



Wine for Wildlife Care this October!

PAGE 4

President Gets Briefed on Wildfires

PAGE 2



Carmichael Times

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SEE INSIDE

GREAT TIME FOR MORE 'GOOD DAY'



PAGE 4

DALE BLACKWELL REMEMBERED



PAGE 3

SAILOR STANDS WATCH ABOARD U.S. WARSHIP



PAGE 4



Scan our QR Code for a direct link to our online edition!

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Change Service Requested

Founders Day Now Set for Virtual Celebrations



Join in the fun and show your community pride! CRPD will be hosting a virtual car show via our official Facebook page. Photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

Carmichael Recreation & Park District

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - CRPD is hosting a series of virtual events to help inspire community and celebrate Founders Day this year! Join in the fun and show your community pride! CRPD will be hosting a virtual car show via our official Facebook page. The car categories are Best Classic, Best Truck, Best Barn Find and Best in Show. The car show will take place Friday, September 25 - Sunday, September

27. Winners will be announced via social media on Monday, September 28. Do you have a prized car that you would like to enter in the car show? Download the car show vehicle entry application and enter in your car, there is no entry fee to participate. Show off your prized possession!

On Saturday, September 26, Carmichael favorite Todd Morgan, along with drummer Andrew Phillip, take the virtual stage for a one hour concert that will be live streamed on CRPD's official social

media networks. Todd Morgan is an accomplished singer, pianist, guitarist, drummer, songwriter, engineer, producer, and to complete the package, a true showman on stage. You can learn more about Todd Morgan in the September issue of "Sacramento Magazine", or by visiting his website.

Calling all Carmichael Businesses & Organizations if you would like to be involved in the Founders Day virtual celebrations please email slal@carmichaelpark.com for more information. ★

Board Votes to Revise Approved County Budget

By Kim Nava, Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted on Sept. 10, to approve the Revised Recommended Budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

The Revised Recommended General Fund budget provided substantial additional funding to address the impact of COVID-19 on the community; avoided significant reductions in critical County programs and made new General Fund supported investments in some new programs to address the most critical needs.

The budget also accounted for the County's \$170 million revenue loss with one-time State and federal funding, which is likely unsustainable into future fiscal years.

"It is important to continue to provide the critical health, social, public safety and other services to the people of Sacramento County, and in spite of the significant economic impact of COVID-19, the Revised Recommended Budget did exactly that," said County Executive Nav Gill.

The \$3.08 billion General Fund expenditures increased by \$204.6 million. Departments with the largest expenditure increases included Health Services with a \$140.3 million (29%) increase; Sheriff with a \$38.2 million (6.9%) increase; Human Assistance with a \$26.4 million (7.8%) increase; Child, Family and Adult Services with an \$11.8 million (5.5%) increase; and Probation with an \$8.6 million (5.4%) increase.

During budget deliberations, the Board added a number of restorations to the budget totaling \$1,886,446 in appropriations, which included:

\$957,446 for body-worn cameras for probation officers; \$300,000 for the Foster Care Recruitment and Retention Program in Child, Family and Adult Services; \$203,000 for the Cares Plus Program in Child, Family and Adult Services' Public Guardian Division; \$126,000 to retain two staff positions that would have been eliminated in the Women, Infants and Children Program; \$300,000 to Child, Family and Adult Services to use as part of an effort to develop a Senior Safe House.

The Board also directed that staff work to strengthen and expand the Mobile Crisis Support Team, a collaboration between Behavioral Health and law enforcement to respond together to emergency calls for people experiencing mental health crises. Staff

Know the Warning Signs of Suicide

By Brenda Bongiorno, Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Suicidal thoughts, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or background. Every day friends, family and co-workers can be struggling with intense emotional pain and hopelessness. It may be too difficult for them to initiate a conversation to talk about their pain, thoughts of suicide and the need for help. It's important to know the warning signs that may show in conversations, their actions or in social media posts. By recognizing these signs, knowing how to start a conversation and where to turn for help, you have the power to save a life.

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month – a time



While nearly half of individuals who die by suicide have a diagnosed mental health condition, research shows that 90 percent experienced symptoms. Image by Free-Photos from Pixabay

to share resources and stories in an effort to shed light on this stigmatized topic. Sacramento County Division of Behavioral Health Services wants to use this month to reach out to those affected by suicide,

raise awareness, connect individuals with suicidal thoughts to treatment services, and recognize that stigma is the largest obstacle to seeking treatment.

"While Californians are enduring the emotional toll

of crises from COVID-19 to devastating wildfires, and racial injustice, this month serves as an added reminder that behavioral health is inseparable from our overall health as a state.

Continued on page 3

President Gets Briefed on Wildfires

By Laurel Rosenhall, Cal Matters

This story has been edited to fit the available space in this issue

It was looking a little lonely on the tarmac when President Donald Trump arrived in California to be briefed about record-breaking wildfires that have burned an area the size of Connecticut, killed two dozen people and blanketed the West Coast with smoke. Not a single California state official greeted Trump as he stepped off the plane at an airfield in Sacramento County.

Gov. Gavin Newsom was in a hangar nearby, and promptly met with Trump and several fire officials. But his absence at the steps of Air Force One revealed the latest move in what's become the Democratic governor's delicate dance with the Republican president who is both a tantalizing political foil — and a key link to aid the state needs as disasters mount.

