



Schmitt wins Rawlings Gold Glove Award®

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‘There is No Gift Without a Giver’

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# THE NEWS

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## WW II Ace Promoted to General



Travis Air Force Base staff join celebrations for Bud Anderson's promotion.

Story and photos  
by Susan Maxwell  
Skinner

**MCCLELLAN, CA (MPG)** - Culminating a legendary aviation career, WW II pilot Bud Anderson last week achieved the honorary rank of Brigadier General. America's only surviving Triple Ace will be 101 years old next month.

No less than Air Force



Newly-promoted Brigadier General Bud Anderson gets a salute from seven-year-old fan Caden Mara at the Aerospace Museum of California.

Chief of Staff General Charles Q. Brown Jr. pinned Anderson's new insignia. The four-star General stopped at Aerospace Museum of California (McClellan) en route to unveiling the new B-21 nuclear stealth bomber in Southern California. Both events, said General Brown, were equally historic.

"Shoulders the Air Force  
Continued on page 3

Spend your  
Saturday  
with Santa  
in Rio Linda



By Shaun Holkko,  
assistant editor

**RIO LINDA, CA (MPG)** - If you and your loved ones are looking for something fun to do this weekend that is in the Christmas spirit, spend your Saturday in Rio Linda with Santa Claus.

There are two events this Saturday, December 10, including Saint Nick. One event is in the morning and the other is in the early evening.

From 8:30-11:30 a.m. you can have breakfast with Santa at the Rio Linda Elverta (RLE) Community Center, located at 810 Oak Lane. The menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, and ham for food options. On the beverage menu, there is orange juice, coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

The breakfast is a free event that is sponsored by the RLE Chamber of Commerce, RLE Country Lions and RLE Recreation and Park District.

The other event in the evening is the 7th annual Christmas Light Parade, which is proudly presented by the RLE Country Faire. The parade will start Saturday promptly at 6 p.m. in Downtown Rio Linda. Awards will be presented in front of the judges' stand after the last participant completes the parade route.

For more information about the light parade, visit [www.riolindachristmasparade.com](http://www.riolindachristmasparade.com)



## ‘The Party was Over’

Getting a Second Chance at Life



Guest speakers, Shawna Barnes and Jesse Yniguez (center), pose for a photo with the Tri-County Lunch Bunch after the meeting on Thursday, December 1 at Pancake Palace in North Highlands.

Story and photo  
by Shaun Holkko,  
assistant editor

**NORTH HIGHLANDS, CA (MPG)** - The Tri-County Lunch Bunch came together on December 1 in North Highlands for their monthly meeting at the Pancake Palace, which takes place the first Thursday of every month.

The group, which includes locals from Rio Linda, Elverta, North Highlands and beyond, is always welcoming new members. Thursday's two

guest speakers attended the monthly gathering for the first time and were invited by regular attendee, Chris Evans.

The two speakers were Jesse Yniguez and Shawna Barnes, who each are recovered from previously using drugs and alcohol.

"I became homeless in 2017 due to drugs and alcohol," Yniguez told the Lunch Bunch. "For the first year, I pretty much just survived, I got into survival mode. I did not want to do anything but survive. The second year, I came across

Downtown Streets Team."

Yniguez joined the Downtown Streets Team Sacramento shortly after it launched in 2018. The team provided him with an opportunity to join the workforce and restore how he viewed himself as a person.

"They started giving me certain tasks and certain things to build up my self-esteem. I didn't have any more self-esteem left and my confidence, my confidence was gone, everything was just totally gone," Yniguez recalled.

After three years of working for the streets team, Yniguez decided it was time to work on himself. He spent nine months attending alcohol DUI classes so he could get his driver's license back, which he successfully did last month in November 2022. Yniguez also got a warrant from 2010 lifted off his license as well.

He now works with Evans at The River District. The other featured speaker, Barnes, also works with Evans.

"I was pretty messed up  
Continued on page 2



# River Cats’ 3B Schmitt Wins MiLB 2022 Rawlings Gold Glove Award®



Sacramento infielder Casey Schmitt is the MiLB 2022 Rawlings Gold Glove Award winner for third base. Photo courtesy of River Cats Media (Ralph Thompson Photography)

### River Cats News Release

**WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** — Minor League Baseball and Rawlings Sporting Goods Company, Inc. announced the nine 2022 Rawlings Gold Glove Award® winners, with Sacramento infielder Casey Schmitt earning the nod at third base.

