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TERRITORIAL DISPATCH

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DECEMBER 16, 2022

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Is the Drought Over?

Water providers still predict shortages next year



Oroville, which is one of California's largest reservoirs, is only 59% of capacity as of December 12 — despite recent rains and snow. The reservoir is shown here in May 2022. Photo by Andrew Innerarity, California Department of Water Resources

By Alastair Bland, CALMatters

December has delivered a powerful punch of storms to California. But the wet weather comes with a dry dose of reality: The state's largest reservoirs remain badly depleted, projected water deliveries are low, wells are drying up, and the Colorado River's water, already diminished by a megadrought, is severely overallocated.

Throughout California, urban water managers are bracing for a fourth consecutive drought year. Nearly one out of every five water agencies — 76 out of 414 — in a

recent state survey predict that they won't have enough water to meet demand next year. That means they are likely to impose more severe restrictions on customers, with some Southern California providers considering a ban on all outdoor watering.

While December's rain and snow show promise, water managers remember the same thing happened last year — epic early storms followed by the driest January through March in California's recorded history.

Last week the state announced an emergency regulation extending its ban on "wasteful water practices"

through 2023. Included are watering while it's raining, running decorative fountains without recirculating flows and washing vehicles with hoses not fitted with automatic shutoff nozzles, among others.

Some regions of California have more water than they need. Sacramento reported a 173% surplus for 2023 to state officials. City spokesperson Carlos Eliason said Sacramento has a healthy system of community wells to draw from in addition to the Sacramento and American rivers.

The Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, serving 90,000 people

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Yuba Water Agency Vice Chairman Randy Fletcher to Step Down



YWA Board Vice Chairman Randy Fletcher. Photo courtesy of the YWA

Yuba Water Agency News Release

MARYSVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Yuba Water Agency Board of Directors recognized Vice Chairman Randy Fletcher at its Dec. 6 meeting for eight years of dedicated service to the agency. Fletcher, who has served on Yuba Water's board since 2015 through his role as a Yuba County District 5 Supervisor, chose not to run for reelection, so his term will come to an end at the first meeting in January.

"Randy's countless contributions to Yuba Water have earned the respect and appreciation of his fellow board members, agency staff and many throughout California," said Yuba Water Board Chairman Gary Bradford. "His selfless work ethic always led him to place the people of Yuba County first and foremost."

During his time on the agency's board, Fletcher was instrumental in the development of Yuba Water's Watershed Resilience and Forest Health Program, which reduces the risk of catastrophic wildfire in Yuba County's foothill communities through strategic partnerships and landscape-scale forest restoration projects.

Notably, Fletcher encouraged Yuba Water to partner with the non-profit Blue Forest Conservation to pilot the first-ever Forest Resilience Bond, a unique financial instrument that has accelerated the pace and scale of forest restoration work in the Yuba River watershed. That initial project ultimately grew into the nationally recognized, nine-member North Yuba Forest Partnership, which is working to implement forest restoration across 275,000 acres in the Yuba River watershed.

Additionally, Fletcher led the effort to expand the distribution of free tow chain covers by the Yuba Watershed Protection and Fire Safe Council to reduce the likelihood of tow chains dragging and

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Carrier Commits to Upper Iowa University

Story and photos by Dave Sampson, Sutter head coach

SUTTER, CA (MPG) - A scholarship signing ceremony took place on Friday, December 2 at Sutter High School. It was attended by many. Principal Ryan Robison spoke to the audience and was followed by Sutter County Sheriff Brandon Barnes and head coach Dave Samson.

Cloey Carrier had several scholarships offers from the colleges that she herself contacted. Her shooting and her GPA had a great deal to do with the offers that she received. She visited Upper Iowa University in September. She spent a week at the campus and shooting with their shotgun shooting team at the range. She was impressed with their scholastic program and their shooting program and felt right at home there.

Carrier is interested in law enforcement and



The Carrier family poses for a photo at Cloey Carrier's scholarship commitment ceremony on December 2 at Sutter High School.

was a cadet at the Sutter County Sheriff's Office where I retired from four years ago. Sheriff Barnes came to the ceremony and spoke. Surrounded by family, friends, coaches and teammates, Carrier signed the document committing herself to Upper Iowa University. We are so proud of her.

Carrier would not have

received any scholarship offers if it had not been for her and her parents that reached out to the colleges in which they were interested. This is because recently passed Assembly Bill 2571, authored and signed by Gov. Newsom after being introduced by Assemblywoman Kahan, prevents colleges from contacting youth

competitors in California about their shooting programs. Colleges won't take the risk of offering their programs to any youth under the age of 18 in California. This law also prevents coaches in our programs from talking to kids about firearms related products, crippling our ability to

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Is the Drought Over?



Bidwell Canyon Marina showing Lake Oroville with a reservoir storage of 1,663,134 acre-feet (AF), 47 percent of the total capacity. Lake Oroville is located in Butte County, California. Photo taken July 6, 2022, by Florence Low/California Department of Water Resources

Continued from page 1

in and around Eureka, reported an 834% surplus for 2023. Its main reservoir typically fills to the brim every year.

“Unfortunately, our system isn’t connected to other systems, so we can’t do anything to help our neighbors in other parts of the state, but we’d like to,” said General Manager John Friedenbach.

Sonoma County’s major reservoir was at just 39% of capacity last week, its lowest level ever recorded, but Don Seymour, the county water agency’s deputy chief engineer, said there is no reason to panic. “That’s still a lot of water,” he said. “We could stretch that out into the spring of 2024.”

But other regions of the state — mostly in Southern California — aren’t as fortunate. Millions of Southern Californians will likely face outdoor watering restrictions or even bans, with probable exceptions made for the hand-watering of trees.

Most Southern Californians — 27 million people — rely at least partially on the State Water Project, a system of dams and canals that moves water from the Sacramento Valley to Southern California. On Dec. 1, the Department of Water Resources announced it

will initially allocate just 5% of the supply that water districts requested from the state — bad news for those with no other water source.

Fort Bragg, on California’s North Coast, nearly ran out of water in 2021, forcing management into a stage 4 “water crisis” mode. A small desalination unit, capable of processing 200 gallons per minute, was revved up to meet basic needs for the 7,500 local residents. Meanwhile, outlying communities, like the seaside bluff town of Mendocino and isolated inns, restaurants and homes, saw wells run dry. Fort Bragg delivery trucks, carrying water provided by the city of Ukiah, brought relief.

Things have improved for Fort Bragg. In 2022, late spring rains recharged its reserves, said John Smith, the city’s director of public works. Its small reservoir is brim-full, and the desalination unit is ready to go if needed.

The city asked residents to use 20% less water, which they did — plus some.

“We asked for 20%, and they conserved 30%,” he said.

Earlier this year, Californians were slow to respond to drought warnings. In fact, their usage went up last spring. Californians emerged from the driest January,

February and March on record with the biggest jump in water use since the drought began: a nearly 19% increase in March compared to two years earlier.

But many Californians have stepped up since then. In October, statewide urban water use dropped 12.6% compared to October of 2020.

Still, the cumulative savings (only 5.2% compared to 2020) fall far short of Gov. Gavin Newsom’s request for a 15% voluntary cut.

Santa Rosa’s water director, Jennifer Burke, said water use in the city of 180,000 is down 18% of average since June of 2021, thanks in part to rules limiting outdoor watering to nighttime hours when evaporative losses are less.

