



Spending
Your Money
PAGE 10

CHP Highlights
New Laws
in 2023
PAGE 2



West Sacramento News Ledger

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SEE
INSIDE

CRIME
REPORTS



PAGE 4

MASKING
INDOORS
THIS WINTER



PAGE 2

HOW WILL CA
DEAL WITH
BUDGET DEFICIT?



PAGE 4

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Helping Santa with Deliveries



Left to right: WSPD Sergeant Andrea King, Officer Danielle Eriksen, Blue Santa, Officer Maria Perez, Sergeant Robert Brazier, Motor Officer David Asaro, Records Technician Heather Escobar, and Officer Seth Killion prepare for an evening of giving. Photo provided by WSPD

By Michele Townsend

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - West Sac Police Department held its annual toy drive again this year, allowing them to help more than 200 families with gifts for children. Contributions are made by community members and local businesses. Some businesses collect toys and donations, while some companies donate themselves. Businesses involved included

Outcast Customs, Broadway Auto, Amerivet Logistics, River City Fire Equipment, Veterans of All Wars Riders and the West Sacramento Trail Riders Association.

Families signed up for the program in November, so the police had the names and addresses of the families. The children were asked what they wanted for Christmas and the department posted the list on their social media page. Community members donated

money or purchased the gifts which were then delivered directly to the police department with the purchaser getting delivery updates. Each child received a piece of warm clothing and two toys this year. Police Department members, volunteers in policing and staff from various City departments wrapped the gifts that were given out to more than 550 youths, amounting to more than 1,650 gifts.

Continued on page 3

Flavored Tobacco Ban Begins In California

By Evan Symon,
California Globe

The statewide flavored tobacco and e-cigarette ban went into effect on Wednesday, (December 21, 2022) impacting retailers and consumers alike less than a week after a final attempt to stop it in the Supreme Court failed.

The battle over flavored tobacco in California dates back to January 2020, when then-Senator Jerry Hill introduced SB 793, to totally ban flavored cigarettes and e-cigarettes from sale in the state. The bill had much support, and easily made it through the Assembly and Senate, although a number of amendments were added, allowing certain exceptions. Governor Gavin Newsom signed the bill shortly afterwards, with the ban set to take place at the end of the year.

However, tobacco companies quickly formed a coalition and set up a ballot referendum, collecting enough signatures in time by December to delay the ban. In early 2021, enough signatures were collected to put the decision up to California voters, with the referendum going to the November 2022 ballot. Tobacco companies fought hard to fail the referendum, now known as Proposition 31, as many felt the ban went too far, and that it would hurt many businesses as a result. Those supporting pushing for Prop 31 to pass claimed a rise in youth tobacco consumption partially attributed to flavored tobacco being on the market.

Last month, Californians overwhelmingly voted for the ban to stay in place, 63% to 37%, or, 6.8 million for the ban and 3.9 million against. With the ban now set to begin later this month, R.J. Reynolds, as well as other tobacco companies, quickly filed an emergency application for a writ injunction with the U.S. Supreme Court, asking the court to stop the ban as a last Hail Mary attempt. In their application, the tobacco companies said that the ban will cause "irreparable harm, leading to substantial financial losses and a hit to customer goodwill and its reputation." Meanwhile,

Continued on page 2

Stealing is Stealing

By Katy Grimes,
California Globe

A massive rise in retail theft is contributing to "shrinkage" at brick-and-mortar retailers, contributing to the growth of online sales.

"The National Retail Federation estimates that shrink—an industry term for loss in inventory—amounted to roughly 1.4% of retail revenue in 2021, or roughly \$94.5 billion. Most of that shrink is caused by theft, the Wall Street Journal reports.

The Globe reported on California's retail theft last May:

The escalation of organized "smash-and-grab" robberies in cities around the country has been costly. CNN reported in January that retailers across America say shoplifting is now 2% to 3% of their total sales, forcing the retailers to install new security systems, video cameras and security staff.

A 2021 survey of retailers found 65%



Retail Theft is a \$94.5 Billion Crime Problem at American Stores. Retailers say Covid-19 has worsened the risk of crime. Photo courtesy of Dreamstime

acknowledged an increase in violence, while 37% said Organized Retail Crime gangs were much more aggressive than in the past.

With every legislative solution killed by California's Democratic supermajority, retailers and Chambers of Commerce formed Californians Against Retail and Residential Theft (CARRT), and launched a campaign to

raise lawmakers' and the public's knowledge of the growing theft problem in the state. CARRT is a broad-based coalition of business associations, local groups, and victim organizations advocating for California officials to act now to undo the damage done by Proposition 47.

Not the Bee also addresses this shrinkage: the Covid lockdowns.

"Whoever had the bright idea to shut down the

entire U.S. economy, confine people to their homes indefinitely, foment open-ended hysteria about a respiratory virus, and drive inflation to sky-high record rates — congratulations, your strategy is bearing fruit," Not the Bee reported.

"Brick-and-mortar retail's indisputable edge over e-commerce is that consumers can get what they want immediately, and can touch and feel the product before buying it. Rising theft — and stores' measures to prevent it — could dull that edge," WSJ said.

The National Retail Federation report also found that the vast majority (89.7%) of respondents report that their Loss Prevention department is evaluated according to inventory shrink levels — in other words, shrink reduction is part of their goals, objectives or performance measures. Just 10.3% reported that they were not.

"Retailers surveyed by

Continued on page 3



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CHP Highlights New Laws in 2023



California Highway Patrol (CHP) is educating the public on traffic safety laws that were passed during this year's legislative season and signed by Governor Gavin Newsom. Photo courtesy of Michael Ludwig | Dreamstime.com

CHP News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As we head into the new year, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) is educating the public on traffic safety laws that were passed during this year's legislative season and signed by Governor Gavin Newsom. The laws take effect January 1, 2023, unless otherwise noted.

Public Employment: Peace Officers: Citizenship (Senate Bill (SB) 960, Skinner)

The law maintains that peace officers, including peace officer trainees, be legally authorized to work in the United States consistent with federal law and regulations, however, removes the requirement that they be citizens or permanent residents of the United States.

Catalytic Converters (SB 1087, Gonzalez) (Assembly Bill (AB) 1740, Muratsuchi)

These laws specifically list who can sell catalytic converters to recyclers and require those recyclers to keep documentation such as the year, make, model, and copy of the vehicle title from which the catalytic converter was removed. The purpose of these laws is to help reduce catalytic converter theft.

Vehicular Manslaughter: Speeding and Reckless Driving (SB 1472, Stern)

This law expands the criteria for "gross negligence" as it relates to the crime of vehicular manslaughter. Drivers involved in sideshow activity, exhibition of speed, or speeding over 100 miles per hour which results in a fatality could now be charged with Vehicular Manslaughter with Gross Negligence.

Motor Vehicle Speed Contests and Exhibitions of Speed (AB 2000, Gabriel)

Parking lots and off-street parking facilities are now included as locations where it is a crime to engage in a speed contest, exhibition of speed, or sideshow activity.

Endangered Missing Advisory: Feather Alert (AB 1314, Ramos)

The new "Feather Alert" allows law enforcement agencies to request the CHP to initiate an alert when an indigenous person has been kidnapped, abducted, or reported missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances, and specific criteria has been met to permit alert activation. Additionally, consistent with the Department's existing AMBER, Blue, and Silver Alert programs, this new "Feather Alert" program encourages the use of radio, television, and social media to spread the information about the missing indigenous person.

Hit-and-Run Incidents: Yellow Alert (AB 1732, Patterson)

This law authorizes law enforcement agencies to request the CHP to activate a "Yellow Alert" when a fatal hit-and-run crash has occurred, and specific criteria has been met to permit alert activation. The law also encourages local media outlets to disseminate the information contained in a Yellow Alert. The new law serves to use the public's assistance to improve the investigatory ability for law enforcement agencies throughout the state when working to solve fatal hit-and-run crashes.

Online Marketplaces: Reporting (AB 1700, Maienschein)

This law requires the Attorney General's Office to create an online reporting system for users of third-party online marketplaces to report listings of suspected stolen items. The reported information would be available to local law enforcement and the CHP's Organized Retail Crime Task Force to assist with investigations.

Bicycles Omnibus Bill AB 1909, Friedman)

Much like the move over or slow down law, this law provides for increased protections to bicyclists by requiring vehicles passing or overtaking a bicycle in the same direction, to move over to an adjacent lane of traffic, if one is available, or slow down and only pass the bicyclist when safe to do so. The law also permits Class 3 e-bike riders to use approved bicycle paths and trails, bikeways, and bicycle lanes. The law prohibits local governments from requiring bicycle registration and allows local authorities to prohibit any electric bicycle on an equestrian, hiking, or other recreational trail.