"We've been working very well with Gavin," Trump told reporters gathered on the tarmac.

"We're obviously from different sides of the spectrum, but we have a very good relationship."

Then, inside the hangar where Newsom (wearing a mask) and Trump (not wearing a mask) met with emergency officials, the governor also took a cordial tone.

"I want to thank you and acknowledge the work that you've done to be immediate in terms of your response," Newsom told Trump.

Newsom said they agree on the need to thin more trees and delicately lectured Trump about global warming driving the frequency and intensity of wildfires.

"Climate change is real and that is exacerbating this," Newsom said.

The dynamic between Newsom and Trump has turned out to be one of the major surprises of Newsom's short time as governor. Newsom won office in 2018 positioning himself as the antithesis of Trump, and pledged to lead a "resistance state." But his tenure has been marked by an extraordinary spate of disasters — catastrophic wildfires, the deadly coronavirus pandemic, a decimated state budget and record unemployment — that have required cooperation between two men who once cast each other as clowns.

Newsom has repeatedly praised Trump's disaster aid for California, saying he wants to put political differences aside when problems need to be solved. But it's involved a bit of whiplash. He recently called their relationship "very effective" in responding to emergencies



Trump supporters wait by the fence at McClellan Air Force Base runway. Photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner



Donald J. Trump supporters attended the president's visit at McClellan Air Force Base. Photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

— just the day after he dissed Trump for saying California wildfires were due to insufficient forest raking. He talked last week about a productive phone call with Trump, even as he criticized the federal government for a lack of action on climate change.

It's a fine line to walk, and Newsom has occasionally slipped, by being so nice that he gave ammunition to a political opponent. While heaping praise on Trump for sending a batch of coronavirus test kits in April, Newsom used one of the president's campaign slogans — "Promises made, promises kept" — and promptly found himself in an ad

for Trump's reelection.

Newsom's approach — meeting with Trump to discuss forest management and climate change, but not appearing in any chummy-looking photo ops in front of Air Force One — suggests that he is trying to thread the needle. On the one hand, he needs to demonstrate apolitical leadership amid disaster, but also avoid looking too bipartisan in an election year when he's campaigning for Trump's Democratic rival.

"It's a carefully-considered, carefully-orchestrated tango with the president that the governor has no choice but to participate in,"

said Nathan Ballard, a Democratic political consultant who worked for Newsom when he was San Francisco mayor.

Though Newsom disagrees with Trump "about almost everything under the sun," Ballard said, "it is vital for the governor's constituents that he continues to play ball with the president during these unprecedented disasters."

While Newsom and Trump kept things cordial, Newsom's environmental deputies got into a terse exchange with the president.

Wade Crowfoot, Newsom's secretary of natural resources, emphasized the unprecedented heat and warming trend, saying: "If we ignore that science and put our head in the sand...we are not going to succeed together protecting Californians."

Trump, smiling, said, "It'll start getting cooler, you just watch."

Crowfoot shot back, "I wish science agreed with you."

Trump responded, "I don't think science knows, actually," then briskly called on another presenter.

Demonstrators — of both parties — outside the meeting said they understand why Newsom plays nice with Trump.

Lance Caster said Newsom's approach makes sense to him, even though he doesn't like it. "It depends on what he wants. When he doesn't like what Donald's doing, he bad mouths him, and when he wants something, he's really nice," said Caster, a Republican who works as a truck driver and lives in the Sacramento suburb of Citrus Heights.

Most Californians believe climate change is "extremely important" or "very important" to them personally, according to a Public Policy Institute of California survey last month, and just one-fifth of the state's likely voters said they trust the federal government to handle environmental issues. Not surprisingly in this overwhelmingly blue state, 70% of voters said Joe Biden would be better than Trump on environmental policy.

Laurel covers California politics for CalMatters, with a focus on power and personalities in the statehouse. Her stories explain political dynamics in the Capitol and examine how money, advocacy and relationships.

CalMatters reporters Rachel Becker, Julie Cart and Barbara Feder Ostrov contributed to this report.

CalMatters.org is a nonprofit, nonpartisan media venture explaining California policies and politics. ★

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Yellow Onions **4lbs \$1**

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Jalapeno Peppers **59¢**

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King Oyster Mushrooms **1.99**

Peel'd Garlic 5 lb Bag **14.99**

Beets **69¢**

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Petalitos **\$1.99**

FARAON **39¢**

Brianna's **\$3.49**

Bonobro **\$1.29**

ASIAN GROCERY

Yong Yu **\$1.39**

Green Bell Peppers **\$1.69**

Yong Yu **\$2.99**

NONI TEA BAG **\$2.99**

NONI TEA BAG **\$1.99**

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Korvika **79¢**

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Chamok **\$3.99**

Vivus **\$2.99**

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3.99

2.99

3.99

2.49

2.49

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Know the Warning Signs of Suicide

Continued from page 1

Our behavioral health wellbeing has much wider implications for us as a community," said, Sacramento County Behavioral Health Director Ryan Quist. "It's important to remember that we all have a role to play in promoting connectedness, belonging, resiliency and prevention. Today, it's more important than ever before that we reach out and support each other."

