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West Sacramento News Ledger

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A Failure to Communicate

Newsom, California government cuts back press access



Gov. Gavin Newsom addresses the media after a meeting with local leaders on homelessness in Sacramento on Nov. 18, 2022. Photo by Rahul Lal, CalMatters

By Alexei Koseff, CALMatters.org

Like so much else about California, its state government is large: A \$300 billion budget. More than 230 departments and agencies. More than 234,000 employees.

Keeping the public apprised of everything that's happening in that massive bureaucracy requires its own small army of communications staff, who craft messages, write press releases and answer questions from journalists covering everything from the governor to welfare programs, prisons to water policy.

Lately, however, the information isn't flowing as freely — raising

transparency concerns among the press corps that acts as a watchdog for Californians.

Last month, the Capitol Correspondents Association of California, which represents journalists who cover the state Capitol and advocates for improved press access, distributed guidelines to its members about how to handle some of the increasingly common hurdles they encounter, including government agencies asking for questions in advance and refusing to attribute information to their spokespeople.

Ashley Zavala, president of the correspondents association who covers state government and politics for Sacramento television station

KCRA, said the extraordinary step was prompted by years of complaints from Capitol press about problems reporting on Gov. Gavin Newsom, his administration and the Legislature. These have been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, which accelerated a shift to digital communication that has transformed how the state government discloses its work.

"The pandemic did cause some bad behavior," Zavala said. "It let some of these agencies and some of these offices get lackadaisical in how they handled the media."

Many of the standard features of government beat reporting

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City Asks Rail Operator to Halt Biodiesel Transfers

City of West Sac News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - West Sacramento City officials are demanding that freight company Top Rail Solutions halt operations involving the transloading of hazardous biodiesel along railroad tracks in the northern part of the city.

Top Rail has been preparing to transfer biodiesel from tanker cars to Sierra Northern Railroad trucks that run parallel to North Harbor Boulevard next to the City's George Kristoff Water Treatment Plant, and near homes in the Bryte and Broderick neighborhoods.

The City discovered this activity earlier this year and has sent two cease and desist order letters asking Top Rail to discontinue operations.

"The transport and transloading of hazardous materials such as biodiesel through established neighborhoods is prohibited due to its significant risk to public health and safety where residents live, work, and recreate," said City Manager Aaron Laurel. "Furthermore, the obvious risk of handling petroleum products using equipment that has not been permitted and inspected by the City is egregious and potentially dangerous. The City will continue to protect its residents and those that work and visit by engaging with Top Rail and Sierra Northern Railroad until all equipment associated with the transloading is fully removed from West Sacramento."

There are hundreds of homes within a quarter mile of this transloading location which is also within 1,000 feet of the only intake point for the City's municipal water supply. An accident or explosion could result in significant personal and environmental damage not only to the residents of West Sacramento, but also significantly impact the adjacent Sacramento River ecosystem.

The City is further concerned because North Harbor Boulevard — the

Continued on page 7

New Footbridge Over Highway 50

Story and photo by Bill Laws

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Three West Sacramento government officials began digging to signal the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the construction of the new bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Highway 50. City Councilmember Verna Sculpizio, Mayor Pro Tem Quirina Orozco and Mayor Martha Guerrero employed shovels to perform the initial spadework for the long-anticipated project that has an estimated completion time of summer 2024.

West Sacramento Mayor Pro Tem Quirina Orozco has often been involved in park projects in the West Sacramento neighborhoods of Broderick and Bryte. The new bridge will be the next phase of the ongoing Sycamore Trail Project, which will extend from

Rice Avenue near the train tracks to Nugget Market and the Southport Town Center.

According to Christian Asuncion, West Sacramento Capital Projects Engineer, the new bike and pedestrian bridge will link the trail head located off of Evergreen Road, just South of Joey Lopes Park, over the Highway and down into the parking lot of the old River City High School location south of Highway 50.

Blake Johnson, General Manager of Reclamation District 900, said, "irrigation issues don't appear to be a problem" and construction of the new bridge will be on track for completion a year from this coming August.

Vice Mayor Orozco describes the bridge construction as a "moment of hope" for parents

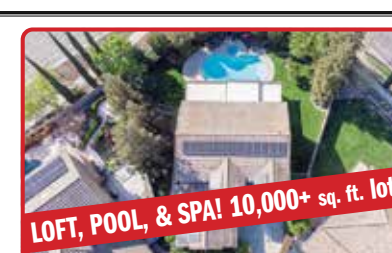
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Councilmember Verna Sculpizio, Mayor Pro Tem Quirina Orozco and Mayor Martha Guerrero initiate the groundbreaking for the new bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Highway 50.



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Teaching Tolerance or Secrets?

Commentary by
Michele Townsend

As parents, we strive to raise our children to be good, well-rounded, compassionate, productive members of society. We rely a lot that our school district has the same type goals for our children. Part of becoming that well-rounded person is to learn how to relate to other people in a socially acceptable way. At the top of the list is the balance of being an individual in the desire for an all-inclusive, peaceful, society.

History has taught us many things. Some things that were done right, and many, many things that were done wrong. Not just a little bit wrong, but a lot wrong. We teach our children to be strong individuals, with pride and self-confidence for who they are and how they think and feel. We teach them that the things that are different about them is what makes them an individual. We tell them that if people don't like them because of who they are, then that's the other people's loss. We teach them that they don't need to be just like their friends or have everything that their friends have because we are all different people with different families and different lives... and that's okay.

At the same time, we teach our children that they are not allowed to notice the differences in other people. They are not allowed to ask why things are different for them, because then they are "singling out" that individual or group of people. We say that it is biased or prejudiced if they are trying to get to know that person and ask them personal questions about the things that are different in or about their lives.

So how are the kids expected to understand when being different is okay and when it is not? When they can physically see the differences, why is it not okay to

just teach them to embrace and learn about the differences so that we understand them? We teach them that a dog is a dog and a cat is a cat and though there are different breeds of dogs and cats, they are still dogs or cats and you can love both.

These lessons are taught by the people in their lives and their experiences in life. The reality is, as individuals, there are many differences in feelings, appearances, beliefs and genetics than that of other people. In fact, all other people. That is not going to change, because we are in fact individuals. In addition, people that are alike, can be alike for many reasons.

As the people forming the minds of the children we try to teach right from wrong, including patience, empathy, compassion, honesty and (guarded) trust. But what happens when personal rights as an individual clash with honesty and trust? The importance of a loving, supportive "family" is undisputedly critical in the development of a child. However what happens when your child tells you something that you weren't expecting to hear? Worse yet, what if you find out that your child's school has known, and hid it from you because the child asked them to?

Gender identity of a student means the student's gender-related identity, appearance, or behavior as determined from the student's internal sense, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance, or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the student's physiology or assigned sex at birth.

Gender expression means a student's gender-related appearance and behavior, whether stereotypically associated with the student's assigned sex at birth. (Education Code 210.7)

Gender transition refers to the process in which a student

changes from living and identifying as the sex assigned given to the student at birth to living and identifying as the sex that corresponds to the student's gender identity.

Gender-nonconforming student means a student whose gender expression differs from stereotypical expectations. *Intersex student* means a student with natural bodily variations in anatomy, hormones, chromosomes, and other traits that differ from expectations generally associated with female and male bodies.