In Sacramento, residents have curbed water use by more than 20% by limiting residents to watering twice weekly from March through October and once per week the rest of the year. This ordinance, Eliason said, is permanent.

“We wanted to make sure water conservation is a way of life,” Eliason said.

For many Californians, it already is. The state’s residents have streamlined their water use and reduced waste for decades. Daily residential water use

statewide in October decreased to 88 gallons per capita, compared to the five-year average of 97.

Jeffrey Mount, a senior fellow with the Public Policy Institute of California, said California’s overall water consumption has remained the same since the 1980s even though the population grew from 30 million to 40 million.

“That is a good indication that adjustments can be made as things get drier,” Mount said.

An even steeper trend toward conservation has been logged by the East Bay Municipal Utility District. The customer population has grown by 35% since 1970 while overall water use has declined by 45%.

In recent years, residents have increasingly swapped out grassy lawns for drought-smart landscaping, and they are currently limited to watering outdoors no more than three days per week. These measures have reduced water use during the ongoing drought by 14 to 15% — what Pook describes as “conservation on top of conservation.”

Green grass will go brown next year, and in the long run, vast areas of lawn will probably disappear permanently as Californians adjust to aridification.

In October, the Metropolitan Water District passed a resolution encouraging communities “to reduce or eliminate irrigation of non-functional turf with potable water.” This followed a May, 2022 emergency order from the State Water Resources Control Board banning non-functional turf irrigation with potable water on commercial, institutional and industrial properties statewide. The Pacific Institute has calculated that such efforts could save California as much as 400,000 acre-feet of water annually.

But no matter how tight the state’s water supplies get, keeping urban trees alive will probably be a priority.

“We’re seeing, in all urban areas, a frantic effort to conserve urban forests,” Mount said, noting that urban trees provide shade, reduced ground-level temperatures and natural water treatment services.

Mount, who recently eliminated most of his own backyard turf — sparing just a narrow strip for his dogs — said he takes some solace in the fact that green grass remains a prominent feature of institutional landscaping, for it means there is still room to improve.

“That makes me more sanguine than most about the future,” he said. ★

Hey Kids ...

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Carrier Commits to Upper Iowa University



Sutter students, James Cooley, Taylor Bogle, Jacob Keen, Katie Crawford, Jaxon Smith, Gavin Triplett and Gavin Crawford, pose for a photo with teammate Cloey Carrier at Carrier's scholarship commitment ceremony on December 2 at Sutter High School.

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properly coach. The bill: AB 2571, originally prohibited youth from shooting in "events where firearms are used," which completely shut our program down. But the new language introduced in a trailer bill, Assembly Bill 160, reversed only part of this new law. The new language allowed us to resume our programs and holding events, but our programs are crippled by what is left in the law.

Scholarships opportunities only exist for those who reach out to those schools, and schools must be careful about what they say, or they can be liable. This prevents colleges from even reaching out to kids in California which is going to severely limit opportunities for kids to go to college. As a coach, I can't talk to a kid about a gun or a firearm related product that my help the shoot. Youth Model Guns will not be marketed in California or even available. If a kid can't get a gun that fits, they cannot shoot. ★



Sutter County Sheriff Brandon Barnes and Sutter student Cloey Carrier pose for a photo at Carrier's scholarship commitment ceremony on December 2 at Sutter High School.



Sutter student Cloey Carrier shows off her signed letter of intent to the University of Iowa at her scholarship commitment ceremony on December 2 at Sutter High School.

Yuba Water Agency Vice Chairman Randy Fletcher to Step Down

Continued from page 1

sparkling a wildfire. "Serving on this board has been an incredibly rewarding experience and I'm just so proud of this team and the work we've done," Fletcher said. "As you look ahead, remember that teamwork is everything."

During his tenure on the agency's board, Fletcher also successfully served as chairman in 2020 and as vice chairman in 2019 and 2022, respectively. He also chaired Yuba Water's Project Operations and Development Committee from

2019-2022, where his leadership guided the evaluation and distribution of millions of dollars in community impact grants and loans.

"Randy has consistently taken a level-headed approach to his leadership and work on the agency's board," said Yuba Water General Manager Willie Whittlesey. "I'm grateful for all of his contributions over the years and wish him the very best."

Fletcher's seat will be filled by incoming 5th District supervisor-elect Jon Messick. Learn more at yubawater.org. ★

Victim Set on Fire After Being Robbed of Vehicle

SCSO News Release

YUBA CITY, CA (MPG) - On December 7, 2022, at approximately 10:55 pm, The Sutter County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from a 33-year-old Hispanic male who stated his vehicle had been stolen. CHP was dispatched to the area of Hutchinson and S. George Washington Blvd in Yuba City.

Deputies arrived first on scene where they located the victim and learned he had been assaulted and burned. Medical arrived and the victim was later transported to the hospital and treated for his injuries.

Deputies interviewed the victim and learned he had been flagged down by a female who was near a black SUV on the side of the road. The victim stopped to see if the perceived Middle Eastern female needed

assistance. When the victim approached, two Middle Eastern men exited from the SUV. One of them had what looked like a firearm, and the other one had a knife. The male suspects zip tied the victim's legs, poured gasoline on him, and set him on fire.

The victim was able to put out the fire by rolling around on the ground.

The suspects stole the victim's wallet and his vehicle. The victim's vehicle was located several miles away. A replica firearm was located on scene.

Sutter County Sheriff's Office Detectives have taken over the investigation, which is on-going.

If anyone has information regarding this case, the Sutter County Sheriff's Office urges them to call to our Detective Division at (530) 822-2310. ★

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‘Stories of the Museum’

Series 11 by Bill Crocker, CDR, USNR, Ret.

Museum of the Forgotten Warriors board member and webmaster

More than a thousand military men and women and family members have donated thousands of personal items and stories to the Museum of the Forgotten Warriors over the past forty years. The displays span World War I to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and tell the stories of those who fought and died. The series, *Stories of the Museum*, describes a few of these in more detail.



Lieutenant (Junior Grade) George Lawrence Aulmann

George Aulmann was born on November 9, 1870, at Dobbins Ranch in Yuba County, California. Dobbins Ranch was a mine northeast of Marysville and just south of Dobbins, California. He grew up in Marysville and enlisted in the US Navy at Mare Island Navy Yard on May 2, 1896, as a landsman with the trade of electrician. He was discharged from the Navy on May 1, 1897, from USS Independence with the rank of yeoman first class. The Independence was a three masted frigate serving as a training ship at Mare Island. He promptly reenlisted on May 4, 1897.

Two years later, working as a Chief Yeoman, Aulmann was

stationed aboard the gunboat USS Concord (PG-3) with Admiral George Dewey’s fleet in Manila Bay. He sent the first accounts of this famous battle during the Spanish-American War to the Appeal-Democrat in February 1899.

Aulmann remained on active duty in the Asiatic station aboard USS Concord blockading Filipino ports, overhauling native crafts, and watching for blockade runners. He was then transferred to USS Solace (AH-2), originally a hospital ship in constant service during the Spanish-American War. After an overhaul in 1899, the Solace served until October 1905 carrying mail, passengers, and

provisions from San Francisco to Hawaii, Guam, the Philippines, China, and Japan. During the construction of the Panama Canal, Aulmann was stationed aboard USS Wisconsin, (BB-9), a battleship, in the canal-zone as a permanent chief yeoman, an appointment received on August 21, 1903.