Fast Facts on Suicide from the National Alliance on Mental Illness:

75 percent of all people who die by suicide are male; More women than men attempt suicide, but men are nearly four times more likely to die by suicide; Suicide is the second leading cause of death for people ages 10-34 and the fourth leading cause of death for people 35-54; The overall suicide rate in the U.S. has increased by 31 percent since 2001; Stigma is the largest obstacle to recovery, treatment and societal acceptance for people living with mental illness; 46 percent of people who die by suicide had a diagnosed mental health condition; While nearly half of individuals who die by suicide have a diagnosed mental health condition, research shows that 90 percent experienced symptoms.

Suicide can be prevented: Know the Signs: Most people who are considering suicide show some warning signs or signals of their intentions. Learn to recognize these warning signs and how to respond to them;

Find the Words: If you are concerned about someone, ask them directly if they are thinking about suicide. This can be difficult to do, but being direct provides an opportunity for them to open up and talk about their distress and will not suggest the idea to

them if they aren't already thinking about it. The "Find the Words" section of the Know the Signs website suggests ways to start the conversation;

Reach Out: You are not alone in this. Before having the conversation, become familiar with some resources to offer to the person you are concerned about. Visit the Reach Out section of the Know the Signs website to identify where you can find help for your friend or loved one;

Prevention Works: Many people who feel suicidal don't want to die. If they can get through the crisis, treatment works. There are programs and practices that have been specifically developed to support those who are in a suicide crisis. The Suicide Prevention Resource Center hosts a registry of 160 programs, practices and resources for suicide prevention. You can learn more about them by visiting their website;

Help is available: The Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255- TALK) offers 24/7 free and confidential assistance from trained counselors. Callers are connected to the nearest available crisis center. The Lifeline is also available in Spanish, and for veterans or for those concerned about a veteran, by selecting a prompt to be connected to counselors specifically trained to support veterans.

Sacramento County provides a spectrum of culturally competent and linguistically proficient mental health services to individuals of all ages. Services include prevention and early intervention, outpatient services, case management services, crisis intervention and stabilization services, and inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations. Learn more about our mental health services. ★

Remembering Dale Blackwell

Aba Daba Rentals Facilitated Many Community Events



Victoria Blackwell receives a County of Sacramento Proclamation from Supervisor Sue Frost to honor and remember her husband, Dale, for all his service to the community. Photo by Elise Spleiss

By Elise Spleiss

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)

- On Wednesday, September 2, 2020 a group of family, friends and Aba Daba Rentals employees gathered in Sacramento to remember and honor Dale Blackwell, co-owner of Aba Daba Rentals, for his many years of service to his community and the county of Sacramento.

Blackwell was 65 when he passed away on April 15, 2020 from complications following an accident where he sustained severe traumatic brain injuries.

His sudden death was a shock not only to his loved ones, friends, and employees, but to the entire equipment rental community where he had been active for over 20 years. Dale and his brother, Bob, became second generation owners of the business in 2000 with locations in Citrus and Sacramento.

Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost presented a County of Sacramento Proclamation to Dale's wife, Vicky, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors and the people of Sacramento County to honor and remember Dale for all he has done for his community through his business.

Working with schools, places of worship, veterans' events, scouting and sports, Blackwell, his family and employees have helped with needed repairs, fundraising and many other services as needed through the decades, to improve the quality of life in their communities.

Blackwell and his family business have been a mainstay in Sacramento County for over 50 years. The Sacramento location, on just under an acre of land is always bustling with activity. Frost described Aba Daba as having always been the 'go to' place for rentals when you're having an event of any kind."

Always aware of the competition, growth and changes in the industry, through the years Dale and his brother, Bob, have acquired machines to rent including heavy equipment, industrial, landscaping, trailers of all sizes, to smaller gardening machines. They also are proud to provide full wedding services to their customers.

Looking beyond his own business, Dale was active in governing boards, regional and statewide, actively working to protect the standards of the industry and ensure the success of his fellow rental business

owners. In death, as in life, Dale, with his sudden passing continues to remind all of how precious life and family is. The last line in the County proclamation summarizes much of how Dale will be remembered: "Dale Blackwell was a passionate Oakland Raiders fan, loved to fish and travel and loved being with his grandchildren and family and was known for his infectious laugh, amazing advice and his kind and generous spirit."

Frost added, "It is bittersweet to gather here to pay tribute to Dale and his wife and family for all they have given back to Citrus Heights (and the greater community.)"

Why the name Aba Daba? In 1971, when looking for a name for a newly merged business, Dale's father and his new business partner held a naming contest. Aba Daba won, being at the top of the phone book, easy to remember and not repeating any letters. Aba Daba, (from the song, Aba Daba Honeymoon), like Dale Blackwell won't be soon forgotten.

Aba Daba Rental locations are at 4351 Auburn B, Citrus Heights, and 7448 Auburn, in Sacramento. ★

Sacramento Master Singers December Musical Creations

Dear Master Singers Patrons and Friends,

Regrettably, we must inform you that the Sacramento Master Singers will not be holding a concert in-person this December, nor will we be selling our typical 3-concert subscription for the 2020-21 season. The safety of the Sacramento community is our top priority, and we are committed to following the guidance of public health experts with regards to public events, which remain on pause at this time.

Although we cannot gather together this year, we hope to brighten your holiday season with some digital musical creations. Stay tuned for details on upcoming Master Singers projects by following us on Facebook or subscribing to our YouTube channel.

Sincerely,
Sacramento Master Singers

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Wine for Wildlife Care this October!

