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Virtual Fundraiser
to Benefit Sacramento
Life Center**
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Carmichael Times

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Serving Carmichael & Sacramento County since 1981

JUNE 19, 2020

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By Mary Jane Popp



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Carmichael, CA

Change Service Requested

Finding a New Way

Volunteers Gather Resources for Homeless



From left to right: Heather Wheeler, Homeless Outreach Navigator with Sacramento Self-Help Housing; John Cornwell, Togo's Manager; Franki Garay and Gabby Chavez, Togo's employees. Photo: Derek Corea/Carmichael HART

By Scott Young,
Carmichael HART

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - For the past few weeks, volunteers of Carmichael HART (Homeless Assistance Resource Team) have joined with a new business partner to respond to the Covid-19 virus crisis.

Togo's restaurant on Manzanita Avenue has prepared 150 sandwiches each week at a discounted price for distribution to homeless people in the Carmichael and Arden Arcade communities.

"We took immediate action in response to the sudden and severe lack of essential services like access to restrooms, sinks and showers at churches, clean clothing at thrift shops, and lack of access to money

and critical services at government agencies," said Scott Young, president of Carmichael HART, a collaboration of churches, business, law enforcement, local schools, and other nonprofit charities.

Young and other volunteers have handed out 50 meals on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday up and down the Fair Oaks/Manzanita corridor. Aware that gatherings are prohibited during shelter-in-place, they stop and offer meals and resources wherever they spot homeless individuals.

"We give them hand sanitizer to help stop the spread of germs and viruses, a flyer with health tips and other information to help people and our community stay safe," he said. "This is more than a homeless issue. It's also a public health challenge.

They also get a 13-gallon trash bag with each meal because trash receptacles outside businesses are scarce. If Covid-19 takes off among homeless people, it's going to have tragic consequences for them and the community where they live."

Meanwhile, other HART programs are on hold under Covid-19 shelter-in-place guidelines. Under the quarantine, there are far fewer resources for those living on the streets - including respite sites, shelters, recycling places that homeless people rely on for income, public libraries, wellness and recovery centers.

Carmichael HART's "Charlotte House" continues to house four formerly homeless women and a house

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Airport Installs PPE Vending Machines



By Samantha Mott,
Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento International Airport (SMF) has added Clean & Safe Travels Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) vending machines in both terminals for passengers traveling during the Covid-19 pandemic.

These machines are located pre-security in Terminal A (between Starbucks and the ticket counters), and Terminal B (at the west entrance near the Southwest Airlines ticket counter). In addition to the increased cleaning, ticket counter sneeze guards and social distancing messaging, SMF is utilizing these machines to promote precautions and increase safety for our passengers and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Increasingly strong measures have been put into place to ensure travelers both see and feel that their health and safety is our top priority," says Cindy Nichol, Sacramento County Director of Airports. "Installing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) vending machines in the terminals is just one of many steps we have taken."

Passengers can purchase a variety of protective masks ranging from \$8.25 to \$14.50, disposable gloves (\$4.50), sanitizing wipes (\$5.25) and hand sanitizer spray or gel (\$4.25 to \$6.50).

Although there is no requirement to wear face coverings in the terminals at SMF, passengers are strongly encouraged to do so in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. Additionally, most airlines have implemented policies requiring both employees and passengers to wear face coverings in boarding areas and on aircraft. ★

Sac County Public Health Order Amended Again

**Sacramento County
Press Release**

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County has an amended Public Health Order that will allow the relaxation of restrictions on low-risk businesses consistent from the direction of the State of California, to move further into Stage 3 of the state's Resilience Roadmap. The new Public Health Order became effective at 11:59 a.m. June 12.

Sacramento County is able to move further into Stage 3 because its Variance Attestation was approved by the state on May 20.

The following activities and venues are now allowable in the amended Public

Health Order as listed in Appendix B of the Order, provided they have implemented the required health and safety protocols outlined in Appendix A of the Order:

Bars and wineries; Hotels, lodging and short-term rentals; Campgrounds, RV parks and Outdoor Recreation; Gyms and fitness facilities; Pools; Museums, galleries, zoos and aquariums; Family entertainment centers; Movie theaters; Day camps; Tribal casinos; Cardrooms, satellite wagering facilities and racetracks

Additionally, businesses must include a policy for face coverings in their protocol and provide face coverings to staff when six

feet of social distance is not possible.

"In spite of recent reopenings, the virus risk is still here," said Dr. Peter Beilenson, director of Health Services. "We have seen an increase in COVID cases and hospitalizations recently, in large part due to social gatherings, and to keep these cases down we need to remember to be sensible while we're being sociable."

"Continue to maintain social distancing requirements of six feet or more, practice good hand hygiene, stay home as much as possible and remember that gatherings of people not from the same household inside houses are prohibited."

The Health Order supersedes previous orders

and is in effect until it is rescinded or amended by the Sacramento County Health Officer.