Electric Bicycles: Safety and Training Program (AB 1946, Boerner Horvath)

This requires the CHP to work with other traffic safety stakeholders such as the California Office of Traffic Safety, to develop statewide safety and training programs for electric bicycles. This training program, which will consist of electric bicycle riding safety, emergency maneuver skills, rules of the road and laws pertaining to electric bicycles, will launch on the CHP's website in September 2023.

Pedestrians (AB 2147, Ting)

This law prohibits peace officers from stopping pedestrians for certain pedestrian-specific violations, such as crossing the road outside of a crosswalk, unless there is an immediate danger of a crash. The CHP reminds all road users of the responsibility to travel safely and look out for one another on the road.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security. ★

Masking Indoors Recommended this Winter

Yolo County News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG)

The Yolo County Health & Human Services Agency (HHS) recommends that everybody 2 years old and older wear a mask in indoor public places this winter. The new recommendation is based on the increasing spread of several respiratory viruses, including influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and COVID. According to WastewaterSCAN, wastewater levels of influenza, RSV, and SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) are increasing in Yolo County. Hospitalizations and emergency department visits for respiratory illnesses are also increasing, along with absences from school and work.

With this recommendation, Yolo County HHS is moving away from earlier masking guidance and corresponding signs that were specific to low, medium, and high COVID-19 levels. Because multiple viruses are circulating, recommendations to mask are now based on combined respiratory virus levels rather than a single virus. Businesses and organizations using the old signs are asked to take them down and

replace them with a new sign, recommending masking based on the increased transmission of several respiratory viruses.

"This winter is the first in several years where we are seeing significant flu and RSV activity, in addition to COVID-19, so we are now making masking recommendations based on all circulating respiratory viruses, not just on COVID," said Yolo County Health Officer Dr. Aimee Sisson. "Wearing a high-quality mask indoors is a great way to protect yourself and others from respiratory viruses like flu, RSV, and COVID-19."

Respiratory viruses like RSV, influenza, SARS-CoV-2, and those that cause the common cold spread through respiratory droplets. Contact with respiratory droplets can occur when an infected person coughs or sneezes near you and you get droplets in your eyes, nose, or mouth. Droplets can also spread when someone touches a surface with the virus on it, like a door-knob, and then touches their face before washing their hands. COVID-19 can also be transmitted through smaller particles called aerosols that stay in the air for extended periods of time and travel over long distances before being breathed in.

By wearing a mask that fits well and filters well, you can protect yourself against respiratory viruses even if others around you are not masked. High-quality masks like N95, KN95, and KF94s are the most protective, followed by surgical masks. Cloth masks are the least protective. Choose the best mask in terms of fit and filtration that you can consistently wear. Children under 2 are not recommended to wear a mask due to the risk of suffocation.

Masks are an important layer of protection against respiratory viruses and work best when combined with additional protections like COVID-19 boosters, flu shots, frequent hand-washing, staying home when sick, and covering any coughs or sneezes. Persons who have cold- or flu-like symptoms and who test negative for COVID-19 should continue to stay home from school, work, and other activities until they are feeling better and have been without fever for at least 24 hours. Visit myturn.ca.gov to find a vaccine clinic near you. If you test positive for COVID-19, contact your doctor or a test-to-treat site immediately to seek treatment. Treatments work best when started soon after symptoms begin. ★

Flavored Tobacco Ban Begins in California

Continued from page 1

California argued that this was a state matter, and voters had already decided on it.

Flavored tobacco ban in CA begins Without any quotes or other notes, all nine Supreme Court justices turned down the case last week, ending the last legal avenue to stop the ban and clearing the way for the ban to begin on the 21st. On Wednesday, all flavored tobacco products, including flavored cigarettes, flavored e-cigarette juice, menthol cigarettes, flavored tobacco enhancers, and all other related flavored tobacco products were officially banned. A few exemptions, such as flavored tobacco used in hookah bars, flavored loose-leaf pipe tobacco, and flavored premium cigars costing over \$12, are still allowed under the law, but will be closely regulated from now on.

While some retailers and users have been generally fine with the ban, others noted to the Globe on Thursday that it has already negatively hurt them.

"So we had to take out shelves of the products Tuesday night," Duy Pham, a convenience store owner in Riverside,

told the Globe Thursday, "A lot of customers have been lost and angry the last several days, and I'd say we have lost hundreds in sales so far. We all knew this was coming, but it's not great. This isn't what we wanted at all."

Others noted that, instead of discouraging users, it was only having them change products.

"We get a lot of teenagers and people in their early twenties here," said Paul Stevens, a manager at a national convenience store chain. "When we told them what happened, some did get angry, but 99% of them just asked for another type of cigarette brand or something pure tobacco. Others said they'll simply stock up on the next trip out of state and maybe give some to their friends. Whatever they thought would work, it hasn't. And it looks like a work around is forming by having people bring it in out of state, so California is losing out in taxes in the end. I don't think they realized what they did honestly."

Other states and cities in the U.S. are currently considering similar bans. ★ Reprinted by permission.

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WUSD News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Washington Unified School District (WUSD) would like to remind our school community of our continued commitment to the health and safety of our students, staff, and community, regarding the spread of respiratory viruses.

Throughout the winter season we recommend the following: If you are ill, please stay home; COVID-19 test kits and masks are available to all staff and students upon request at

the school site; WUSD sent to homes COVID-19 test kits for all staff and students to use before returning from Winter Break.

Testing and Test-to-Treat Services in Yolo County

Free COVID-19 testing and test-to-treat services have been available at several locations throughout Yolo County via the OptumServe mobile testing and treatment bus that serves Woodland, West Sacramento, and Davis.

The OptumServe bus will be available Tuesdays and Friday from 8 am to 4 pm at the HHSA West Sacramento building parking lot at 500 Jefferson Blvd, West Sacramento, CA 95605.

Residents can also access free virtual COVID-19 telehealth services from Sesame Care online or by calling 833-686-5051. COVID-19 medications (Paxlovid or molnupiravir) are free and can either be mailed or picked up at a pharmacy. ★

Helping Santa with Deliveries

Continued from page 1

On December 21st, a group from West Sacramento Police, accompanied by Mayor Martha Guerrero, went out with lights and sirens and delivered gifts to just over 100 families, creating lots of smiling faces. The rest of the gifts were picked up from the police station on Thursday and Friday before Christmas.

“It was so cute,” said Mayor Guerrero, “the kids were so happy and running out and hugging the police.” She told the story of delivering gifts to one family and a neighbor child came outside, crying because he also wanted a toy. Mayor Guerrero was heartbroken, until the officer said, “It’s okay, we have some extra toys.” They put some toys in another bag and brought them over to the young boy.

West Sac PD says they are honored to be able to do this for the community each year



WSPD Detective Chris Cobb is greeted by a mother with a young child who is grateful for the gifts brought on December 21. Photo provided by WSPD

and plan on continuing to help to make the holidays good for the kids in our town. ★

Stealing is Stealing

Continued from page 1

the NRF said Covid-19 has worsened the risk of crime, partly because labor shortages have made it difficult to fully staff stores,” WSJ said. “Moreover, supply-chain shortages made certain products more susceptible to theft because they fetched high value in secondary markets.”

“Can you imagine a more predictable outcome from the pandemic policies we enacted to fight COVID-19?” Not the Bee asks. “We threw our entire way of life — our economy, our organizations, our social structures, our education — into a complete and total tailspin.”

“Shrink can have a substantial impact on already thin retail margins. Target said that the rise in shrink, including theft, reduced its gross profit by more than \$400 million in the first three quarters of its fiscal year, compared with a year prior. For the full fiscal year, it estimates that its gross profit will take a \$600 million hit.”

“Although shrink is a perennial problem in retail, it really took off when the pandemic hit. In the five years leading

up to 2019, retail shrink grew at a compound annual growth rate of roughly 7%, according to data from the NRF,” WSJ said. “In 2020, it jumped 47%, and rose another 4% on top of that huge jump in 2021. Some retailers, including Ulta Beauty and Target, have said that shrink has gotten worse again this year. ‘When times get tough, shrink goes up,’ Ulta Beauty Chief Financial Officer Scott Settersten said on the company’s earnings call on Dec. 1. ‘We’ve seen that in retail over a long period of time.’”

And who will pay for these increasing retail costs? “Retailers will ultimately pay for shrink risk in some form or another—either on the top line if they want to keep stores completely accessible or on the bottom line if they spend heavily on labor and mitigation measures,” WSJ said. “Finding the right balance will be key to preserving brick-and-mortar businesses.”