Rick Reed
Public Relations

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Pour a glass for wildlife rehab with a special edition of the virtual wine tasting kits from the innovative Sacramento vintner Kevin Luther. His special blends will raise funds for the volunteers at the non-profit Wildlife Care Association this October. Order a wine tasting kit to be delivered directly to your door and join WCA volunteers and Ambassador Animals in a special Facebook Live & YouTube video event on Saturday, October 24th at 5pm.

Order your kit at www.voluptuarywine.com/virtual-tasting and \$5.00 from every order goes directly to save wildlife at Wildlife Care Association. Order Now!

Wines include "Pollination" Chenin Blanc, "Urban Flora" Rose, "The Source" Pinot Noir/Grenache blend, "Da Vinci's Wings" Zinfandel and "Wanderlust" Dark Red. Delivered to your door 1-2 weeks prior to the live event.

You may also make a



Virtual tasting event will feature Voluptuary and Lucid Wines from owner and winemaker Kevin Luther. Photo provided by Rick Reed Public Relations

direct donation to support volunteers who take in more than 6000 injured, orphan or displaced birds and small animals every year at WCA at www.voluptuarywine.com/new-products/wca

Double the donation as Voluptuary Wines will match every additional

dollar donated!

Then join the fun as WCA volunteers showcase their work with the Animal Ambassadors, discuss vineyard owls and environmentally friendly, organic pest control and taste wines led by Vintner Kevin Luther, owner and winemaker at Voluptuary and Lucid Wines on Facebook and YouTube video.

For more than 45 years the Sacramento Wildlife Care Association volunteer, non-profit wildlife rehabilitation group has helped balance the environment and maintain regional quality of life by giving thousands of birds and small animals a second chance to live!

Visit www.wildlifecareassociation.com to learn more. Become a volunteer when you email volunteer@wildlifecareassociation.com ★



The selection will include wines: "Pollination" Chenin Blanc, "Urban Flora" Rose, "The Source" Pinot Noir/Grenache blend, "Da Vinci's Wings" Zinfandel and "Wanderlust" Dark Red. Photo provided by Rick Reed Public Relations

Great Time for More 'Good Day'



Good Day will be reaching a broader audience starting this week. From left to right on the photo: John Dabkovich, Courtney Dempsey, Cody Stark, Tina Macuha, Jordan Segundo, and Dina Kupfer. Photo: KOVR / KMAX-TV

By Emily K. Steenbuck

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - CW31's Good Day is adding a 10am hour to its lineup Monday through Friday! A month after celebrating its 25th anniversary, Good Day will now be running until 11am seven days a week.

"Good Day has always been about the viewers and viewing habits have changed. People are watching more later in the morning than ever before," says KOVR/KMAX Vice President and General Manager Justin Draper.

"Good Day will be the only local programming on at 10am, which creates another opportunity to reach a broad audience."

The show aims to be a reflection of the community it serves, along with a mix of news, weather, and traffic. KOVR/KMAX News Director Mike Dello Stritto adds, "Good Day connects with the audience unlike anything else on TV. And even during a pandemic there's no shortage of the good happening in our communities. We want to celebrate the good." Courtney Dempsey and

Cody Stark will host from 7am-11am, John Dabkovich will have breaking news and the latest headlines, and Tina Macuha has up to the minute traffic reports. From 4:30am-7am, Dina Kupfer joins John Dabkovich as anchors of the faster-paced format 'CBS13 Good Day' airing on both KMAX CW31 and KOVR CBS13.

The good doesn't stop when Good Day's over. The brand new positive and uplifting talk show, The Drew Barrymore Show, airs right after Good Day at 11am on CW31 beginning Monday, September 14th. ★

Sacramento Sailor Stands Watch aboard U.S. Navy Warship



By Rick Burke, Navy Office of Community Outreach
SOUTH CHINA SEA (MPG) - Ensign Samuel Joseph, from Sacramento, Calif., stands watch as the conning officer on the bridge during a visit, board, search and seizure exercise aboard the amphibious dock landing ship USS Germantown (LSD 42). Germantown, part of the America Amphibious Ready Group assigned to Amphibious Squadron 11, along with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, is operating in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility to enhance interoperability with allies and partners, and serve as a ready response force to defend peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. (U.S. Navy photo by Ensign William Ash)

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PREPARING FOR A PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF

Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) is a statewide effort to prevent wildfires by proactively turning off power to communities when severe winds and dry weather conditions are forecast. While turning off the power helps prevent wildfires, we also know it will disrupt lives and cause hardship for our customers. That's why PG&E does not make this decision lightly and will only call a PSPS to help keep customers and communities safe.

HERE ARE 5 WAYS TO PREPARE FOR A PSPS:



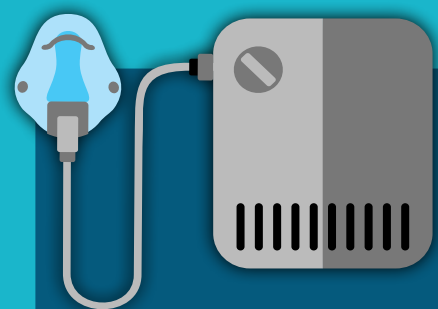
Make sure PG&E can reach you before a PSPS by updating your contact information at pge.com/mywildfirealerts.

1



Pack or restock your family's emergency kit including food, water, batteries, masks, radio and a first aid kit.