Nonbinary student means a student whose gender identity falls outside of the traditional conception of strictly either female or male, regardless of whether or not the student identifies as transgender, was born with intersex traits, uses gender-neutral pronouns, or uses agender, genderqueer, pangender, gender nonconforming, gender variant, or such other more specific term to describe their gender.

Transgender student means a student whose gender identity is different from the gender assigned at birth.

On July 21, 2014, President Obama signed Executive Order 13672, adding "gender identity" to the categories protected against discrimination in hiring in the federal civilian workforce and both "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the categories protected against discrimination in hiring and employment on the part of federal government contractors and sub-contractors. The law made California the first state in the US to require all single-occupancy public toilets to be gender-neutral beginning March 1, 2017. This includes California schools, government buildings, businesses and public toilets.

Education Code Regulation 5145.3 (originally adopted in 2016, last revised in 2021) is about Nondiscrimination/

Harassment. It explains the School District/Schools responsibility about nondiscrimination, as well as when they do and don't inform/include the parents or other individuals about the student's gender decisions. You are probably thinking I am talking about older children. I am not. The code requires the schools to provide handbooks that are age appropriate with information about the district's non-discrimination policy and how to file a complaint.

Washington Unified School District (WUSD) rightfully prohibits the harassment or discrimination of these and all students. Part of the protection of the student includes only revealing the student's gender identity to those whom have a "legitimate need for the information." This does not include the parents unless the child gives permission. In addition, though without proper documentation, the student's legal name on their official file cannot be changed, but the student's name and gender can be changed on their unofficial records such as attendance, report cards and school identification.

WUSD will offer a compliance officer to discuss the transformation with the student (and parents/guardian if student agrees) to identify and develop strategies to ensure the students access to all programs (such as sports). They will also form a support team who will assess whether the arrangements for the students are being met and to educate appropriate staff about their transition. Parents across California are in an uproar. Not because of the support for the kids, but because it can and often is kept from the parents. What happened to teaching them honesty?

"I get it that they want to teach the kids not to be rude to people for any reason, including the color of their skin or

something like how they feel about their gender, but I would like the parents to know," said local father, John Balardi. "At the end of the day, I want my daughter informed about not being rude for any reason, but something like that I want her to be taught at home. I want the parents to know and have the option to opt out. There have been times when I have seen my daughter be in a conversation and when she went to repeat it some crazy stuff came out of her mouth. I can only imagine how she would process something like this.

WUSD provided the following statement. "First and foremost, it's important for all students, families, and staff to know that Washington Unified School District (WUSD) is committed to educational excellence and equity by identifying and removing systemic barriers stemming from inequitable practices, policies, and bias. WUSD is laser-focused on its commitment by cultivating healthy relationships, creating a safe and empowering environment, and ensuring that all students, staff, and families are valued, accepted, and supported through embracing and celebrating their individual uniqueness.

WUSD does not teach, nor is there a Board Policy requiring the teaching about transgender issues and the use of pronouns at the elementary and primary grade levels.

WUSD has specific policies to prevent and protect students from discrimination and harassment (BP/AR 5145.3: Nondiscrimination/Harassment) at school and in school-related activities. Additionally, as outlined in BP/AR 5145.3, if a student so chooses, district personnel must address the student by a name and the pronoun(s) consistent with the student's gender identity." ★

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DA Restorative Justice Program Receives \$2.1 Million Justice Assistance Grant

Yolo County DA News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - On April 13, 2023, the CA Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) formally approved a grant of \$2,145,000 over three years to support the Yolo County District Attorney's Restorative Justice Partnership (RJP) program. The DA's RJP grant application ranked number one out of 10 mid-size counties competing for funding.

RJP is Yolo's flagship prosecutor-led adult criminal diversion program and uses a facilitated conference model which prioritizes accountability and repairing harms according to the principles of restorative justice. Yolo DA remains at the forefront of the restorative justice movement and has built a track record of success over its nearly ten years of operation. The program significantly expanded eligibility criteria in 2019 and achieved the goal of diverting 10% of the County's filed felonies. This new grant will maintain the 2019 expansion and fund additional behavioral health staff

to address gaps in mental health service capacity. The new positions will serve as mental health liaisons and provide supportive case management to participants facing significant barriers to success.

Diversion provides a pathway for individuals to address criminal offenses outside the traditional court process without obtaining a conviction. An independent evaluation in 2017 found that RJP graduates were 37% less likely to recidivate, and only 5.9% of program participants were rearrested within one year of completing the program. Some of the barriers to program success that have been identified include untreated mental health and/or substance use, and socioeconomic needs. RJP participants can now receive case management services, benefits screening, and rehabilitative programming to address these barriers as part of their diversion. An independent evaluator from an academic institution is currently working on RJP Outcome Measures for the past three years.

RJP's innovative model relies on trained community volunteers who donate their time to enable the

program to operate. These volunteers serve as the voice of their communities to express how they have been harmed and what is needed to make things right. They play an integral role in making criminal justice more healing and helping individuals make amends and reintegrate into the community. Program volunteer Lorna C describes the process this way: "[We] look for ways to better understand them, ways to identify, to help them understand, and also understand the myriad harms that can come to ourselves, our community, our family... And we know when done well and they are almost invariably done well, [this] will impact a person, will make a positive influence on their life for possibly years to come..."

Want to join this dedicated group? RJP will hold a 2-part volunteer panelist training this Spring. Interested Yolo residents can sign up to volunteer by emailing RJPartnership@yolocounty.org or by visiting the DA website at: <https://yoloda.org/progressive-programs/restorative-justice-partnership> for more information. ★

New Footbridge Over Highway 50

Continued from page 1
living in West Sacramento who will be able to let their children ride their bicycles to school. Completion of the entire stretch of Sycamore trail, she says, will offer a safe route for children to walk or to use a bicycle. She also spoke of the anticipation that pedestrian and bicycle travel will reduce the number of automobile trips. Human powered transportation,

she explains, will eventually reduce the amount of air pollution in the area.

City leaders expressed their optimism that the bridge project will promote the completion of work on earlier phases of the Sycamore Trail project, as the area between West Capitol Avenue and Rice Avenue still requires attention that includes broken fencing and landscaping along the trail leading to the railroad tracks. Jason

Puopolo, Parks Operations Superintendent for the City of West Sacramento, describes the work on the early phase of the bicycle and pedestrian trail may not be completed until 2025.

Despite uncertainty about the final completion date for the entire length of Sycamore Trail, the bicycle and pedestrian route will offer a safer, more direct route from the North to the South part of town. ★

Woodland Opera House Announces 2023-24 Season

Woodland Opera House News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - The Woodland Opera House is excited to officially announce its production schedule for the upcoming 2023-2024 season. The lineup includes a variety of Main Series and Family Series shows and two Rising Stars productions that include youth only casts. The season offers great comedy, contemporary and classic musicals, and includes something special for every age group.

The Main and Family Series productions are as follows:

The SpongeBob Musical,

August 11-27, 2023; *The Addams Family*, October 6-29, 2023; Andrew Lloyd Webber's *School of Rock*, November 17-December 10, 2023; Comedy (Title to be announced in October 2023), January 19-February 4, 2024; Disney's *Descendants: The Musical*, March 1-17-2024; *Damn Yankees*, April 12-May 5, 2024; Peter and the Starcatcher, June 14-30, 2024.

