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West Sacramento News Ledger

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Merry Christmas



YCCA Wraps Up 2022 with Holiday Toy Distribution



Mayor Guerrero rushes out to hand stuffed animals to car, before it moves on to next gift station. Photo by Michele Townsend

YCCA News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Saturday, December 17, the Yolo County Children's Alliance held their final community event of the 2022 year, distributing new toys to 612 families, along with winter resources, treats – bringing an overall festive event to the community as they celebrate the holiday season.

Yolo County Children's Alliance Family Resource Center provides a joyous and supportive space for families during the holiday season – a time when rates of depression, anxiety, grief and

suicide rates increase. The toy distribution provides a festive environment with holiday toys, music, food, cold weather and health resources for our community.

"Our organization works tirelessly throughout the year to ensure families receive the services they need to strengthen, empower, and build stronger family and community connections," said Jeneba Lahai, Executive Director of Yolo County Children's Alliance. "This event is a celebration of our families, staff, volunteers, sponsors, donors, and supporters who

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WS Police Share in Shop with a Cop

**City of West Sac
News Release**

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On the morning of December 11, the West Sacramento Police Department hosted its 7th annual Shop with a Cop Event.

This event hosted 30 local West Sacramento Youth on a \$200 shopping spree at Walmart. Students are selected in conjunction with the Washington Unified School District Outreach Team, the Collings Teen Center and the Yolo County District Attorney's office for a variety of reasons, including being at risk, family financial struggles, previous interaction with the judicial system and showing marked behavioral improvement. This event gave local youth an opportunity to have positive interactions with officers, and district attorneys, while adding a bit of holiday cheer to a time that is financially difficult for many West Sacramento



A West Sacramento Police Officer poses for a photo with Santa Claus. Photo courtesy of the West Sacramento Police Department

families. In years past, this event has been the first opportunity for many local youths to purchase a gift not only for themselves, but family as well, and we anticipate this year will be no different.

The group met at 8:30 a.m. at the Collings Teen Center where students met the Officers and Deputy District Attorneys they will be paired with to shop. At approximately 9:00 a.m., there was a caravan from the Collings Teen Center to Walmart where the group met with Walmart Associates in the Garden Center before heading into

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Sacramento Kings Guard Malik Monk Spreads Holiday Cheer



Sacramento Kings guard Malik Monk, Kings dancers and families from Saint John's Program for Real Change pose for a photo after a shopping spree hosted by Monk on Sunday, December 18 at Target in West Sacramento. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Kings

Sacramento Kings News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Sunday, December 18, Sacramento Kings guard Malik Monk hosted several families associated with Saint John's Program for Real Change for a shopping spree at Target in West Sacramento.

"It's always important to give back," Monk said at the event. "The fans are always supporting us. We don't get a chance to come out here and support

shopping with some moms and their kids so that they can have a really amazing Christmas."

In addition, the families were provided gift cards to Chipotle and Crumble Cookies for after shopping treats, memorabilia signed by Monk and tickets to the game on December 19 against the Charlotte Hornets.

"On behalf of Saint John's, I want to say a HUGE thank you to Malik and the Kings organization," said Saint John's Program for Real

Change Community Engagement Manager, Karen Edwards. "You have all been supportive of Saint John's over the years. You've come and volunteered, you've supported us and we're grateful for the partnership that we have. We're very grateful for this holiday surprise that these women and their children experienced tonight, so thank you."

Saint John's Square resident Terra Hennefer and her young son were one of the families who enjoyed a shopping spree.

"It was awesome, [I] totally feel blessed to have this experience," Hennefer said. "We did a lot of shopping, he got to pick out his own little toys, so it was amazing. We feel totally blessed to have this experience."

Kirby Elmore, a fellow square resident, has had her life dramatically changed by Saint John's in a positive way.

"Two years ago, I was living in a trailer on the side of the road," Elmore said. "Saint John's took me in and now I have a job, I have a house, I have a car, insurance, registration and my life is just totally turned around. This is the happiest time of my life."



Sacramento Kings guard Malik Monk and a young boy check out a Lego set that the boy picked out. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Kings

them. So, it's always good to do that and for them to see my face somewhere else."

As part of the Sacramento Kings 21st Annual Season of Doing Good presented by Raley's, Monk provided local mothers and their children with Target gift cards and joined the 916 Crew and Kings Dancers in the shopping experience.

"Today Malik Monk really blessed a lot of families from Saint John's Program for Real Change," said Kings Vice President of Experiences and Social Responsibility, Maritza Davis. "We're



A young boy and his mom smile as they talk to Sacramento Kings guard Malik Monk. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Kings

YCCA Wraps Up 2022 with Holiday Toy Distribution



L to R: School Board Trustee Jackie Wong, WS Chamber immediate Past President Lori Hawkins, Assistant Executive Director of government relations for the Ca. Assoc. of School Business Officials Elizabeth Esquivel, City Councilmember Dawnte West, Yolo County Supervisor Oscar Villegas and YCCA Resource & Develop Manager Katie Durham. All the big wigs coming out to help. Photo by Michele Townsend

Continued from page 1

dedicated their time, energy, and resources to bring holiday cheer to the children and families. Without YCCA heroes like Sutter Health, this event would not be possible at such a large scale due to the growing need in our community."