2



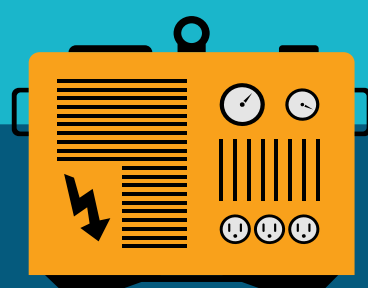
Make preparations for anyone in your family who depends on electricity for medical needs.

3



Practice manually opening your garage door (if you have a garage).

4



Ensure any backup power sources are ready and safe to operate.

5



For translated support in over 200 languages, please contact PG&E at 866-743-6589.



To learn more ways to prepare for a PSPS and any emergency, visit safetyactioncenter.pge.com

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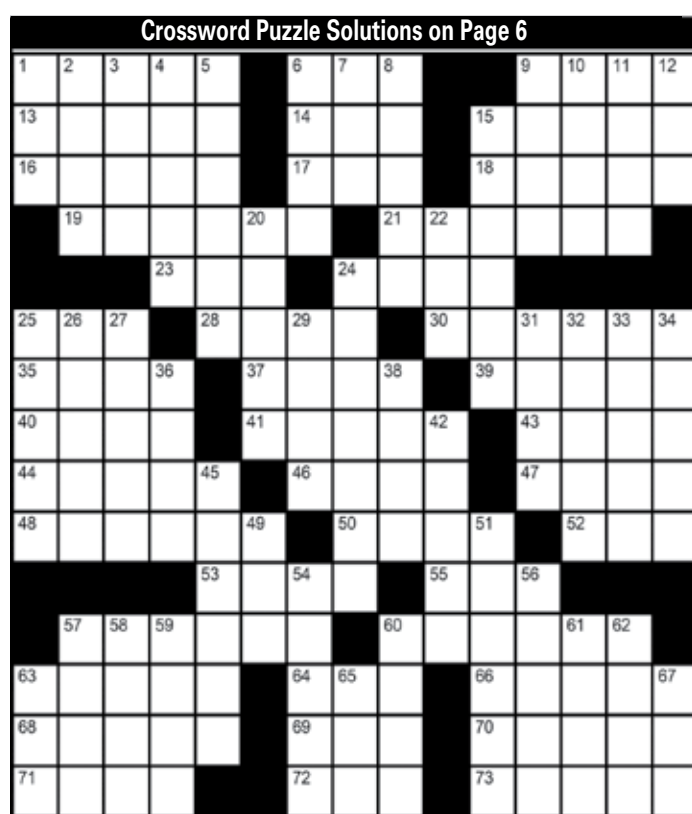
Crossword Puzzle on Page 6



STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • BOTANY 101

CLUES

- ACROSS
1. One's arbitrary assertion
6. "Swan Lake" step
9. Not Sunni
13. Mountaineer's tool
14. Tolkien creature
15. Bebe Rexha's "___ to Be"
16. Artificial or mannered
17. Snow runner
18. Nylon or Kevlar, in chemistry terms
19. Scooby-Doo's best friend
21. *Between order and genus
23. *Marine botany is study of plants living here
24. 35mm, e.g.
25. Public health agency, acr.
28. Partner of void
30. Small lynx
35. Stewart and Blagojevich
37. Grazing lands
39. Jawaharlal ___
40. g or cm
41. Smelling ___, athlete's pick-me-upper
43. No neatnik
44. Lay to rest
46. They are hairy on a hobbit
47. Hefty volume
48. One in line, during COVID-19 pandemic
50. In the middle of
52. *Grain-bearing tip of a cereal plant
53. Cattle meat
55. Fleur-de-___
57. *Pollinator attractors
60. *Food for a pollinator
63. One there at the beginning
64. Famous T-Rex
66. Lowest deck
68. Forearm bones
69. Cassius Clay, ___ Muhammad Ali
70. Private instructor
71. ___-do-well
72. Thus far
73. Inflict a blow



OMAHA STEAKS advertisement with a picture of a grill and text: GET THE GRILLER'S BUNDLE INTRODUCTORY PRICE: \$79.99. Includes 4 (5 oz.) Butcher's Cut Filet Mignon, 4 (4 oz.) Boneless Pork Chops, 4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers, 4 (3 oz.) Gourmet Jumbo Burgers, 4 (2.8 oz.) Potatoes au Gratin, 4 (4 oz.) Caramel Apple Tartlets, Omaha Steaks Seasoning Packet. + 4 MORE BURGERS FREE. ORDER NOW! 1.833.406.1259.

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DOWN

- 1. Female sib
2. "Hamlet" has five
3. Sure or uh-huh
4. "The Forsyte ___," pl.
5. *Product of photosynthesis
6. One of a pocketful, according to Mother Goose
7. Genesis vessel
8. "The Matrix" genre
9. Highway hauler
10. Icy precipitation
11. Dr. Jones, fictional professor of archaeology, to friends
12. Filled up
15. Biblical personification of material wealth
20. Olden-day Celts
22. Priest's robe
24. Blank leaf in a book
25. *Seed holder
26. "Death, Be Not Proud" poet
27. Mine passages
29. *Food manufacturer
31. Superlative of better
32. Actress Sevigny
33. Something in the air
34. *Potato, e.g.
36. Proofreader's mark
38. *Plant support
42. "...he found a crooked sixpence upon a crooked ___"
45. Sales lure
49. Electric fish
51. *Not monocots
54. Piece of writing
56. Pull strings
57. Carpet attribute
58. Marine eagle
59. Russia's famous Peter
60. Sans mixers
61. Choir voice
62. *Plant anchor
63. Good times
65. Israel Kamakawiwo'ole's guitar
67. Prefix for prior

