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West Sacramento News Ledger

VOLUME 57 • ISSUE 66 *Serving the West Sacramento Region Since 1964* DECEMBER 10, 2021

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PRESORTED STD.
US POSTAGE
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YCCA to Distribute Toys



Volunteers working to hand out toys for YCCA in 2020. Photo provided by YCCA

By Michele Townsend

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Here we are, once again, looking at the holidays coming up on us quickly, and many are not sure how they are going to buy presents for their kids. It doesn't matter how old your kids are, they are still your kids. As they get older, they may understand better of why there are only a few (or less) presents under the tree, than they did when they were little, but families still feel heartbroken when they can't give their kids the gifts that they want.

We are very lucky in this town and county. We have the Yolo County Children's Alliance. Yes, this is

the same organization that handed out all of the fixings for over 700 Thanksgiving meals... for free. In addition, they handed out nice new winter coats. This is also the organization that can help you with school supplies, diapers, employment needs, paying your bills and medical care. The truth is, YCCA is one of the best resources the citizens of our town have.

YCCA (and the many big-hearted people and businesses that have donated) is about to do it again. On Saturday, December 18th, 2021, beginning at 10:00 am, YCCA will be holding their annual Toy Distribution. This is a first come, first serve event that will be taking

place at their family resource center, located at 1200 Anna St, West Sacramento. You do not need to preregister.

Simply bring proof that you are a West Sac resident, wear a mask, and you will be able to drive thru the event to pick up toys for your children. Toys/Gifts will be available for children 0-18 years of age. These will be new, unwrapped toys. They will be in a bag so that it won't be super visible, but please be prepared if you will be wanting to hide them and your children are with you.

Children are welcome at this event, as there will be SUPERHEROES there to help hand out the toys (or

Continued on page 3

Compliance Check of Registered Sex Offenders

**Yolo County District
Attorney Jeff Reisig**

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - On November 15th-19th, Yolo County law enforcement conducted compliance checks on over 350 registered sex offenders. "Operation Vigilance" is a program that started 12 years ago with the goal to protect Yolo County citizens by ensuring that those who must register as sex offenders who live in the County are complying with all laws and applicable parole or probation directives.

Over 90 law enforcement personnel from Yolo County Sheriff's Office, Woodland Police, West Sacramento Police, Winters Police, Davis Police, Yolo County Probation, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Woodland Parole Unit, California Department of Justice Human Trafficking and Sex Predator Apprehension Team, along with the Yolo County District Attorney's Criminal Investigation Bureau, participated in this joint operation.

Many of the individuals who are required to register were previously convicted of rape, child molestation or possession of child pornography. 95% of those contacted were in compliance with the terms and conditions of their parole or probation. One individual was arrested for a violation of parole conditions related to his online activity, 15 were not in compliance with their registration, and one was found in possession of child pornography.

One unique aspect of "Operation Vigilance" is that while officers are making the home visits, forensic examiners search the computers, smart phones, and other digital storage devices for potential violations. Computer forensic investigators from the Yolo County District Attorney's Office High Technology Unit and examiners from other participating agencies worked together to conduct these specialized searches. A total of forty-four devices

Continued on page 3

Latina Estrellas Shine Bright

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Honors Four Hispanic Leaders

SACHCC Press Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The SACHCC hosted the Latina Estrella Awards on Friday, December 3rd at Mesa Mercado in Carmichael. Honorees represented the important role Latinas play across our region as advocates, business owners, and community leaders.

"We are embracing our power in a shifting America. Latinas are a moving force in our communities and an inspiration for future generations. We are proud of this cohort of Latina leaders and invite everyone to

Continued on page 3



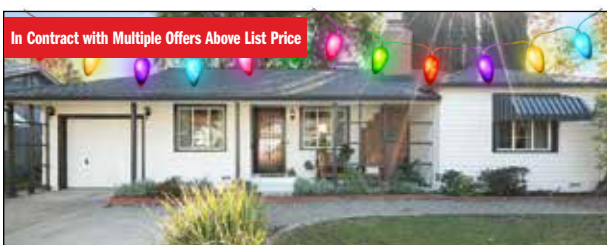
Latina Estrella (star) awards last week honored women of Sacramento's Hispanic community. Awardees were financial leader Shayne Corriea-Fernandez (left), Assembly Member Cecilia Aguilar-Curry and West Sacramento Mayor Martha Guerrero. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce board members are Cathy Rodriguez Aguirre, President and CEO; and Rita Gallardo Good (right). Fellow honoree (not pictured) was San Juan School District Board President Paula Villescaz. Photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner.