George’s life was soon to take a romantic turn with the chance meeting of Cora Folsom Salisbury. Cora was a very successful vaudevillian as a pianist, singer, and composer. She was from Waukegan, Wisconsin, and in 1911 was working with a new protégé, Benny Kubelsky, who played the violin. The duo proved to be very popular. After a time, Kubelsky struck out on his own and made a name for himself as the iconic comedian, Jack Benny.

Cora, now retired, met George Aulmann while he was stationed at the Great Lakes Training Center in Waukegan. They were married on October 7, 1914, in South Bend, Indiana.

During World War I, Aulmann was stationed in Paris as paymaster for naval air forces in France. Following the war, he spent a year as an aide in Herbert Hoover’s Commission for Relief in Belgium.

Chief Yeoman Aulmann was transferred from active duty to the fleet naval reserve in December 1921 after twenty-five years of active service. As a reservist, he



George Lawrence Aulmann, Ensign, Supply Corps, USNR, Circa 1925

gained a commission as an ensign in the supply corps. He retired from the Navy on May 7, 1932, as a lieutenant, junior grade, after thirty-six years of service.

Tyrone Shaeffer’s donation of his great-grand-uncle’s mementos can be viewed in Case #78 ★



The George Lawrence Aulmann Display

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Business Wants Voters to Overturn Legislative Decrees



By Dan Walters,
CALMatters.org

Over the last decade, as Democrats solidified their dominance of the state Capitol, they have repeatedly attempted to change how private businesses operate in California

Those efforts have taken many specific forms, including mandates on employee benefits, making it easier for unions to organize workers, and regulating — or even prohibiting — products and services offered to customers.

All such efforts were aimed, their legislative and interest group sponsors said, at expanding equity and accountability for the benefit of workers and consumers.

Whatever their motives, as those efforts proliferate, the affected businesses have done what they could to block or at least modify what was happening. Nevertheless, those seeking more governmental regulation of business practices have scored some major victories and in response, affected businesses have increasingly used referenda to erase new laws or initiatives to repeal or modify them.

Those countermeasures have a mixed record of success, to wit:

— In 2014, the Legislature passed and then-Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation to ban single-use plastic bags

for groceries or other consumer goods. An industry referendum to block the new law failed in 2016.

— In 2018, the Legislature eliminated cash bail for criminal defendants. Two years later, the bail bond industry persuaded voters to reject the law.

— In 2019, legislators passed a sweeping law that reduced the ability of businesses to use freelance workers under contract. Rideshare and delivery companies such as Uber and Lyft placed a measure on the 2020 ballot to exempt themselves from the new law. Voters passed it, but it's since been challenged in court.

— In 2020 the Legislature prohibited the sale of flavored tobacco products, saying they encourage young people to smoke. However, the tobacco industry's referendum to block the ban was rejected by voters this year.

Corporate use of the ballot to thwart the Capitol's Democrats is likely to continue.

The fast food industry has submitted signatures for a referendum to overturn the creation of a new agency, dominated by unions and union-friendly appointees, that would set wages and working conditions for fast food employees. If it qualifies, the law would be suspended until voters decide the issue in 2024.

The oil industry is gathering signatures for a referendum to overturn a newly enacted law that would ban new oil wells within 3,200 feet of schools and other public facilities. If it qualifies, it also would go on the 2024 ballot.

Another oil industry

referendum is likely if the Legislature passes Newsom's proposal to impose limits on its profits from gasoline sales and impose financial penalties for exceeding them.

Newsom's original proposal was an excess profits tax, which would not have been subject to referendum because the state constitution declares that tax measures cannot be challenged via referendum.

However, non-tax laws, unless passed with two-thirds margins as "urgency measures," are subject to referendum. If Newsom's limit/penalty law is enacted next year as a non-urgency measure, the industry would have a 90-day window in which to qualify a referendum. The law would be suspended until voters had the final word.

The proliferation of business-sponsored ballot measures to overturn what legislators and the governor decree has angered groups, such as unions and environmental and consumer rights organizations, that support more oversight of business practices. They are pressing the Legislature to make the qualification of ballot measures more difficult.

However, Newsom and his predecessor, Jerry Brown, have opposed such changes for the simple reason that governors sometimes turn to the ballot themselves to enact laws that the Legislature is unwilling to pass.

That's the real scandal.

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



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Marc Cuniberti hosts "Money Matters" on KVMR 89.5 FM Thursdays at Noon. Visit his website at www.moneymanagementradio.com

What is Next for the Market

Inflation statistics are the gauge used by the Federal Reserve (the FED) when adjusting interest rates. With some recent data showing a slowdown in the rate of inflation, investors are nibbling on stocks and it is the reason the markets have been rising as late. Obviously not an all-out, everybody-in market just yet, the recent strength has been encouraging.

This by no means is an indication all is well with the stock market however.

Keep in mind, the markets day to day movements are just the sum of the beliefs of all the market participants at a particular moment in time. The markets will always reflect reality eventually and therein lies the danger of taking clues from brief rallies and thinking the change in investor sentiment is permanent, when it may only be a brief enthusiastic blip.

Wall Street has a tendency to try and sniff out market turns in order to catch a rally, but rallies that signal an all-clear should be prolonged in this analyst's opinion. They should also be supported by improving economic statistics as well as better news on the issues that were previously causing it to fall.

In the current 2022 market obliteration, investors have been mostly focused on inflation data and the Federal Reserve's response to that data.

The question then becomes is inflation abating and will statistics continue to show improvement.

There are many landmines that threaten the brief spike in the recent encouraging inflation statistics that could spell more problems for the markets.

The coming spike in diesel fuel and the possible railroad strike would both likely fuel more inflation.

More government spending programs, should they be announced, would mean even more money printing. Many analysts, including this one, believe most of the inflation we are currently seeing is directly tied to the massive amount of government spending to address CoVid-19 in the last two years.

In more dire news, two large real estate funds have recently limited investor redemptions, meaning some investors may not be

able to withdraw all their money.

This is a liquidity issue, similar to what we are also seeing in the current FTX crypto fiasco. A similar liquidity event occurred in 2008 with two Merrill Lynch real estate funds and that helped start the infamous 2008/09 real estate blow up. Liquidity issues are serious events that can spread to other areas of the market and have a domino effect leading to problems with other financial firms.

The latest jobs report adding to the inflation concern showed a hotter than expected labor market which flies in the face of what the Federal Reserve is trying to accomplish. This statistic demonstrates that at least some areas of the economy are not responding to the recent rate hikes by the FED and a more aggressive Fed could continue to pressure stocks.

Indeed after the labor statistic came out last week, the markets sold off hard, with the Dow down over 800 points on the week.

Only time will tell if the markets will retest the lows of the year which occurred in late September for most of the indexes. For 2023 to be a better year than 2022, which was mostly horrendous, inflation has to steadily come down to more reasonable levels. Although it may likely be years before inflation once again hits the Fed's desired level of around 2% annually, a strong move toward that goal might mean the market can start to show investors a little bit more green then it has in 2022, which by the way, was very little.