“We are pleased to recognize these nine players with a Rawlings Gold Glove Award for their defensive excellence in 2022,” said Peter Woodfork, Major League Baseball Senior Vice President, Minor League Operations and Development, via MLB

news release. “On behalf of Major League Baseball, Minor League Baseball, and our great partners at Rawlings, I congratulate each of the winners for their outstanding seasons.”

Schmitt, who finished the season as MLB Pipeline’s No. 6 prospect in the Giants’ organization, is the second River Cats third baseman to earn a postseason award in 2022. David Villar was named both PCL MVP, and a Post-Season All-Star on Nov. 7.

The 23-year-old Schmitt spent the majority of 2022 with High-A Eugene and Double-A Richmond, posting a .941 fielding percentage with 169 total

chances and 100 assists in 707.2 defensive innings.

The San Diego State product had 20 homers and 75 RBIs for Richmond and Eugene before ending 2022 with his first taste of Triple-A, going 5-for-15 (.333) with a double, a home run, and three RBIs through four games.

In addition to Schmitt, fellow San Francisco Giants prospect Patrick Bailey took home the honors for catcher. Bailey, who played 83 games for High-A Eugene in 2022, was also selected in the 2020 MLB Draft, going 13th overall out of North Carolina State. ★

# ‘The Party was Over’

*Continued from page 1*

on drugs, I was homeless for five years,” Barnes said. “I lost my family, my kids, I didn’t have anything left. I wanted something different, so I started working [on] the Downtown Streets Team and it just changed everything around [me]. I got off drugs, I got my family back, I got my kid back, I got my license, I got a new car!”

“They got me this job and this job is amazing, its changed my life. I know I can do it now. I didn’t have any hope left and today I do. Today I know anything is possible. I know anybody can do it because I did it and I didn’t think it was possible.”

Evans works with the Downtown Streets Team Sacramento, The River District and the Sacramento Navigators, with a goal of rehabilitating individuals who are homeless due to substance abuse struggles.

“Every month I know you hear me say the same thing,” Evans said. “We do not have a homeless problem in California, we have a drug problem. Just because we have a drug problem doesn’t mean we need to give up hope. There’s people out there who will fight to come back.”

Yniguez and Barnes said they each, respectively, found out about the street team program while going to get a meal from Loaves & Fishes.

“I had made a mess of the streets and I was like, ‘I would love to do that!’ I mean, what was I doing? I had nothing better to do,” Barnes proclaimed Thursday. “It got me some clean socks, underwear and just stuff that I really needed. You have to go down and get on the list and every week you have to be there so they can see your serious, then they let you on the team and it’s amazing.”

The street team program provides \$100 stipends each week that can be spent at the Dollar Tree, McDonald’s and Ross Dress for Less in exchange for someone picking up trash off the streets.

“Once I started getting in that rhythm of joining up each day and [was] somewhere that I belonged, it [became] like family,” Yniguez said. “I met Shawna through Downtown Streets Team. We’ve known each other since then and we’ve become like family. I went to her house for Thanksgiving this year, that’s how close we’ve become.”

“This is like one of the neatest programs ever, I’ll tell you that. They really make you feel like family.”

Evans said the street team currently has two separate divisions: street cleaning and landscaping. In early 2023, the nonprofit will

be adding two more with a bakery and entrepreneurship program. The plan is for team members to bake banana bread and sell it at swap meets according to Evans.

One member of the group, who admitted to being a recovered alcoholic himself, asked the two speakers how they are able to sustain their sobriety. The gentleman mentioned that even as someone in recovery, he feels you still always have that part of you that was addicted to a substance within yourself.

“I don’t anymore to tell you the truth,” Yniguez responded. “There just came a time I knew the party was over. My choice of drug was meth. I didn’t think I had a problem. But then when I realized that I did have a problem, and then I realized that I had just been wanting to become successful again, that that was not going to be in the cards when I was doing that.”

Yniguez shared that at the age of 32 he bought his own diesel truck that he had been saving to get for five years. Despite the truck “meaning the world” to Yniguez, his addiction to alcohol led him into downfall spiral before he even did drugs. He said that he began coming into work late and letting his addiction seep into his everyday life.