Rising Stars productions: Roald Dahl's *Matilda The Musical JR.*, September 7-10, 2023 (cast ages 11-18 years old); Disney-Pixar *Finding Nemo JR.*, February 16-18, 2024 (cast ages 7-14 years old)

Season tickets are currently on sale with (3) packages to choose from: Package A (Main Series productions), Package B (Family Series productions), and Package C (All Main/Family Series productions). Contact the Box Office for information and purchase at (530) 666-9617 or go to www.WoodlandOperaHouse.Org. Early bird pricing applies through May 12, 2023.

The Opera House is located in historic downtown Woodland, just 15 miles northwest of Sacramento. Many wonderful shops and a variety of restaurants are within walking distance of the theatre. ★

Virtual Employment Center Launched for Residents and Local Businesses

Yolo County News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - YoloWorks! has launched a new Virtual Employment Center that connects Yolo County jobseekers to career services in an innovative, easy to navigate online platform. Additionally, local businesses can use the Virtual Employment Center to help with recruitment and job postings, find information about wage reimbursement programs and more.

To get started, Yolo County jobseekers or local businesses can visit www.yoloworks.org and either select the pop-up window or chatbot to schedule an appointment.

Services offered to Yolo County residents through a one-on-one meeting with an employment specialist or Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) case manager include:

Resume Assistance, Interview Skills and Techniques, Job Search Assistance, Career Planning, Information on training opportunities.

Services offered for local businesses, with assistance from a WIOA business services specialist, include:

Job Posting Assistance, CalJobs Assistance, Wage Reimbursement Program Information, Job Fair/Recruitment Information, Business Closure/Layoff Assistance.

The Virtual Employment Center, developed on Google Cloud, is a joint partnership of the Yolo County Workforce Innovation Board, Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) and the American Job Centers of California (YoloWorks! Career Centers). For more information, contact Erica Johnson, HHSA program manager, at erica.johnson@yolocounty.org or call/text (530) 631-2289. ★

West Sacramento News Briefs

MPG Staff

Registration is now open for the Kifalme Youth Gathering

Black is Beautiful! Kifalme means royal in Swahili, so come through for a day of learning, processing, healing and celebrating your greatness at this free day-long event to build a better future together. All 7th-12th grade students welcome. Event to be held at River City High School, 1 Raider Lane, on April 29, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Breakfast, snacks and BBQ lunch provided. Any questions, contact Andrea Barajas (530) 668-3786 or email andrea.barajas@ycoe.org.

Summer Camp June 5-August 11

Interest forms are now available to enroll your student in the WUSD Summer Camp Program, from June 5-August 11. Summer Camp hours are 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Parents can drop off and pick up students at their convenience.

WUSD Summer Camps will be offered at Bridgeway Island, Riverbank, Stonegate, and Southport elementary schools. These sites are community sites and open to all current WUSD TK-8th grade students. Parents/guardians are able to select which site their student will attend for Summer Camp.

Earth Day Celebration at The Barn

Join us Saturday, April 22nd from 12-4 p.m. as we celebrate Earth Day at The Barn. This party for our mother earth will include: Workshops by Hella Leaf (tickets available), Workshops by Miridae Mobile Nursery Music by Meraki Events, Flavorful Food & Beverage specials.

Yolo County Children's Alliance - Friday Food Distributions 1200 Anna Street, West Sac, 8 a.m., 4/21, 4/28

VITA Super Saturday - Get help with your taxes! 4/22

Workforce Development - Workforce Wednesdays - Stop by The Center at 2455 West Capitol Ave. #118 every Wednesday from 3-6 p.m. to receive free work placement assistance!

YCCA Ongoing Direct Services - 1200 Anna Street, West Sac, M-F 8 a.m.-5 p.m., 916-572-0560 | Resource & Referral

Food Distributions - Every Friday, 9 a.m. until supplies last. 1200 Anna Street.

For more food distribution locations, please visit the Yolo Food Bank.

Free Diapers - Call the Family Resource Center at 916-572-0560

Emergency Food - Call the Family Resource Center at 916-572-0560

Rental/Utility Support - YCCA Homeless Prevention Program, 530-902-9288. Call for appointment, M-F 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Covered California & MediCal - Community Health Initiative, 530-979-7062. Call for appointment, M-F 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

CalFresh Enrollment - Community Health Initiative, 530-979-7062. Call for appointment, M-F 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Help Me Grow Yolo County - Child ages 0-5 Free Developmental Screenings, 916-572-0560. Call for appointment, M-F 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Youth Workforce Development - WIOA and Workforce Development, 530-902-6027. The Center at 2455 West Capitol Ave., #118. Call for questions about being a workplace partner. Drop-in M-F for support in developing your career! ★

Tanya Aguilera

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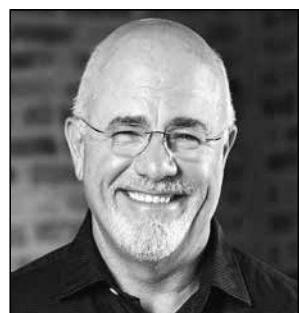


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Gen Zers and Millennials? I Love 'Em!

Dear Dave,

I am the managing partner of a family business. We would like to add to our team, but I'm worried we can't try to hold millennials and Gen Zers to the same standards as other generations without losing them. How do you feel about this?

– Sarah

Dear Sarah,

Listen, I've got a building full of Gen Zers and millennials – and I love them. If you hire the rights ones, you're getting people who love calluses on their hands and on their brains. They make the interview process easy too, because there are just two types from these generations: the ones who are unbelievably awesome and the ones who aren't. But the great ones are not afraid of hard work. They're passionate, intelligent and mission driven. I mean, they'll charge the gates of hell with water pistols for something

Dave Ramsey Says

they believe in.

But that means you have to provide meaning in the work they do. They want to see that their work connects to something that matters. They want to be treated with dignity, not like units of production. And they have inquiring minds. Most of them want to know why you do things the way you do them. All that is perfectly okay with me and always has been.

Now, they're the worst two generations to work for someone who's just a boss. That's because bosses push while leaders pull. If you're going to pull, you have to inform, communicate and share a vision that draws people into your mission. Bosses, for the most part, have a "do it this way because I said so" attitude. That's not going to last long with Gen Zers and millennials.

I get where you're coming from though, Sarah. I've still got friends and business associates who tell me we're going to lose everyone from these generations if we don't cave in and give them things like "the flexibility to work from home" – which really means, "I don't want to work much" or "I want to work all the

time." Listen, I understand not everyone who works from home falls into one of those two categories, but some of them do. There are folks who put in 80 hours a week because they can't put their screens down and live a life. Or they work three hours a day and call it "working from home." That's not working from home – that's working part-time hours for full-time pay. And that's called stealing.

But millennials and Gen Zers? I'm a huge fan of these generations. I truly, personally like them. They are, for the most part, genuine, real people and hard workers. If you give them what you should as a leader, they'll blow you away with their smarts and what they're capable of achieving!