The best defense against COVID-19 continues to be: Staying at home and physical distancing; Wearing a face covering wherever possible; Washing hands frequently; Avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands; Avoiding being around people with COVID-19 symptoms

For questions about the Public Health Order, call the Public Health hotline at (916) 875-2400.

For more information about the County's response to COVID-19, visit Sacramento County's COVID-19 webpage. ★



Four-Legged County Workers Head for New Pastures

Story and photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Six hundred goats recently joined the morning Fair Oaks Boulevard commute. Accompanied by whistles, barks and bleats, 2400 hooves beat a rapid tattoo through Schweitzer Grove (Carmichael) to board stock trucks. A short ride later, the bearded day-workers were munching weeds near Bannister Park (Fair Oaks). Once that two-week riverside picnic was behind them, they moved to Rollingwood, Orangevale.

Park districts and Counties are increasingly using herbivore power on hard-to-mow territory. Poison oak and steep slopes are all in a day's rumination for goat gangs that recently trimmed Wilhaggin Retention Basin on American River Drive. Though animals take longer than blades, their chomping doesn't cause sparks and fires. They're also quieter. "We hardly knew they were here," said a resident near Schweitzer Grove. "I came out to watch them every day. Such a peaceful sight.



Goat farm owner Steve Gregory (left) and son Jacob muster stock to journey between Carmichael and Fair Oaks.

I hope they'll come back next year."

For Lincoln goat farmer Steve Gregory, summer is when his goat and sheep are busiest - and happiest. However, coyotes and mountain lions can be a worry in wilderness work areas. Gregory flocks are tended with Biblical devotion by shepherds and

canines who sleep with their charges at night. Hydration is another big concern. "Each animal needs up to two gallons of water per day - more if it gets really hot," confirms the farmer. Though his truck delivers water daily, some neighboring residents volunteer garden hoses. "We're always

grateful for that," he says. "Our animals' health is our first concern." Gregory's Peruvian herders are legendary in their industry. "These guys grow up around grazing animals," says their boss. "They seem to know how sheep and goats think. We all put our animals before ourselves. If they're not healthy, we

can't stay in business." From a landowner's view, goats are often more cost-effective than machines. "They might take more time to do the job," explains Sacramento County engineer Lennard Bravo. "But they're great on steep terrain where human ankles have been turned. They free up staff

to deal with emergency situations at times of fire risk. And after herds do their work, we've found regrowth is limited and less maintenance is needed." The gentle mowers also cohabit well with wildlife - they don't hurt ground-foragers like quail or turkey chicks. They devour invasive vegetation - blackberry and thistles are a particular delight - and their droppings return nitrogen to the soil. While machines spread seeds to germinate elsewhere, ruthlessly grinding caprine teeth reduce kernels to pulp.

Though his livestock has fulfilled many Sacramento County contracts, the passage of Fair Oaks' century-old truss bridge presented a picturesque challenge. "It's a bridge with so many pedestrians and cyclists," explains Gregory. "We don't worry about how the goats will manage - they move well as a herd - our concern is how people react to them. Fortunately, eating's their favorite thing to do. That's what gets them across bridges so smoothly. They're all led by their stomachs." ★

Rep. Bera Statement on Death of George Floyd

SACRAMENTO, CA - Congressman Ami Bera (D-CA) issued the following statement on the death of George Floyd and the resulting civil unrest in Sacramento and across the nation:

"The death of George Floyd at the hands of police brutality is unconscionable. His death has again brought to the forefront of the American conscience the systemic racism and inequities that members of the

African American community face every day.

This past week, thousands of Americans of different ages and races have marched across the country - and in our hometown of Sacramento - to demand justice for Mr. Floyd's death and call for change to a system that for too long has left behind marginalized communities. For many communities of color, especially the African American

community, their reality is a discriminatory criminal justice system, disparities in economic opportunity, education, and housing, and a global pandemic that disproportionately impacts their health.

I stand in solidarity with all those who are peacefully protesting and demanding change. Please know that your voice is important, and you are heard.

As your elected representative in Congress, I will continue to listen, learn, and advocate for policies that address police violence and racial inequities. I look forward

to working with all community leaders across Sacramento to learn how we can better advocate for sustained change, and I will continue to engage with my colleagues in Congress and the Congressional Black Caucus to push for federal legislation to address police violence.

We must continue to have open, honest - and sometimes uncomfortable - conversations about race and inequality in America, and the steps we must take to get to lasting change. Together, we can begin to heal the wounds of racial injustice." ★

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EUROPEAN GROCERY

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Additional Charging Decisions Related to Acts of Looting

Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On June 3, 2020, the Sacramento District Attorney's Office received thirteen reports relating to looting from law enforcement agencies to review for filing of criminal charges. All events took place in the late evening hours of May 31st to the early morning hours of June 1st. Charges were filed in all of the cases received including:

- (1) At midnight, several subjects were located inside the Sunrise Mall. One of the female adult suspects admitted to driving six juveniles to the mall. She also admitted that someone broke glass and she went inside. They went to the Vans store, but then heard police and ran. Several boxes of new shoes were found in her trunk. The second suspect was found in a car parked at the mall just outside of the broken glass point of entry. When police arrived, she fled in her car and took police on a three-mile pursuit. Both were charged with commercial burglary, looting, and receiving stolen property. The second suspect was also charged with reckless evasion of a peace officer.
- (2) At 12:00 a.m., a male adult suspect was observed fleeing Walgreens located

at 2201 Arden Way. He was stopped nearby and in possession of stolen items. He was charged with commercial burglary, looting, and receiving stolen property.