And if you wonder why toothpaste, shaving cream and laundry detergent is under lock and key at many stores, it is a

theft mitigation measure, according to retailers.

California’s non-partisan Public Policy Institute of California released a report that found a direct correlation between Proposition 47 and a marked increase in larceny thefts across California, despite many media reports attempting to refute the correlation, the Globe reported. As for any legislative support from the California Legislature, don’t hold your breath:

The California Assembly Public Safety Committee heard and killed Assembly Bill 1599 by Assemblyman Kevin Kiley (R-Granite Bay) in March, which sought to repeal Proposition 47, and “make crime illegal again.”

“Retail theft losses may be the straw that breaks the camel’s back,” said Julian Canete, President and CEO of the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce. “Something needs to be done before mom and pop stores are stolen from our communities.” ★

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West Sac News Briefs

MPG Staff

West Sacramento Christmas Tree Recycling Options.

When holiday celebrations come to an end, be sure to recycle your Christmas tree! West Sacramento has 4 options for Christmas tree recycling: 1) Recycle your tree curbside by placing it next to your organics cart on the regular service day, December 27th through January 22nd. Trees must be cut into lengths no longer than 5 feet. You may also cut your tree into smaller sections and place the pieces inside your organics cart. 2) Have the Cub Scouts recycle it for you! Pack 49 is offering a pickup service for donations, on January 2nd, 8th, and 9th. Email Pack49Trees@gmail.com your name and address and they will contact you to schedule a collection. 3) Take it to the Yolo County Central Landfill for free tree recycling daily, December 26th through January 15th, excluding New Year’s Day when the landfill is closed. 4) Drop it

off at Waste Management’s free Christmas Tree recycling bin located at 1271 West Capitol Avenue, daily from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., December 26th through January 9th, excluding New Year’s Day. *Please remove all tinsel, lights, stand and ornaments before recycling your tree.

January 9th is Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

Thank a cop. Remember, no matter who you are... If you need help, you call them too!

School District Will Not Be Requiring Masks for Student Returns

Washington Unified School Board President Sarah Kirby-Gonzalez stated, “Washington Unified School District (WUSD) will not require masking following the winter recess. WUSD takes the health and safety of students and staff seriously, following all health guidance from Yolo Public Health which currently strongly recommends masking for all Yolo County residents.”

Masking is currently strongly recommended for individuals but it has not been recommended that WUSD enforce a mask policy at this time. As such, WUSD is not requiring masks when we return from break but has shared Yolo Public Health’s mask recommendation and sent home test kits so students and staff can test before returning to school after break.

Fighting Fentanyl Awareness Event

Please join us at Muscle Systems Gym, located at 922 Sacramento Ave. (in the Arteaga’s shopping center), West Sacramento for a day of free training from professional and semi-professional MMA fighters and a Fentanyl Awareness event. Hear speakers on the impact Fentanyl is having on our community, get information and free Fentanyl test strips. It could save the life of you or someone you know. The event will be Saturday, Jan 7th 10am – 2pm. Training and demonstrations will be free all day. ★

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Crime Reports

WEST SACRAMENTO

December 6 - December 27, 2022



12-23-22 EDWARD CLINE Arrested for burglary and vandalism after allegedly being spotted cutting a hole into a fence and entering the property. Surveillance captured Cline. Cline stated he entered the property to “get some water and coffee”.

12-24-22 KALAM WILLIAMS Arrested for assault w/ a deadly weapon/not firearm, vandalism and two warrants after Police responded to a possible fight involving a weapon.

12-25-22 MICKEAL WOOD Arrested for disorderly conduct/alcohol on Rice Ave. when deemed unable to care for self.

12-26-22 CARL FORE Arrested for possession of controlled substance after allegedly being observed riding his bike on the wrong side of the road.

12-27-22 STANLEY LOVSTAD Arrested on Sacramento Ave. regarding vandalism of the main office with a cost of over \$3,000. Video was obtained.

12-27-22 SABRINA CAMPBELL Arrested for commit mail theft, receiving known stolen property, conspiracy to commit crime, possession of paraphernalia, possession of controlled substance and a felony warrant

12-27-22 DONALD MARTINEZ Arrested for conspiracy to commit crime, commit mail theft, receiving known stolen property, driving w/o a license.

12-27-22 STACY WHEAT Arrested for a warrant after Police responded to a call about a female exposing herself and jumping on vehicles in the drive thru.

12-27-22 HECTOR MARTINEZ Arrested for two felony and two misdemeanor warrants

12-27-22 JUANITA AROCAN Arrested from Sacramento Mail Jail for yolo county warrant.

12-27-22 JACQUELINE BLACK Picked up from Sac Main Jail for a warrant for Conspiracy to commit crime, Grand theft and Petty theft: retail.

INCIDENT/CRIME REPORTS

12-06-22 An unknown subject climbed over a fence on Promenade St into private property and vandalized the electrical system. \$500 loss. Vandalism.

12-20-22 Unknown amount of subjects cut into back fence of property on Cebrian St., stole a catalytic converter from an RV and then broke into neighboring facility through a fence. Forcible entry, Grand theft.

12-20-22 Suspect cut rear fence of neighboring facility, then cut 2 fences inside this business facility, cut 3 catalytic converters off of three trucks then cut barbed wire at front of property. \$248 loss + converters. Grand theft, Forcible entry.

12-20-22 Catalytic converter theft on Washington Pl. \$5,000 loss. Grand theft

12-20-22 Multiple EBT usages at a gas station on Lake Rd from an unknown subject. Theft by use of access card info.

12-21-22 Catalytic converter theft on Westacre Rd. \$5,000 loss. Grand theft.

12-21-22 Catalytic converter theft on West Capitol ave. Grand theft.

12-22-22 Misc incident report. Reporting party allegedly had a firearm brandished towards her. Surveillance and witness say it did not happen.

12-23-22 Unknown(s) entered locked vehicle and rummaged through it. Window damaged, nothing appeared to be missing. \$500 loss. Vandalism.

12-23-22 Unknown suspect broke into reporting party’s garage on Sacramento Ave. and stole a bicycle worth approx. \$1,200. Burglary.

12-23-22 Physical altercation between two groups on Sacramento Ave. Parties in both allegedly brandished knives. Both parties claimed they did so in self defense.

12-24-22 Unknown suspect entered business on Northport Dr., through broken window and attempted to use circular saw to cut through locked interior door leading to chash room, causing damage to door. Burglary.

12-24-22 Victim reported that his vehicle tailgate and baby stroller were taken from his vehicle. Approx \$4,600 loss. Grand theft.

12-24-22 Victim reported that his \$4,000 bicycle was stolen from his balcony on Christmas Eve. Grand theft.

12-24-22 Suspected shoplifter from Target led uniformed officers on a vehicle pursuit. Petty theft, evading.

How Will California Deal with a Big Budget Deficit?



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

While California has a surplus of critical issues demanding political attention – housing, homelessness and water to mention the most obvious – it faces a deficit of financial resources to deal with them.

Gov. Gavin Newsom will soon reveal a proposed budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year that begins July 1, and it’s likely to greatly differ from the 2022-23 version he and the Legislature adopted just six months ago.

The current budget reflected what Newsom said would be a massive surplus, thanks mostly to a flood of tax revenues from high-income Californians who were enjoying big gains on their investments.

Pegging the surplus at \$97.5 billion, Newsom bragged that “no other state in American history has ever experienced a surplus as large as this.”

He and the Legislature enacted a \$300-plus billion budget that committed much of the supposed surplus to expanding an array of social and educational services, including what he said was achieving universal health care by extending coverage to all undocumented immigrants.

Just a few weeks later,

however, Newsom began acknowledging that the surplus might not be as large as he had boasted. He vetoed a number of spending bills, citing indications that a recession might be on the horizon.

In November, the Legislature’s budget analyst, Gabe Patek, made the reversal of fortune official in his annual report on the state’s finances, saying the healthy surplus that Newsom projected is really a “\$24 billion budget problem.”

“The budget problem is mainly attributable to lower revenue estimates, which are lower than budget act projections from 2021 22 through 2023 24 by \$41 billion,” Patek said, stressing that the deficit would occur even if there’s no recession but would become worse if the economy does, indeed, “turn sour.”

Whether the nation is headed for recession is a much-debated question. The Federal Reserve System has hiked interest rates sharply in hopes of cooling off the economy and lowering a soaring inflation rate. While it hopes for a “soft landing,” some economists believe that it could become a full-blown recession.