The holiday toy distribution is also an opportunity to provide no-cost COVID and flu vaccines to the community. As cases of COVID and RSV continue to rise, the need for health education and vaccines is higher than ever. Many families served at this event don't have the option to visit a provider for their flu vaccine, thus leaving them more vulnerable to catching and spreading the virus. Sutter Health, Sutter Davis Hospital, and Sutter Medical Foundation worked with YCCA to bring no-cost flu vaccines to the community, which were staffed by physician residents within the Sutter network.

"We're grateful to work alongside Yolo County Children's Alliance all year round, but especially during the holiday season as they work in many ways to lift the spirits of those they serve," said Tammy Powers, Chief Administrative Officer of Sutter Davis Hospital. "The gift of good health is very precious. As we continue through the

holiday season, we are proud to support efforts that encourage the public to access available vaccines, such as the flu shot and COVID-19 bivalent vaccine/booster that can help keep them and their loved ones healthy."

This year, YCCA brought together a wide range of partners and volunteers. Our immense gratitude to Sutter Health, the County of Yolo, the City of West Sacramento and their Police Department, West Sacramento Mayor Pro Tem Quirina Orozco and West Sac Kids Give Back, Washington Unified School District, West Sacramento Chamber of Commerce, Travis Credit Union, Yolo Federal Credit Union, Habitat for Humanity, Waste Management, Kaiser Permanente, First 5 Yolo, PG&E, Walmart Foundation, YCCA strengthens communities by building resiliency in youth, adults, and families and by creating networks of support.

YCCA is a 501(c)3 non-profit. Tax ID number 68-0526185

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WS Police Share in Shop with a Cop



This event hosted 30 local West Sacramento Youth on a \$200 shopping spree at Walmart. Photo courtesy of the West Sacramento Police Department

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the store to shop. Once shopping was completed and photos had been taken with Santa and his elves, the caravan returned to the Collings Teen Center

where there was a light lunch and an opportunity for gift wrapping before the youth headed home.

This event is made possible through donations from Walmart and the Buena

Vista Ranch of Me-Wuk Indians Community Fund in partnership with Washington Unified School District, and the Yolo County District Attorney's Office. ★

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Killer of Woodland Teens Enrique Rios and Elijah Moore is Sentenced to 15 Years in Prison

Yolo County DA News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - On December 7, 2022, 26-year-old Knights Landing man, Jonathan Froste, was sentenced to 15 years to life by Yolo County Superior Court Judge David Rosenberg.

In May 2022, a Yolo County jury found co-defendants Chandale Shannon guilty of two counts of first-degree murder for victims Enrique Rios and Elijah Moore, and also kidnapping, and special circumstances of multiple murders and kidnapping during the course of a murder. Jesus Campos was convicted of second-degree murder of Enrique Rios, first degree murder of Elijah Moore, kidnapping, and special circumstances of multiple murders and kidnapping during the course of a murder.

The jury heard evidence that on October 17, 2016, 16-year-old Elijah Moore robbed David Froste, Chandale Shannon, and Jesus Campos of three ounces of marijuana. David Froste contacted his brother, Jonathan Froste, telling him about the robbery and indicated that he was going to get his gun from their mutual home in Knights Landing. Chandale Shannon and Jesus Campos heard the phone call, which was recorded on Jonathan Froste's cell phone, and later obtained by investigators.

After getting his gun, David Froste, Shannon, and Campos returned to Woodland and met with Jonathan Froste. David Froste informed the others he wanted to find Moore and exact revenge. Mr. Shannon suggested they reach out to Enrique Rios, age 16, who was a friend of Moore's. Knowing David Froste wanted to kill Moore, Shannon communicated with Rios, who, unaware of what Moore had

done, provided an address in Esparto.

Cell phone tower and location data showed David Froste, Shannon, and Campos traveled to Esparto and a witness saw Rios being picked up in a car matching the description of a vehicle owned by Shannon. Rios was friends with both Shannon and Campos but not David Froste. A short time later, David Froste, Shannon, and Campos turned off their phones. The following day, David Froste and Shannon told Jonathan Froste that Rios was taken to a secluded area near Knights Landing. Rios refused to call or provide a location for his friend Moore. David Froste shot and murdered Rios.

Several weeks later, on November 4, 2016, Campos, in a vehicle with David and Jonathan Froste, pointed out Moore who was leaving a barber shop near Main Street in Woodland. Moore was forced into the trunk of the vehicle. The three then traveled to pick up Shannon, who had the gun used to kill Rios. The four defendants traveled again to Knights Landing. Moore was forced out of the vehicle at gun point. Shannon initially had the firearm and held Moore at gunpoint. Moore was forced to the ground and his hands were zip tied behind his back. The four defendants marched Moore to a more secluded area. Moore's ankles were also bound at this point and David Froste and Campos left the group to obtain shovels, a pickaxe, gasoline, and bleach. Moore was told he was going to die.

Jonathan Froste and Shannon took turns holding the gun while Moore begged to call his mother and to let him go. Both requests were denied. When David Froste and Campos returned an hour later with the tools, David

Froste selected a baseball bat sized branch and violently struck Moore in the head. Jonathan Froste, Shannon, and Campos each took turns striking Moore in the head. David Froste then selected a large log and dropped it on Moore's head, crushing his skull. All four defendants then proceeded to dig a hole to bury Moore's body. Moore's body was placed in the hole and lit Moore's body on fire. The flames were too high and the four defendants doused the flames with dirt. Bleach was also poured on Moore's body.

After covering Moore's body with dirt and vegetation, the four defendants left, burned their own blood covered clothing, and threw the tools used to clean up into the river at the drawbridge in Knights Landing.