– 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, He also serves as CEO of Ramsey Solutions. ★

Kings and Kaiser Permanente Present Sabonis with Community Crossover Award

Sacramento Kings News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Friday, April 7, 2023, the Sacramento Kings recognized center Domantas Sabonis with the 2023 Community Crossover Award presented by Kaiser Permanente. The award, formerly known as the Oscar Robertson Triple Double Award, is given to a Kings player each year who excels both on and off the court while also making significant contributions to the community.

"I am honored to be the recipient of this year's Community Crossover Award," said Sacramento Kings center Domantas Sabonis. "My family and I love Sacramento and this community and it means a great deal to us to be able to give back and support, especially our youth."

This season, Sabonis and his wife, Shashana, launched the Sabonis Squad, adopting Caroline Wenzel Elementary school and providing support and supplies. As part of the Sacramento Kings 21st Annual Season of Doing Good presented by Raley's, the Sabonis' surprised students from the elementary after-school program and provided food courtesy of Dos Coyotes, coats courtesy of Old Navy and books to read over the holiday break. Students who finished their book were given a chance to win Kings swag and game tickets. In addition, the Sabonis family has



On Friday, April 7, 2023, Sacramento Kings player Domantas Sabonis was recognized with this year's Community Crossover Award presented by Kaiser Permanente. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Kings

provided PE equipment to the school.

To show his appreciation to the Sacramento community and Kings fans, Sabonis surprised individuals at a local barber shop (The 916 Cuts) and a community park (Franklin D. Roosevelt Park) with tickets to a Kings game.

In addition, Sabonis has excelled as a leader on the court, averaging 19.2 points and team-highs of 12.4 rebounds and 7.3 assists per game. Along with leading the Kings, Sabonis is the NBA's league-leader in rebounding, total rebounds (964) and double-doubles (65) while ranking second in triple-doubles (14) and fifth in total assists (568). He has helped guide Sacramento to a postseason berth with a 12.5 win shares

rating and 9.5 offensive win shares rating, which both rank second in the NBA.

Sabonis will be presented the award by Sacramento Kings Chief Operating Officer Martina Kolokotronis and General Manager Monte McNair tonight before the Kings take on the Golden State Warriors at Golden 1 Center.

Inaugurated in 2003, prior award winners include some of the most recognizable figures in Kings team history, such as Chris Webber (2003), Vlade Divac (2004), Peja Stojakovic (2005), De'Aaron Fox (2019) in addition to back-to-back honors for Corliss Williamson (2006 and 2007), Garrett Temple (2017 and 2018) and Harrison Barnes (2021 and 2022). ★

Newsom Backtracks on Walgreens Ban

Assembly Republican News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In a turn of events that will surprise nobody, Governor Newsom's been forced to backtrack on his Walgreens ban, and even invited the company to reapply for a contract that was supposedly canceled.

Explaining the sudden turnaround,

Newsom spokesman Anthony York insisted, "Tweeting is not policy."

Sounds like the governor's been taking his own advice from 2016, when he claimed "the American people always support 'strong and wrong'" leaders.

So that begs the question - can Californians trust anything Newsom tweets?

Can they trust anything he says? ★

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Crime Reports

WEST SACRAMENTO

March 28, 2023 - April 12, 2023

- 4-7-23 MARY CAREY Arrested for shoplifting and petty theft.
- 4-7-23 RONALD DOGAN Notice to appear for possession of paraphernalia and possession of controlled substance.
- 4-7-23 ASHLEY MOORE Arrested for warrant.
- 4-8-23 SHEELA GUAJARDO Arrested for possession of controlled substance, possession of stolen vehicle, driving without a license, possession of paraphernalia and a warrant a traffic stop for a broken brake light.
- 4-9-23 CHEYENNE GUNTON Arrested for two warrants and possession of a controlled substance after allegedly being caught in a stolen vehicle.
- 4-9-23 CHRISTINA PARISH Arrested for trespassing after allegedly running around an apartment complex, banging on doors.
- 4-9-23 MICHAEL CELLO Arrested for disorderly conduct:alcohol after allegedly checking doors at an apartment complex.
- 4-11-23 OU SAECHAO Arrested for three warrants after a traffic stop.
- 4-11-23 ROBERT MEDFORD Arrested for a bench warrant after he flagged down a police officer.
- 4-12-23 HIPOLITO BARRAZA Arrested for bench warrant after he was allegedly observed laying on ground next to building, by an officer.

INCIDENT/CRIME REPORTS

- 3-28-23 Incident report regarding felony stop.
- 3-31-23 Unknown suspect siphoned gas out from underground tank. \$791 loss. Robbery.
- 3-31-23 Suspicious employee.
- 4-05-23 Vehicle vandalism on Port St. \$5,000 loss. Vandalism.
- 4-06-23 Grand theft of cigarette cartons. \$3,337 loss. Grand theft.
- 4-06-23 Unknown suspects stole \$6,000 worth of cigarettes from vehicle. \$6,000 loss. Grand theft.
- 4-07-23 Vehicle burglary. \$0 loss. Burglary.
- 4-10-23 During the hours of darkness someone stole a catalytic converter off of victim's vehicle \$1,200 loss. Grand theft.
- 4-11-23 Owner of vehicle stopped three suspects from attempting to steal his vehicle that was parked on the street. The suspects fled on foot. Suspect arrived in a stolen vehicle out of West Sacramento. \$0 loss. Take vehicle without owner's permission/vehicle theft.
- 4-11-23 Grand theft, six totes of cigarettes taken and worth over \$20,000. \$20,000 loss. Grand theft:exceeds \$950.
- 4-11-23 The victim stated a female she has known for a week had her two sons come over to her house. When the sons arrived one of them pulled a gun on her and took her purse. Unknown name of sons. Mother is only known by first name. Robbery.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Check here first!
To find out how to list your place of worship in this directory, call (916) 371-8030 for more information.

<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 14px;">Seventh Day Adventist Church</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sasa Andelkovic, Senior Pastor</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2860 Jefferson Blvd., W. Sac. PO Box 447, W. Sac. 95691</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sat. Sabbath School 9:30 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. (916) 372-6570</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 14px;">Community Lutheran Church</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 10px;">Join us for a positive, uplifting message! We welcome all!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday Service at 10 a.m. 920 Drever St. (916) 317-8804 Facebook.com/ CommunityLutheranWestSacramento</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 14px;">New Seasons Church</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 10px;">Your Church in West Sacramento Pastor Ron Jackson</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday Service 9:30 a.m. 2124 Michigan Blvd., West Sacramento, CA 95691 (916) 265-4025 pastorron@newseasonsws.com www.newseasonsws.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 14px;">Trinity Presbyterian Church</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 10px;">1500 Park Blvd. W. Sacramento (916) 371-5875 www.TrinityWestSac.org info@trinitywestsac.org Pastor Jamie Crook Spanish Ministry Pastor: Miryam Osorio Sunday Worship Services: 10 a.m. Blended/Traditional Noon Spanish Language</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 14px;">West Sacramento Baptist Church</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sun. School - 9:30 a.m. Sun. Worship - 11 a.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study - 6:30 p.m. 2124 Michigan Blvd. (916) 371-2111</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 14px;">Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 10px;">911 Park Blvd, West Sacramento Office: (916) 371-4814 Fr. Mathew Rappu, Pastor Mass: Mon, Tues, Wed 8:30 a.m. Fri 8:30 a.m. at OLG school during school year Sat: 5:30 p.m. vigil, Sun: 9 a.m., 11 a.m.</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 14px;">Center for Spiritual Awareness</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 10px;">1275 Starboard Dr. (916) 374-9177 (For prayer line, listen for prompt) Sun. Service: 11 a.m. Youth Programs & Jr. Church Rev. Georgia Prescott www.csasacramento.org for weekly affirmations All are welcome!</p>	