California’s budget is particularly sensitive to larger economic currents because it is inordinately dependent on taxing incomes of a relative few wealthy Californians. Income taxes are three-quarters of the state’s general fund revenues and 1% of taxpayers generate nearly half of those taxes.

“Based on historical experience, should a recession occur soon, revenues could be \$30 billion to \$50 billion below our revenue outlook in the budget window,” Patek said. Because of the looming threat of recession, Patek urged the Legislature to adopt a very conservative approach to the 2023-24 budget, balancing it without relying on the state’s reserves.

It’s good advice, but will the Legislature heed it? Backpedaling is a hard sell in a Legislature dominated by left-leaning Democrats and allies in advocacy groups that had been elated by the budget’s provisions.

Initial indications are that legislators would prefer to continue the programmatic enhancements even if it means dipping into reserves or borrowing money to cover the deficit.

The Assembly Budget Committee said as much in a “budget blueprint” issued after Patek made his report. The document devotes much verbiage to self-congratulation about the current budget’s largesse and calls for protecting it by using the “state balance sheet to continue key investments.” That’s defined as shifting some spending to special funds and “borrowing from special funds, especially if revenue situation worsens.”

So where does Newsom stand between these two conflicting approaches? Will he adopt Patek’s conservative advice or side with the Legislature, even if it means deficit spending and debt? We’ll know in about a week.

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

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pastorron@newseasonsws.com
www.newseasonsws.com

Trinity Presbyterian Church

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
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West Sacramento Baptist Church

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Demolition-by-Neglect: How the Legislature Plans to Destroy State History

Commentary by Save Our Capitol!

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Save Our Capitol! issued the following statement in response to the California Legislature’s claim that the Capitol Annex, one of the state’s most significant historic governmental buildings, is too damaged to rehabilitate:

“The Capitol Annex is in need of significant repairs to ensure the safety of legislative and executive staff; however, much of these repairs could – and should – have been done over the past 70 years. In 2005, the Department of General Services (DGS) prepared a plan to upgrade and modernize the building, but the Legislature decided not to move forward with it. Now, lawmakers say it’s too damaged to rehabilitate. That’s simply not true.

“After they neglected to properly maintain the building, and without conducting a rehabilitation feasibility study, DGS and the Joint Committee on Rules (JRC), lead on the project within the Legislature, decided demolition was the only option. They had no basis upon which to conclude that the building could not be rehabilitated to modern standards.

“In fact, the State knows exactly how to rehabilitate older buildings. The original Capitol, Library and Courts Building, and the Jesse M. Unruh Building have all been successfully rehabilitated. They are all older buildings than the Annex. And, claims that asbestos abatement is impossible for the Annex are misleading. The Unruh Building contains asbestos, as do many older buildings, and crews are able to properly remove it or rehabilitate around it, which is very common with historic buildings. The Environmental Impact Report for

the Unruh Building contains plans for how crews will properly remove and dispose of hazardous materials such as asbestos and lead-based paint, and even calls on “restoring the building to the Secretary of the Interior Standards and Guidelines for the Restoration of Historic Buildings.” The same standards the State is refusing to comply with for the Capitol Annex Project.

“Clearly, the State is capable of preserving and rehabilitating – rather than demolishing – when it wants to, so why are lawmakers choosing to destroy Capitol Park, the West Steps, and the Annex to the tune of \$1.2 billion when rehabilitation is estimated to cost around \$500 million?

“The choice is between erasing or embracing a central part of California’s history. It’s clear to us which side the Legislature and DGS should be on, but without Governor Newsom’s engagement, state history will be erased and every Californian will lose the ability to walk the halls of their Capitol Annex and gather or protest at the West Steps.

“With the support of California voters, taxpayers, small businesses, preservationists, and environmentalists, we will continue to fight to save the historic Annex, Capitol Park, the West Steps, and the entire west side of the original Capitol.”

About Save Our Capitol!

The purpose of Save our Capitol! is to preserve the site of the historic Capitol and its surrounding Park as the center and symbol of Californians’ right to truth, transparency, and trust in self-governance. Follow Save Our Capitol! on Twitter and act to #StopTheDemolition by visiting www.saveourcapitol.org ★

Hospitals Finally Face the Music



Commentary by Sally C. Pipes

Two Georgia hospitals were recently fined \$1.1 million for failing to publish their prices. The facilities had also ignored letters from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services asking them to publicly disclose what they charge for procedures.

It’s about time. The federal government directed hospitals to publish clear, consumer-friendly charge lists by the beginning of 2021. Six months later, just 6% of hospitals nationwide had complied, according to a study published in June in the medical journal JAMA.

Hospitals shouldn’t be able to get away with flouting the law. Price transparency empowers patients and payers to shop around for medical care – and ultimately allows them to leverage the power of competition to extract the best value for their dollar.

The Trump administration issued the price transparency rule in 2019. It required hospitals to publish standard prices for 300

of their most common services, including rates for insurers and those for individuals paying cash. The rule set daily fines for non-compliant institutions, which the Biden administration increased in November 2021.

Since the rule took effect, hospitals have been cautioned plenty. CMS has issued more than 350 warning letters requesting compliance.

Yet transparency has lagged. The biggest medical centers have been among the worst offenders. Just 0.5% of facilities owned by the country’s three largest hospital systems were fully compliant as of early 2022, according to a report from Patient Rights Advocate.

Hospitals may be leery of revealing their prices because the results can be embarrassing. In one case, an Illinois patient received a \$15,000 hospital bill for an EpiPen. He later learned he could have purchased the same device from a pharmacy for \$320.

Or, take the recent experience of a couple in Fresno, Calif. According to reporting from NPR, the husband underwent cataract surgery with an in-network provider that cost over \$4,000. His wife, who has the same coverage, received the same exact procedure at a neighboring clinic – and only owed \$204. The two facilities were just a half mile from one another.

High-cost

providers wouldn’t be able to get away with those wide spreads in price if patients and payers knew about them. That’s why a 2021 RAND Corporation study projected that improving price transparency could reduce U.S. healthcare spending by up to \$26.6 billion a year.

Of course, some hospitals may be justified in charging more than others. Factors like quality, convenience, and reputation of doctors and hospitals always influence price. But patients and payers should be able to evaluate those factors on their own. Hiding prices deprives them of key pieces of information that help them make prudent decisions.

Opaque prices also undermine competition – and thus help healthcare providers avoid improving quality or reducing costs in order to attract customers at the margin.

The feds did the right thing by fining hospitals that aren’t following the rules. But more needs to be done to make hospitals around the country do what businesses in every other sector do every day – tell potential customers what they can expect to pay.

Sally C. Pipes is President, CEO, and Thomas W. Smith Fellow in Health Care Policy at the Pacific Research Institute. Follow her on Twitter @sallypipes. This op-ed originally ran in the Chicago Sun-Times. ★



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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20220920
The following person(s) is doing business as: Best Rate Motors, 1540 S River Road, West Sacramento, CA 95691.
Waheed Khan, 23 Mount Stephens Court, Sacramento, CA 95835. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 12/6/2022.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: Dec 16, 23, 30, 2022; Jan 6, 2023
BEST 1-6-23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20220905
The following person(s) is doing business as: Dress Tech / Sculptress / Skinister, 1237 E. Beamer Street, Suite G, Woodland, CA 95776.
Delta Molding, LLC, 1237 E. Beamer Street, Suite G, Woodland, CA 95776. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 4/28/2015.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/29/2022.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: Dec 16, 23, 30, 2022; Jan 6, 2023
DRESS 1-6-23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20220928
The following person(s) is doing business as: Capital Valley Investments, 2215 Plaza Drive, Suite 100, Rocklin, CA 95765, County of Yolo.
Diablo Investments, LLC, a limited liability company, 2215 Plaza Drive, Suite 100, Rocklin, CA 95765
This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/1/2002
/s/ Gary Whitesides, Manager
Diablo Investments, LLC
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 12/12/2022.
Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder
By: kquam, Deputy
12/23, 12/30/22, 1/6, 1/13/23
CNS-3650587# NEWS-LEDGER
DJ.587 1-13-23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20220944
The following person(s) is doing business as: Westlake Phis, 1260 Lake Boulevard, Suite 111, Davis, CA 95616.
Sunrize Restaurant Group, 470 Lentini Way, Sacramento, CA 95834. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 12/15/2022.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: Dec 30, 2022; Jan 6, 13 & 20, 2023
WESTLAKE 1-20-23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20220942
The following person(s) is doing business as: JEU Publishing, 1810 Hardy Dr., Woodland, CA 95776, County of Yolo.
John Utterback, 1810 Hardy Dr., Woodland, CA 95776
This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/09/2022
/s/ John Utterback
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 12/15/2022.
Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder
By: kquam, Deputy
12/30/22, 1/6, 1/13, 1/20/23
CNS-3655419# NEWS-LEDGER
DJ.419 1-20-23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20220907
The following person(s) is doing business as: Chompy Snacks, 2187 Valley Oak Lane, #1087, West Sacramento, CA 95691.
Julie Elizarraras, 2187 Valley Oak Lane, #1087, West Sacramento, CA 95691. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 9/1/2022.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/29/2022.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: Jan 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2023
CHOMPY 1-27-23