- (3) At 2:30 a.m., two male defendants were observed trying to break into Paradyme on 1720 Fulton. They were charged with attempted burglary and attempted looting.
- (4) At 2:50 a.m., a male adult suspect and a female adult suspect were observed fleeing a Boost Mobile store located at 6176 Auburn Blvd. Their car drove off as officers approached, reached speeds in excess of 100 mph and ran a red light. An infant was located in a child seat in the rear of the car. They were charged with commercial burglary, looting, reckless evasion of a peace officer, child endangerment, and receiving stolen property.

As was stated in previous releases, the Sacramento District Attorney's Office supports every citizen's right to lawfully exercise their first amendment right to protest, particularly in these painful times. At the same time, we will also zealously prosecute those who choose violence, looting or lawlessness over peaceful protest thereby creating a threat to public safety and the well-being of our community. ★

Finding a New Way

Volunteers Gather Resources for Homeless



Heather Wheeler with one of her program participants (name withheld due to privacy). Photo: Derek Corea/Carmichael HART

Continued from page 1
leader. They receive mentoring, life skills help, and job readiness training. A second "transitional" house may open for homeless men as early as next year.

Several people have moved off the street into houses and jobs from HART's Winter Sanctuary program. For the past three winters, churches have sheltered up to 30 people for 12 hours each day in the coldest months of the winter. An estimated 696 volunteers at host churches have helped provide a warm, dry place for people to eat and sleep in safety. Staff from Mercy San Juan Hospital provided

health care and advice while shelter volunteers developed face-to-face relationships with their homeless neighbors.

Eleven participants in last winter's shelter program have since found housing, and other placements are pending. Several other participants are now in shelter programs.

Once schools reopen, HART volunteers will resume a "Student Buddy" program that pairs adult mentors in weekly lunch-time campus meetings with middle school students who don't have permanent home addresses. Carmichael HART also plans to join

and the San Juan Unified School District at a one-day "Student Connect" fair in the fall to connect such students and families with resources.

"These kind of personal connections are having a good effect through our meal distribution effort," Young said. "We're nurturing face-to-face relationships that build the confidence of people we help. Handouts enable us to do that, but our main goal is to help our homeless friends leave the street for housing, health, and eventual self-sustainability."

For more information about Carmichael HART, see www.carmichaelhart.org/ ★

Merritt Continues Criminal Dismissal Process

Liberty Counsel Press Release

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (MPG) - Sandra Merritt filed a reply in support of the motion asking the San Francisco Superior Court to dismiss the charge regarding "false identification documents" brought against her by California Attorney General Xavier Becerra for her undercover journalism work in exposing Planned Parenthood's trafficking in baby body parts.

Judge Christopher Hite dismissed six of the original 15 felony charges as he made factual findings that the recorded conversations were not confidential. Given those factual findings, Attorney General Becerra cannot bring those dismissed charges again. Becerra then filed an "Information" on December 13, 2019, adding an additional count to Merritt's charges, even though the statute of limitations had long

ago expired for any new claims.

Liberty Counsel represents Merritt and has shown that, to date, no other citizen journalist or journalism organization has ever been charged with a crime for undercover recordings made in the public interest. In fact, Merritt and her co-defendant, David Daleiden, the founder of the Center for Medical Progress, are the first undercover journalists to be criminally

prosecuted in California's history.

Liberty Counsel's Founder and Chairman Mat Staver said, "Attorney General Becerra has tried to pull another trick out of his bag with another politically-motivated charge to cover for the evil acts of Planned Parenthood. This too shall fail." ★



Undercover journalist Sandra Merritt (left) stands with attorney Horatio Mihet (right) and pro-life supporters. Photo: Liberty Counsel

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4030 Canonero Court, Fair Oaks | \$949,000

This timeless English Tudor home is an entertainer's dream! Tucked away in a large corner lot in a well-established neighborhood, this estate captures the best of both worlds for a buyer who wants a private retreat with the ease of having in-town conveniences. Within 1 mile, you can access Lake Natoma, the American River and Highway 50. Step inside this immaculately kept home where you will find a grand entryway, formal dining room overlooking the picturesque backyard, spacious living room, family room and home office. Large kitchen offers tons of storage space for dinner parties/events. Two separate staircases lead to an oversized master bedroom and two guest bedrooms. Backyard is an entertainer's dream with two Brazilian hardwood decks overlooking gorgeous landscaping, including a bridge and water feature. New \$80k roof installed 10/18. 3-car garage features a built-out shop and pristine epoxy floors. Tons of storage space inside and outside. Top rated schools K-12. House is 100% electric through SMUD.