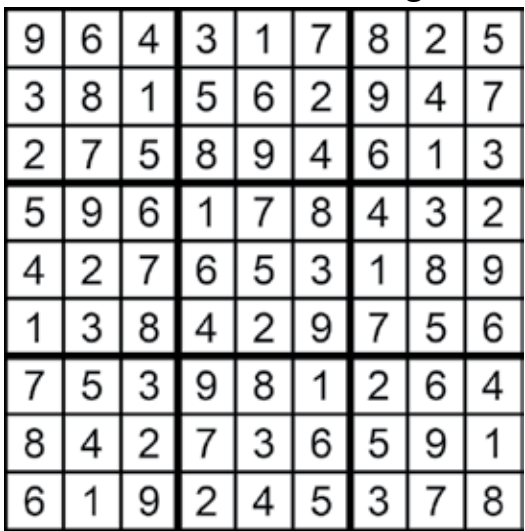
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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 6



LEGAL ADS FOR SACRAMENTO COUNTY? We Can Do That! Call to place your legal advertising 916-773-1111 All Legal Ads Published by Messenger Publishing MPG

AMERICAN STANDARD SUDOKU advertisement with a picture of a woman and text: FREE! WALK-IN BATHTUB SALE! SAVE \$1,500! Includes details about the sale and contact info: 866-612-7490.

Solutions on Page 6

Large advertisement for Pet Club Food and Supplies. Features: We Beat Almost All Online Prices on Premium Brand Pet Foods. Includes coupons for Friskies and Fancy Feast. Product promotions: Zignature, Diamond Naturals, Nutro, Pedigree, Purina, Scoopaway, IAMS, World's Best, Wellness, Jonny Cat, Meow Mix, Merrick's, Penn-Plax, etc. Total value: \$149.

Supreme Court Makes Local Tax Hikes Easier



By Dan Walters
CAL Matters

In a roundabout, passive way, the California Supreme Court last week handed a big victory to the advocates of higher taxes.

Without comment, the justices declined to take up a state appellate court decision that would allow specialized local government taxes to be increased by a simple majority of voters, if they are placed on the ballot by initiative petitions rather than by the governments themselves.

The victory for tax proponents, especially government worker unions, was an equally large defeat for anti-tax organizations such as the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. However, it also may bring more ballot box budgeting and indirectly weaken the role of city councils and other locally elected boards.

Proposition 218, approved by California voters in 1996, declares that local governments seeking more revenue must win voter approval. Proposals for general purpose revenue through increases in sales taxes or other levies need only simple-majority approval. However, if cities, counties and other local governments seek new taxes for specific purposes, Proposition 218 requires two-thirds votes.

Three years ago, the state Supreme Court issued a decision called “Upland” because it dealt with a ballot measure on taxing marijuana in that Southern California city.

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

He thus implied that special purpose taxes placed before voters via initiative may not be affected by the two-thirds vote requirement for taxes sought by governments themselves.

Quickly, special purpose taxes placed on the ballot via initiative that garnered less than two-thirds votes were challenged by the Jarvis organization and other taxpayer groups, but trial court judges differed sharply on whether Cuéllar’s opinion did, indeed, validate them.

Two of the tests were San Francisco taxes placed on the ballot via initiatives personally sponsored by members of the city’s Board of Supervisors, one for early childhood education, the other to battle homelessness. Both received less than two-thirds votes, but a local judge, Ethan Schulman, validated them anyway.

In June, a San Francisco-based appellate court upheld Schulman on the homelessness taxes and the Jarvis organization appealed to the state Supreme Court, which last week validated the appellate court ruling by

refusing to take it up.

The tax on business gross receipts for homelessness services will raise as much as \$300 million a year. “San Francisco voters have the right to direct democracy and self-government,” City Attorney Dennis Herrera said in a statement. “We’re pleased that this legal victory will free up millions of dollars to provide services, housing and mental health treatment for those who most desperately need it in our city.”

The Supreme Court’s action, or non-action, also may validate other disputed special purpose taxes, including another for early childhood education in San Francisco, an Oakland parcel tax for education and a Fresno sales tax for parks. Local judges had blocked the Oakland and Fresno taxes, declaring that Proposition 218 required them to have two-thirds votes.

Local government officials prefer to ask voters for general revenues because they are more flexible. But advocates for particular causes prefer special purpose taxes to prevent revenues from being diverted elsewhere.

The way is now clear for interests with the wherewithal to qualify and pass ballot measures, such as unions, to push for taxes that benefit their members, thus reducing the authority of local elected officials to set budget priorities.

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

No Pandemic Shutdown for Scammers, They Are Still on the Prowl

By Ashley Pontius

COVID-19 may have shut down portions of the economy and put restrictions on Americans’ daily lives, but cyber scams and other efforts to defraud people continue to thrive.

“Scammers are tapping into the uncertainty related to the global pandemic,” says Chris Orestis, the president of LifeCare Xchange who is known as the “Retirement Genius” (www.retirementgenius.com).

“They are using social engineering to target people with tactics that take advantage of today’s technology. Seniors need to be especially mindful of the mechanisms that have been explicitly designed to target people in retirement.”