Shortly after each Rios and Moore went missing, their parents contacted law enforcement. This proved to be the beginning of a massive investigation. The Yolo County Sheriff's Department and Woodland Police Department began a comprehensive investigation that lasted until June of 2018. Numerous other agencies also assisted. Multiple search warrants obtaining cell tower records, Facebook records, and Google location data obtained thousands of pages of records. Detective Mat Jameson of the Woodland Police Department and Sgt. Lech Garcia of the Yolo County Sheriff's Office coordinated and led the investigation which involved numerous detectives, officers, and crime scene analysts from both the Woodland Police Department and the Yolo County Sheriff's Office.

Coordinated through the leadership of the Yolo County District Attorney's Office, numerous other agencies, both

law enforcement and civilian, assisted in providing thousands of hours to completing the investigation and preparing a compelling case against the perpetrators of these horrendous crimes. This process also included monumental efforts attempting to find the location of Moore and Rios' bodies. Those who provided assistance included the FBI, archeologists and anthropologists from Chico State University, Sutter County Sheriff's Office, numerous search and rescue volunteers, cadaver dogs, PG&E, the GIS office of Yolo County, and experts in ground radar and missing body location. All four murderers, David Froste, Jonathan Froste, Chandale Shannon, and Jesus Campos were arrested in June of 2018 after an extensive investigation.

Jonathan Froste, after his arrest in June of 2018, elected to cooperate with the Yolo County District Attorney's Office. He attempted to locate Moore and Rios' bodies. While ultimately unsuccessful, Jonathan Froste agreed to provide truthful information regarding the two murders and pled to second degree murder. He testified against his brother David Froste and against Shannon and Campos. He ultimately testified at the trial of his brother David Froste in the fall of 2018, and the trial of Chandale Shannon and Jesus Campos held in March-May of 2022.

Deputy District Attorneys Jay Linden and Kyle Hasapes organized the massive amount of evidence and records to prepare for the trial of David Froste, which took place in the Fall of 2018. David Froste was convicted and sentenced to Life without the Possibility of Parole. His conviction

was recently affirmed by the California Third District Court of Appeals.

With both Hasapes and Linden leaving the office, Deputy District Attorney David Wilson was assigned to prosecute and try Shannon and Campos. With the assistance of Detective Mat Jameson and Sgt. Lech Garcia, numerous witnesses and complex legal theories were presented during the trial. This included cell phone tower data, Google location data, Facebook records, and numerous witnesses in order to provide as much information as possible to the jury. The evidence presented clearly demonstrated that Shannon and Campos conspired with and aided David Froste in committing horrible crimes. After four weeks of trial, the jury returned the guilty verdicts.

During the sentencing hearing, numerous family members made victim impact statements on behalf of Enrique and Elijah. While appreciative of Jonathan Froste providing information regarding these horrific murders, the families of both victims spoke to how Jonathan Froste was still culpable and responsible in the acts that ultimately stole the lives of two young men. Several pleaded for Jonathan Froste to provide any additional information regarding the location of Enrique's and Elijah's bodies.

Judge Rosenberg then pronounced sentence. Judge Rosenberg stated that in his twenty years on the bench, this case represented some of the most heinous and evil acts he had ever seen. While Jonathan Froste ultimately came forward with information, he shared in the responsibility for the deaths of the two victims and needed to be held accountable. ★

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Q: I saw a DMV kiosk at my local grocery store. Can I use it if I can't make it to a DMV office before the holidays?

A: Yes! If you are unable to make it to the DMV before the holiday season, you can use one of the hundreds of DMV kiosks located throughout the state to help complete your vehicle registration renewal, print registration tags instantly, submit proof of insurance, receive a driver or vehicle record, and more. Some are even open 24/7 and are located throughout communities in local grocery stores, libraries, and other convenient locations. To locate the DMV kiosk nearest to you, visit <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/locations/kiosks>.

Q: I will be moving next year, but I want to get my address updated on my driver's license before the holidays. Can I change my address online?

A: Yes, you can update your new address online as long as you already have a valid California ID and your new residence is in the same state that you currently reside in. Before you begin, make sure you have:
Both your old and new addresses.
If changing the address for your vehicle or vessel, you will also need your most recent registration card and the address where your trailer coach or vessel is located (if applicable).
A MyDMV account which can be created online.
Once you have all those items handy, you can start the application process to update your address at dmv.ca.gov/online.

Q: What if I have an urgent question regarding DMV services, but I don't have time to make it into an office before the holidays? Do I have any other options?

A: Yes, a DMV virtual assistant is available 24/7 to help guide you and answer any questions about DMV services. Just click or tap the "Ask DMV" button in the bottom right corner of your screen. The DMV site also features a virtual field office allowing users to start transactions and upload any required documents, which are then reviewed by a DMV customer service agent before contacting you to finish the process.

All DMV offices will be closed on
Monday, December 26 – Christmas Day (Observed)
and Monday, January 2 – New Year's Day (Observed)

For more information or answers to questions not listed here,
Please visit www.dmv.ca.gov/online.

December 2022

Social Security Matters

Which California School Districts are Run Well?