6644 Stanley Avenue | \$729,000

From its charming storybook exterior to its perfectly polished interior, this beautiful 4 bedroom and 2 bath home has it all! An inviting porch and idyllic front yard add to this home's great curb appeal. Completely remodeled with gorgeous finishes throughout! The gourmet kitchen features stainless steel appliances, quartz countertops, and an oversized island with a breakfast bar. The family room has a cozy stone fireplace and beautiful French doors that open up to the private backyard. The exquisite master suite has a soaking tub, walk-in shower and custom fireplace. The backyard is set on .43 acres with gorgeous landscaping and an outdoor patio.

341 Menard Circle, Sacramento | \$599,900

This beautifully-appointed home has it all! Built in 2002, this stunning 3,657 sq. ft. residence features a well-designed floor plan with spacious living areas including a separate living room with soaring ceilings, a formal dining room, an oversized kitchen overlooking the family great room, and downstairs bedroom and full bathroom. Upstairs, enjoy 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths with a large theater room that could be converted into an office or possible fifth bedroom. The large master suite has a gas fireplace, soaking tub, separate shower and his & hers walk-in closets. The backyard features a large covered patio with outdoor kitchen/bbq, stamped concrete area with a palapa and built-in fire pit, and another stamped concrete space with additional seating and outdoor fire pit.

6476 Chiquita Way, Carmichael | \$895,000

Vacation at home! This beautiful ranch-style home is tucked away in one of Carmichael's most desirable locations near Ancil Hoffman Park. Enjoy a spacious floor plan with 4 bedrooms and 3 baths and separate living and family rooms. This home functions as a single-story home with a bedroom, bathroom and game room upstairs that could be used as a detached guest quarters. New carpet in the formal living and dining room, new flooring in the master and sunroom, freshly painted exterior, and a newly landscaped front yard. The backyard is an entertainer's dream with a large sparkling pool, stamped concrete patio, and mature oak trees that provide enhanced privacy and shade.

115 E Street, Rio Linda | \$464,000

This lovingly maintained 3 bedroom and 1 bath home is situated on .63 acres and is the perfect for a buyer who needs a large workshop and plenty of storage rooms/spaces for their hobbies. The backyard is well-maintained with highlights including a 10x10 ft. enclosed storage building, a 20x50 ft. breezeway with a clear height of 11 ft. (complete with power, water & lighting for your projects), and a 25x35 ft. enclosed garage with all new lighting and exhaust fans. Multiple storage rooms with shelving for all of your hobbies. Fully enclosed chicken coop, Zen shack with a covered deck and built-in covered pad for your hot tub, and covered patio. Beautiful garden with herb beds, sprinklers, a planting table, and an 8x8 seed shack/greenhouse.

Craig Diez
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 Realtor/Owner CraigDiezProperties.com

DIEZ & SIGG PROPERTIES

BEST OF CARMICHAEL 2019

BEST OF CARMICHAEL 2018

BEST OF CARMICHAEL 2017

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POPPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp



John Popp

DADDY

It's been a long time since I could say daddy, but I still remember the great times we had together. He was not the mushy type and he didn't call me his little princess, but he was always there when I needed him. He didn't have the warm and fuzzy life growing up. He was born to immigrant parents in Iasco, Missouri. Yup! I said the same thing ... where? But it does or did exist. Dad took us there to see where he was born. But his parents weren't the ideal couple. So his mom took the kids and returned to Romania where they had come from. His dad didn't put his family first. He stayed in the U.S. and became an interpreter for the Ford Motor Company in Detroit Michigan.

He was brilliant, speaking some eleven languages, but not the fatherly type. Dad didn't talk much about how he came to the U.S. He just said when he was

never looked back. During WW II he so wanted to join the Army, but they had him put caps on bombs and test them in a munition plant, a job as treacherous as being on the front lines. But he wanted to do what he could for his beloved country.

There's so much more. He went from furrier to becoming an Ironworker believe it or not, because of the stress he had dealing with temperamental star types. And he was good at that too til he had a bad accident that almost took his life. Just two weeks after he was released from the hospital, he insisted on driving me to the state championships so I could compete singing and playing violin. He was always there when my brother and I performed making sure he had a tape recorder and sound checks. He always said he would never be the father to us that his father was to him. He cared and loved us til the end! I remember the last time I said "I love you dad" and planted a big kiss on his shiny bald head. He's been gone a long time, but daddy (John Popp) you will always be in my heart and I am honored to be your daughter!

But dad was not one to feel sorry for himself. He worked hard and got into the fur business and studied in New York and overseas to become a design furrier. He made good! He worked his way up to designing fur coats for movie stars like Joan Crawford and Bette Davis at Metro Goldwyn Mayer in Hollywood. He

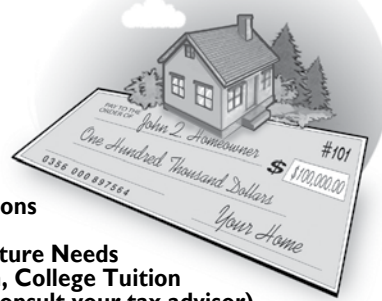
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Ask Toni

Why is My Medicare Part B Premium Over \$400 Monthly . . . I Was Laid Off!