Some scams to be on the lookout for include:

Dishonest retailers. Many dishonest retailers and fake products are popping up, Orestis says. “The shortage of toilet paper, hand sanitizer, soap, and masks at the beginning of the quarantine resulted from people’s panic,” he says. “The fear of scarcity created a gateway for scammers. Fraudulent online retailers are showcasing these items as bait, especially medical supplies.” But they don’t have any inventory, so stick with reputable stores, Orestis says. Scammers also try to sell products to prevent or cure COVID-19, even though they do not exist. “Anyone who receives a message from someone selling any of these items should not respond,” Orestis says.

Phony advertisements. Scammers also try to advertise hard-to-find products through social media, email or ads that pop up on certain sites. Avoid clicking on anything unfamiliar because cyber criminals may be trying to steal your personal information or infect your computer with a virus, Orestis says. “Be cautious of people who try to contact you under odd usernames and do not have a profile picture,” he says. “If anyone asks for your personal information or invites you to click on a link, block them immediately or report them as spam.”

Government or organization disguises. Is a government official or someone from the CDC or from the World Health Organization trying to contact you? Maybe, but probably not. Scammers often try to convince potential victims that they are with a legitimate agency or group, Orestis says. “For example, an email might claim that there have been new

COVID-19 cases in your area and ask for your personal information to see if you have been in contact with anyone infected,” he says. “Be suspicious of any COVID-19 related emails and use only official government websites to get information about the virus.”

Fake charities and crowdfunding. Criminals have also created counterfeit charities and crowdfunding sites. They ask for money in the form of cash, gift cards, and wire transfers. “Real charities will never use these resources,” Orestis says. “Be sure to use reputable sites and research the charities you want to donate to for coronavirus relief.”

Phone scams. Phones are still the No. 1 way scammers target seniors, both through calls and text messages. The Federal Communications Commission warns about these methods being used by people who claim to be the IRS or have coronavirus treatments, at-home testing kits, and vaccinations. “If you receive a robotic voice call, do not press any buttons or return any calls,” Orestis says. “Hang up immediately. If you receive text messages regarding this information, do not respond or click on any links.”

“It’s important to be wary of these and other scams, both off and online,” Orestis says. “The more conscious people are of how scammers are trying to trick them, the less likely they are to fall for one of those tricks.”

Chris Orestis, known as the “Retirement Genius” (www.retirementgenius.com), is President of LifeCare Xchange and a nationally recognized healthcare expert and senior advocate. He has 25 years’ experience in the insurance and long-term care industries, and is credited with pioneering the *Long-Term Care Life Settlement* over a decade ago. Known as a political insider, Orestis is a former Washington, D.C., lobbyist who has worked in both the White House and for the Senate Majority Leader on Capitol Hill. Orestis is author of the books *Help on the Way* and *A Survival Guide to Aging*, and has been speaking for over a decade across the country about senior finance and the secrets to aging with physical and financial health. He is a frequent columnist for *Broker World*, *ThinkAdvisor*, *IRIS*, and *NewsMax Finance*, has been a featured guest on over 50 radio programs, and has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *CNBC*, *NBC News*, *Fox News*, *USA Today*, *Kiplinger’s*, *Investor’s Business Daily*, *PBS*, and numerous other media outlets. ★



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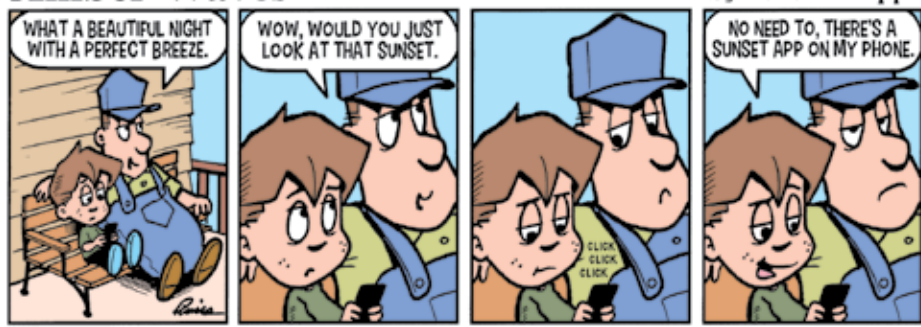
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WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



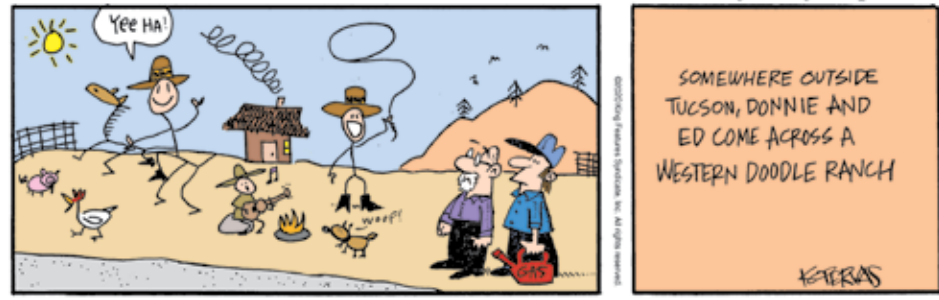
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