Retired Federal Employee Has Small Social Security Benefit



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: When I started getting Social Security at 62, I was told by the SS office I would get a smaller monthly amount because I worked for the Federal Government and received a Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) pension. I paid into Social Security for about 20 years working outside the government, and I now receive only about \$280 a month in Social Security. It just seems like I should be getting more. How can I look into this matter that Social Security calls a “windfall?” **Signed: Federal Retiree**

Dear Federal Retiree: From what you’ve shared, you didn’t contribute to Social Security while earning your CSRS pension, but you did contribute to SS while working elsewhere, thus earning a Social Security retirement benefit in addition to your CSRS pension. Those who receive a federal pension under the old Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) are affected by Social Security’s Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), which reduces any Social Security benefit they become entitled to through other work outside the Federal government,

and this is the reason your SS benefit is only \$280 per month. For clarity, federal employees who retire under the newer Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS) are not affected by WEP because they contribute to Social Security.

The formula for computing Social Security when WEP applies is rather complicated and depends on the number of years you contributed to Social Security from substantial earnings in the private sector. With 20 or fewer years contributing to SS you incur the maximum WEP penalty for your “eligibility year” (the year you turned 62), but with more than 20 years contributing to Social Security the WEP reduction is mitigated, and with 30 or more years contributing to SS, WEP no longer applies.

If you were receiving your CSRS pension when you claimed Social Security, your WEP-reduced SS benefit was computed at that time and has continued. But if you had additional years working and contributing to Social Security after you first claimed, it’s possible that you now have more than 20 years contributing, in which case you may be entitled to a smaller WEP reduction and thus a higher Social Security benefit. The only way to find out if you’re now entitled to a higher benefit due to additional years contributing is to call Social Security, either at your local office or at the national number (1.800.772.1213) and ask them to review your current benefit under WEP. If you now have more years contributing to Social Security

than you had when you first claimed, you may be entitled to a benefit increase.

Before calling SS, you may wish to first review your lifetime earnings record on file at Social Security and determine how many years of contributions from substantial SS earnings you actually have. You can get a copy of your lifetime SS earnings record from Social Security, most easily from your personal online “my Social Security” account. If you don’t yet have an online account set up, you can easily do so at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Then, you can review your lifetime SS-earnings against the chart at the following link which shows what your earnings must have been each year to count under WEP: www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10045.pdf.

So, to recap: if you continued to work after starting your WEP-reduced Social Security benefits, you may be entitled to a smaller WEP reduction and thus a higher Social Security benefit now, but you will need to contact Social Security to evaluate your current status (and, if appropriate, increase your Social Security benefit).

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. ★



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Gov. Gavin Newsom is fond of characterizing his state as a national — or even global — model in all things good, from economic clout to fighting climate change.

One conspicuous absence on his list of California’s virtues is its public education system, for good reason.

In statewide and nationwide tests of K-12 academic achievement, California lags badly behind. Learning is especially deficient among children from poor families, but even kids from affluent California families tend to lag behind those in other states.

To the extent that this educational crisis receives any attention in the state Capitol, the discussion is almost always confined to money, on the fanciful notion that spending more will automatically increase academic attainment.

One reason money doesn’t solve the problem is that the state provides very little oversight on how the money is spent, including the extra funds that local school systems receive specifically to close the achievement gap. State education officials intervene only when local systems are flirting with insolvency.

Some school districts spend their money wisely and effectively and some don’t and outcomes largely

hinge on the quality of their governance. Those with engaged and committed boards and administrators tend to have better outcomes than those with inconsistent, politics-driven and often chaotic governance.

That’s why a massive effort to judge how well California’s local school systems are structured and managed is welcome.

Arun Ramanathan, CEO of Pivot Learning, an Oakland-based non-profit organization that advises school systems on improving instruction, created a series of benchmarks to gauge how well school districts are prepared to embrace reforms. He also created a website that allows the public to view the results for every school district with at least 2,500 students.

“Despite billions in investment and decades of effort, new reform efforts rarely have intended impacts at the district, school and classroom level, and sustained improvement is rare,” Ramanathan told EdSource, a website of education journalism. “There are rarely insights into why. The District Readiness Index resulted from that questioning.”

The ratings cover five “domains” – community relations, finance, leadership, personnel policies and workplace conditions. Users can see how the districts score in each, with overall ratings designated by colors. Blue is the best, yellow is in the middle and orange is the worst.

The grading process resulted in about half of the 420 districts getting yellow grades and about 40% blue marks with roughly two dozen placed in the orange

category, meaning they have “few foundations” for achieving needed reforms.

Some of the state’s largest districts are colored orange, including Los Angeles Unified, whose enrollment approaches 10% of the state’s 6 million public school students.

It’s not surprising that LA Unified, Oakland Unified, San Francisco Unified and Sacramento Unified received low marks because all have been in constant political turmoil and financial distress of their own making.

Three of the large districts – San Diego Unified, Elk Grove Unified and San Juan Unified – escaped the orange designation and are marked as yellow.

A few large districts achieved blue status for being well prepared, including Fresno Unified, Long Beach Unified and San Bernardino Unified. But most of the blue districts tend to be either in affluent suburbs – no surprise there – or in rural areas.

Most interestingly, the blue list includes a number of districts with large numbers of poor students, such as Brawley and Calexico in poverty stricken Imperial County.

The District Readiness Index provides new ammunition for the school reform movement in California, which seeks to elevate students’ welfare over the petty politics, particularly in Los Angeles Unified and other large districts, that sabotage their educations.

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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Survey Predicts ‘Strong’ 2022, ‘Flat’ 2023

Yolo Community Foundation News Release

YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Yolo Donor Survey 2022, conducted by the Yolo Community Foundation, found that 2022 giving is likely to remain strong. It predicted that 2023 giving is likely to remain flat, but economic uncertainty is a cause for concern.