Toni King

Dear Toni:

Been reading your articles regarding COVID-19, being laid off and enrolling in Medicare properly. I have not read an article on how to lower the premium if you are not making the income you were before you were laid off.

I received a letter from Social Security stating that I must pay \$462.70 for Part B and \$70.00 for Part D, totaling over \$532.70 monthly.

I was recently told that you understand Medicare rules and I could possibly appeal my Medicare premium because I am not working full-time with an income of \$350,000; instead only receiving a \$2,400 monthly Social Security check.

What do I do to appeal this decision and bring my Medicare premium to a lower, affordable amount?

Thanks
~ Gary from Phoenix, AZ

Gary:

Do you want to wait 2 years for the IRS to inform Medicare that your income has decreased due to being laid off or do you want to let Medicare know that you have lost your job and are no longer making the kind of income you

were making?

During a Toni Says® Medicare consultation, we hear about the Medicare Part B and D premium problems from those on Medicare who have been laid off or have decided to retire. People believe that everyone pays the same amount for their Medicare Parts B and D, but those days are long gone! If your income as an individual is over \$87,000 or married is over \$174,000; your Medicare Parts B and D premiums will be more.

Social Security explains in the letter that is mailed to you, how they arrived at the Part B and D premiums based on your "Modified Adjusted Gross Income" (MAGI) from your last filed tax return.

Your MAGI was over \$320,000 and the table used in the letter you received from Social Security shows what the Part B and Part D premium adjustment (nice way of saying it's going to cost you more) will be, whether you are filing single or married.

Most retirees do not realize that they have **special situations** also known as **life changing events** that can lower your "income related monthly adjusted amount" (IRMAA). Below are a few of the life changing events that can make your income go down:

- You have gotten married or divorced, or your spouse has died.
- You or your spouse have **stopped working** or have reduced your hours.

- You have lost property that you were making money from due to a disaster or other event beyond your control; or

- You or your spouse's benefits from an insured pension plan stopped or went down.

Use form SSA-44 titled "Medicare Part B Income-Related Premium - Life-Changing Event" and attach the original documents or certified copies to verify your change in income.

Once Social Security is satisfied with the evidence, it will update its records and correct Part B and Part D premiums to what your current income is.

Don't forget a onetime increase in your income such as property that is sold or cashing in your IRA or even winning the lottery (aren't we wishing for that) can change your monthly adjusted gross income (MAGI) that may cause you to pay a higher Part B or Part D premium.

**Social Security reviews your income each year and will adjust your Part B and D premiums to your new income level the next year and again you will want to file SSA-44 form until your income finally comes down to the lower amount.

Toni King, author of the *Medicare Survival Guide®* Advanced edition is giving a \$5 discount to the Toni Says® readers on the *Medicare Survival Guide®* Advanced book at www.tonisays.com. ★



Law and Order Is Not Fascist

Confronted by a clear and present fascist threat, the staff of The New York Times rose up to humiliate and punish quislings in its ranks.

In a now famous op-ed, Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton called for federal troops to quell riots and looting, an idea that the Times staff considered worthy of Oswald Mosley or Benito Mussolini.

As the Times was disavowing the Cotton piece and preparing to push out or demote its top opinion staffers for publishing it, columnist Michelle Goldberg wrote a response called "Tom Cotton's Fascist Op-Ed."

She acknowledged that the Times published Russian President Vladimir Putin and Taliban leader Sirajuddin Haqqani and "a similar case could be made for hearing from Cotton, an enemy of liberal democracy." But the difference is that Cotton "is calling for what would almost certainly amount to massive violence against his fellow citizens."

The sophomoric and ahistorical charge that President Donald Trump and his

supporters are fascists is now a staple of elite left-of-center opinion.

There is no doubt that Trump's periodic blustery assertions of having total authority are gross, would freak out Republicans if a Democrat made them, and deserve to be condemned. The president loves strength and is drawn to theatrical demonstrations of his own power.

But his critics are unable to distinguish between wild statements at press briefings or in cruel tweets on the one hand and establishing a one-party state or invading France on the other.

Law and order, a favorite Trump theme, is not fascism.

Consider Cotton's op-ed. The senator called for federal troops to assist in subduing rioters and stipulated that "a majority who seek to protest peacefully shouldn't be confused with bands of miscreants." If this is fascism, any effort to stop people burning down buildings now has to be considered dangerous.

Masha Gessen of The New Yorker wrote of Trump's photo-op with a Bible in front of St. John's Church, "perhaps he had seen a picture of Hitler in a similar pose" (a photo of Hitler in a similar pose that circulated on social media afterward was a fake).

Trump, like Cotton, distancing himself from peaceful protesters and rioters, and

surely one purpose of his tough talk on federal troops was to prod governors and mayors to get a better handle on the situation on their own.