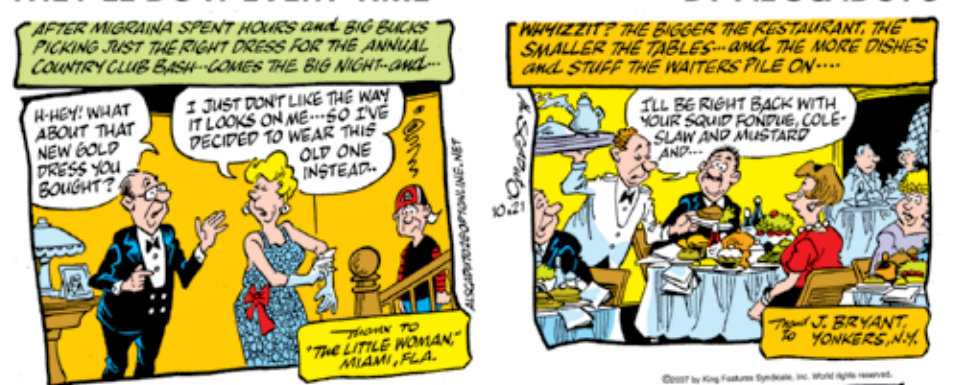
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



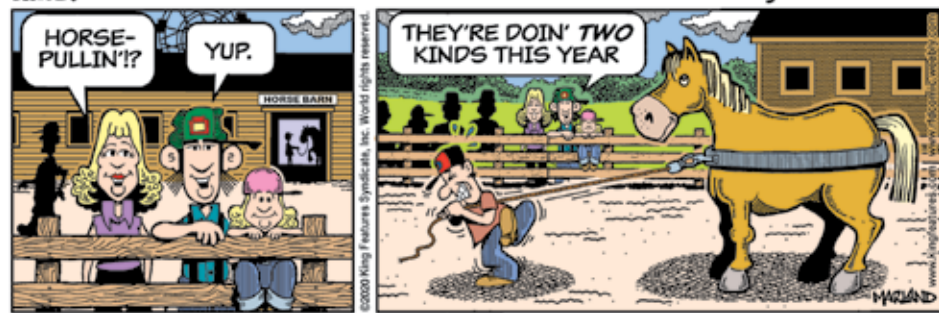
THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



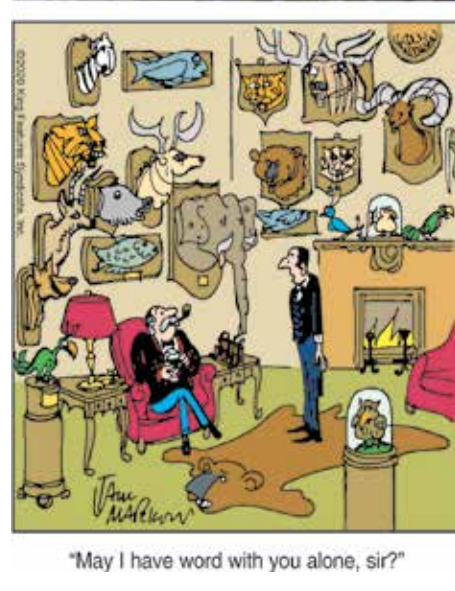
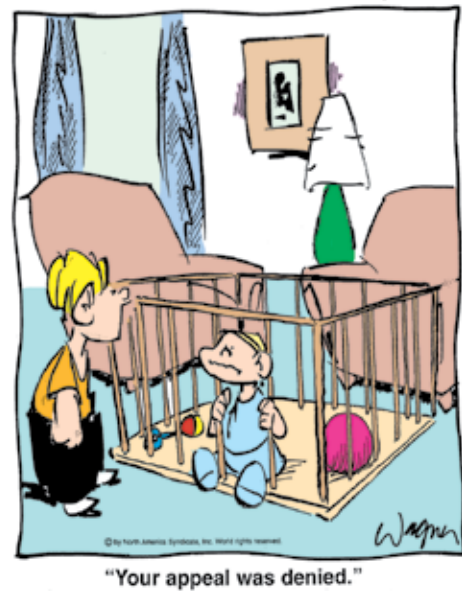
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



GRIN AND BEAR IT

LAFF-A-DAY



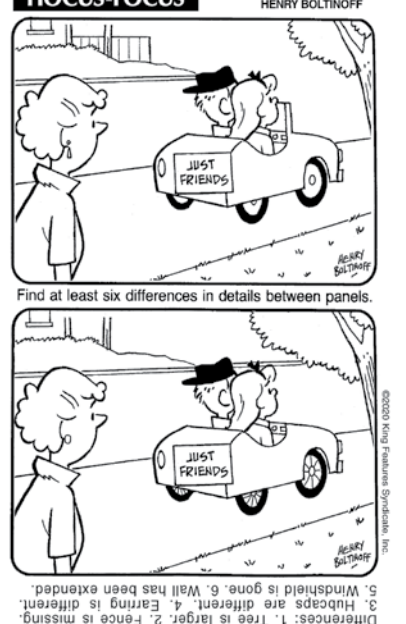
Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



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The CID will award up to three (3) businesses within the boundaries of the district with mini-grants of \$1,000 each. Recipients will also receive a waiver of the one-time application fee to join the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce membership, as an incentive to further engage and benefit from our local business community (valued at \$25). Applications are now open for the grant and will close on October 1, 2020 at midnight.

To fill out the grant application, please go to bit.ly/CIDEnvisionGrant or visit our website discovercarmichael.com to learn more.

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