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20230225
The following person(s) is doing business as: Proinso Latam, 1030 Riverside Parkway, Suite 130, West Sacramento, CA 95605.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20230200
The following person(s) is doing business as: FuyuRain, 38000 County Road 144, Clarksburg, CA 95612, County of Yolo.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20230229
The following person(s) is doing business as: Original Aram's, 1002 Waterford Drive, West Sacramento, CA 95605.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20230265
The following person(s) is doing business as: Night Market, 22 5th St, Woodland, CA 95695, County of Yolo.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20230246
The following person(s) is doing business as: Coding and More, Robin Bell, 1732 Del Rey Street, Woodland, CA 95695.

ness is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on June 1, 2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20230181
The following person(s) is doing business as: DoJo Enterprises, 812 Arthur Drive, West Sacramento, CA 95605.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20230277
The following person(s) is doing business as: OT Press, 3166 Pender Island Street, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20230224
The following person(s) is doing business as: Alumalux USA / Exterior Perfection / Alumalux Coatings / Alumalux / Speedy Plots, 2509 Del Monte Street, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20230308
The following person(s) is doing business as: Absolute Mortgage Company / Boschken Properties / Flat Coat Travel / Boschken Lock & Key, 133 F Street, Davis, CA 95616.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20230393
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: CALREPAIRS, 1706 Donner Way, Woodland, CA 95695

This business is conducted by a limited liability company The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20230289
The following person(s) is doing business as: A.P. Studio, 3540 Silverwood Road, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20230342
The following person(s) is doing business as: Ludy's BBQ, 392 Main Street, Woodland, CA 95695.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20230263
The following person(s) is doing business as: Palm Gardens Senior Living, 240 Palm Avenue, Woodland, CA 95695.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20230343
The following person(s) is doing business as: Omega Motorcycle 1551 Merkle Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20230352
The following person(s) is doing business as: Heal & Conquer Counseling Services, 1601 Merkle Avenue, #592, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

CA 94691. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 4/5/2023.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20230286
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: 1. UNIVERSITY COURT, 2. UNIVERSITY COURT APARTMENTS, 515 SYCAMORE LANE, DAVIS, CA 95616

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF YOLO

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF YOLO

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF RUSSELL M. KING
CASE NO. PR2023-0078
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Russell M. King.

Publish: March 31, April 7, 14 & 21, 2023
EVELINA 4-21-23

Olga Sanchez De Maravilla has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Olga Sanchez De Maravilla aka Olga Sanchez Moreno aka Olga Sanchez to Olga Torres.

Farhad Ahmadzai has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Farhad Ahmadzai to Farhad Azad.

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF RUSSELL M. KING
CASE NO. PR2023-0078
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Russell M. King.

admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: April 28, 2023, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 14. Superior Court of California, County of Yolo, 1000 Main Street, Woodland, CA 95695.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

May 4, 2023

Pursuant to Government Code Section 66018, the West Sacramento Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on Thursday May 4, 2023, at West Sacramento Civic Center, City Council Chambers, 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, California, at 6:00 PM or as soon thereafter as possible on the item(s) listed below.

Members of the public are welcome to watch the meeting Livestream (https://www.cityofwestsacramento.org/government/meetings-agendas/planning-commission), or via Astound Broadband Channel 20 and to submit comments in writing by 4:00 PM on May 4, 2023.

To submit a comment in writing, please email tanyaf@cityofwestsacramento.org and write "Public Comment" in the subject line. In the body of the email, include the item number and/or title of the item as well as your comments.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Public Hearing Regarding 2370 & 2400 Harmon Road Tentative Parcel Map 5225

(Hardy)
The applicant is requesting approval of a vesting tentative parcel map to subdivide two parcels located in the Rural Core area zoned Rural Residential (RRA), totaling ±4.44 acres, into four lots. The project is located at 2370/2400 Harmon Road (APN 046-130-033, 042). The project is exempt from CEQA under §15315 (Minor Land Divisions). Applicant: Harmony Properties, LLC Attn: Linda Kimsey Owner: John Pierson, 2370 Harmon Road, West Sacramento, CA 95691

David W. Tilley, Secretary
West Sacramento Planning Commission

If you disagree with the decision of the Planning Commission, you have a right of appeal. Only persons who participated in the review process by submitting written testimony or oral testimony at the public hearing, may appeal. Appeals are limited to those issues raised at the Planning Commission meeting.

West Sac News Ledger 4-21-2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Purpose: The Governing Board of the Washington Unified School District, in order to comply with the requirements of Board Policy 6142.7 will hold a public hearing on April 27, 2023, at 6:00 pm. To remain in compliance with this statute, River City High School must submit a waiver to the California State Board of Education requesting that students complete their required physical education minutes every 10 school days within one term as opposed to throughout the required yearly minutes, but exceed the total minutes required yearly, thereby meeting Education Code.

Date: Thursday, April 27, 2023

Time: Meeting begins at 6:00 pm

Location: 1110 W. Capitol Ave., Second Floor, West Sacramento, CA 95691

West Sac News Ledger 4-21-2023

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Record Snowfall Anticipated to Bring High, Fast Rivers and Streams



Record snowfall anticipated to bring high, fast rivers and streams this spring. State parks, Dept. of Water Resources and Cal Fire urge the public to take extra precautions as snowmelt increases. Image courtesy of Curt Squires | Pixabay

Cal Fire Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - With this season's statewide snowpack at 227% of average as of March 27, California State Parks' Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW), the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) are urging the public to take extra precautions and to be aware of cold-water dangers this spring to avoid a tragedy. The series of winter storms is causing rising river and stream flow levels not seen in years. The eventual spring warm-up will bring fast flows and cold temperatures when all that snow starts to melt. All Californians are being encouraged to wait until summer to recreate in the water, when conditions are safer.

"After successive low-water drought years, it is imperative that Californians understand water safety in and around rivers, streams, lakes and Sierra reservoirs," said State Parks Director Armando Quintero. "As the temperature rises, snowmelt-fed waterways can quickly induce incapacitating cold-water shock to even the strongest swimmers. We encourage everyone to follow the advice of public safety officials and avoid entering waterways if asked to do so."

"California has one of the largest snowpacks on record," said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. "As this snowpack melts in the coming months, the waterways will be especially cold, fast, and running higher than normal. Be aware of fluctuating water levels. We want everyone to always make safety a top priority when recreating."

"This year is very different from the last several years, in that the excessive snowpack and rain will continue to create challenges for us in the weeks and months ahead. Rising water levels in rivers and streams will be very cold, very fast and can easily overwhelm those that aren't prepared or don't heed warnings," said CAL FIRE Chief Joe Tyler. "Our teams will continue to focus on localized flooding risks, potential for major flooding, water rescues and our operational capabilities to support our communities moving into the spring and summer months."

All three departments hope to educate not only regular water enthusiasts but occasional visitors to high, fast-running waterways who may venture near the edge to test the water or take selfies. Just one slip or unwatched child can become a devastating drowning statistic.