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Preschoolers Pitch in to Help Homeless Neighbors



Preschoolers at James Marshall Parent Nursery School can learn the values of helping others as well as other lessons. Photo: JMPNS

From James Marshall Parent Nursery School

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Friday, November 19, Preschoolers at James Marshall Parent Nursery School (JMPNS) kicked off the West Sac Kids Give Back donation season with a care package assembly party in partnership with local non-profit West Sac Kids Give Back.

West Sac Kids Give Back is a program that provides local children an opportunity to learn the virtues of community service during the holidays. West Sacramento City Council member Quirina Orozco founded the non-profit in 2014 to promote philanthropy from an early age.

“When children have safe, kid-friendly opportunities to engage in community service, we ALL win,” said Orozco. “Volunteering helps kids connect with others while allowing them to build character, empathy, and social awareness that is sometimes hard to learn in other contexts. It’s a great way to build community and shape great leaders for the future.”

In previous years, West Sac Kids Give Back has collected donated necessities through local organizations and businesses around town and then hosted a massive care package assembly party for

distribution to homeless neighbors. Due to the pandemic, the collection continued last year but the care package assembly was paused.

Last month, the tradition continued. The families at James Marshall Parent Nursery School set a goal to donate enough supplies for 50 care packages. “We look for opportunities to volunteer in the community every year, getting the kids directly involved so they can experience the satisfaction of helping others,” said JMPNS director Erin Hinton.

At school, the preschoolers selected paper ornaments from a small tree that were labeled with the items needed for the care packages. Throughout the week, they returned with the requested items and dropped them into an onsite WSKGB collection box. Fittingly, the care package assembly party was the last thing they did together before the Thanksgiving holiday.

Neighbors who wish to support West Sac Kids Give Back can bring donated items to collection bins at Lenise’s Cafe on December 14, or Streets of London on December 21.

James Marshall Parent Nursery School has continuously offered play-based early education programs to the preschoolers of West Sacramento since 1954. ★

Proven to Decrease DUI Crashes, ACCESS Launches Nationwide Program

By Ryan Budmayr, ACCESS

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Honorable Richard A. Vlavianos, in front of the California state capitol and surrounded by other Public Safety and Law Enforcement Officials, announced the launch of a new, nationwide non-profit organization designed to treat high risk and repeat DUI offenders. The new non-profit, ACCESS, launches with a foundation of learnings and track record of saving lives as proven through a pilot that’s been active in California since 2008.

“After nearly 15 years and more than 5,000 participants, we’ve seen firsthand the difference this approach can make in changing behaviors and saving lives,” said Chair of ACCESS and California Superior Court Judge Richard A. Vlavianos. “Each day, roughly 28 people die in drunk driving related car crashes and it’s only fitting we make this announcement today as we kick off National Impaired Driving Prevention Month.”

Current DUI and Drug Courts make an undeniable impact treating a smaller, more targeted population in need of



The new non-profit, ACCESS, launches with a foundation of learnings and track record of saving lives as proven through a pilot that’s been active in California since 2008. Photo courtesy Pixabay

more significant support. ACCESS extends a similar approach to the remaining 70% of repeat DUI offenders that don’t qualify for traditional DUI court. A recent study of the 5,200 participants indicates the concept is significantly changing behaviors with an 80% completion rate and most encouraging, a 19% decrease in DUI crashes. The six-year longitudinal study also found that participants did not revert to the norm upon completion of the program, indicating signs of long-term behavioral change.

“Existing special courts work with high-risk offenders who have high treatment needs, while ACCESS fills the gap by focusing on offenders who may be high risk, but don’t require the same level of treatment,” said Judge Vlavianos. “To make an impact, we needed to ensure the ACCESS program was scalable and affordable. I’m excited that we can provide monitoring, education and training to repeat DUI offenders at a fraction of the cost of typical treatment programs, at about \$10,000 less per participant.”

Discussions with multiple state law enforcement and judicial officials interested in launching ACCESS are currently underway. Those with questions or interested in learning more are encouraged to visit choos-eaccess.org. ★



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* Amounts are estimates and may change by the time of lease-up.