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE NO. F20220959
The person(s) or entity listed be-

low are abandoning the use of the following fictitious business name(s): Petoonsy / Etoonsy, 813 Harbor Boulevard, #269, West Sacramento, CA 95691.
The fictitious business name was originally filed in Yolo County on May 9, 2016, and is being abandoned by the registrants(s) listed below: Betty S. Miller, 820 Sinter Lane, West Sacramento, CA 95691.
The business was conducted by: An Individual.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 12/21/2022.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: Dec 30, 2022; Jan 6, 13 & 20, 2023
PETOONSY 1-20-23

ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME

COUNTY OF YOLO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#CV2022-2135
Angela Pena has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Angela Renee Pena to Angela Renee Ramirez; Ezra Michael Pena to Ezra Michael Pena-Ramirez.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on January 26, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 9, located at 1000 Main Street Woodland, CA 95695 and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: December 13, 2022
Daniel M. Wolk, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Dec 23, 30, 2022, Jan 6 & 13, 2023
ANGELA 1-13-23

COUNTY OF YOLO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#CV2022-2107
Scarlet Gamez Rivera has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of David Leandro Ochoa Gamez to Angel David Ochoa Gamez.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on January 26, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 11, located at 1000 Main Street Woodland, CA 95695 and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: December 7, 2022
Daniel M. Wolk, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Dec 23, 30, 2022, Jan 6 & 13, 2023
SCARLET 1-13-23

COUNTY OF YOLO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#CV2022-2089
Matthew Lloyd Hummelgard II has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Matthew Lloyd Hummelgard II aka Alec Parker to Alec Matthew Parker.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on January 24, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 11, located at 1000 Main Street Woodland, CA 95695 and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: December 6, 2022
Daniel M. Wolk, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Dec 23, 30, 2022, Jan 6 & 13, 2023
MATTHEW 1-13-23

COUNTY OF YOLO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#CV2022-2200
Wazir Mohammad Zalmi and Hascena Zalmi have filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Hela Wazir to Hela Zalmi.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on February 16, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 14, located at 1000 Main Street Woodland, CA 95695 and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: December 22, 2022
Samuel T. McAdam, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Dec 30, 2022; Jan 6, 13 & 20, 2023
WAZIR 1-20-23

COUNTY OF YOLO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#CV2022-2171
Robert Cooper McKee and Sarah Marie Buer have filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Colbin James McKee to Colbin James Buer McKee.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on February 7, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 11, located at 1000 Main Street Woodland, CA 95695 and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: December 15, 2022
Daniel M. Wolk, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Dec 30, 2022; Jan 6, 13 & 20, 2023
ROBERT 1-20-23

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF BERTHA MARTINEZ FACE AKA BERTHA M.FACE
CASE NO. PR2022-0227
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Bertha Martinez Face, aka Bertha M. Face, deceased.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by James N. Face, in the Superior Court of California, County of Yolo, requesting James N. Face be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.
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. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: January 17, 2023, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 11. 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. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

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. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

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. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Daniel D. Repp, 8801 Folsom Boulevard, Suite 192, Sacramento, CA 95826; 916-442-8614
Publish: Dec 23 & 30, 2022; Jan 6, 2023
FACE 1-6-23

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF GERTRUDE E. SPRINGER, AKA TRUDY SPRINGER
CASE NO. PR2022-0269
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Gertrude E. Springer, aka Trudy Springer, deceased.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by Dean L. Springer, in the Superior Court of California, County of Yolo, requesting Dean L. Springer be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.
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. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: January 24, 2023, 9:00 a.m. in Dept TBD. 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. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months

from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

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. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: William E. Bernard, 1624 Santa Clara Drive, Suite 210, Roseville, CA 95661; 916-789-2266
Publish: Dec 30, 2022; Jan 6 & 13, 2023
SPRINGER 1-13-23

PUBLIC AUCTION

EXTRA SPACE STORAGE will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated: 975 F ST, West Sacramento, CA 95605 on 01/16/2023 @ 2:00PM:
Yvonne Castillo 3-bedroom household items, Caterina Grimes household goods, Sandra Sellers clothing, small kitchen items, Yvonne Robles household goods, Victor Tullankov boxes, Florence Mack w/d cal king, antiques chair, twin bed, 25 boxes. temperature, dining set, 2 dressers, Hira Kissana tv, queen bed, wall décor, Christy Studey household items, Larry Clark household goods.
This auction will be listed and advertised on www.storageasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.
12/30/22, 1/6/23
CNS-3652712# NEWS-LEDGER
DJ.712 1-6-23

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

January 18, 2023

Pursuant to Government Code Section 66018, the West Sacramento City Council will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday January 18, 2023, at the West Sacramento Civic Center, City Council Chambers, 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, California, at 7:00 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/city-council>), or on Astound Broadband Channel 20 and to submit comments in writing by 4:00 PM on January 18, 2023.

To submit a comment in writing, please email clerk@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. All comments received by 4:00 PM will be provided to the City Council and posted on the City's website. The comments submitted shall become part of the record of the meeting.

6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Municipal Code Changes Pertaining to Retail Cannabis Sales and Microbusinesses (Tilley)

This item is a public hearing regarding proposed Ordinance 23-1 pertaining to retail cannabis sales (storefront and non-storefront) and microbusinesses. This Ordinance would amend Titles 5 and 17 of the West Sacramento Municipal Code to effectuate retail cannabis sales and microbusinesses in various commercial and industrial areas of the city. Retail cannabis businesses (storefront and non-storefront) and microbusinesses would require discretionary approvals and an administrative cannabis license to be able to operate. A hybrid selection process (merit/lottery) is proposed for storefront retail cannabis in the future. No retail cannabis businesses or microbusinesses are proposed at this time. The draft Ordinance also includes a provision to develop an equity pilot program. The project is categorically exempt from further environmental review pursuant to the "common sense" CEQA exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

David Tilley

David W. Tilley, Principal Planner

NOTE: If you challenge the nature of a proposed action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing.

www.cityofwestsacramento.org

West Sac News Ledger 1-6-2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Government Code Section 66018, The West Sacramento Economic Development and Housing Commission (EDH) will conduct a public hearing on January 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. to announce the availability of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for program year 2023 and to receive public comment regarding programs and projects that may be considered for funding. Interested persons are invited to attend. The hearing will be held at the City of West Sacramento City Hall, second floor, 1110 West Capitol Ave., West Sacramento, California 95691.

The City of West Sacramento receives an annual allocation of CDBG funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As a condition of the grant, the City is required to develop an Annual Action Plan outlining how funds will be used to meet goals set in a HUD-approved five-year Consolidated Plan. The 2023 Annual Action Plan will cover the third year of the City's 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan. The 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan goals are: 1) reduce the incidence and impact of homelessness; 2) Inclusive Economic Development strategy; and 4) affirmatively further fair housing compliance.

CDBG funds must be used for projects that meet at least one of the three HUD national objectives: 1) benefitting low and moderate-income households; 2) addressing slums or blight conditions; or 3) addressing an urgent need such as flood or earthquake damage. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to: public infrastructure, parks, affordable housing and job creation; in addition to public services such as programs serving the homeless, disabled, elderly or low-income persons. Public facility development may be eligible for projects such as acquisition or rehabilitation of shelters, health clinics, or youth centers benefitting low- and moderate-income families. The City estimates an allocation of funds close to the prior year's CDBG allocation of \$470,478 and an estimated \$100,000 in program income to be available during program year 2023.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk, at clerk@cityofwestsacramento.org, seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting to allow the City to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to this meeting.

Assistance is available to groups representing low-income residents that are interested in learning about CDBG funding for programs or projects. Questions or comments may be directed to Isaah Alford, Community Investment Specialist, at (916) 617-4555 or by email at isaaha@cityofwestsacramento.org.

The City of West Sacramento promotes fair housing and makes all programs available to low- and moderate-income households regardless of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual preference, marital status or disability.

AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

En conformidad con la Sección 66018 del Código de Gobierno, la Comisión de Vivienda y Desarrollo Económico de West Sacramento (EDH, por sus siglas en inglés) llevará a cabo una audiencia pública el 25 de enero de 2023 a las 6:00 p.m. para anunciar la disponibilidad de fondos federales de Subvención en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG, por sus siglas en inglés) para el programa del año 2023 y para recibir comentarios públicos sobre programas y proyectos que pueden ser considerados para financiamiento. Las personas interesadas están invitadas a asistir. La audiencia se llevará a cabo en el Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad de West Sacramento, segundo piso, 1110 West Capitol Ave., West Sacramento, California 95691.

La ciudad de West Sacramento recibe una asignación anual de fondos CDBG del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD, por sus siglas en inglés) de EE. UU. Como condición de la subvención, se requiere que la Ciudad desarrolle un Plan de Acción Anual que describa cómo se utilizarán los fondos para alcanzar las metas establecidas en un Plan Consolidado de cinco años aprobado por HUD. El Plan de Acción Anual 2023 cubrirá el tercer año del Plan Consolidado 2021-2025 de la Ciudad. Los objetivos del Plan consolidado 2021-2025 son: 1) reducir la incidencia y el impacto de la falta de vivienda; 2) estrategia de Desarrollo Económico Inclusivo; y 4) afirmativamente más cumplimiento de vivienda justa.

Los fondos de CDBG deben usarse para proyectos que cumplan con al menos uno de los tres objetivos nacionales de HUD: 1) beneficiar a los hogares de ingresos bajos y moderados; 2) abordar las condiciones de los barrios pobres o deteriorados; o 3) abordar una necesidad urgente, como daños por inundaciones o terremotos. Los proyectos elegibles incluyen, pero no se limitan a: infraestructura pública, parques, vivienda asequible y creación de empleo; además de servicios públicos como programas que atienden a personas sin hogar, discapacitadas, de la tercera edad o de escasos recursos. El desarrollo de instalaciones públicas puede ser elegible para proyectos como la adquisición o rehabilitación de refugios, clínicas de salud o centros juveniles que benefician a familias de ingresos bajos y moderados. La Ciudad estima una asignación de fondos cercana a la asignación CDBG del año anterior de \$470,478 y un estimado \$100,000 en ingresos del programa estarán disponibles durante el año del programa 2023.

En conformidad con la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA, por sus siglas en inglés), si necesita ayuda para participar en esta reunión, comuníquese con el Secretario de la Ciudad, en clerk@cityofwestsacramento.org, setenta y dos (72) horas antes de la reunión para permitir que la Ciudad haga arreglos razonables para asegurar la accesibilidad a esta reunión.

La asistencia está disponible para grupos que representan a residentes de bajos ingresos que estén interesados en obtener información sobre la financiación de CDBG para programas o proyectos. Las preguntas o comentarios pueden dirigirse a Isaah Alford, especialista en inversiones comunitarias, al (916) 617-4555 o por correo electrónico a isaaha@cityofwestsacramento.org.

La ciudad de West Sacramento promueve la vivienda justa y pone todos los programas a disposición de los hogares de ingresos bajos y moderados, independientemente de su edad, raza, color, religión, sexo, origen nacional, preferencia sexual, estado civil o discapacidad.

West Sac News Ledger 1-6-2023



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Riley Reviews

‘GLASS ONION’ MYSTERY LAYERS; ‘SPECIAL FORCES’ REALITY TV

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“GLASS ONION: A KNIVES OUT MYSTERY” on NETFLIX

The challenge of writing about a whodunit is to impart enough information about the characters and the basic setup without divulging too much about the twists and surprises.

A murder mystery should be peeled back like the layers on an onion. The title alone, “Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery,” suggests the same, even though the onion in question is an architectural feature of an island estate.

“Glass Onion” may be considered a sequel to Rian Johnson’s 2019 “Knives Out” in the same way that the James Bond franchise was launched when “From Russia with Love” followed “Dr. No.”

Just as Sean Connery was the common thread of the 007 character in those early films, Daniel Craig is the Hercule Poirot-type detective Benoit Blanc holding together a budding new whodunit franchise.

The fun begins with longtime friends and associates of tech billionaire Miles Bron (Edward Norton) receiving puzzle boxes containing invitations to a weekend

on his lavish private estate on a Greek island.

The guest list includes Miles’ former business partner Cassandra “Andi” Brand (Janelle Monae), Connecticut governor Claire Debella (Kathryn Hahn) who’s running for the senate, and cutting-edge scientist Lionel Toussaint (Leslie Odom Jr.).

Fashion designer and ditzzy former model Birdie Jay (Kate Hudson) and her assistant Peg (Jessica Henwick), and Twitch influencer Duke Cody (Dave Bautista) and his sidekick girlfriend Whiskey (Madelyn Cline) round out the party.

Not in the circle of Miles’ group is world famous detective Benoit Blanc, but here he is on the dock with the other guests for the boat ride to Miles’ hide-away. Since the event is a game about the billionaire turning up “dead,” why not involve a real sleuth?

On our first glimpse of Benoit, he’s in his bathtub playing an online murder mystery game with friends Angela Lansbury, Stephen Sondheim, Natasha Lyonne and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

Suffering from ennui and lack of a challenge from a great case, Benoit tells his gaming buddies that his “mind is a fueled-up racing car, and I got nowhere to

drive it.” This is all the more reason for the famed sleuth to join the eclectic group for the murder mystery game.

Miles is fond of calling his guests “disruptors” and in a sense, some of them seem more so than others. Claire appears to be an idealistic candidate for higher office, but she’s being bankrolled by Miles.

Others have a connection to Miles’ bounty as well. Lionel actually works as a scientist for Miles. Former partner Andi has been estranged from Miles due to bad blood over their business breakup.

As in all the best murder mysteries, where writer-director Rian Johnson has crafted a really good one with thrills and humor, each character harbors their own secrets, lies and motivations.

Here’s hoping that Netflix will deliver another crowd-pleasing “Knives Out” installment, and that we will learn more about the enigmatic Benoit Blanc and how he came to be as resourceful as Hercule Poirot and Sherlock Holmes.

“SPECIAL FORCES: THE ULTIMATE TEST” ON FOX

Presented as the ultimate celebrity social experiment, “Special Forces: The Ultimate Test” is an all-new series on FOX television in which ostensible household names endure some of the harshest, most grueling challenges from the playbook of the actual Special Forces selection process.

Unlike other survivor reality shows, there are no votes and no eliminations in the expected sense. No one will be voted off the island. These celebrities, who are so

used to being in the spotlight, quickly learn the meaning of “no guts, no glory.”

Selection for the Special Forces is a test unlike any other. Sixteen celebrities from all genres will take on, and try to survive, demanding training exercises led by Directing Staff (DS) agents, an elite team of ex-Special Forces operatives.

In this unique series, the only way for these recruits to leave is to give up on their own accord, through failure or potential injury, or by force from the DS agents.

Viewers will see the recruits face the harshest of environments that simulate the highly classified selection process.

The celebrities will push themselves in a way they never have been challenged before. They face the ultimate test of their physical, mental and emotional resilience, revealing their deepest and truest character.

Who are these celebrities? Who will quit, who will survive? Some of the celebrities are known better than others. Mike Piazza, a Hall of Fame catcher mostly with the Mets and Dodgers, played for 16 seasons in the MLB.

Dr. Drew Pinsky, known nationally as “Dr. Drew,” has been a ubiquitous figure both on television and radio for the entirety of his career. Kate Gosselin might be remembered for the reality series “Jon and Kate Plus 8.”

Anthony Scaramucci was the Communications Director in the Trump White House for a day or two. No, actually it was a full ten days before he was caught up in controversy. He’s authored five books, so that should go a long way in making him fit, or not, for the Special Forces challenge. ★

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News-Ledger Adjudicated For and By the County of Yolo, Adjudication No. CV PT 09-1432 – September 4, 2009

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TRUSTEE SALE

T.S. No. 101731-CA APN: 014-126-004-000 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 4/20/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER On 2/3/2023 at 12:45 PM, CLEAR RECON CORP, as duly appointed trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 4/27/2007 as Instrument No. 2007-0015553-00 of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Yolo County, State of CALIFORNIA executed by: PAUL A. PUECH AN UNMARRIED MAN WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN ON A STATE OR NATIONAL BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN BY A STATE OR FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION, SAVINGS ASSOCIATION, OR SAVINGS BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5102 OF THE FINANCIAL CODE AND AUTHORIZED TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS STATE; At the rear (North) entrance to the City Hall Building, 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691 all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State described as: MORE FULLY DESCRIBED ON SAID DEED OF TRUST The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 625 SMLAX AVE, WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95605 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be held, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, condition, or encumbrances, including fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to pay the remaining principal sums of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$94,382.34 If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse.