Here are some key safety points to

know before heading outdoors:

Plan Ahead

Prior to leaving home, check the status of the park unit you want to visit to find out what restrictions and guidelines are in place. Know your GPS coordinates so you can provide your location in case of emergency. Alert someone where you are going and your expected return time. Be sure to let them know when you return safely.

Know the Water

Do not enter cold, fast-running water. It can be dangerous not only to you but also for first responders. Many unseen obstacles can be lurking below the water's surface, this is especially the case with this year's expected high runoff following low water years. Drought-stricken forests and storm-driven landslides have filled rivers with submerged trees and rocks. Swift water can make these obstacles even more treacherous. Sudden immersion in cold water can stimulate the "gasp reflex," causing an involuntary inhalation of air or water and can start the drowning process immediately. It can even trigger cardiac arrest, temporary paralysis, hypothermia and drowning. Never enter the water to rescue a victim. Throw something that floats and call 9-1-1.

Know your Limits

Swimming in open water is more difficult than in a swimming pool, people tire more quickly and can get into trouble. Never go on the water alone. If available, guided trips for solo or inexperienced floaters or paddlers are recommended.

Know about Life Jackets

Although life jackets are strongly recommended when recreating in or near waterways, this year's expected high runoff in rivers can be dangerous even with the use of life jackets. Conditions change quickly in open water and even the best swimmers can misjudge the water and their skills when boating or swimming. Wearing a properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket can increase survival time.

Learn more about life jackets at www.BoatCalifornia.com.

Know how to Supervise

Actively supervise children in and around open bodies of water, giving them your undivided attention. Do not assume that someone is watching them. Appoint a designated "water watcher," taking turns with other adults.

Teach children that swimming in open water is not the same as swimming in a pool: they need to be aware of uneven surfaces, river currents, ocean undertow and changing weather. ★

A Failure to Communicate

Continued from page 1

— including in-person press conferences, with an opportunity for follow-up questions, and media phone lines where journalists could talk to a live staffer — disappeared three years ago with the shutdown orders and have been slow to return, if at all.

Changes that reporters and public information officers adopted to do their jobs virtually in a strange new stay-at-home world became ingrained, encouraging practices, such as written statements instead of interviews, that offer less clarity and greater distance between state government and the people it serves.

This tension — between journalists seeking accountability and a bureaucracy that does not always welcome scrutiny — is not new. Covering state government has grown more difficult in recent years with fewer reporters covering the Capitol and social media offering politicians new ways to reach constituents and voters without speaking to the press. Those trends were exacerbated by restrictions applied during the pandemic.

The risk is a decline of "open, honest and transparent communication" essential to the functioning of democracy, said David Loy, legal director of the First Amendment Coalition, a nonprofit that advocates for a free press and government disclosure.

Media outlets across the state note rejected interview requests, challenges obtaining public records or the lack of any official response in their stories (see this story online at CalMatters.org for specific details).

"These message control practices do real harm to the public interest," Loy said. "Because the people need to know the full story, not just the official story."

No standard communications policy

There is no shortage of people responsible for the state government's communication of public information: 435 employees in the executive branch, to be exact, according to a count conducted for CalMatters by the Department of Human Resources. An analysis of salary ranges based on job titles found that the annual cost to taxpayers is between \$36.5 million and \$44.8 million.

There are even more press aides working for other branches, such as the Legislature, the judiciary and public universities.

The jobs of these communications officials extend beyond answering reporters' questions and can include duties such as developing public relations strategies, writing speeches and managing social media accounts.

Yet, besides laws mandating open meetings and the release of public records, California does not have standards for appropriate public communications. Policies are at the discretion of those hundreds of individual agencies and departments.

Emails, not interviews

The obstacles and troubling behavior highlighted by the Capitol Correspondents Association of California are broader and more pervasive.

Many offices have moved nearly entirely toward written communications, directing a reporter who does reach someone by phone to instead send their questions by email.

During the pandemic, Julie Watts of television station CBS Sacramento spent two years investigating health and safety failures at a state-funded COVID-19 testing lab. She was never allowed to speak with Health and Human Services Secretary Mark Ghaly, who oversaw the state's coronavirus response, or Department of Public Health officials about her findings, even after Newsom directed her questions to Ghaly.

Watts said she was forced to rely on written statements, which documents and reports often later revealed to be inaccurate or untrue. Was California getting false information about the effectiveness of the lab, or covering up negligence?

"The answers they were sending us in writing were disingenuous," Watts said, adding that it made her question whether the state had something to hide. "We were talking about complex, scientific issues. And it's difficult to convey that to the public when it's hundreds of back-and-forth emails."

The written responses crafted by communications staff are often sent anonymously from a general email account, as though coming from the entire faceless bureaucracy rather than a particular spokesperson. For example, media inquiries fulfilled by the state Department of Justice, which is overseen by Attorney General Rob Bonta, are generally signed only "Press Office."

Demanding better practices

In the guidelines it

shared with reporters last month, the correspondents association recommended that media describe the rejection of an interview request in the story, alongside the written statement that an agency provides instead.

The association urged journalists not to provide questions in advance of an interview, other than a general description of the information they are seeking, writing: "Journalism ethics requires us to maintain our objectivity, and by giving these questions in advance you would be providing the office or agency an opportunity to rehearse for a basic function of their job and take control of the messaging."

Speed vs. accuracy

State communications officials said they aim to provide timely and accurate information to the media and the public, but those values are not always aligned.

Complex inquiries from reporters can require consulting multiple subject-matter experts for thorough answers and obtaining many layers of approval, sometimes in conjunction with other agencies.

Officials said they generally ask for questions in advance because it helps them determine who is best equipped to handle the inquiry. Providing interviews with agency staff can require a lot of preparation and coordinating schedules, so they often prefer to send written responses instead.

Because many state employees are still primarily working from home, some large communications offices do everything by email so that their staff can collectively track and respond to the media inquiries they receive throughout the day.

These policies are generally not unlawful, noted Loy of the First Amendment Coalition, because public officials and state agencies are not legally obligated to speak to the press.

But many of them are nevertheless antithetical to the spirit of open government, he said, preventing journalists from obtaining the public information that they need to hold the government to account.

"Is the government there to serve the people or is the government there to be a spin machine?" Loy said. "It may seem inconvenient to the government, but at the end of the day, a government that is most accountable to the people is the best government." ★

City Asks Rail Operator to Halt Biodiesel Transfers

Continued from page 1

only access road to the site of the transloading facility — presents a number of safety problems. North Harbor is a narrow, winding levee roadway that is not a permitted truck

route. Additionally, trucks must traverse a steep and precarious path from North Harbor to access the site used by Top Rail (owned by Sierra Northern Railway) to transload fuels. Vehicles traveling on the

road do not have adequate visibility to see inbound and outbound trucks carrying flammable material. Top Rail appears to have disregarded these obvious flaws when planning their operations. ★



**Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl**

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West Sacramento News Ledger

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Celebrate the Season at the Old Sacramento Spring Festival

**T-Rock Communications
News Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Come one, come all! The Sacramento History Museum invites the community to celebrate the season during a fun, free and family-friendly Old Sacramento Spring Festival happening on Sunday, April 30. The 2nd annual festival takes place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the 1849 Scene – the sycamore-shaded lawn just across from the Sacramento History Museum and California State Railroad Museum – at the Old Sacramento Waterfront.