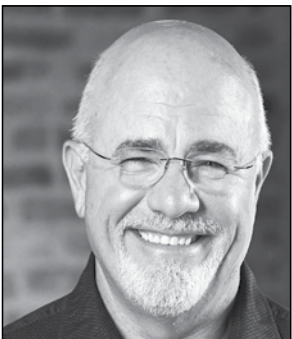
The Yolo Donor Survey was conducted by the Yolo Community Foundation in October/ November 2022. With 104 respondents from Yolo County, the survey results are not conclusive but provide useful insights.

Highlights include: 2022 giving remains strong: 55% of survey respondents reported that their 2022 giving will be about the same as 2021, while 25% said it is up, and 14% said it is down. Among major donors, 33% said 2022 giving will exceed 2021; none said it will fall. Year-end giving is likely to remain

flat to strong: 60% planned to give about the same in November and December 2022 as they gave at year-end 2021, 17% expected to give less, and 13% more. Among major donors, 17% expected to give more and none less. The biggest factor that impacted giving in 2022 was community need: 47% said this led them to give more. Economic factors decreased giving, but not substantially. Due to economic concerns and weakening giving by major donors, survey respondents, as a group, will likely maintain but not grow their giving in 2023. 21% of respondents expected to increase giving in 2023, 17% expected to decrease, and nearly half expected giving to remain flat. However, among major donors, none planned to increase giving. In 2023, economic factors will likely have a much bigger impact on giving: 25% of respondents reported that changes to their income are likely to drive their

giving down; 24% say the same for changes to their assets, 17% for stock market performance, and 33% for inflation. These figures suggest that, if economic conditions are worse than respondents anticipate, 2023 giving may weaken; of course, the reverse is also true. Survey respondents are strongly committed to Yolo-based nonprofit organizations: 46% give primarily to Yolo-based organizations. When considering whether and how much to give, respondents are especially focused on the organization’s cause or mission, reputation, impact on the community, the anticipated impact of the donation on the nonprofit or program, and peer support. Respondents prefer to learn about prospective recipients from the organization’s website, from a friend who is involved with the organization, and from email.

Find the full report at www.yolof.org. ★



A Travel Agent for Guilt Trips

Dear Dave,

My dad and his wife asked my husband and I for \$55,000. They want the money so they can pay off their debt. We’re debt-free and have a net worth of between \$2 to 3 million, but we’re also retired. We don’t keep that much in the bank, so we’d have to draw from our retirement accounts – which is something we don’t want to do. They’ve already approached other family members about this too. His wife is owed money at some point from a family settlement, but they don’t want to wait that long. My dad said we should do this if we want them to get ahead and have anything left in their later years. My dad is 80, and his wife is in her late 70s. My husband and I are both in our 50s. Please tell me how to handle this.

– Karla

Dave Ramsey Says

Dear Karla,

In their later years? I’m not trying to be mean, but they’re already in their later years.

I’m really sorry you’re in this situation. Even though you’re in your 50s, he’s still your dad, and I know this hurts your heart. It’s probably even tougher to accept the fact that he’s being manipulative. I mean, seriously. What dad calls up his daughter with the idea he’s entitled to \$55,000 of her money and starts acting like a travel agent for guilt trips in the process? That’s just wrong.

Look, if the relationship and the situation were different, we might have something to talk about. With your net worth, you’re not going to miss \$55,000 out of \$2 to 3 million. In a good relationship, I’d help my mom or dad like that in a heartbeat –just to help them out because they’re older. But this situation already is what it is. Something tells me this isn’t the first time he’s behaved in a manipulative way. And if you say yes to this, then I’ve got a feeling it isn’t the first time

you’ve caved into him. I’m worried you won’t be able to live with yourself if you do this, and that it may cause a big rift between you and your husband.

It’s wrong of your dad to treat you this way and put you in this situation. If you want to tell him your money’s tied up, which it is, or you just don’t like the way it feels, that’s fine. But my advice is to try to step back from the emotions and come to the realization in your own head that no is a complete answer.

You don’t have an ethical or moral obligation to give manipulative people money just because they’re related to you.

– Dave

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

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20220890
The following person(s) is doing business as: Facial & Lashes By Nicole, 2240 Jefferson Boulevard, Suite 130, West Sacramento, CA 95691.
Trinh H Van, 6611 Rio Tejo Way, Elk Grove, CA 95757. 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 11/22/2022.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: Dec 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2022
FACIAL 12-23-22

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20220881
The following person(s) is doing business as: SK Groceries, 813-B Harbor Boulevard, West Sacramento, CA 95691.
Shaless Kumar and Shareen Lata Prasad Kumar, 2609 Stonecreek Drive, Apartment 9, Sacramento, CA 95833. This business is conducted by a Married Couple. 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 11/17/2022.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: Dec 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2022
SK 12-23-22

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20220882
The following person(s) is doing business as: Full Deck Photos, 1583 Columbus Road, West Sacramento, CA 95691.
Patrick Chad Padilla, 1583 Columbus Road, 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 N/A.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/17/2022.
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: Dec 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2022
FULL 12-23-22

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

ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME

COUNTY OF YOLO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#CV2022-2009

Maria Elena Ramirez Pimentel has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Maria Elena Ramirez Pimentel to Helena Ramirez Pimentel.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court at 9:00 a.m. on January 3, 2023, 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: November 18, 2022
Daniel M. Wolk, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Dec. 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2022
MARIA 12-23-22

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

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ELIZABETH ANNE COOK
CASE NO. PR2022-0255