“When I got my diesel truck, I felt that was the top of the success line that I was going to get,” Yniguez explained. “I felt great. I made my grandparents happy, I made my mother and father ecstatic and I had it all [for] about two and a half years. When it came to an end and I had to sell it, I went into a deep depression. Therefore, now that I’m becoming successful again, I don’t ever want to feel that feeling again. Now I’m just going to the top and that’s all I want to do. I know what to do once I get there.”

“I had cravings many years ago, maybe three or four years ago, but I don’t anymore, that’s out of the cards. That’s not even a thing to me. I can be around it and I wouldn’t touch it. I have too much to lose right now.”

Barnes said she’s been able to maintain her sobriety through religion.

“How I stayed sober is I found God,” she said. “God saved my life. I was out there, I had nothing left and I told God, ‘If you’re real, please help me,’ and he did, he changed my life around. I go to church two-three times a week and I just love it. God really saved me.”

The next meeting of the Tri-County Lunch Bunch will be on January 5 at Pancake Palace from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and anyone is welcome to attend. ★



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# WW II Ace Promoted to General

*Continued from page 1*

stands on are those of gentlemen like Bud Anderson,” he said. “I certainly consider him General officer material.”

More than 200 invited guests applauded the centenarian’s appointment. In addition to Anderson’s star insignia, he now has a gold trimmed standard. “I never expected my own flag,” he marveled. “This blows my mind.”

Auburn resident Anderson started his career at McClellan and became General there 80 years later. He acknowledged modern fighter pilots inhabit different cockpits and a different world. “We flew completely

by hand,” he explained. “Today, it’s all automatic stuff. But I’m as proud to wear this uniform today as I ever was. My message for young people is if they have the ambition to be in the Air Force, they should have at it. If you work hard, you can be what you want to be.”

Anderson’s legend includes 116 wartime combat missions. The fighter pilot earned Triple Ace status by shooting down 16 ¼ enemy aircraft. At 22, he was made Major. Later a test pilot, he flew pioneer jet fighter missions and took the controls of more than 130 types of aircraft. Thirty years of Air Force

service included duty in post-war Korea, Japan, Southeast Asia and the Pentagon.

Anderson’s decorations include two Legion of Merits, five Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star, 16 air medals, France’s Legion d’Honneur and Croix de Guerre awards. Through sheer longevity, the highest-scoring US fighter ace alive is also among few remaining Fighter Aces in the world.

A staunch supporter of the Aerospace Museum, his hangar appearances are supported by hundreds of fans. For his promotion ceremony, Travis Air Force Base supplied a color guard,

a brass band and a raft of uniformed personnel. Staffers and civilians joined the veteran in singing the Air Force Song, shared birthday cake and drank his health in bourbon.

Because Anderson famously named all his P-51s after the whiskey preferred by fighter buddies, the Aerospace Museum boasts an Old Crow Café. For a promotion surprise, Old Crow manufacturers dispatched a ceremonial barrelhead (bearing the P-51 profile) from Kentucky. As Anderson and General Brown downed shots, the legend warned: “That’s dangerous stuff, sir.”

Top-brass military ceremonies normally involve months of preparation. To promote Bud Anderson before his 101th birthday – and to take advantage of the Chief of Staff’s California visit – Aerospace Museum administrators pushed the event from concept to conclusion in weeks.

“It took Bud three years to become major during the war,” said Museum CEO Tom Jones. “He was promoted to colonel 14 years later. After he retired in 1972, it took 50 more years for him to become a general.

“This was a once-in-a-lifetime event for Bud – and for all of us who were here.” ★



US Air Force Chief of Staff Charles Brown Jr and Aerospace Museum Executive Director Commander Tom Jones (US Navy ret.) join newly-minted Brigadier General Bud Anderson for birthday cake. Anderson turns 101 next month.



Old Crow bourbon manufacturers dispatched a ceremonial barrelhead from Kentucky to celebrate the veteran pilot’s promotion.



US Air Force Chief of Staff Charles Brown Jr. pins Bud Anderson’s epaulet with a Brigadier General star.



Before the promotion ceremony, family friend Amelia Hass provides a last-minute tweak to Bud Anderson’s uniform.