DWR Announces State Water Project Allocation

Department of Water Resources
Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Today, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced its initial State Water Project (SWP) allocation for 2022 along with several steps to manage the state’s water supply in anticipation of a third dry year with reservoirs at or near historic lows.

Given the unprecedented drought conditions, the SWP’s initial allocation for December 1 will focus on the health and safety needs for 2022 of the 29 water agencies that contract to receive SWP supplies. DWR has advised these water agencies to expect an initial allocation that prioritizes health and safety water needs and that the SWP will not be planning water deliveries through its typical allocation process until the state has a clearer picture of the hydrologic and reservoir conditions going into the spring.

DWR is focused on prioritizing water supply in four categories: water for health and safety needs and Delta salinity control; water for endangered species; water to reserve in storage; and water for additional supply allocations if the hydrology allows.

“Despite a wet start to the water year, conditions have dried out since that first storm, and we are still planning for a below-average water year. That means we need to prepare now for a dry winter and severe drought conditions to continue through 2022,” said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. “We will be working with our

federal partners and SWP contractors to take a conservative planning approach to balance limited water supplies with the needs of residents, businesses, and the environment.”

In addition to limiting the initial allocation to health and safety needs, DWR is making plans to adjust SWP operations this winter and spring. DWR is capturing and storing water when possible, in Lake Oroville and south of the Delta in San Luis Reservoir to increase available supplies for 2022 and will continue to do so throughout the winter. Health and safety demands for the Bay Area and Central and Southern California will be met with water available from the Delta as well as water stored in San Luis Reservoir. Water in Lake Oroville will be reserved to maintain Delta water quality, protect endangered species, and meet senior water right needs. Beyond minimal exports to meet South Bay health and safety needs, water stored in Lake Oroville will be used for south of Delta deliveries only if hydrology conditions improve. DWR plans to conserve as much storage as possible in Oroville in anticipation of a third dry year, and potentially a dry 2023.

Also, today, DWR along with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, submitted a new Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) to the State Water Resources Control Board. If approved, the petition would allow for the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project to operate under modifications to the water quality and water right permit requirements in the Delta from

February through April 2022, should conditions warrant. These modifications may be needed to conserve water in Lake Oroville to ensure minimum health and safety water supplies are available later in the year if dry conditions persist. If significant precipitation materializes in the next few months, standards may be met through natural means and modifications to SWP and CVP operations may not be necessary.

DWR is also delaying the removal of the Emergency Drought Salinity Barrier in the Delta. The rock barrier across West False River was scheduled to be removed by November 30, however drought conditions have persisted and leaving the barrier in place will enable a more efficient drought response in spring 2022 if needed. DWR plans to create a notch in the barrier in January 2022 to allow for fish passage and boat traffic until April 2022.

“It is going to take a multi-pronged approach to successfully respond to these unprecedented drought conditions,” said Nemeth.

Each year, DWR provides the initial State Water Project allocation by December 1 based on available water storage and projected water supply demands. Allocations are updated monthly as snowpack and runoff information is assessed, with a final allocation typically determined in May or June.

The lowest initial allocations were 5 percent in 2010 and 2014. Last year, the initial SWP allocation was 10 percent, however due to increasing dry conditions, the final allocation was lowered to 5 percent. ★

Fly to the Slopes with SMF



Several Tahoe ski resorts opened weeks earlier than planned which could be a sign of an incredible ski season to come! Photo courtesy Pixabay

By Scott Johnston,
Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento region had its first major rainstorm of 2021 in October, which brought huge amounts of snow to the Sierra. So much in fact, several Tahoe ski resorts opened weeks earlier than planned which could be a sign of an incredible ski season to come! Whether you’re heading to Lake Tahoe’s spectacular slopes or to the Rocky Mountains and beyond, Sacramento International Airport (SMF) can get you to the snow quickly. SMF offers direct flights and easy connections to many major ski destinations.

Locally, Lake Tahoe is home to 15 ski resorts, 477 miles of slopes, 146 lifts and views you won’t find anywhere else in the world. Ski racing began in North Lake Tahoe in the 1860s, when gold miners decided to attach boards to their feet and skim down the slopes, and the first resort was built in 1924. Today, there’s a resort for every kind of snow junkie – skiers, snowboarders, beginners and experts. SMF is approximately 100 miles from Tahoe and offers numerous nonstop flights from major U.S. hubs. Making both the north and south shores easily accessible.