"Watching the markets so you don't have to"

This article expresses the opinion of Marc Cuniberti and is not meant as investment advice, or a recommendation to buy or sell any securities, nor represents the opinion of any bank, investment firm or RIA, nor this media outlet, its staff, members or underwriters. Mr. Cuniberti holds a B.A. in Economics with honors, 1979, and California Insurance License #0L34249. His website is moneymanagementradio.com, and was recently voted Best Financial Advisor in Nevada County. 530-559-1214. ★

Buck's Rain Gauge from Buck's Gas & Grocery in Clipper Mills

Rain starting November 1st thru December 12th is 18.23 Inches of Rain



Initial State Allocation Signals Another Year of Water Shortages for Farming

Signaling another difficult year for drought-impacted farmers, the California Department of Water Resources has announced an initial water allocation of 5% of requested 2023 supplies from the State Water Project. At this time last year, state officials predicted a 0% allocation and ultimately delivered 5% of requested supplies. Farmers this year followed an estimated 750,000 acres of productive cropland due to water shortages. The State Water Project supplies 29 water agencies that serve 27 million Californians.

Farm Bureau President Calls for Water Infrastructure to Help Agriculture

California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson has called on state policymakers to build critical infrastructure to protect water resources and allow America's most important agricultural sector to continue to thrive. "The management of scarcity is failing," Johansson told attendees of the California Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting in Monterey. "It's time now to reimplement the management of bounty, which made California great." California's nearly 70,000 farms, which produce more than 400 crops, are navigating severe water shortages.

State Provides Emergency Assistance to Drought-Impacted Communities

California water officials have allocated \$86 million in financial assistance to help drought-impacted communities meet immediate and long-term water needs. Some \$44 million in funds will support 23 projects through the state's Small Community Drought Relief program. The projects include helping incorporated areas of Tulare County facing severe water shortages to connect to a nearby public water system and building a local water storage facility to help irrigate 2,100 acres of farmland and recharge groundwater in Merced County.

Sonoma County Dairy Farmers Honored with Leopold Conservation Award for Sustainability

A Sonoma County dairy family has won the Leopold Conservation Award, a prestigious award honoring farmers and ranchers who employ sustainable practices to maintain natural resources. The pasture-based Beretta Family Dairy, run by Doug Beretta, his wife Sharon and adult children Ryan and Jennifer, is a 100% certified organic operation with 300 milk cows and 400 heifers. The dairy was lauded for its composting efforts that nurture grazing lands and help sequester carbon.. ★



Stone Soup had a good year this year. We usually serve about three dozen people lunch for a donation of \$3.00. It is run by volunteers who work in the kitchen, make soups and desserts, put together the salad and clean up afterward. Volunteers are always welcome. My grandmother used to say "Many hands make easy work" (she said it in German, tho) and this group sure could use some new volunteers. Our members are aging and several have moved out of the community. Com by on Thursdays, join us for lunch at noon, and ask how you can help. We will be closed on Dec. 22 and 29, however.

The Yuba Feather Communities Service 2023 membership drive is open. They are asking current members to renew their membership and they welcome new members. All volunteers are encouraged to help out as much as they can. Membership forms are available at Books & More as well as other spots on the hill; a family membership is \$25 and a single \$15. Community support is needed to help maintain Pondrosa Park,

the Amphitheater, community center, ball fields and Mountains Top Coffee Shop. All of these facilities are supported by YFCS. Their annual election for board members will be held on the second Tuesday in March at 7:00 pm downstairs at the community center and you must be present, as well as be a member, 30 days prior to the election to vote. So come join this community service organization, please.

Books & More will close a couple of days before Christmas as well as the week between Christmas and New Years. We will reopen on January 4. I find it hard to get around with walker or wheelchair and the doctor says "Stay off of that foot!". So I may be home a bit more. We will try to keep to the schedule, though.

Look Back in Time – In 1885 colonel Rackerby sold the Mental Invigorator at his store along with feeds and clothes for both man and beast (sure makes you wonder).

~ Hope to see you in Brownsville soon. Yvonne ★

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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Make change
6. Used in combination to denote the middle
9. *Ammo material
13. Star
14. The "place with the helpful hardware folks"
15. Neutral shade
16. Orderly arrangement
17. Romanian monetary unit
18. Button on electrical outlet
19. *Frosty's nose
21. *Gingerbread Man, e.g.
23. Drench
24. What a willow did?
25. Famous song by The Jackson 5
28. Cone-shaped quarters
30. *Snow mover
35. A bit of water
37. Pakistani language
39. Measured in knots
40. Tatted fabric
41. **A Visit from St. Nicholas" poet
43. Tropical edible root
44. Paintings in Orthodox church
46. Not swim or swum
47. Frozen puddle accident
48. Small skullcap
50. Dresden's river
52. Captain's turf
53. Drop of sorrow
55. *Slippery" tree
57. *Frozen spike
60. *Three-horse sleigh ride
63. Words to live by
64. Caviar alternative
66. On D'Artagnan's hat
68. Group of wives
69. Boiling emotion
70. Furnish with a fund
71. Travelers' stops
72. Poetic "even"
73. Buy second-hand

DOWN

1. Agha, alt. sp.
2. Artist Chagall's first name
3. Poet Pound's first name
4. Draws close
5. Fungus damage (2 words)
6. Shake's cousin?
7. * fishing
8. Two, in cards
9. Station finder button
10. Not final
11. Curved molding
12. Kind of nurse
15. Bouillions
20. Laudanum ingredient
22. Saturn's wife
24. As opposed to widow
25. Impromptu
26. Emergency pedal
27. *Hot treat
29. Major-leaguers
31. Prefers
32. Butcher shop offering, pl.
33. Ghostlike
34. Parkinson's drug
36. Philadelphia's Ivy League member
38. Russian mountain chain
42. *Fireplace glob
45. TV offering
49. Reef fish
51. Kind of bride
54. Eagle's home
56. Hundred Acre Wood creator

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Death Notices

BURRI – Stephanie Burri 51, of Yuba City, passed away December 6, 2022. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

CHATHAM – Edward Chatham 79, of Live Oak, passed away December 8, 2022. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

DICKINSON, JR. – Charles Dickinson, Jr. 72, of Williams, passed away December 9, 2022. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

HENRY – Don Henry 73, of Brooks, CA, passed away December 10, 2022. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

SWANSON – Joan Swanson 88, of Yuba City, passed away December 10, 2022. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

MORA JR. – Nahum Mora Jr., 28, of Yuba City, passed away December 10, 2022. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.


JACKSON – Wynonia Jackson 83, of Yuba City, passed away December 12, 2022. Arrangements are under the direction of Holycross Funeral Home and Crematory 530-751-7000.

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Republicans Introduce 'California Promise' Priorities

Assembly Republican Caucus News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -During the first day of the new legislative session, Assembly Republicans announced their priorities and several specific legislative proposals that will be officially introduced shortly after swearing in ceremonies commence on December 5, 2022. Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher (Yuba City) says the 'California Promise' package of solutions is desperately needed to address a number of the state's biggest issues,

from affordability to crime, homelessness, education, water and wildfires.

