general nursing and miscellaneous services and supplies.

If your Part A-Inpatient Hospital stay is longer than 60 days, then for days 61 thru 90 Medicare pays all but \$352 per day, and for days 91 and after, Medicare will pay all but \$704 per day with the 60 "lifetime reserve days" to be used. Once the Medicare lifetime reserve days are used, there are not anymore "inpatient hospital benefits". You will pay all the cost of the remainder hospital stay.

Since he has a Medicare Supplement, Phillip will have the additional 365 days of "inpatient hospital benefits" that only a Medicare Supplement insurance plan has and will pay.

What a blessing that Phillip has a Medicare Supplement and he and his doctors together can pick how and where to have his heart and lung transplants and which rehab/skilled facility he will select while recuperating.

If your Part D plan does not cover your new transplant prescription drugs, then who will pay.... You will! Please verify that your new prescriptions will be on your current Medicare Part D plan. Take your time and explore your Medicare prescription drug availability with your transplant physician's office or transplant facility's caseworker.

During a Toni Says® Medicare consultation, we are specific about personalizing your Medicare Part D planning because once enrolled you cannot change until Medicare Open Enrollment (October 15th to December 7th). Toni Says Webinar series is available at www.tonisays.com with an additional video regarding "How to find the Right Prescription Drug Plan."

For assistance with enrolling and personalizing your Medicare contact the Toni Says® office at 832/519-8664.

Toni King, Medicare author/advocate is giving a \$5 discount to the Toni Says® readers on the new 2021 Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced book at www.tonisays.com. Have a Medicare question? Call 832/519-8664 or email info@tonisays.com. ★



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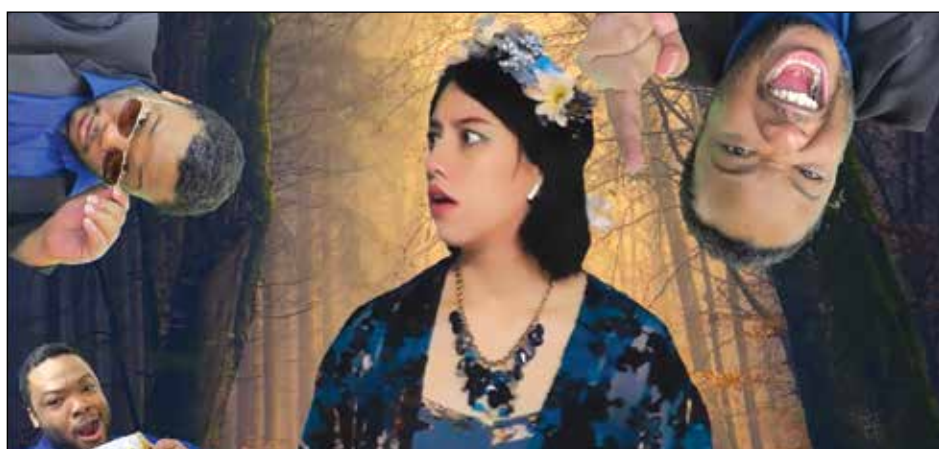
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Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, Meet 2020 - Now Online!



The cast of A Midsummer Night's Dream? Meet 2020! Photo courtesy LRCC

By Tracy Shearer,
Los Rios Community College

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - ARC Theatre will close its season with the premiere of an original adaptation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Bay Area playwright, Terry Haley. Aptly titled *Midsummer v.20.20*, this innovative streaming production places the beloved characters in last year's now-familiar 'Covid world' where quarantines kept both friends and lovers apart, and Zoom, Instagram, Facetime and TikTok became the main methods of connection. Enter the merry hacker, Puck himself, whose chief goal is to eavesdrop on as many interactions as possible!

"Our goal with this production has been to get away from the idea of pretending that these characters are all together," says director Tracy Martin Shearer. "The playwright spent countless hours researching the myriad ways people have tried to stay connected during the pandemic - from social media platforms to the many online meeting apps like Webex, Discord, and, yes, Zoom. Haley's modernized, hilarious characters live in that world, and we get the fun of seeing everything they do through Puck's ability to hack his way into anything!" In addition to all this, the show has the added element of music. Yes - it's a musical, despite the fact that the show was put together entirely online. In addition to all this, the show has the added element of music. Yes - it's a musical, despite the fact that the show was put together entirely online. Musical Director Susan Hamre transposed, transcribed and taught the pieces, then Sound Designer Kirt Shearer captured and mixed the work of dozens of actors and musicians to make it all work.

For those who have always loved Shakespeare's *Midsummer*, you'll find the same groups of characters populate this production. In this show, however, the 'Nobles' are software company elites, the 'Fairies' are fabulous social media influencers, and the scene stealing 'Mechanicals' are dedicated Walmart employees as well as amateur actors. For folks unfamiliar with the original story, just remember that you're an expert on the story of 2020 and enjoy this crazy take on a crazy year!

The cast includes local theatre favorites Brianne Hidden, Demjuan Julian, and Corey Winfield, as well as Los Angeles actress/alum, Liesel Hanson - all performing alongside a talented group of student actors who have served as cinematographers, editors and set dressers in addition to performing. "One of the advantages of online productions like this is that the actors can live nearly anywhere and still be a part of the show," says Shearer. "Alum Jazz Sunpanich, who plays Mia, is an actress in New York. Liesel, who plays Flute, had to take one day off to film a Superbowl ad... but then she was right back at rehearsal." Shearer also noted how wonderful it has been to work with actors from other colleges, including Kaitlin Richards, a recent Kennedy Center ACTF finalist who attends CSUS, and Christine Nicholson who teaches for both Sacramento City College and CSUS.

To view the show, go to ARCTheatre.org in advance to secure a digital ticket. The cost of each ticket is 'pay-what-you-can,' which will help defray the many expenses involved in the production. Digital ticketing begins April 22 at ARCTheatre.org. For additional questions, email ShearT@arc.losrios.edu. ★

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