For Northern Californians who are venturing outside of the state, flights from SMF can get you to some of the country’s best ski resorts in no time.

The Rocky Mountains stretch from British Columbia south to New Mexico, with dramatic mountain vistas, breathtaking ski terrain and as much as 33-feet of snow per year. SMF has nonstop flights to Denver (DEN) on United Airlines, Southwest Airlines and Frontier Airlines, allowing you easy access to some of the Rockies’ best ski resorts. Echo Mountain and Loveland Ski Area are about an hour away

from DEN, while Breckenridge and Copper Mountain are about a 90-minute drive.

Aspen is a spectacular year-round destination, but it is best known for its winter sports. Not into downhill, but still want to play in the snow? Aspen’s four mountains offer cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and winter hiking trails. Off the slopes, Aspen has a vibrant dining with diverse culinary options both off and on the mountain. A bit further south, the old west vibe of downtown Telluride complements the glamour of Aspen. The rustic town has been called the #1 Ski Resort in North America. Tucked into a canyon surrounded by 14,000-foot peaks, Telluride was designated a National Historic Landmark District in 1964, preserving the feel of Colorado’s 1870s silver rush-era. The town is also home to a vibrant arts district, with galleries, performance spaces and architecture.

Salt Lake City (SLC) is also a short hop from SMF on both Delta Airlines and Southwest Airlines. Mother Nature delivers an average of 500 inches of snow to Utah’s mountains every year and many of the best resorts are within an hour’s drive from SLC. Park City, home of the Sundance Film Festival in January, has fabulous shopping and dining options as well as snow biking, snowshoeing, tubing, ice skating and sleigh rides nearby.

Western Canada’s renowned Whistler Blackcomb Resort can be accessed via several nonstop flights to Seattle (SEA) on Alaska Airlines, Southwest and Delta. Once you land, drive into beautiful British Columbia to one of the largest ski resorts in North America with a lift that can take you to an elevation of 7,350 feet.

For more information on flights, visit the SMF website. ★



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Sacramento Men Convicted of Stealing Catalytic Converters

Office of District Attorney Jeff Reisig

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - Dao Xiong, 44, and Shaneel Lal, 38, of Sacramento were convicted of conspiracy to commit a felony and grand theft for stealing catalytic converters in Yolo, Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Napa, Butte, Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties.

A catalytic converter is part of a vehicle's exhaust system. They often contain precious metals such as platinum, gold, rhodium, and palladium that have high value in the metal recycling market and make them an item of choice among thieves and crime rings. Replacement costs for catalytic converters range from \$1,000 to \$3,000 and often it can take weeks or months for an automotive repair shop to get the right catalytic converter.

The investigation began in September 2020 after a Davis resident reported to police that his catalytic converter had been stolen from his Toyota Prius. Detectives with the Davis Police Department's Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS) Unit launched an investigation and were able to obtain a surveillance video from a nearby car that helped identify the suspect's vehicle. Through surveillance and the assistance of the Folsom Police Department, detectives were able to identify Xiong and Lal. Detectives monitored their activities as they traveled to multiple counties, with Xiong as the driver and Lal as the passenger. They appeared to be "scouting" neighborhoods. "Scouting" is searching or casing an



A catalytic converter is part of a vehicle's exhaust system. They often contain precious metals such as platinum, gold, rhodium, and palladium that have high value in the metal recycling market. Photo courtesy Tony Savino | Dreamstime

area to engage in criminal activity. Electronic surveillance revealed that Xiong and Lal scouted neighborhoods during the daytime or early evening hours and then returned to the same locations later in the night or early morning hours. Official theft reports were made to local law enforcement agencies and the surveillance data matched the location and timeframe for catalytic converter thefts.

On October 23, 2020, Xiong and Lal were stopped by Davis Police officers and found with catalytic converters in their possession. Based on surveillance data and theft reports, these catalytic converters were believed to have been stolen out of Napa County. Charges were filed against Xiong and Lal; however, due to the judicial "zero bail" policy at the time, Xiong and Lal were released from custody. While out of custody, they continued to steal catalytic converters until they were arrested again by Davis Police detectives on February 2, 2021, at the Thunder Valley Casino in Placer County. Between September 17, 2020, and February 2, 2021, Xiong and Lal were believed to have stolen 64 catalytic converters from eight counties. The

total loss amount is still being determined; however, it is expected to be approximately \$100,000.