Much has been made of protestors being pushed back from Lafayette Park before Trump walked over to St. John's Church, but Attorney General Bill Barr has explained this was an effort to expand the perimeter around the park, where there had been mayhem and fires the night before.

Kristallnacht it was not.

No one has talked about crushing peaceful protests. No one has urged the stifling of dissent (no one, that is, outside of The New York Times and other "woke" circles). No one has talked of suspending the election. In fact, Trump has been faulted for wanting an overly normal election, with a traditional convention and standard in-person voting.

In a long piece on Trump "collaborators" in The Atlantic, Anne Applebaum noted how "references to Vichy France, East Germany, fascists, and Communists may seem over-the-top, even ludicrous. But dig a little deeper, and the analogy makes sense."

No it doesn't. It only speaks of the lack of seriousness of those who insist on making it.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.

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Social Security Matters When Should We Claim Our Benefits?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: We served overseas for several years, not earning many quarters for Social Security. However, we have made sure that we paid in over time so we can receive a benefit, but it will not amount to much. For the past several years now, we have been back in the US, earning some professional salaries. Now it looks like at full retirement age my husband will get \$1147/month, and I will get \$1026/month. I was born in 1957 and my husband in 1956. Question #1: For the most financial benefit, when should we each start collecting SS (either now or at full retirement age)? And question #2: Will our amounts change because we are married and both collecting? **Signed: Overseas Worker**

Dear Overseas Worker: To answer your second question first, no, your benefit amounts will not change because you are married and both collecting. Based upon the numbers you provided, neither of you will be eligible for a "spousal boost" from the other because your benefit amounts at your FRA are too similar, so maximizing your individual benefits should be your goal.

As for your other question, when you should start collecting depends upon a number of factors, including your financial



needs and, importantly, your expected longevity. Both of you can get the maximum benefit available to you by waiting until you are 70 years old to claim, but that only makes sense if you are in good health and expect at least average longevity (about 84 for a man and 87 for a woman).

If you claim benefits before you reach your full retirement age (66 ½ for you and 66 plus 4 months for your husband), those benefits will be cut. If you collect now, your benefit would be cut by about 27% and your husband's by about 22% (based upon your respective years of birth). Further, if you claim before your full retirement ages and continue to work, you'll be subject to Social Security's earnings test, which limits the amount you can earn before they take back some of your benefits (the 2020 earnings limit is \$18,240; if you exceed that they'll take back half of anything you earn over the limit). The earnings limit changes annually but goes away at your FRA.

At your full retirement ages, you'll be entitled to 100% of the benefits you've earned from your lifetime of working (approximately the amounts estimated now). If you can and do wait beyond your full retirement age (FRA), for each month you delay you'll earn delayed retirement credits of 2/3 of 1% per month of delay (8%

per year of delay), up to age 70 when your maximum benefit is reached. As a point of information, if you wait until your full retirement age to claim, you will have collected the same amount of money at age 78 as if you had claimed at age 62; and if you wait until age 70 to claim you'll have collected the same amount of money at age 82 as if you had collected at your full retirement age. If you live at least until "average" longevity, you'll collect more in cumulative Social Security benefits by waiting.

So, when should you claim? If you're still working and earning "professional salaries", then waiting at least until your full retirement age would be a wise choice. If you expect at least average longevity and don't need the money right away, waiting until age 70 would be a prudent strategy. But if you don't work and expect less than average longevity, then claiming at any time you need the money would be a reasonable decision. This is a choice only each of you can make.

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

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WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves



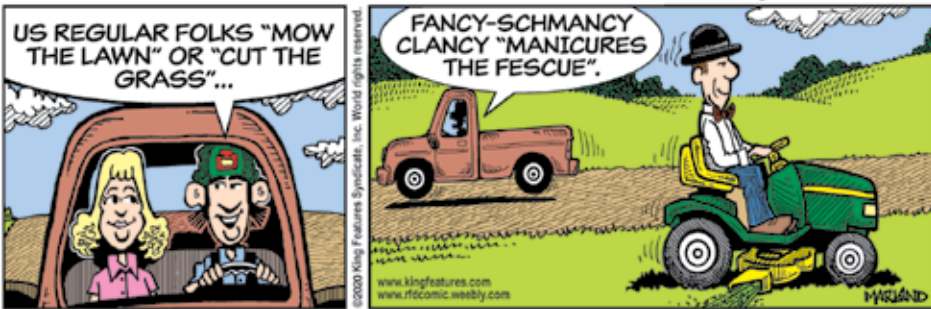
by Dave T. Phipps

Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

R.F.D.



by Mike Marland

GRIN THE BEAR IT



"Keeping me in the waiting room for 45 minutes was a dirty trick, Mrs. Figby!"

LAFF-A-DAY



"When are you going to start having birthdays again, Irma? I'm tired of growing old alone."