The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned or its predecessor caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 1-866-539-4173 or visit this Internet Web site WWW.SERVICELINKAUCTION.COM, using the file number assigned to this case 101731-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: Effective January 1, 2021, you may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There

are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (855) 313-3319, or visit this internet website www.clearreconcorp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 101731-CA to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. FOR SALES INFORMATION: 1-866-539-4173 CLEAR RECON CORP 4375 Jutland Drive San Diego, California 92117 Publish: Jan.6, 13, 20, 2023 STOX_935887 1-20-23 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No. 162209 Title No. 02-22009120 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 02/17/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 02/06/2023 at 1:00 PM, The Mortgage Law Firm, PLC, as duly appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded 02/27/2006, as Instrument No. 2006-0007768-00, in book xx, page xx, of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Yolo County, State of California, executed by Jose Mercado, an Unmarried Man, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK/ CASH EQUIVALENT or other form of payment authorized by 2924h(b), (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States), At the North entrance to the City Hall Building, 1110 West Capitol Avenue,, West Sacramento, CA 95691. All right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State, described as: FULLY DESCRIBED IN THE ABOVE DEED OF TRUST. APN 014-255-031 The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be:728 Hardy Drive, West Sacramento, CA 95605 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances,

to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$217,387.95 If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused a Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. Dated: 12/21/2022 THE MORTGAGE LAW FIRM, PLC The Mortgage Law Firm, PLC. May be attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained may be used for that purpose. Adriana Durham/Authorized Signature 27455 Tierra Alta Way, Ste. B, Temecula, CA 92590 (619) 465-8200 FOR TRUSTEE'S SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL (800) 280-2832 NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property

itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (800) 280-2832 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Web site - www.auction.com - for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case: 162209. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled

sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (800) 280-2832 for information regarding the trustee's sale, or visit this internet website www.auction.com or https://tracker.auction.com/sb1079/ for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case Ts# 162209 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. A-4768677 01/06/2023, 01/13/2023, 01/20/2023 SL_677 1-20-23

LIEN SALE

In accordance with the provisions of State law, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an owner and/or manager's lien of the goods hereinafter described and stored at the Life Storage location(s) listed below:
Life Storage #0635 3280 Jefferson Blvd West Sacramento, CA 95691 (916) 492-2056
Supreme Roper: Hsld gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip, Tools/Aplneces, Acctng rcdrds/Sales Sampls
Frank Benavidez Jr: Hsld gds/Furn
Angela Alcaraz: Hsld gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip, Tools/Aplneces
Yvonne Davis: Hsld gds/Furn, Acctng rcdrds/Sales Sampls ,Off Furn/Mach/Equip
Michael T Stephenson: Hsld gds/Furn, TV/Stereo Equip, Tools/Aplneces
And, due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having expired, the goods will be sold to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of at a public auction to be held online at www.StorageTreasures.com, which will end on **Thursday, January 26th 2023 at 10:00AM**
West Sac News Ledger 12-30-22, 1-6-2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LIEN SALE
SELF STORAGE AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned intends to sell the personal property described below to enforce a lien imposed on said property pursuant to the California Storage Act (Sections 21700-21716 of the Business & Professions Code.)
West Sacramento Self Storage: Property is located in separate storage units at 2274 Lake Washington Blvd., West Sacramento, CA 95691.The auction will be conducted entirely online at: **https://bid13.com/** Auctioneer: Bid13.com 1-844-348-2776; agent for Owner. Contents such as household goods, clothes, children's toys, furniture, tools, and other miscellaneous items for the following lien units will be sold:
E135-MALINDA CRICHTON; E106-DESIREE WILLIAMS; B010-DONALD BONNER;
H019-F110-C082-LEONARD RUBIO
Pictures of unit contents can be seen online. Bidding is held online beginning Tuesday, January 10th, 2023 at 9am and closes Tuesday, January 17th, 2023 at 12pm PST.
Payment must be paid for at the time of purchase. Cash only accepted. All items in the unit are sold **as is** and must be removed within two days of the time of sale. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.
West Sac News Ledger 1-6, 1-13-2023

States Must Do Better Protecting Unborn Life

Commentary by
the Liberty Counsel

ORLANDO, FL (MPG) - Now that the U.S. Supreme Court has overruled the Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey abortion decisions, several states had ballot measures involving abortion. Three states added abortion provisions to their state Constitutions. Two states voted down measures that would restrict abortion.

California voters approved Proposition 1, introduced by Gov. Gavin Newsom, which explicitly protects abortion and contraceptive rights in the state Constitution.

Michigan voters also passed a ballot initiative to fortify abortion rights. Proposal 3 affirms a woman's right to make decisions "about all matters relating to pregnancy," including contraception, fertility, abortion and childbirth.

Vermont's Proposal 5 overwhelmingly passed and creates a constitutional right to "personal reproductive autonomy."

Regarding states attempting to protect unborn life, Kentucky's Amendment 2 was defeated which would have amended the state Constitution to explicitly state it doesn't "secure or protect a right to abortion or require the funding of abortion."

In addition, voters in Montana voted against Legislative Referendum 131 which would expand rights for infants who are "born

alive" after failed abortions, and allow health-care workers to face punishments if they don't give them proper medical treatment.

Liberty Counsel has filed amicus briefs at the state Supreme Courts in Indiana, South Carolina, Kentucky and Oklahoma on behalf of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (NHCLC) and the Frederick Douglass Foundation to uphold there is no right to abortion within the states' Constitutions and defend pro-life laws that limit the killing of innocent unborn children.

The NHCLC and Frederick Douglass Foundation represent millions of African Americans and Hispanics. These minority communities have been the direct target of abortion, and most Planned Parenthood's abortion clinics are in black and Hispanic neighborhoods. Liberty Counsel also filed an amicus brief on behalf of the NHCLC and the Frederick Douglass Foundation at the U.S. Supreme Court in the Dobbs abortion case. In overturning Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey, the High Court cited to this brief acknowledging that abortion has disproportionately impacted the black community.

Liberty Counsel's Founder and Chairman Mat Staver said, "It is shameful that any state would vote to kill innocent unborn children in the womb. We must do better and make the womb a safe place — once again." ★

Roundtable Responds to Governor Newsom's New Oil Profit Penalty Tax

California Business Roundtable
News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Rob Lapsley, president of the California Business Roundtable, issued the following statement on December 5, 2022, in response to Governor Newsom's oil profits penalty tax proposal:

"Let's be clear, the governor's proposed profit 'penalty' is just a tax by another name and will raise the price at the pump even higher for hardworking California families. The Energy Commission, industry experts, and economists have all pointed to actions by the state — including the more than \$1.08

per gallon of taxes and fees — as the main culprit for California's persistently high gas prices. But instead of addressing the costs his and previous administrations have added to gasoline as a result of their energy policies, Governor Newsom is trying to distract with a political ploy that will make our gas price crisis even worse. The governor is sending a message to investors and companies across the country that California now intends to start micromanaging business decisions, in addition to the myriad and growing regulations, high taxes and policies that continue to make California the worst place in the nation to do business." ★

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • GEOGRAPHY 101

CLUES

ACROSS

1. Piece of data
6. Baryshnikov's step
9. Back wound
13. Soft palate hanger
14. *Any high mountain
15. Tsar's edict
16. Means
17. Bishop of Rome's jurisdiction
18. Female water-elf
19. *Highest mountain
21. *Sea that is also the largest lake
23. A in MoMA
24. *Small island
25. Ignited
28. Lamborghini model
30. Extravagant
35. 15th of March, May, July or October
37. ____-a-Sketch
39. Technology expert
40. Novice
41. Damage one's reputation
43. Lil' Bow Wow's first name
44. Bette Midler's movie
46. "I'm ____ you!"
47. Unit of pressure
48. Denver breakfast choice
50. Big rig
52. ____ de Janeiro
53. Excessively abundant
55. Ensign, for short
57. *Great ____ Reef
61. *National Geographic

DOWN

1. Surfer's "man"
2. Tel ____ Israel
3. Ditty
4. Extremist
5. Masters without t
6. Ghost of Christmas ____
7. Miller High Life, e.g.
8. Four-eyes' gear
9. Bypass
10. Uber alternative
11. *The largest continent
12. Past participle of "be"
15. Remove from political office
20. Eyelid infections
22. Opposite of nothing
24. Burning aroma producer
25. *____sphere, the solid earth
26. "She is pulling my leg," e.g.
27. 9 a.m. prayer
29. *____sphere, air surrounding earth
31. Sleeveless garment
32. Blood of the gods, Greek mythology
33. Harry Belafonte's daughter
34. *____sphere, all water on earth

36. Aretha Franklin's genre
38. Type of crime
42. Young Montague
45. Brown and yellow finches
49. Cravat or bola
51. Financial gain
54. 100 centimes
56. "Barefoot in the Park" playwright
57. Summer ride
58. "Green Gables" protagonist
59. Amusement park attraction
60. Sturgeon ____ and salmon ____
61. Table mineral
62. Chow or grub
63. Biblical pronoun
64. Ready and eager
67. ____sphere, all life on earth

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by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats

LOVE IS A LONG SWEET DREAM

...MARRIAGE IS THE ALARM CLOCK!!

by Jeff Pickering

Out on a Limb

LET'S GO HUNT!