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# DWR Awards \$5 Million for Delta Communities to Improve Flood Emergency Response

DWR News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Department of Water Resources (DWR) on November 16 announced awarding \$5 million in funding for seven emergency response agencies within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to increase their ability to respond to flood emergencies. This funding will help to improve the emergency response efforts for first responders and help these communities prepare for threats of flooding in the Delta, which is increasingly vulnerable to flooding from storm events and sea level rise.

Planning for flood emergencies should be a top priority even though California is in the middle of an extreme drought, with anticipation of a fourth dry year. Recent studies have shown California communities, especially in the Delta region, are at increased risk of flooding events due to climate change.

“DWR works with communities across the state to prevent flooding, but we must also be prepared to respond when flood emergencies put public safety at risk,” said Gary Lippner,

DWR Deputy Director of Flood Management and Dam Safety. “This funding will help bolster emergency response efforts in flooding events, which may happen at any time.”

November 16’s grant awards will provide funding to Delta emergency response agencies to develop flood safety plans, conduct training and emergency exercises, create and distribute flood fight materials and invest in communications equipment. Award recipients from the November 16 announcement include: San Joaquin County: \$1.6 million; Yolo County: \$1.56 million; Bethel Island Municipal Improvement District: \$462,000; Bradford Island Reclamation District 2059: \$450,000; City of Sacramento: \$306,000; Hotchkiss Tract Reclamation District 799: \$305,000; City of Isleton: \$250,000.

A complete list of these grants and previous grant awards can be found on the Flood Emergency Response Projects Grants webpage.

Since 2012, DWR has been awarded \$50 million in flood emergency response grants to improve

local flood emergency response and contribute to increasing public safety. Specifically for the Delta, DWR has awarded \$30 million in grant funding over the last 10 years to Delta communities.

DWR is committed to providing hundreds of millions of dollars in grant funding to communities to respond to increases in extreme weather impacts as a result of our changing climate, whether it’s flooding or drought. Soon, DWR will announce funding awards totaling \$85 million for emergency and long-term water resilience projects through the Small Community Drought Relief program and the Integrated Regional Water Management program. The selected projects will support strategies to improve regional resilience through water quality improvement, increased water supply and upgrades to aging infrastructure.

For communities still in need of assistance, DWR is currently accepting applications for the Urban Community Drought Relief program to support projects that build climate resiliency and emphasize water conservation efforts. ★

# 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

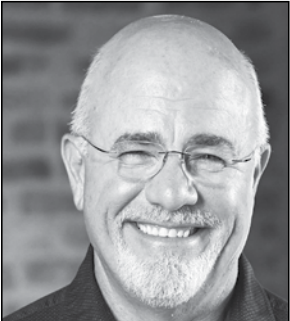
last recession, the drop in revenue from stock options and capital gains exposes California to a vulnerability not shared by other states. But that’s not all.

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 favored 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. ★



## Are Debit Cards Safe for Online Purchases?

Dear Dave,

I use a debit card for all my regular, day-to-day purchases. However, I use a credit card for plane tickets, big ticket items, or when I shop online because someone told me it’s easier to dispute purchases when they’re made with a credit card. Are you putting your checking account at risk by using a debit card for these

## Dave Ramsey Says

types of purchases?

– Wendy

Dear Wendy,

I don’t know who this “someone” is, but they’re a lousy financial advisor. The firm of Someone, They Said, and I Heard? That’s a financial planning company you don’t want to work with.

A debit card has the exact same protections for fraud that a credit card has. It does come out of your checking account, but the bank has to put it back once you dispute the charge and prove your dispute. It may take a day or two, but they’ll get it done.

I’ve used a debit card for decades, and I haven’t owned a credit card since way back in my dumb-with-money

days. I’ve never had any problems using a debit card, and I’m not going to make the mistake of playing around with debt ever again.

I hope you won’t either!

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of “The Ramsey Show,” heard by more than 18 million listeners. He has appeared on “Good Morning America,” “CBS This Morning,” “Today,” Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth, and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO of Ramsey Solutions. ★

MEMORIAL

JOHN BELTRAN • 2/9/1954 – 11/21/2022

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of John Beltran with all who loved him.

John was very proud of his Native Heritage and was a free-spirited Apache warrior. He received his full Apache blessing by his native people just four months before his passing. As respect to his father and his strong Apache beliefs, he is now on his journey peacefully.

John’s younger family members remember him as a legend in their hearts with many stories to share.