The Spats

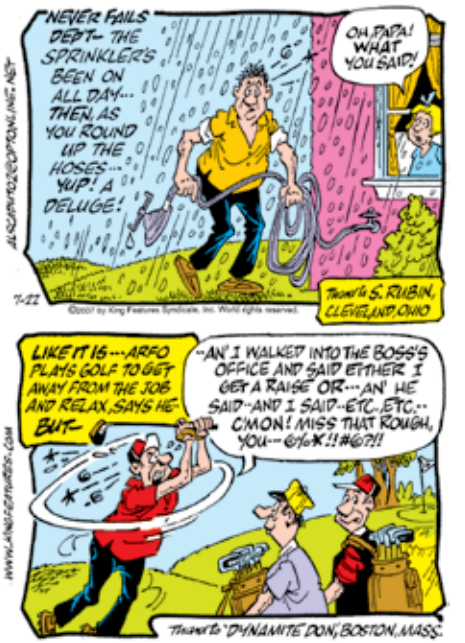


by Jeff Pickering

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO

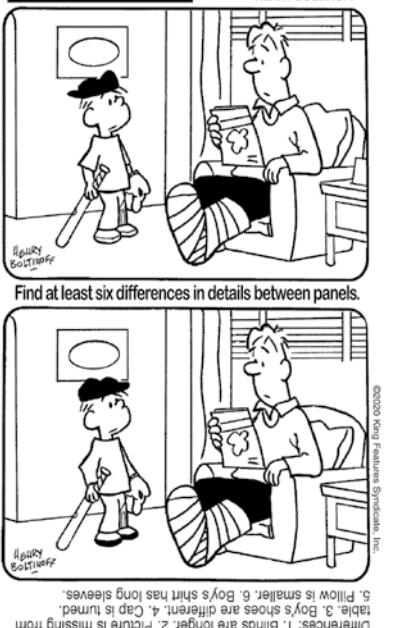


Just Like Cats & Dogs



by Dave T. Phipps

HOCUS-FOCUS



Find at least six differences in details between panels.
Differences: 1. Binds are longer; 2. Picture is missing from floor; 3. Boy's shoes are different; 4. Cap is turned; 5. Picture is smudged; 6. Boy's shirt has long sleeves.

Crossword Puzzle on Page 10

G	A	L	O	P		G	M	T		H	A	D	J	
A	B	A	S	E		L	A	H		R	O	D	E	O
I	L	I	A	C		E	N	E		E	P	O	C	H
N	E	C	K	T	I	E		M	A	D	I	S	O	N
		A	I	L		P	E	A	T					
G	E	L		N	I	S	I		H	O	A	R	D	S
O	V	I	D		A	C	A	I		P	R	O	E	M
M	A	K	E		D	A	N	N	Y		T	U	P	I
E	D	E	M	A		R	I	S	E		S	E	T	T
Z	E	N	I	T	H		S	T	A	B		S	H	H
			T	E	X	T		S	E	T				
A	A	M	I	L	N	E		A	T	T	I	C	U	S
M	O	O	S	E		N	A	N		C	E	A	S	E
I	N	A	N	E		O	D	E		H	I	R	E	R
D	E	N	T			N	O	W		A	N	D	R	E

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • FATHER'S DAY

CLUES

- ACROSS
- Kind of lively dance
 - Greenwich time
 - Pilgrimage to Mecca
 - Beltline
 - A note to follow soh
 - Annie Oakley's show
 - Hipbone-related
 - Chicago to Detroit direction
 - Historical period
 - "Most gifted Father's Day gift?"
 - "a.k.a. Father of the Constitution"
 - Have a cold, e.g.
 - Bog deposit
 - Styling product
 - Not yet final, in law
 - Squirrels away
 - "Metamorphoses" poet
 - Antioxidants-rich berry
 - Text that precedes the main text
 - Car brand, e.g.
 - "Full House" father
 - Brazilian indigenous people
 - a.k.a. dropsy
 - Precedes shine
 - Paving stone
 - Early TV manufacturer
 - Bayonet wound
 - "Zip it"
 - Popular form of communication
 - Part of a match
 - "Christopher Robin's father"
 - Father known as "one-shot" Finch
 - Largest deer
 - Richard Bobbsey's offspring
 - Precedes desist
 - Cuckoo
 - Friedrich Schiller's "___ to Joy"
 - Personnel person
 - Job for a body shop
- DOWN
- Its equivalent to pain?
 - Sound mind, ___ body
 - Not of the cloth
 - Japanese port
 - Jelly ingredient
 - High school club
 - "Boy's father in "The Road"
 - Recurring melody
 - Shoshonean people
 - Without further ___ pl.
 - 1920s art style
 - "John-John's father"
 - Cow's favorite grass?
 - Homer's classic
 - Pleasurable interjection
 - Adrian Brody in 2002 film
 - "Wednesday's father"
 - Dodge
 - Compare
 - "Antithesis to Mufasa"
 - Liberal pursuits
 - Don Giovanni and such
 - Echo sounder output
 - "a.k.a. the father of modern

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13					14				15			
16					17				18			
19					20			21	22			
		23					24					
25	26	27		28		29		30	31	32	33	34
35			36			37		38		39		
40					41			42		43		
44				45		46				47		
48					49			50		51		52
				53		54		55		56		
57	58	59	60					61		62	63	64
65						66	67			68		
69						70				71		
72						73				74		

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SUDOKU

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

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 10

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

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Solutions on Page 10

CHEERS & JEERS

By Damian Holbrook

Cheers to Never Have I Ever

for giving us a teen we rarely see on TV. Inspired by cocreator Mindy Kaling's life, the Netflix dramedy about an Indian-American high schooler (Maitreyi Ramakrishnan) navigating adolescence and cultural expectations is fresh, funny and delightfully free of clichés.