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Elizabeth Anne Cook, deceased.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Alan Philip Cook, in the Superior Court of California, County of Yolo, requesting Alan Philip Cook be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests the decedent’s will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. 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 5, 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. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Dylan P. Hyatt, 1555 River Park Drive, Suite 108, Sacramento, CA 95815; 916-920-5983
Publish: Dec 16, 23 & 30, 2022
COOK 12-30-22

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF SHIRLEY PALMER
CASE NO. PR2022-0250

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Shirley Palmer, deceased.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Scott Palmer, in the Superior Court of California, County of Yolo, requesting Scott Palmer 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 10, 2023, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 14. Superior Court of California, County of Yolo, 1000 Main Street, Woodland, CA 95695.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. 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. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Dylan P. Hyatt, 1555 River Park Drive, Suite 108, Sacramento, CA 95815; 916-920-5983
Publish: Dec 16, 23 & 30, 2022
PALMER 12-30-22

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. 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

LIEN SALE

PUBLIC LIEN SALE

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 01/02/2023 @ 2:00PM : Basil Boyd; small misc items. Robert Teryniak; household goods. Charise Kempton; household goods.

This auction will be listed and advertised on www.storageauctions.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.

12/23, 12/30/22
CNS-3651920# NEWS-LEDGER
DJ 920 12-30-22



Riley Reviews

THE HOLIDAY SEASON TAKES ITS FINAL LAST STAND ON TV

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

CHRISTMAS MAGIC ON TCM AND LIFETIME

Turner Classic Movies' Christmas marathon ends on Christmas Day with 1949's "Holiday Affair," which may not be seen as truly in the Christmas spirit as what one may find on the Hallmark Channel.

Interestingly enough, TCM announced its holiday marathon by noting that "Christmas movie," means different things to different people. After all, many argue that "Die Hard" is a Christmas movie, and throw in "Bad Santa" for good measure.

According to TCM, the Christmas movie label is subject to personal definition because Christmas films have not historically comprised a distinct genre. For some fans, the mere appearance of the season onscreen, no matter how brief, will suffice for the holiday spirit.

Growing in popularity over the years, "Holiday Affair" stars Robert Mitchum and Janet Leigh, who was just 22 at the time. The film was clearly an attempt by RKO Studios to capitalize on the success of "Miracle on 34th Street."

Like that 1947 classic, "Holiday Affair" centers on a single working mother with a young child in Manhattan. Both films

prominently incorporate department stores and their owners, and devote much time to their child characters.

But while "Miracle" touches on fantasy and the explores our inner-child, "Holiday Affair" is geared more toward adults, and adult relationship issues.

Leigh's Connie Ennis, a young war widow, finds herself having to choose between two men: rugged, free-spirited Mitchum's Steve Mason and more traditional, steady Wendell Corey's Carl Davis.

Simmering under the surface is Connie's continuing heartbreak over having lost her husband, and "Holiday Affair's" Christmastime setting is key to emphasizing the importance of family.

The Lifetime Channel is another source of holiday programming. "The Holiday Dating Game" finds dating coach and aspiring book author Abigale Slater (Maria Menounos) close to making her lifelong dream come true, but with a catch that ties into Christmas.

Abigale has completed her first book, a how-to-guide for dating in today's modern world, and is ready to become a published author. However, her publisher Jack (Steve Vinovich) won't proceed with the deal without knowing that her advice actually works.

Before he has a chance to say no, Abigale proposes that she prove the rules work by using them herself and making a man fall for her by Christmas Eve in 12 days.

Although Abigale has never seen love as a priority for herself, she sets out to find someone who will tumble quickly enough into ardor to get this book in print.

Things change when Abigale meets Michael Ryan (Brent Bailey), and her single-minded mission takes an unexpected turn. While following her own advice, Abigale discovers the romance of her dreams. And just like that, "The Holiday Dating Game" becomes a Christmas movie.

If you have ever visited New Orleans, you know they like to celebrate everything, from a Saints victory to Mardi Gras to Halloween. They even have marching brass bands for funeral processions through the French Quarter.

Lifetime's "A New Orleans Noel" weaves the Christmas theme into the lives of Grace Hill (Keshia Knight Pulliam) and Anthony Brown (Brad James), both of whom went to college to study architecture together.

But they could not be more different, and their lives took them on completely different paths. However, when they're both hired for a job at the home of Loretta Brown (Patti LaBelle), a New Orleans praline icon, they end working together at Christmas.

When Anthony and his family discover that Grace will be celebrating Christmas alone, they invite her to take part in their traditions and celebrations.

Soon, fiercely independent Grace begins to learn the importance of family and community, while modern Anthony learns to embrace tradition and the magic of Christmas.

But when Grace is offered a new job far away from New Orleans, she'll have to decide whether to go, or follow her heart. Well, does the heart believe the Crescent City is a romantic place?

New Orleans is often referred to as one of the most romantic cities in the nation, and according to the tourist bureau that's no surprise given the beauty of the city's architecture, gorgeous views, and candlelit bistros.

If New Orleans is a city for lovers, then tune into "A New Orleans Noel" to see if that notion, as well as some Christmas magic, holds true or not for Grace.

An essential part of holiday fun is indulging in the gastronomical pleasures of such staples as turkey and gravy, baked ham, mashed potatoes, and gingerbread. Some may like fruitcake, but I call those people lunatics.