"Republicans are here in Sacramento to make something abundantly clear: We can have a California that is affordable to live in, safe for our families and where our kids get the best education," said Leader Gallagher. "The Democrat super-majority has two options... They can either stand in the way of progress, or they can join us to help better the lives of millions of Californians. Republicans are the party of innovative solutions and we're ready to act on Day 1." ★



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Carmichael, CA 95608

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
T.S. No.: 22-0048 Loan No.: *****370 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 11/12/2013 AND MORE FULLY DESCRIBED BELOW. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States (payable to Attorney Lender Services, Inc.) will be held by the duly appointed Trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: STEVEN CORKERY, A SINGLE MAN Trustee: ATTORNEY LENDER SERVICES, INC. Recorded 11/22/2013 as Instrument No. 2013R-014694 in book --, at Page -- of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Yuba County, California, Date of Sale: 01/12/2023 at 01:30PM Place of Sale: At the front entrance to the County Courthouse, 215 5th St., Marysville, CA 95901 Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$159,495.59 estimated - as of date of first publication of this Notice of Sale The purported property address is: 1997 BRANDING IRON WAY PLUMAS LAKE, CA 95961 A.P.N.: 016-400-037-000 The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county wherein the real property is located and more than three (3) months have elapsed since such recordation. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. If the sale occurs after 1/1/2021, the sale may not be final until either 15 or 45 days after the sale date - see Notice to Tenant. Further, no TDUS can be issued until the sale is final. Your bid is subject to being over bid by

the Tenant or "eligible bidder" after the sale and if your bid is over bid, your only remedy is to the refund of your actual bid amount without interest or payment of any other costs, expenses or funds of any kind or nature incurred by the initial successor bidder. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (916) 939-0772 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet website www.nationwideposting.com for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, 22-0048. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (916) 939-0772, or visit this internet website www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 22-0048 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: 11/29/2022 ATTORNEY LENDER SERVICES, INC. Karen Talafus, Assistant Secretary 5120 E. La Palma Avenue, #209 Anaheim, CA 92807 Phone: 714-695-6637 This office is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. NPP0418a819 To: TERRITORIAL DISPATCH 12/16/2022, 12/23/2022, 12/30/2022

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT File No. 2018F-296

The fictitious business name referred to in this Statement of Abandonment was filed in Yuba County, CA on: 9-15-2018 FBN Filing number 2018F-296
USA Auto Sale
1642 N. Beale Road
Marysville, CA 95901
County of Yuba
1) Waheed Ahmed
1570 Clearwater Ct.
Marysville, CA 95901
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).
Signed:
Waheed Ahmed
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on November 2, 2022.
(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).
DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
NELIDA WILLIAMS
Deputy Clerk
December 2, 9, 16, 23, 2022

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF YUBA
IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF: Kyle Cameron Schroeter, PETITIONER
CASE NUMBER: CVPT 22-001028
AMENDED ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

HEARING DATE:
12/27/2022
DEPT: 4
TIME: 9:30 A.M.

Petitioner(s) Kyle Cameron Schroeter filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

from: Kyle Cameron Schroeter
to: Kyle Cameron VanZandt

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed the court may grant the petition without a hearing.

A copy of this order to show cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Territorial Dispatch.

DATE: 11/15/2022

Stephen W. Berrier
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

November 25, December 2, 9, 16, 2022.



FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2022F-309

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Just Luv Real Estate & Investments
4194 George Ave. #6
Olivehurst, CA 95961
County of Yuba
1) Donna Marie Ponce
4194 George Ave. #6
Olivehurst, CA 95961
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).
Signed:
Donna M. Ponce
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on November 15, 2022.
(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).
DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
NELIDA WILLIAMS,
Deputy Clerk
November 25. December 2, 9, 16, 2022

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2022F-296

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Fibrenew Rocklin
832 Berryessa Way,
Plumas Lake, CA, 95961,
County of Yuba
1) SLS Ventures LLC,
832 Berryessa Way,
Plumas Lake, CA, 95961; CA
This business is conducted by Limited Liability Company.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).
Signed:
Samuel Orpilla,
Managing Member
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on November 1, 2022, indicated by file stamp.
(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).
DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
NELIDA WILLIAMS,
Deputy Clerk
11/25, 12/2, 12/9, 12/16/22
CNS-3643295#
TERRITORIAL DISPATCH

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2022F-291

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Lipp and Sullivan Mortuary
629 D Street
Marysville, CA 95901
County of Yuba
1) Daniel C. Gray
368 Gabriel Ave
Yuba City, CA 95993
2) Katherine A. Gray
368 Gabriel Ave
Yuba City, CA 95993
This business is conducted by a Married Couple.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on April 1, 1979.
(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).
Signed:
Daniel C. Gray
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on October 24, 2022.
(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).
DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
BRIDGETTE EVANS
Deputy Clerk
November 25. December 2, 9, 16, 2022

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC LIEN SALE

Notice is hereby given that Marysville Mini Storage, 528 14Th Street, Marysville, CA 95901 intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code, known as the "California Self Service Storage Facilities Act", Section 2328 of the UCC, Section 535 of the Penal Code and provisions of the Civil Code.

This auction will be conducted online at www.bid13.com, starting **Wednesday December 15, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. and end Saturday December 28, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** If there are no bidders, the property will be donated or disposed of accordingly. Property to be sold as follows: household goods, personal items, furniture, etc. belonging to the following:

- Name
April M Mayfield
Michael G Knight
Elaina K Holland
Virginia L Beutler
Naecole L Gutierrez (2 units)
Michael L Oakman
Sarah L Schamanski
John T Wilden (2 Units)
Lawrence Dewald

Purchases must be paid for at the time of purchase in CASH only. All purchased items sold AS IS, WHERE IS, and must be removed at the time of sale. Sale subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party. 530-742-6898 (12/16/2022 & 12/23/2022)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2022F-333

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Ana Stella's Boutique
4412 Twain Drive
Olivehurst, CA 95961
County of Yuba
1) Ana Garcia-Perez
1885 Sand Dollar Drive
Marysville, CA 95901
2) Estrella Perez Zuniga
4412 Twain Drive
Olivehurst, CA 95961
This business is conducted by a general partnership.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).
Signed:
Ana Garcia-Perez
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on December 12, 2022.
(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).
DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
NELIDA WILLIAMS
Deputy Clerk
December 16, 23, 30, 2022, January 6, 2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2022F-313

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Nemos Guide Service
5412 Feather River Blvd.
Olivehurst, CA 95961
County of Yuba
1) John Chargualaf
5412 Feather River Blvd.
Olivehurst, CA 95961
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).
Signed:
John Chargualaf
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on November 22, 2022.
(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).
DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
BRIDGETTE EVANS
Deputy Clerk
December 2, 9, 16, 23, 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with Sec. 106 of the Programmatic Agreement, T-Mobile West, LLC proposes to install a new antenna structure at 2522 Tierra Buena Road, Yuba City, CA. Please direct comments to Gavin L. at 818-898-4866 regarding site SC60471A. 12/16, 12/23/22 CNS-3650735#

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2022F-311

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:
Speedy Tire & Repair
1642 N. Beale Road
Marysville, CA 95901
County of Yuba
1) Muhammad Nabeel Akhtar
1566 Clearwater Ct.
Marysville, CA 95901
This business is conducted by an individual.
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
(I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct).
Signed:
Muhammad Akhtar
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yuba County on November 21, 2022.
(I Hereby Certify That This Copy is a Correct Copy of the Original on File in my Office).
DONNA HILLEGASS,
County Clerk
NELIDA WILLIAMS
Deputy Clerk
December 2, 9, 16, 23, 2022

Community Events

OLIVEHURST VFW POST 4095 BINGO 6 pm 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 4965 Powerline Rd, Olivehurst. Info: 530-777-9057

Hilltop Gang Breakfast, 2nd Sunday of the Month at Brownsville Community Center downstairs on Ponderosa Way. Complete breakfast includes: Coffee, orange juice and peaches. Choice of ham or sausage. Choice of pancakes, french toast or biscuits and gravy. Adults \$8, Children under 12 \$4, 3 & under Free.