He leaves behind all his brothers and sisters his children his grandchildren his great granddaughter as well as nieces, nephews, cousins and so many more.

There will be a service for John at Sunset Lawn (4701 Marysville Blvd.) for all to pay their farewell wishes on December 15th from 10-11a.m.

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# How Did Confidential Gun Permit Data Get Leaked?



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

California Attorney General Rob Bonta and the state’s gun owners were already warring over the state’s very tight gun control laws when, on June 23, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a landmark decision that could threaten the constitutionality of at least some of the restrictions.

Gun owner organizations had sued to overturn some of the state’s laws, such as a 10-round limit on magazines, and had some success in federal court. The 6-3 June 23 ruling, overturning a New York law restricting concealed carry permits, signaled that other restrictive laws in other states, including California, were in jeopardy.

Bonta quickly said that he wanted the Legislature to keep as many California guns laws on the books as possible. “In the wake of mass shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde, and with gun deaths at an all-time high, ensuring that dangerous individuals are not allowed to carry concealed firearms is more important than ever,” he said in a statement.

Four days later, Bonta’s Department of Justice unveiled a new website aimed at giving the public access to data about criminal justice, including how many Californians had

concealed weapons permits. Very quickly, however, website users, including some in the media, discovered that if they hit the right button, they could access supposedly confidential personal information about gun permit applicants and holders.

As the data breach unfolded, many gun owners saw it as deliberate retaliation by Bonta to spoil their celebration of the Supreme Court decision, even though he shut down the leaky website, issued public apologies, promised an independent investigation of how it happened and even sent letters to permit holders to “offer my sincerest apology...”

While gun owners’ reaction was understandable, given the years of political and legal wrangling not only involving Bonta but his predecessors, such as Vice President Kamala Harris, and Gov. Gavin Newsom, the juxtaposition of the Supreme Court decision and the gun permit data leak was probably coincidental.

Last week, Bonta released the 61-page report on the data breach investigation by a prominent law firm, Morrison & Foerster, which concluded that it was caused by the errors of the ill-trained technician who operated the website, compounded by managerial failure to double-check its integrity.

The law firm said, “improper exposure of confidential personal data by DOJ, while unacceptable, was unintentional and not connected to any nefarious purpose. The investigation found that the data exposure was due to a lack of DOJ personnel training, requisite technical expertise, and

professional rigor; insufficiently documented and implemented DOJ policies and procedures; and inadequate oversight by certain supervisors.”

The detail of what Morrison & Foerster’s team discovered is mindboggling. Repeatedly, the technician, identified only as “Data Analyst-1,” insisted that the site did not allow users to access the personal data, but after it was initially shut down and then reopened, access continued to data of 190,000-plus Californians.

The report said “confidential personal data was downloaded approximately 2,734 times, in full or in part, across 507 unique IP addresses,” adding, “The investigation could not accurately determine the number of public visitors who may have only viewed, but did not download, the underlying dataset.”

What occurred on June 27 plays like a broken record. Repeatedly – even chronically – California’s state government has attempted to use information technology with poor results.

Systems fail to deliver promised results and/or experience years of delay and immense cost overruns. Just last week, a legislative committee delved into how the secretary of state’s office spent tens of millions of dollars to upgrade its site for accessing campaign finance reports and it still has a cranky and unreliable system.

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. ★



## Christmas Makes Memories

Christmas has always had a special place in my heart. There was a time that we decorated every room in the house, and yes, including the bathrooms. As we age, however, it doesn’t seem like every room needs to be adorned. But some decorations are special, and we try to get them out and share them with friends.

First and foremost is the super duper tree with its twinkling lights and so many memory decorations gathered through the years from family and friends. I love the ones that tell a story. Would you believe a microphone because I do a radio talk show or a glass slipper because I love sparkly shoes, or doggies that reflect our love for our pooches?

I do love my Christmas village, and every year we added new structures from the dynamic lighthouse to the steeples of the beautiful church. Oh, and don’t forget the sweet shop, the veterinarian stop, the Bijou, the community theatre and even a department store and more.

Father Christmas is a magnificent feature designed by a dear friend of ours many years ago. She made him from scratch with materials and laces from around the world. She even gave him a heart because she always thought of him as real. She made every created doll with loving care. He stands some three feet tall, a gold and silver wonder with sparkling crystal eyes and natural hair and a crown of gold. A true wonder to see.