In any event, Lifetime's "A Recipe for Joy" brings food into the equation when ambitious culinary correspondent Carly Hayes (Erin Agostino) gets a shot at her own TV show.

She's sent to Angel Heights to help chef Grant Quinn (Dillon Casey) reopen his family's beloved diner and film it as a holiday television special.

Thanks to Carly, Grant will not only reopen his restaurant, but most probably his heart too. And that's how you get a recipe for romance during Christmas. ★

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BOOKS

By Amy Shane

BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • 📷 amy_fortheloveofbooks

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

Celebrate the joy and beauty of the holiday with these cherished classics.

Dasher

by Matt Tavares; Candlewick Press

Like gentle, falling snow, Dasher lands into readers’ hearts as they hear the story of Santa’s very first reindeer. Capturing all the love and magic of Christmas, Matt Tavares lends readers a new account to tell around the Christmas tree. *Dasher* is a celebration of one little reindeer’s determination, heart, and willingness to dream of a better life changes the lives of reindeer forever. With enchanting illustrations and a story that encapsulates many familiar traditions, Dasher is sure to become a beloved classic.

The Nutcracker based on NYC Ballet

illustrated by Valeria Docampo; Little Simon

The world of dance and storytelling meet in this breathtaking Christmas classic retelling of, *The Nutcracker*. Straight from the NYC Ballet and into your home, this fascinating book will whisk readers into a land of magic and enchantment with Marie and her Nutcracker Prince.

Mesmerizing audiences since 1954, the NYC ballet captures all the wonder of Christmas magic as this beautiful story is retold for the younger generation through whimsical details and vivid colors.

The Night Before Christmas

by Clement C. Moore, illustrated by Antonio Javier Caparo; Little Simon

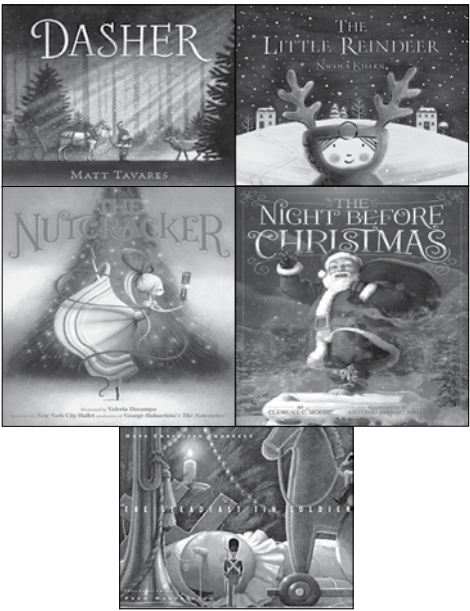
The timeless poem is now beautifully illustrated for a new generation. With lifelike artwork that nearly leaps off the pages, vivid detail, and oversized hardback design, this book will soon become a favorite Christmas Eve read.

The Little Reindeer

by Nicola Killen; Simon and Schuster

With her sled in hand, little Ollie heads off on an adventure to investigate the sound of jingling bells. But what she discovers in the forest is more than just the source of the bells; but a magical Christmas adventure.

With its delightful black-and-white illustrations and eye-catching pops of red, readers are pulled right into the story while also



focusing on the smaller details with window cutouts and metallic silver adornments. This book takes on a magical journey allowing young readers’ imaginations to take flight.

The Steadfast Tin Soldier

illustrated by Fred Marcellino, retold by Tor Seidler; Atheneum Books

In a box of 25 tin soldiers, all standing at attention, one soldier stood out. For the one-legged soldier, the beauty of the delicate paper ballerina, who also stood on one leg, made him feel that he needed to protect her. But it was the jealousy of a goblin that could not bear anyone having affection for his paper ballerina that set the tin soldier’s fate in motion. With the goblin’s one swift gust of wind, the soldier went flying out the window, landing him on an astonishing journey to return to his paper ballerina.

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17. Bobsey twin
18. Donor's bequest
19. *Country to see Stonehenge
21. *Country to see Neuschwanstein Castle
23. Tokyo, in the olden days
24. Way off freeway
25. Gremlin or pixie
28. Assistant
30. Crunches alternative (2 words)
35. Mountain lake
37. Thailand, pre-1939
39. Parlor piece
40. *Maldives continent
41. Plaudit and pomp
43. Unadulterated
44. Child-eating daemon, Greek mythology
46. Red carpet purse
47. Pelvic bones
48. Gives way under force
50. Like acne-prone skin
52. Pose a question
53. Letter opener
55. Morse code dash
57. *Grand Canyon state
61. *Broadway state
65. Loaded
66. Marbled bread
68. Bad car
69. South Pacific sailboats
70. "___ Milk?"
71. Related on mother's side
72. Unload on eBay
73. Gilligan's home
74. Tap, e.g.

DOWN
1. Spike, as in punch
2. Iraq's neighbor
3. Like a maxi skirt
4. Soap plant
5. *One of two countries to see Niagara Falls
6. Mail a package
7. Agha, alt. sp.
8. Gloria Estefan's hit
9. Disease-causing organism
10. One of algae
11. Diagnostic test
12. One-trick ungulate?
15. Sluggish
20. ___-canceling earbuds
22. Ambulance squad, acr.
24. RE/MAX agent, e.g.
25. *Amalfi Coast country
26. Kenyan tribesman
27. Amazon "club"
29. Vegas cube
31. Cone-shaped quarters
32. Throat dangler
33. *Mona Lisa city
34. Go stealthily
36. Nervous biting victim
38. *Haleakalā island
42. Accent mark
45. Software plug-ins
49. Barack Obama, pre-pres.
51. Wailed
54. Frustration, in a comic book
56. Laughing African predator
57. *Swiss or Italian skiing destination
58. Steak option
59. "White Wedding" Billy
60. Eagerness
61. Post-deductions amount
62. Yemen's neighbor
63. College cadet program
64. ACL location
67. Uncle Sam wanted this

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The Reason for the Season

Story and photos
by Michele Townsend

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In the last few years if you were on the North side of West Sacramento, you probably noticed the big light display that was set up outside of the Bryte Church, located on the corner of Jefferson and Sacramento Avenues.