DOBBINS FARMERS MARKET 9761 Marysville Road, Dobbins open every Saturday 10 am to 2 pm. Come hungry always a lunch special

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IN THE EVENT OF RAIN MARKET IS CANCELLED

Community events are \$10 per month. Call 530-743-6643 or come by the office at 423 4th St, Suite 1W, Marysville

CTC Provides \$1 Billion for Pedestrian Projects and Infrastructure

Caltrans News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved on the week of December 9, 2022, \$1 billion for 93 new walking and biking projects for disadvantaged communities as part of the 2023 Active Transportation Program and allocated more than \$878 million for projects to repair and improve transportation infrastructure throughout the state. The allocation includes more than \$209 million in funding from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA) and more than \$339 million in funding from Senate Bill (SB) 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

The active transportation projects approved at the meeting will benefit disadvantaged communities throughout California, two-thirds of which will implement safe routes for children to walk or bike to school. The projects make up more than half of the 2023 Active Transportation Program, with an additional \$700 million to be awarded in the spring. Much of the funding comes from a one-time infusion of \$1 billion for active transportation in the 2022-23 state budget as part of a nearly \$15 billion transportation infrastructure package.

“California and our federal partners are continuing to make historic headway in addressing our transportation needs and advancing safety, equity, climate action and economic prosperity,” said Caltrans Director Tony Tavares. “Importantly, this includes significant investments in infrastructure that allows everyone to access active means of transportation, like walking and biking.”

Active transportation projects approved at the meeting include:

City of West Sacramento: \$16 million for the I Street Bridge Deck Conversion Project. This project will repurpose and modernize the historic I Street Bridge to close an active transportation gap and foster economic development between low-income and disadvantaged neighborhoods in West Sacramento and Sacramento. The project will construct and connect new Americans with Disabilities Act compliant bicycle/pedestrian ramps on both sides of the Sacramento River and enhance the upper deck to facilitate and encourage active transportation between the two cities.

Nevada County: \$13.8 million for State Route 49 multi-modal corridor improvements.

City of Rancho Cordova: \$19.9 million for a Zinfandel Drive bicycle/pedestrian overcrossing.

Yuba County: \$21 million for the West Linda Safe Routes to School Project.

City of Williams: \$9.3 million for the E Street Complete Streets Project.

Town of Paradise: \$12.3 million for the Neal Gateway Project; \$6.7 million for the Skyway Link Project; and \$22 million for the Pentz Road Pathway Project.

City of Placerville: \$15.4 million for the first phase of Placerville Drive bicycle and pedestrian facilities improvements.

Butte County: \$7.8 million for the South Oroville Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity Project.

City of Sacramento: \$1.1 million for the Envision Broadway Project in Oak Park.

The \$878 million in projects the CTC approved include: ★

Caltrans to Expand Safe Walking and Bicycling Options Statewide



Bicyclists travel in Caltrans District 7, which encompasses Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Photo courtesy of Caltrans

Caltrans News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - With California making unprecedented investments to improve and expand safe options for pedestrians and bicyclists, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) unveiled potential project locations statewide to enhance safety and create a more interconnected system for people who use active means of transportation, such as walking and biking.

The Caltrans Active Transportation Plans website contains links to interactive localized plans and maps that detail current conditions and identifies areas for potential improvement as the state invests in these projects like never before. The current state budget includes \$1.05 billion to create safer and more connected walking and biking options that reduce dependence on driving – a key strategy to reduce pollution from the transportation sector.

“Caltrans is working to create safer, more equitable transportation options for all Californians,” said Caltrans Director Tony Tavares. “These plans will guide the department’s investments to support walking and

biking and connect people with jobs and services.”

Safety is Caltrans’ top priority and a key component of the Active Transportation Plans. At least two pedestrians or cyclists are killed on California’s transportation system each day. Between 2010 and 2019, pedestrian fatalities increased more than 40 percent and bicyclist deaths went up more than 60 percent. Reducing the rate and severity of bicycle and pedestrian-involved collisions are critical to Caltrans’ goal of reaching zero fatalities and serious injuries on state highways by 2050.

The Caltrans Active Transportation Plans further the goals set out in the 2017 State Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, Toward an Active California, which established statewide policies, strategies, and actions to advance active transportation and transit safety, mobility, preservation, and equity. In December 2021, Caltrans announced a policy requiring all new transportation projects to include safe and accessible options for people walking, biking and taking transit.

For more information on Caltrans Active Transportation Plans, visit catplan.org ★

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Triple Threat to California's Budget



Commentary by Jon Coupal

There is near unanimity among economists that the United States will experience a recession in 2023. Last month, the Conference Board predicted a 96 percent likelihood of a recession in the U.S. within the next 12 months due primarily to the Federal Reserve’s interest rate hikes.

Relative to other states, California is ill-prepared to weather a recession, especially a severe one. But even without a recession, California’s Legislative Analyst predicts a \$25 billion shortfall for fiscal 2023-24. The deficit, which the LAO calls a budget “problem,” is mainly attributable to revenue estimates that are \$41 billion lower than previous budget projections.

Moreover, the LAO acknowledges that programs which include inflation adjustments will make the problem worse: “Our estimate of a \$25 billion budget problem understates the actual budget problem in inflation-adjusted terms.”

Particularly surprising is that all this bad news from the LAO doesn’t even assume that a recession is imminent. “While our lower revenue estimates incorporate the risk of a recession, they do not reflect a recession scenario.” If a recession does occur in 2023, the LAO says that revenues could be \$30 billion to \$50 billion below its initial revenue outlook.

If the legislature took seriously the report from the LAO, it would take immediate action to blunt the damage from the economic downturn predicted for 2023. But that is unlikely because California’s political leadership lacks the will to reduce spending as well as the high tax burden which drives that spending. Government spending is California’s growth industry, exploding 600% since 1989-90. (\$49.1 billion to \$303 billion).

California’s out of control spending leads to the second reason why an economic downturn will hurt California more than other states: A reduced tax base due to outmigration of businesses and productive taxpaying individuals.

This column has reported numerous times on how California’s high taxes, heavy regulations and lack of affordable housing have led to an exodus out of California. The well-known satire site, Babylon Bee, recently featured an image of a high speed train emblazoned with a U-Haul logo with the caption: “U-Haul Builds Bullet Train from California to Texas.” Humorous, but capital flight out of California is no laughing matter.

A recent report from the Hoover Institute is downright frightening: “In 2021, California business headquarters left the state at twice their rate in both 2020 and 2019, and at three times their rate in 2018. In the last three years, California lost eleven Fortune 1000 companies, whose exits negatively affect California’s economy today. But California also is risking its economic future as much smaller but rapidly growing unique businesses are leaving, taking their innovative ideas with them.”