LET'S GO GATHER!

LET'S DO NEITHER! INSTEAD LET'S ROLL STONES IN FRONT TO PROTECT OURSELVES FROM WHAT I COULD SEE IS SEVERE WEATHER HEADED THIS WAY.

THE THING I DON'T LIKE ABOUT UGRAH IS THAT HE ALWAYS HAS TO BE THE SMARTEST PERSON IN THE CAVE.

by Gary Kopervas

R.F.D.

I NO LONGER GET THAT NEW YEAR'S OPTIMISM THAT I USED TO, SIM.

I STILL GET OVERLY OPTIMISTIC, MAY, YOU SHOULD TAKE SOME OF MINE.

YOU COULD FEEL OPTIMISM AGAIN AND I COULD AVOID THE RUDE AWAKENING I EVENTUALLY ALWAYS GET.

by Mike Marland

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Spending Your Money



Gov. Gavin Newsom addresses a press conference where he unveiled his budget proposal for 2022-23 in Sacramento on Jan. 10, 2022. Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

By Alejandro Lazo and Jeanne Kuang, CALMatters.org

California faces a projected deficit next year even if the U.S. avoids a recession. Despite the expected shortfall, policymakers say they’ll maintain spending on social programs though advocates are calling for more.

The Legislative Analyst’s Office recently said in its annual forecast that Gov. Gavin Newsom and the Democratic Party-controlled Legislature are facing a \$24 billion projected budget deficit for the next fiscal year.

If the state enters a recession the outlook is even worse, with revenues predicted to fall short by \$30 billion to \$50 billion. The governor signed a record-breaking \$308 billion budget in June.

The legislative analyst attributes the projected shortfall to California’s reliance on those whose incomes often ebb and flow with the price of stocks, real estate and other investments.

“Those are the same people who get a lot of their income from financial investments,” said Legislative Analyst Gabriel Petek. “That volatility then gets transmitted directly to the state budget.”

The governor will present a proposed budget in January and then a revision in May. The budget, which the Legislature must approve, will fund state government for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

H.D. Palmer, spokesperson for the state Department of Finance, declined to comment on whether social spending cuts might be proposed.

He did say, however, that the governor’s priority was to not scale back programs that people have come to depend on, or to begin new ones. Some program expansions in later fiscal years could be delayed if there isn’t enough revenue to support them, he said.

The goal is to avoid the kind of drastic program reductions enacted during the Great Recession that took years for the state to restore.

The state’s Democratic legislative leaders have said they are not inclined to cut recently expanded programs, such as the extension of free health care to low-income undocumented immigrants, which began with older adults this year and is slated to open up to all ages in January 2024. The expansion is expected to cost more than \$2 billion annually.

The budget is in a much stronger position than it was during the state’s last fiscal crisis, said Phil Ting, the Assembly budget committee chair from San Francisco.

“We have a significant amount of cash available, both in terms of reserves, but also in terms of liquidity,” Ting said. “So this is a very different situation than the state faced in 2008-2009, where they were running out of cash.”

The governor, nevertheless, has signaled he is being cautious. Newsom in October said he had vetoed 169 bills and saved taxpayers billions. Seventy-five of those vetoes were directly budget related, with many including boilerplate language that the state was facing “lower-than-expected revenues” and that it was “important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing.”

Among the bills vetoed by the governor earlier this year were proposals to expand government-funded care for new mothers, expand free transit programs for California students and create grants for graduate students in mental health who commit to working at certain California-based nonprofits.

Newsom, whom voters elected to another four-year term, has used surpluses to pay down debts, build reserves and provide direct



California Governor Gavin Newsom is photographed at a press conference in Fontana on February 17, 2022. Photo by Alisha Jucevic for CalMatters

payments to millions of Californians.

Recently Moody’s Analytics rated California one of the states most prepared for a recession, citing its reserves.

Nevertheless, California’s budget enacted in June 2021 committed to \$3.4 billion in new ongoing spending and is expected to grow to \$12 billion in the 2025 budget year. The budget enacted in June of this year committed an additional \$2.3 billion, expected to grow to nearly \$5 billion by the 2026 budget year, the Legislative Analyst’s Office said.

The state has \$37 billion in specific reserve funds. That includes about \$23 billion in a rainy-day fund voters agreed to strengthen in 2014 at the urging of then-Gov. Jerry Brown. The state also has \$900 million in a reserve account for safety net programs. The rest of those reserve funds are in school-specific and general operating reserves.

But, Palmer noted, the state can only draw down the rainy-day fund by half in any year. The Legislative Analyst’s Office has advised the Legislature to slow down

or pause program expansions before dipping into reserves.

Ting’s office contends the state has billions in unspent federal and state dollars in its coffers that could address a potential deficit. Using that money would avoid cuts to programs but delay other projects.

Anti-poverty advocates said in interviews they plan to continue pushing for program expansions, arguing the precipice of a downturn is the time to bolster social spending, not cut it.

Nearly 30% of California residents live in or near poverty, according to the Public Policy Institute of California. Experts expect poverty rates to increase after the end of a boost in federal cash aid, which came in 2021 in the form of an expanded child tax credit included in the American Rescue Plan Act.

Advocates are proposing that California mimic that federal expansion by opening up the state’s Young Child Tax Credit, currently a \$1,000-a-year credit for low-income families with children under age 6, to include all children in low-income households.

They estimate 1 million children live in families that would qualify, at an additional cost of \$700 million a year.

Advocates said they also want the state to create an unemployment benefits program for undocumented immigrants and to include all low-income immigrants, regardless of immigration status, in its food assistance program.

“We know the projected budget shortfalls make it more challenging, but the past few years highlighted why something like this is so important,” said Sasha Feldstein, economic justice policy manager at the California Immigrant Policy Center. “People who are excluded from our safety net have been the most adversely impacted from the COVID-19 pandemic and are the most harmed during times of economic downturn.”

Lawmakers and Newsom this year allocated money to expand the California Food Assistance Program, a state version of food stamps, to include undocumented immigrants age 55 and older; the benefits are expected to become available late next year. Newsom vetoed a bill that would have tested an unemployment benefits program for undocumented immigrants, citing costs.

The projected shortfall is the state’s first major fiscal challenge since Newsom’s office predicted a \$54 billion shortfall in May 2020, when the country was in the grips of the COVID-19 pandemic. After financial markets rebounded and the federal government provided unprecedented stimulus, the anticipated shortfall resulted in surpluses.

The Federal Reserve began hiking interest rates in March 2022 to cool inflation. Then housing sales, initial public stock offerings and stock markets fell. All are important sources of personal income

tax revenue.

In California, personal income withholding fell even as the job market recovered.

Over the last decade, California has increasingly relied on some of the state’s highest earners to fund its budget which, among other things, takes aim at poverty and some of the nation’s starkest income inequality.

Much of the state’s general fund is paid for by its progressive personal income tax, which voters in 2012 raised on the state’s highest earners after Brown warned of cuts to health and education. In 2016 voters extended those higher income tax rates through 2030 while also allowing a temporary sales tax to expire. The increases, meant for education and healthcare spending, have also paid for increased social safety net spending.

About 49% of the personal income tax paid in California in 2020 came from just 1% of tax filers, according to the state’s finance department. And in the past decade, taxes collected from the most volatile form of income — capital gains — have doubled, making up a larger share of the state’s revenue and tying the state’s budget to particularly unstable economic cycles.

To address that, voters approved changes to the state’s rainy-day fund in 2014. The changes serve as a check on spending, directing California to capture additional dollars in reserve when capital gains tax receipts are high.

Building reserves large enough for a state to ride through a recession is difficult, said Donald Boyd, a state finance expert at the University of Albany in New York.

“As a practical matter, it is very hard to build a rainy-day fund that’s big enough to get you through a rainy season,” Boyd said. “You need huge amounts of money to offset the effects of even a modest recession.” ★