This year, that light display was set up again. And it was a beautiful winter wonderland. The modern display included a land of candy, toys and other holiday icons. The display was made of blow-up characters and light up trees. It included wooden and balloon structures that looked like a land of candy.

In front of the Church, there was a beautiful white, glistening display of Christmas trees. Around the trees were white balloons that were masterfully designed to look like snow. There was a light up archway with dangling tufts of raw cotton tied ever so delicately onto thread, giving the guest the experience of walking in the falling snow. It was very elegant



There was a stable with wood fencing and cardboard cutouts of animals that included horses, sheep, camels and goats.

from the modern day, commercialized, Christmas display, was the town of Bethlehem. Set up in the Church parking lot was not just a cool display or scene, but the whole town of Bethlehem. As you walked into this free event, well over a hundred people were in time appropriate clothing from when Jesus was born.

A castle looking archway framed the entrance, where there were ladies dressed in gowns and head

down the road of Bethlehem, there was a stable with wood fencing and cardboard animals that included horses, sheep, camels and goats. The animals were placed perfectly to create a scene of peaceful cohabitation within a stable. There was a live petting zoo as well, but it was not within the town of Bethlehem. The zoo had horses, sheep, goats and emu.

A group of twenty children, dressed as sheep,

of wood frames and cloth tarps. They had straw on the floors and bales of hay for chairs. They had antique wooden tables in some tents, holding candles. Tents were lit by a warm, soft glow as if the only light were the light from the candles. Each tent was a different business in the town, and they were decorated accordingly.

While walking through the town, everyone inside the structures was dressed the part. Parishioners of

interactive displays. There was a tent where you could spend your gold coins received at the entrance and buy some hot cider. Further down the road was a tent for basket weaving, where you were actually able to be taught how to weave a basket. Next there was a carpentry shop, where children could use wood hammers to pound wooden dowels into wood to see how things were built back then.

It was very cold outside

being made fresh inside the church) that you could buy with your gold coins. There was an inn with a no vacancy sign, a craft/jewelry store and a fragrance store where they had actual myrrh. The decorations to each business were remarkable, ranging from the plants that were hanging in the tents, to the simplistic furniture and, of course, lots of candlelight. There was a stage area where they performed a play depicting the birth of Jesus that began with God rising from the stage building. Incredibly dramatic.

“It took us months to do this. We had a costume designer from our church, and we went out and thrifted clothes and made clothes from them. We volunteered since the beginning of summer, and they taught us how to act” Christina said. She continued with “It’s mostly people from our church but there are some people from the community that helped as well.” It took the parishioners’ months of planning and preparing, as well as learning their parts. It took a week to set up the magical, realistic town



Each tent was a different business in the town, and they were decorated accordingly, including an inn with a “No vacancy” sign.



Walking through the crowd were kings in velvets gowns and capes trimmed in gold and silver. They wore royal hats and stood strong and tall.



Mary and Joseph strolled through the town of Bethlehem with the Baby Jesus and posed for family Christmas photos.



Included in the modern Christmas display was this family of inflatable snowmen and light-up trees.

and beautiful. The winter, snow area even consisted of snow packed into two slides that kids were able to sled down on snow discs. The sound of children laughing filled the cold air as the kids took turns sliding down the 30-foot slides.

This year, however, the congregation of the Bryte Church brought us back in time to the reason for the season. On the other side of the church, away

scarves. As you walked in, the ladies greeted you and gave you golden cardboard coins that you could use to buy hot chocolate, hot cider and freshly made doughnuts in the village. Christina Bondarenko explained what was happening as a small camel walked by and a group of Roman Soldiers was preparing to march through the village. Whimsical music played.

As the guest walked

along with two sheep herders came walking by. In addition, a small camel that had two children in one costume. Their heads were covered in a white see-through mesh fabric that made the humps of the ornately decorated camel.

Structures were set up in a way that allowed the guest to follow a roomy and spacious path through the town of Bethlehem. The structures were made

all ages were involved. Walking through the crowd were kings in velvets gowns and capes trimmed in gold and silver. They wore royal hats and stood strong and tall. There was Mary and Joseph, carrying baby Jesus. There were adult sized camels that were just as impressive as the small ones.

Each structure portrayed a different business. These were not simply live displays; these were

but in front of each business was an outside heater that was decorated to be part of the display. In addition, there were fire pits with characters dressed in the times, sitting around the fires laughing and carrying on as men would do. There was a market, a pottery place, a place to scribe, and a candle making shop. There was a bakery where you could purchase freshly made doughnuts (that were

for this three-day event. The attention to detail was phenomenal!

If you missed this amazing event, there is no doubt that you will be happy to learn that it will return next year. If you would like to donate, participate, or be involved in some way for next year’s exhibit, you can log onto www.brytechurch.org and go to Volunteer sign-ups. And you are always invited to join them in church. ★



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