Because California is overly reliant on high-wealth individuals paying the lion’s share of income tax revenue, their departure

inflicts a disproportionate level of harm to the state budget. As California experienced in the last recession, the drop in revenue from stock options and capital gains exposes California to a vulnerability not shared by other states. But that’s not all.

Governor Gavin Newsom touts California’s status as the leader in high tech and venture capital. But other states are cashing in on California’s reputation as an anti-business state.

According to a Bloomberg report on initial public offerings (IPOs), only nine companies headquartered in California went public during the first three quarters of 2022. More troubling was that California’s share of U.S. IPO proceeds fell to 2% through Sept. 30, compared with 39% for 2021.

The final concern for California is the fact that the U.S. House of Representatives, the house of origin for all appropriations, is now under the control of Republicans. For two years, right-leaning states have watched California receive favorable treatment from Washington from everything from High Speed Rail funds and other special projects. (Remember Nancy Pelosi’s securing \$200 million for a park within walking distance from her home?) The extent to which California received more than its “fair share” of federal assistance is a matter of debate. But the odds of Congress going out of its way to help California with its budget “problem” are now zero.

The only silver lining to this very dark cloud is that a recession may finally force the tax-and-spend politicians in Sacramento to do something they haven’t done in decades: Reduce waste and prioritize spending.

Jon Coupal is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. ★

NATIONAL NEWS *courtesy of THE EPOCH TIMES*

Supreme Court Hears Case That Could Empower State Legislatures, Not Judges, to Regulate Elections

MATTHEW VADUM

North Carolina Republicans told the Supreme Court on Dec. 7 that the U.S. Constitution gives state legislatures preeminent authority to make the rules for presidential and congressional elections without interference from the courts.

The case is important because, if the high court finds for North Carolina, the rules governing how states regulate federal elections could change dramatically. The hearing comes at a time when tensions between Republicans and Democrats over voting procedures are growing in light of former President Donald Trump's continuing claims that the 2020 presidential election was marred by massive electoral fraud.

At issue is the once-obscure independent state legislature doctrine, under which Republicans argue that the Constitution has always directly authorized state legislatures alone to make rules for the conduct of federal elections in their respective states.

Democrats say this doctrine is a fringe conservative legal theory that could endanger voting rights, enable extreme partisan gerrymandering in the redistricting process, and cause upheaval in election administration.

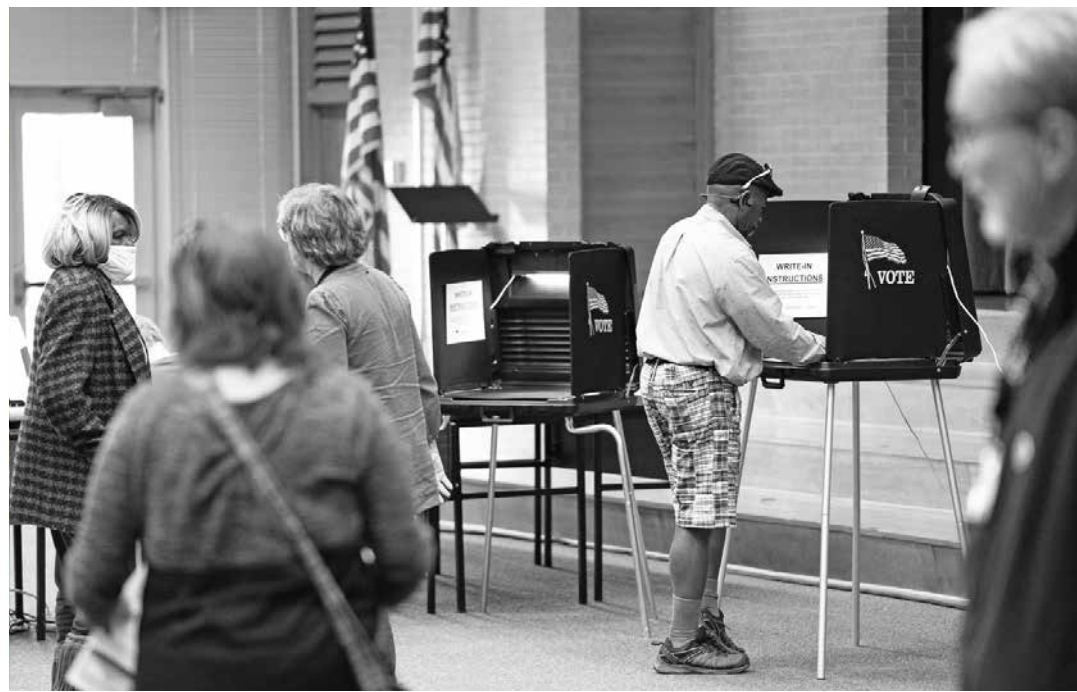
Liberal law professor Richard Hasen has called the doctrine the "800-pound gorilla" of election law because of its potentially disruptive effect on election administration norms.

Conservatives, on the other hand, say the doctrine is derived from the plain text of the Constitution and would restore reasonable rules on the electoral playing field and allow elected state officials, instead of judges, to make election rules.

The Supreme Court hasn't ruled on the doctrine directly, but some justices have said that it could have been argued in the *Bush v. Gore* case, which resolved the disputed 2000 presidential election.

The doctrine, if endorsed by the high court, could in theory allow state legislatures to select presidential electors in disputed elections, something critics decry as a threat to democracy.

When he launched the appeal in March, Tim Moore, a Republican who's the speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives, said the Constitution is "crystal clear: State legislatures are responsible for drawing congressional maps, not state court judges and certainly not with the



A voter fills out a ballot in Winston-Salem, N.C., on Nov. 8, 2022.



A woman votes at a polling booth in Norwood, N.C., on May 17, 2022.

The doctrine would empower state legislatures to carry out the 'most extreme form of gerrymandering,' Kagan said.

aid of partisan political operatives."

Moore is appealing the Supreme Court of North Carolina's order redrawing the state's electoral map against the wishes of the state's Republican-majority legislature.

Two key clauses in the U.S. Constitution lay out the rules governing federal elections in the states.

The elections clause in Article 1 states, "The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof."

The presidential electors clause in Article 2 gives each state the power to appoint presidential electors "in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct."

The case is *Moore v. Harper*, court file 21-1271.

During nearly three hours of oral arguments on Dec. 7, liberal justices pushed back against the doctrine, while conservative Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, and Neil Gorsuch seemed receptive to it to varying degrees.

Moore's attorney, David H. Thompson, told the justices that

the two constitutional provisions have been misinterpreted for years.

"The elections clause requires state legislatures specifically to perform the federal function of prescribing regulations for federal elections," Thompson said.

"States lack the authority to restrict the legislatures' substantive discretion when performing this federal function ... and it is federal law alone that places substantive restrictions on states legislatures' performing the task assigned them by the federal Constitution.

"For the first 140 years of the republic, there was not a single state court that invalidated on substantive grounds any congressional redistricting plan."

Precedent holds that "the Founders tasked state legislatures with federal functions that transcend any substantive limitation sought to be imposed by the people of the state."

Thomas wondered aloud if the court had the authority to consider this case.

Thomas asked Thompson what "the basis of our jurisdiction" was, given that "we don't normally review state supreme courts' interpretation of state constitutions."

Thompson said the Supreme Court of North Carolina's decision reflects the state's law but is still "a violation of the elections clause and that's why we're here."