Cheers to How to Get Away With Murder

for making Annalise pay. In the ABC drama's series finale, karma visited the manipulative lawyer turned accused killer (Viola Davis, pictured), who lost confidants

Bonnie (Liza Weil) and Frank (Charlie Weber) in a courthouse shoot-out right after being found not guilty. The blood on her hands was justice enough!

Jeers to ABC

for leaving us hungry for more of *The Baker and the Beauty*. The frothy rom-com confection centered on a Miami chef (Victor Rasuk) and a world-famous influencer (Nathalie Kelley) just wrapped its so-sweet first season with a surprise engagement and NO WORD of a Season 2 renewal. Come on, folks, don't repeat your *Grand Hotel* mistake from last summer.

Jeers to Vanderpump Rules

for serving us a tired old storyline. Once again,



Karma visited the manipulative lawyer turned accused killer (Viola Davis, pictured), who lost confidants Bonnie (Liza Weil) and Frank (Charlie Weber) in a courthouse shoot-out right after being found not guilty.

gossipy Jax (pictured) is in hot water for spilling the tea about Kristen cheating on her ex and talking trash on Ariana – to her boyfriend, Tom! After eight seasons, you'd think the Sur bartender would find a new way to mix things up. ★

movies like *Contagion*) King's epic about survival in the aftermath of a pandemic has never been more relevant. CBS surely won't want to look like it's exploiting our fears with this miniseries, and it will likely take some flak regardless of when *The Stand* premieres, though I've also read that the action picks up (unlike the novel) in the wake of the outbreak. This is very much on my radar, and the cast (including Alexander Skarsgård, James Marsden, Whoopi Goldberg and ... Marilyn Manson!) heightens my interest as well. Honestly, I can't wait to see it.

To submit questions to TV Critic Matt Roush, go to: tvinsider.com ★

See Dad Run Virtual Fundraiser to Benefit Sacramento Life Center

By Kristin Thébaud, Thébaud Communications

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Local residents can walk or run where and when they want on Father's Day weekend and raise funds for Sacramento's low-income pregnant women and teens through the Sacramento Life Center's See Dad Run fundraiser. The event will take place on June 20 and will allow for social distancing by giving participants the chance to hike their favorite trail or walk around the block, either as an individual or a team. Those who raise \$200 or more will receive ice cream for four at Leatherby's Family Creamery. Registration is \$10 per individual or \$25 per team. To sign up and create your personal fundraising page – or to make a donation – visit SeeDadRun.com.

"This is such a great way to honor the dads in our lives while getting out in the fresh air and doing some good for our community," said Marie Leatherby, executive director, Sacramento Life Center. "Together, we can do so much for the pregnant women and teens in need in our community."

The Sacramento Life Center's mission is to offer compassion, support, resources and free medical care to women and couples facing an unplanned or unsupported pregnancy. The Sacramento Life Center's licensed Sac Valley Pregnancy Clinic includes a primary clinic and mobile clinic that provide all services for free, including pregnancy tests, STD tests, ultrasounds, patient advocacy for men and women, education and resource referrals. In 2018, the



Get out for some fresh air and exercise and help raise funds for Sacramento Life Center. Photo: Thébaud Communications

Sacramento Life Center achieved accreditation by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, which ensures the group has met nationally recognized standards for the provision of high-quality health care. The nonprofit also offers a school-based teen education program, 24-hour hotline and program for women who have experienced pregnancy loss. For more information about the Sacramento Life Center's Sac Valley Pregnancy Clinic, visit www.svpclinic.com. For more information about the Sacramento Life Center or to make a donation, visit www.saclife.org. ★

ASK MATT

BY MATT ROUSH TV Guide Senior Critic

When Will We See Stephen King's *The Stand* On Cbs All Access?

Question: I was looking forward to the remake of Stephen King's *The Stand* on CBS All Access. My feelings are mixed now, because of the coronavirus. Has that project been shelved?—Susan

Matt Roush: Not at all. By all accounts, production on the 10-part limited series wrapped a few days ahead of schedule in March in advance of the pandemic

shutting down filming everywhere. The goal has always been for a late 2020 release, and though CBS All Access has yet to announce an actual airdate, the title is prominently displayed in any press materials they send out. While it's possible this post-apocalyptic series could be pushed back to a later time out of sensitivity to our current tragic situation, there's also an argument that (like the recent uptick in people streaming cautionary




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