Then there’s the nativity, all hand-carved from wood from the wise men, Mary and Joseph, a little drummer boy and of course, the baby Jesus. This was a gift from Rick’s (my husband’s) parents. They brought back the set from Switzerland, their heritage.

I know so many folks don’t send cards anymore. I get it. It takes time to write a special note and it’s not cheap to send anymore. But I guess I’ll always be old school. I love opening the card, reading the message and then hang the cards in our special space so we can enjoy them over and over again. I know it takes time



The nativity, all hand-carved from wood. Photos courtesy Mary Jane Popp



Father Christmas.

during a busy year, but I bet those we care about appreciate the effort.

And how can we forget the presents under the tree all dressed in festive paper and in colors galore. It really doesn’t matter if it’s a grand gift or perhaps something special because it’s handmade. It’s the thought that counts...the thought that someone cared to share a special moment.

It’s all so magical as the house becomes a wonderland of loving memories. We keep it til the New Year, and then sadly, tuck it all away til the next Christmas. But the memories won’t be tucked away. They will remain with us all year. Then it all begins again to make the love happen. But why wait til the next Christmas. Share that love and make memories all year long.

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**CLUES**

**ACROSS**

- Use a bayonet
- \*Late Saget
- Greek salad staple
- Meal in a shell
- Lowest brass
- Like daytime energy
- \*2022
- Van Gogh's famous flower
- Poodle minus d
- \*Late Queen
- Volcano off Sicily coast
- Leaves out
- Elf's distinctive body part
- \*Olympic host
- \*Russia's target
- Black sheep sound
- Treat badly
- Reason for Thanksgiving
- Carl Jung's inner self
- \*But I heard him exclaim '...he drove out of sight, "Merry Christmas..."
- Pick on
- Pro \_\_\_\_
- Bank, usually
- Driver's aid
- Jalopy
- Back of the neck, pl.
- Finish line
- Fur of the marten
- Paul Bunyan story, e.g.
- \*Economic woe
- Faultfinder
- Tropical edible root
- Soreness
- Irretrievable loss
- Gator's cousin
- \*Super Bowl winners
- Undertaking
- "For \_\_\_\_ a jolly good..."
- Archaic form of do, second person singular

**DOWN**

- Eyelid affliction
- Asian weight unit
- Smoothie bowl flavor
- Russian hunting sighthound
- Chemistry lab measuring device
- Parting words
- New Year's Eve get-together, e.g.
- Running competition
- \*Twitter's new proprietor
- Western Samoan money
- "...you ready?"
- Relating to shinbone
- Asparagus unit
- Amnion, pl.
- Barely obtain
- Erie or Suez
- Port-au-Prince country
- Like something vintage, usually
- About to explode
- Olfactory organs
- Athos' or Porthos' weapon
- Throw up
- Lecherous look
- Funereal container
- \*Tom Cruise's callsign
- "...-la"
- Type of Christmas lights
- All together
- T-shirt style
- Small bomb
- Rabbit trap
- 1970s big dos
- \*Musical" constellation
- Dollar bills
- 7-year affliction

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# Feeding and Caring for Unhoused Pets

**Sacramento County News Release**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Goldie was very wary of the team from the Bradshaw Animal Shelter as they walked into her encampment. Tethered to a make-shift pole with two ropes tied together, she stood and barked, tail tucked under her body as she shook – unsure of the situation. But as soon as the top popped on a can of wet dog food and it was offered to her, she immediately came forward to taste the special treat.

Goldie is a tan pit bull mix, living with her unhoused owner on a corner lot off Orange Ave. She looks healthy and happy – glad to be with her owner and certainly not underfed but weighing in at nearly 60 lbs, all dog owners know, it can be expensive to feed large dogs.

Goldie’s owner is so grateful for the large bag of dog food left for both Goldie and his brother’s dog who he is caring for. He asks Animal Control Officer Jessica Solano for advice on how to introduce the dogs to each other, so they can cohabitate peacefully. After providing several suggestions for successful introductions, Officer Solano promises to return the next day with a basket muzzle, to allow the dogs to safely meet, and hopefully become friends.