A collaboration of the Sacramento History Museum, Sacramento Living History, and the Sacramento Country Dance Society, the 2nd Annual Old Sacramento Spring Festival is highlighted by hourly dances around a 15-foot maypole – complete with a crown and ribbons – as well as traditional country dances to live music performed by the six-member Quite Carried Away band.

Over time and throughout centuries, similar spring celebrations and traditions cross various cultures. In Sacramento, “City of Festivals” spring celebrations date back to 1885 when the “Grand Festival of Flowers” honored philanthropist and

art museum founder Margaret Crocker. The upcoming Old Sacramento Spring Festival draws from that tradition, as well as Camellia Festivals that celebrated Sacramento’s now 160-year association with its official flower.

In addition to dancing, festival attendees can also enjoy demonstrations by the Sacramento County Dance Society, hands-on arts-and-crafts stations, hobby-horse races, gold panning, lawn games such as cornhole and giant Jenga, and more.

For more information about the Old Sacramento Spring Festival, the Sacramento History Museum or Sacramento Living History, please visit www.sachistorymuseum.org.

The Sacramento History Museum is supported by the Sacramento History Alliance, a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that also manages the Sacramento Visitors Center, Old Sacramento Underground Tours, Gold Fever! Games, Anytime Tours, and Living History Programs, and works collaboratively with the City of Sacramento to support the Center for Sacramento History. For more information about the Sacramento History Museum and Sacramento History Alliance, please visit www.sachistorymuseum.org. ★

Western US Receives \$585 Million to Bolster Water Infrastructure

Samantha Flom, Epoch Times
Reprinted by permission

Nearly \$585 million from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will be allocated toward water infrastructure repairs in the western United States, the Department of the Interior announced on April 6.

The funds will go toward 83 projects across 11 states to “improve water conveyance and storage, increase safety, improve hydro power generation, and provide water treatment.”

“President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is making a historic investment to provide clean, reliable water to families, farmers, and tribes,” Deputy Secretary of the Interior Tommy Beaudreau said in a statement. “As we work to address record drought and changing climate conditions throughout the West, these investments in our aging water infrastructure will conserve community water supplies and revitalize water delivery systems.”

According to the department, every major river basin and region under the Bureau of Reclamation’s purview will benefit from the funding, including projects in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, and Washington.

Projects will focus on increasing canal capacity, providing water treatment for tribal nations, replacing hydropower production equipment, and conducting maintenance on aging infrastructure.

“These projects have been identified through a rigorous process and is a testament to the Bureau of Reclamation’s commitment to deliver water to future generations,” Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton said. “As we manage through changing climate, we must look to the safety of our projects to ensure that we can continue to provide clean, reliable water to communities, irrigators, and ecosystems across the west.”

Infrastructure Package

The \$1.2 trillion infrastructure law, passed in 2021, included \$8.3 billion over a period of five years for Bureau of Reclamation projects.

On Jan. 4, President Joe Biden and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) held a joint press conference in support of the infrastructure law, praising the bipartisan efforts that successfully passed it.

“I believe it sends an important message to the entire country,” Biden said at the time. “We can work together. We can get things done. We can move the nation forward if we just drop a little bit of our egos and focus on what is needed in the country.”

McConnell, in agreement with Biden, said he was “proud” of his vote for the bill.

“Nationally, this was one of the big projects in the entire country to deal with the crumbling infrastructure that we’ve all been talking about for years, and so we finally stepped up together and addressed it,” the senator said.

Republicans, however, have criticized the measure and McConnell for supporting it.

“There’s nothing to celebrate about a woke, bloated infrastructure law full of waste, labor union handouts, and green giveaways,” former United Nations Ambassador and 2024 Republican presidential candidate Nikki Haley told Fox News. “Republicans shouldn’t play center stage in Biden’s publicity stunt.”

Meanwhile, when the bill was passed, Rep. Chip Roy (R-Texas) called it a “trojan horse.”

“[The bill] gives unprecedented spending power to unelected Washington bureaucrats, and it funnels billions of taxpayer dollars into renewable energy projects that will devastate our increasingly unreliable grid,” Roy said in a statement. “Perhaps most absurdly, it will use taxpayer money to put critical race theory into practice with things like a \$2.75 billion ‘digital equity program.’”

“That 13 House Republicans provided the votes needed to pass this is absurd,” he added.

In total, legislation passed under the Biden administration has provided nearly \$13 billion in funding for water infrastructure and drought resilience projects, including \$4.6 billion under the Inflation Reduction Act.

The newly announced allocation builds upon the \$240 million distributed for such projects through the infrastructure law last year. ★

How Will Newsom and Legislators Deal With Growing Revenue Shortfalls?



**By Dan Walters,
CALMatters.org**

When Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed a 2023-24 budget in January, he acknowledged that the revenue estimates made six months earlier were way too optimistic and that the state had evolved from a nearly \$100 billion surplus to a \$22.5 billion deficit.

Never mind. Nine months into the current fiscal year, it’s evident that revenue, principally from personal income taxes, will fall well short of that downward revision. The deficit could hit \$30 billion as he and legislative leaders begin to focus on a final version for adoption in June.

Through February, the administration reported, revenues were running nearly \$5 billion below expectations and they fell short by nearly \$1 billion more in March.

The numbers bolster contentions by the Legislature’s budget analyst, Gabe Petek, that the state’s fiscal situation was unhealthier than Newsom was admitting. In his initial response to the January budget, Petek said, “Our estimates suggest that there is a good chance that revenues will be lower than the administration’s projections for the budget window, particularly in 2022-23 and 2023-24.”

The next stop for the annual budget process will come in May, when Newsom must unveil revised revenue estimates and appropriations. The worsening revenue data set the stage for what could be contentious negotiations with a June 15 constitutional deadline for passing a budget.

The essential problem is that when Newsom was forecasting an immense surplus and bragging that “no other state in American history has ever experienced a surplus as large as this,” he and the Legislature spent much of it on rebates to taxpayers and expansions of programs, especially those benefiting the poor.

Although Newsom insisted at the time that much of that spending was one-time in nature and therefore wouldn’t make unsustainable long-term commitments, it nevertheless raised expectations of permanency. Thus, when Newsom offered a new budget in January, he clawed back many of those allocations, particularly those that hadn’t yet been spent, sparking complaints from would-be recipients.

As revenues continue to fall short, expectations will have to shrink further, the competition for money among budget stakeholders will become more intense and the pressure on Newsom and legislators will increase.

They may be tempted to do something that Newsom says he doesn’t want to do and that Petek says would be foolhardy: tap into the state’s “rainy day” reserves to relieve stakeholder pressure.

The reserves are meant

to be used during a severe economic downturn, but California’s fiscal problem is occurring during a relatively prosperous post-pandemic recovery. The shortfall in revenues is occurring because of the state’s narrowly based revenue system, one that is largely dependent on earnings of high-income taxpayers, particular in the shaky technology sector.

The stock market has reacted negatively to the Federal Reserve System’s interest rate increases, which are meant to combat inflation. Declines in the market manifest themselves in lower taxable earnings by investors who are such a large factor in the revenue stream. The system is so narrowly based that lower incomes for just a handful of wealthy Californians can have a big effect on revenues.