Justice Sonia Sotomayor told Thompson that his argument wasn't resonating with her.

"If judicial review is in the nature of ensuring that someone's acting within their constitutional limits, I don't see anything in the words of the Constitution that takes that

power away from the state."

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson asked Thompson if it was his argument "that the state constitution has no role to play—period—in terms of imposing substantive limits on the exercise of that federal function."

Thompson confirmed that was his position, saying that a state constitution may require that an election measure be presented to a governor for approval or veto.

Justice Elena Kagan seemed alarmed at the ramifications of Thompson's argument.

The doctrine under discussion, she said, "gets rid of the normal checks and balances on the way big governmental decisions are made in this country, and then you might think that it gets rid of all those checks and balances at exactly the time when they are needed most."

"Think about consequences because this is a theory with big consequences," she said.

The doctrine would empower state legislatures to carry out the "most extreme form of gerrymandering," while imposing "all manner of restrictions on voting" and curtailing "all kinds of voter protections," she said.

Thompson told Kagan that his position was that "checks and balances do apply, but they come from the federal Constitution and the panoply of federal laws like the Voting Rights Act and other statutes that are highly protective of voters."

Neal Katyal, counsel for the leftist group Common Cause, said Thompson's argument that "state legislatures created by state constitutions are independent of them is wrong" and has been rejected by early state constitutions and the courts.

"For 233 years, states have not read the elections clause the way you just heard," he said, a reference to 1789, the year the Constitution took effect.

Katyal likened the doctrine to a bomb, saying its "blast radius" would lead to "election chaos forcing a two-track system with one set of rules for federal elections and another for state ones."

U.S. Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar urged the court to reject North Carolina's appeal, also saying it could "sow chaos."

The state's theory "rejects all of this history and would wreak havoc in the administration of elections across the nation ... [and] would invalidate constitutional provisions in every single state, many tracing back to the founding," she said.

1 in 7 Seniors Skipped Meals Due to Inflation Burden: Survey

PETR SVAB

Seniors have been severely affected by inflation. Most had to cut back on spending, and many needed to take "drastic" measures, such as skipping meals, according to a recent survey.

Inflation has been exceptionally high this year, rising to a four-decade high of 9 percent in June before cooling down to 7.7 percent in October. Daily necessities such as food, shelter, and energy have soared in price.

Price hikes have hit seniors hard as they tend to depend on a fixed income, Social Security benefits in particular. The benefits are adjusted annually for inflation, meaning that the current inflation will only be reflected in payments sent out next year. Moreover, the adjustment is based on the overall Consumer Price Index, which hasn't risen as rapidly as the prices of daily necessities.

As their monthly expenses went up by hundreds of dollars,

History cautions strongly against prematurely loosening policy. ... We will stay the course until the job is done.

Fed Chairman Jerome Powell

94 percent of Americans older than the age of 55 cut back on leisure and recreation spending, almost half cut back on energy use, more than 35 percent canceled trips to see family, and more than 14 percent had to skip meals. About 1 in 10 had to delay or cancel medical procedures or even ration prescription medication, according to the survey, which was conducted by Pollfish, a market researcher, for Caring, a senior care referral service.

About 2 in 5 seniors are worried that they won't be able to afford food and household necessities. About the same amount of them are worried that they won't be able to afford to put gas in their car.

Inflation has been fueled by massive government spending during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as by supply chain disruptions, the restrictive domestic energy policy of the Biden administration, and to some degree, the war in Ukraine.

The Biden administration claimed to have addressed inflation with the Inflation Reduction Act



People shop for groceries at a supermarket in Glendale, Calif., on Jan. 12, 2022.

earlier this year. However, critics have pointed out that the legislation does little to alleviate inflation in the short term. In fact, much of it was focused on climate change.

The administration has emphasized that the legislation should lower health care costs, yet the survey shows that this isn't the primary concern of seniors. Only about 21 percent said they noticed increased health care costs due to inflation. By contrast, more than 94 percent noticed higher grocery prices, 85 percent noted higher gas and transportation prices, 73 percent saw household necessities getting more expensive, and more

than 66 percent noticed higher energy and utility bills.

The Federal Reserve has been countering inflation by raising interest rates in hopes of curbing demand for goods and services. As a consequence, mortgage rates have skyrocketed, throttling the housing market.

Fed chairman Jerome Powell recently said the central bank will slow down the rate increases to "balance the risks" involved in monetary tightening.

"History cautions strongly against prematurely loosening policy," Powell said. "We will stay the course until the job is done."

WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Out on a Limb



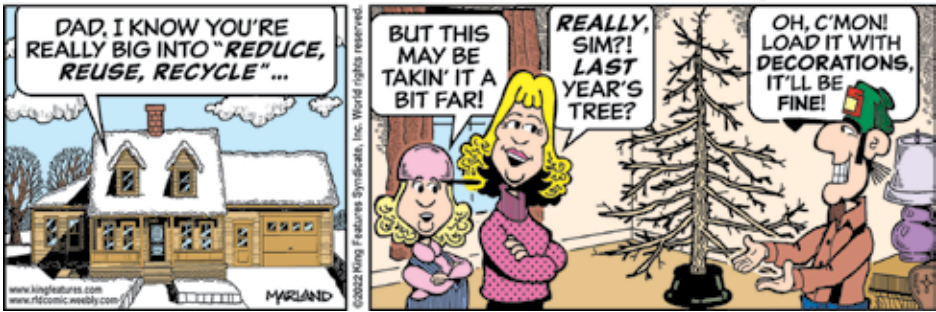
by Gary Kopervas

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO

R.F.D.



by Mike Marland



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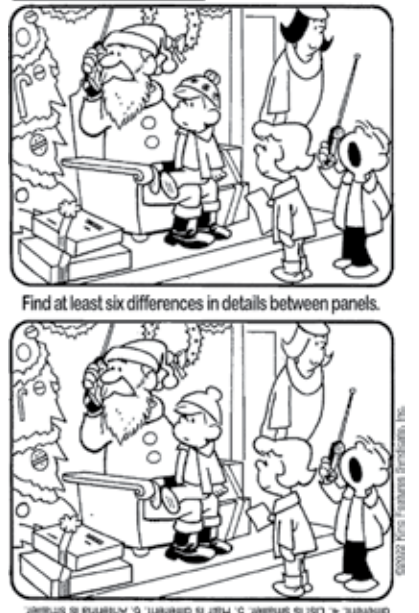


Just Like Cats & Dogs



by Dave T. Phipps

HOCUS-FOCUS



BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



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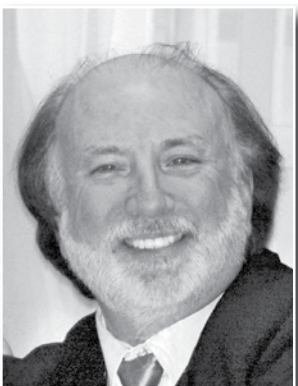
- December 16 / Dan Flores, Economic Development
- December 19 / Steve Kroeger, Blue Zone Project
- December 20 / Krystal Martin, Yuba River Endowment
- December 21 / Sheriff Anderson, Yuba County
- December 22 / Marni Sanders, Chamber of Commerce
- December 23 / Heather Thompson, Marysville Business
- December 26 / Sue Moyers "Let's Talk History"



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