Before heading out for this effort, Officer Solano emptied out the Pet Pantry at the shelter, a stockpile of donations for pets in need – typically donated by the residents of Sacramento County. Some treats, bones and toys – in addition to food. In order to fill up the truck with enough food to feed unhoused pets, Officer Solano grabbed several bags of food from the shelter’s food supply.

Officer Solano locates another dog, a Belgian Malinois puppy, a dozen yards away, tied to a leash that is staked into the ground. These types of tethers are common to see for pets in the unhoused community, often due to the lack of stable alternatives. His owner isn’t in the encampment, but the pup bounds right up to Officer Solano and allows her to check him for fleas. She makes a mental note to bring back flea treatment



**Goldie is a tan pit bull mix, living with her unhoused owner on a corner lot off Orange Ave.**  
Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

when she returns the next day. After giving the pup a can of wet food as well, the team leaves three large bags of dog food at the encampment.

The next stop is at a nearby library, where Officer Solano spots an unhoused woman with four small dogs in and around a shopping cart, sitting in front of the library using its wifi for her laptop. As she spots the animal control truck coming, she quickly leashes her dogs to the cart with ropes that are nearly threadbare. The fear on her face suggested she thought she’d be cited for having her dogs unleashed. Instead, Officer Solano brings her dog food for her little brood and also leaves new leashes to help keep the dogs safe.

As the team continues to move through the south unincorporated county, they pass a row of cars, trucks and RVs parked on the

side of the road with at least one dog crate visible. Officer Solano makes her way vehicle by vehicle, asking if anyone has animals in need of food. Turns out there were two large dogs, a small dog and one cat living in the encampment – all with owners extremely grateful for the food, but more grateful for the fact that they were seen and cared for.

The team’s final stop was another RV parked along South Watt with two dogs chained up outside. Officer Solano grabbed the last of the food in her truck to leave by the RV, but as the team approached the RV, the owner came walking from the opposite direction, having made a quick trip over to the nearest gas station. One of the dogs barked and barked, even as her tail wagged, but the other dog was eager to play and gets pets – even from



**The unhoused community seeks out the company of pets just as much as residents in the community.** Photo courtesy of Sacramento County



**The need is enormous to feed and care for hundreds, if not thousands of pets, living with unhoused owners.** Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

strangers. As the dog’s owner opened the door of the RV, another large dog came running out, ready to jump and lick and play. In addition to food, the team left large bones and harnesses to help contro the dogs.

The day was a success – feeding and providing care for a dozen pets. But the need is much larger than that. Hundreds, if not thousands of pets are living with unhoused owners. If you’d like to donate food or resources to help feed unhoused pets, learn more about how to help pets stay with their owners.

For more information about how the County is serving the unhoused human population, visit the Homeless Initiatives website. ★

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WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps

WELL, FOR CHRISTMAS I HEAR THE FARMER IS HAVING MASHED POTATOES, CRANBERRIES, STUFFING...WHAT ELSE?

The Spats by Jeff Pickering

HOW DO YOU LIKE MY NEW SHADES??

THEY'RE NOT SHADING ENOUGH OF YOU!!

Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas

HEERFESH! AGGGGH! HARGGH-HHH!

I KNOW WHAT I SAID, SARGE! A NANTAGE IS WRESTLING WITH A MAN IN A TREE! REQUESTING BACKUP!

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME BY AL SCADUTO

SIGNS OF GETTING OLD...

DOC SAID I SHOULD WALK A BIT... I THINK I'LL GO TO THE SUPERMARKET WITH MOM TODAY...

THAT'D BE GOOD! BUT YOU TAKE THE CART, DADDY--YOU CAN LEAN ON IT...

THANK TO HAROLD LASH, BOUNTIN BEACH, N.J.

R.F.D. by Mike Marland

I WANT A DISCOUNT ON THIS WREATH! IT'S ONLY 22 INCHES, NOT THE 24 IT SAYS ON THE TAG!

WELL, THAT 24 IS JUST, Y'KNOW, A BALLPARK FIGURE.

HMPF! WHATEVER HAPPENED TO "THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT" ?!

Turns out that was just a big ol' hunk'a misinformation.

GROUND'S FOR YOU-KNOW-WHAT... DINNER AT DAUGHTER-IN-LAW'S, AND DAD HAS THIS TO SAY ABOUT HER COOKING...