Dipping into reserves to cover the revenue shortfall would weaken their ability to cushion a recession if and when that occurs, which is why Petek strongly discourages Newsom and legislators from succumbing to stakeholder pressure by using them.

A deficit north of \$30 billion, which is a real possibility, is no joke and coming after such huge – and probably irresponsible surplus estimates – poses a serious political dilemma for politicians who would much prefer to be showering money on their constituents as they did last year.

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



FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS
By Amy Shane

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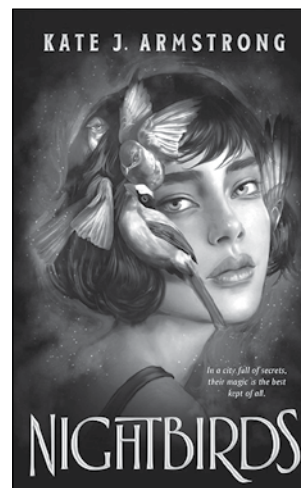
New Unstoppable Fantasies

Night Birds

by Kate J. Armstrong;
Nancy Paulsen Books

Nightbirds are the city’s best-kept secret. As girls born from members of the Great Houses, they all possess the unique gifts of magic, which they can bestow upon others with a single kiss. While the city’s religious groups outlaw the magic, the Great Houses protect, guard, and even reverse them. The young teenage girls are viewed as gifts and treasures and molded to follow the paths of the leaders before them. At the end of their season, each Nightbird is meant to marry within the Great House families in order to carry on the magical tradition. However, this year Matilde, Aesa, and Sayer have different plans. They are tired of being told what to do and who to marry while being put in the gilded cage everyone calls the Great Houses. As they break out from expectations, Matilde, Aesa, and Sayer learn there is more to their magic and other girls like them, crashing the illusion of the Great Houses. Now, armed with the new knowledge, it is up to the girls to decide how they want to define their own futures and how far they are willing to go.

Nightbirds takes hold of its readers with a story filled with masked balls, magic systems, political intrigue, hidden agendas, and adventure. Kate Armstrong takes



Night Birds

by Kate J. Armstrong;
Nancy Paulsen Books



Swift the Storm Fierce the Flame

by Meg Long,
Wednesday Books

readers on a magical journey, exploring a society set around expectations, rules, and guidelines and three girls who are

choosing to stand against the city that wants to abolish them, the houses that want to control them, and the clients who pay for their magic. ★

Swift the Storm Fierce the Flame

by Meg Long,
Wednesday Books

Remy Castell thought she lost it all two years ago when her mission failed, resulting in losing her friends. Now, as she chases leads and explores every planet, her only hope lies within the one who betrayed her and left her for dead, Kiran Lore. So, when Remy finally locates Kiran on the jungle planet Maraas, she is shocked when he offers her a deal. Help him with the upcoming war, and he will lead her to her friend. But Remy is not sure she can trust him again, and with a war at stake and a dangerous storm, she is not sure it is worth the risk. Will Remy let go of the hatred she feels for Kiran to find her friend, or will she allow it to consume her?

A sci-fi fantasy world that dangles on the edge of destruction and a girl who is willing to risk it all, even if that means trusting the one who betrayed her. *Swift the Storm Fierce the Flame* will take readers deep into the jungle at the edge of two storms, both of which have the power to destroy her. A story of friends, betrayal, and rediscovery, Meg Long takes readers into a world that stretches the boundaries and the lengths one girl will take to save her friend. ★

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Credit Union SACTOWN Run Raises \$210,800 for CMN Hospitals

California and Nevada Credit Union Leagues News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Annual Credit Union SACTOWN Run – which took place Sunday (April 2) in Sacramento – raised more than \$210,800 for the 11 Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals (CMN) to help local kids across California and Nevada.

More than 1,800 runners participated in this year’s Credit Union SACTOWN Run, including nearly 1,200 credit union employees and members from across California and Nevada. The event, which started and ended on the Capitol Mall in front of the California State Capitol, featured a 10-mile race, 5K run, and “Miracle Mile Fun Run and Fitness Walk.”

The run was hosted by the Sacramento Running Association (SRA) and also served as the USA Track and Field (USATF) Masters 10-Mile National Championship.

“Once again, we were honored to work with the Sacramento Running Association to host such a great event to raise much needed funds for Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals throughout California and Nevada,” said Diana Dykstra, president and CEO of the California and Nevada Credit Union Leagues (Ontario, CA). “These donations will help kids receive the care and treatment they need, thanks to a number of credit unions and businesses in both states.”

John Pamer, chair of the Credit Union SACTOWN Run



The Annual Credit Union SACTOWN Run held on Sunday, April 2, 2023, raised over \$210,800 for Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals (CMN) and included 69 credit unions and 1,800 runners. Photo courtesy of California and Nevada Credit Union Leagues

and CEO of Diablo Valley Federal Credit Union (Concord, CA), said the annual race has become a cherished rite of Spring for credit unions and business partners. “Each year since 2012, we run, jog or walk our course on the first Sunday in April,” Pamer said. “But the real benefit is that the \$210,800 we raised this year — and the \$2.5 million we’ve raised since day-one — brings healing and hope to patients and their families every day of the year. Credit unions and our business partners are committed

to helping people in our local communities, and the Credit Union SACTOWN Run is a strong demonstration of this commitment.”

Larry Palochik, executive vice president of the Leagues (Ontario, CA), said that every child deserves the chance to live a happy and healthy life. “Supporting Children’s Miracle Network hospitals in our two states is our opportunity to help make that a reality,” Palochik said. “Together, with our credit unions and sponsors, we are helping provide hope and

healing to children and families in need.”

Joe Franklin, vice president of brand and experiential marketing for Co-op Solutions (Rancho Cucamonga, CA), thanked all of the runners who participated in this year’s Credit Union SACTOWN Run. “The partnership between CMN Hospitals and credit unions is a truly synergistic one,” Franklin said. “The two things that determine physical and mental health are access to health care and solid financial wellness. When members of society and their children

are physically healthy or have access to quality care, and they feel financially secure, it builds a stronger community.”

Kevin Miller, president and CEO of Travis Credit Union in Vacaville, Calif., said his credit union believes in “people helping people” — and the annual race is just one more example of this unique industry philosophy. “I’m proud of our staff and their families who are running and volunteering with that spirit to benefit the Credit Union SACTOWN Run,” Miller said.

Bill Cheney, chief executive officer of SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union (Tustin, CA), said his credit union’s team looks forward to participating in the race each year. “They’re eager for the physical challenge of the race while supporting a cause that aligns with our credit union values,” Cheney said. “We are proud to participate and support children and their families in local hospitals, including UC Davis Children’s Hospital. Thank you to our team and all runners and volunteers — you make a difference in the lives of others.”

Amanda Merz, community impact manager for SAFE Credit Union (Sacramento, CA), said her leadership and team are pleased to be a part of the Credit Union SACTOWN Run. “Seeing all of our fellow credit union employees and leaders come together to help raise money for children’s health is so inspiring,” Merz said. “Credit unions are all about ‘people helping people,’ and it is so rewarding to see all of us working together for a greater cause while also having some fun.” ★

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