YU-UUM! THIS MEATLOAF IS MAH-VELOUS! IT'S EVEN BETTER THAN YOURS, CATABRA--YOU OUGHTA GET HER RECIPE FOR THIS--IT'S REALLY U-UUM GO-O-O-O...

OH--THANK YOU--

THE URGE TO BASTE AND SCORCH HIS HIDE!

GRIN and BEAR IT by Wayne

"So when do you think you can finish putting up the Christmas decorations?"

LAFF-A-DAY

"That reminds me, Mom -- have you told Dad about your car yet?"

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

OK, THE GUY IN THIS REALITY SHOW JUST SHOWED UP IN A TUX WITH ROSES. I'D SAY THIS IS MORE SCIENCE FICTION.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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CHM PLU 422



# ‘There is No Gift Without a Giver’

Story and photos  
by Shaun Holkko,  
assistant editor

ROSEVILLE, CA (MPG) - Each holiday season, consumers shop for the best gifts to give their loved ones for Christmas. Now this year, there is a new and easy way to give to those who are less fortunate: the “Light the World” Giving Machine.

The Giving Machine is sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS Church) and is located at the Westfield Galleria at Roseville. Organizers for the machine held a grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony at the mall on Wednesday, November 30.

“The machines don’t do the giving, they are simply the facilitators for your giving,” said Jay Pimentel, LDS Church area communication director and the ceremony’s host. “These machines are set up here, and we set them up a few days ago to make sure they were up and running and working, and just in those few days there have already been 1,579 donations with people just walking by.”

An entertaining part of the ceremony was when Pimentel explained how to use the machine. One member of the audience, dressed in old school clothing to portray fictional character Ebenezer Scrooge, did not understand the purpose of the machine.

Following some explanation from Pimentel and two other old-time characters, Mr. Scrooge became one of the biggest advocates of the giving machine that you could find at the Galleria.

According to Pimentel, in 2021, California’s giving machine was in Oakland and raised over \$15 million. The LDS Church covers the administrative costs like credit card processing and operating fees. The giving machine in Roseville benefits five non-profit organizations that were represented Wednesday: the



Dignitaries pictured from left to right: Scott Stewart, Lincoln Stake president; Dr. John Jackson, William Jessup University president; Sheikh Yasir Khan, Al-Misbaah founder; Dow Wilson, Area 70 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church) elder; and Jay Pimentel, LDS Church area communication director; at the Sacramento Giving Machine ribbon cutting ceremony on Wednesday, November 30 at the Westfield Galleria at Roseville.

Placer Food Bank, H.A.R.T, Al-Misbaah, Catholic Charities and CSW.

“We are a Feeding America food bank. I know the name doesn’t imply that, but we cover Placer, El Dorado and Nevada County,” said Dave Martinez, executive director of the Placer Food Bank. “Currently we serve well over 100,000 individuals a month. This giving machine is very important for us this year. We have to deal with fires, snow, plus just how people are impacted day to day with the food cost. It’s really hurting our middle class.”

Each non-profit spoke about their organization and then selected from the machine an item to be donated to their respective causes. Other dignitaries in attendance included Roseville Mayor Krista Bernasconi, Rocklin Mayor Bill Haldin and Loomis Mayor Jennifer Knisley.



Once an item is selected for donation to the Sacramento Giving Machine, the placard falls to the bottom of the vending machine and creates a pile among the other items that were already donated.

William Jessup University President Dr. John Jackson was one of the last speakers and admitted to being an “absolute Scrooge” and disliking Christmas. Jackson said this was the case because he was young, newly married and “had no money.”

“Every year I felt the stress of being able to find gifts at Christmas and every year I found myself in a really bad mood,” Jackson recalled. “The worst part about this whole story is during that time I was a pastor, so I was a pastor Scrooge.”

“I was supposed to put on a bright shiny face and celebrate Christmas... but I was angry and frustrated because every single Christmas we were young, poor and struggling to buy gifts and that was a frustrating experience.”

When did things change? When Jackson and his wife welcomed their first child into the world and he “began to see Christmas through the eyes of awe and wonder.” That’s when his perspective shifted.

“The truth is, Christmas is really not ultimately only about the gift, it starts with the giver,” Jackson explained. “If the heart of the giver is right then the meaning of the gift gets magnified. You’re never more like God then when you’re giving. There is no gift without a giver.”

The Giving Machines will be open at the Galleria until January 2. ★





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