District Attorney Jeff Reisig stated, "Catalytic converter theft is not victimless and is not just another 'property crime.' It impacts the livelihood and financial stability of many individuals. People are unable to drive their cars, get to work, or pick up their kids because of these thieves. These crimes will not be tolerated and this plea sends a message that law enforcement takes these thefts seriously."

Yolo County Deputy District Attorney Matt DeMoura, who prosecuted this case for Yolo and seven other counties stated, "this prosecution would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of the Davis Police Department's Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS) Unit and the Folsom Police Department."

Xiong and Lal will be sentenced on January 10, 2022, in front of the Honorable Timothy Fall, who presided over the plea. Each is expected to receive 6 years in jail pursuant to a plea agreement. ★

California Gun Law Headed to Supreme Court?



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

California has some of the nation's tightest gun control laws and virtually no session of the Legislature ends without additional restrictions being enacted.

In polling and by their votes, Californians have heartily endorsed making gun purchases and ownership increasingly more difficult.

As California's restrictive laws proliferated, however, the state's current and would-be gun owners complained that notwithstanding their political popularity, the laws violate Californians' constitutional right to bear arms, codified in the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Those complaints are now likely to reach the U.S. Supreme Court because of Tuesday's decision by the 9th District Court of Appeals upholding two of the state's most controversial gun control laws, banning the sale and possession of magazines holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition. One was enacted by the Legislature and the other in a ballot initiative (Proposition 63) sponsored by Gavin Newsom in 2016 when he was lieutenant governor.

A federal judge in San Diego, Roger Benitez, became a hero to gun owners when he struck down Proposition 63's 10-round

magazine limit two years ago, saying that it unconstitutionally interfered with using guns for self-protection. "The statute hits at the center of the Second Amendment and its burden is severe," Benitez wrote.

Newsom had become governor when Benitez ruled and denounced the judge as a "wholly-owned subsidiary of the gun lobby and the National Rifle Association."

A three-three judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court sided with Benitez but on Tuesday, the full 11-judge court, dividing along ideological lines, ratified the magazine laws. It declared that they "reasonably supported California's effort to reduce the devastating damage wrought by mass shootings."

The majority opinion added that requiring owners of higher-capacity magazine to get rid of them is not an illegal government "taking" because "the government acquires nothing by virtue of the limitation on the capacity of magazines."

The case sparked a welter of opinions from individual members of the court both endorsing the majority opinion and dissenting.

Three judges appointed by former President Donald Trump were sharply critical of the majority, saying, "these magazines are lawfully owned by millions of people nationwide" and warning that applying California's law across America would "require confiscating half of all existing firearms magazines in this country."

Newsom, of course, hailed the ruling that upheld his ballot measure, tweeting, "Weapons of war don't belong on our streets. This

is a huge victory for the health and safety of all Californians."

California being what it is, the nation's most populous state with some of the nation's tightest gun laws, the eventual outcome of the magazine capacity case could have wide effects. Blue state prosecutors filed briefs supporting California's position while those in Texas and other red states backed Benitez's ruling.

The possibility of it becoming a landmark case was enhanced when lawyers for gun owners who challenged the state's magazine limit immediately promised that they would appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

If, as Tuesday's decision indicated, judicial attitudes about gun control laws divide along ideological lines, California's limit on magazine capacity could face rough treatment from the Supreme Court's 6-3 conservative majority.

In recent decisions, the Supreme Court has become increasingly critical of restrictive gun laws and has a landmark case now pending, involving New York's ban on carrying guns outside the home.

During arguments a few weeks ago, majority justices gave every indication they would overturn the law, criticizing it for interfering with citizens' rights to self-defense. That's essentially the same line of reasoning that Judge Benitez adopted in overturning California's magazine limit.

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

River City Weekly Sports

Winter Sports 12/10 to 12/16

RC Sports	Game Times
Friday 12/10	
JV Girls Soccer vs McClatchy	5:30 pm
Girls Basketball at Valley Tournament	TBD
JV Boys Basketball RC Tournament	TBD
Saturday 12/11	
Girls Basketball at Valley Tournament	TBD
JV Boys Basketball RC Tournament	TBD
Varsity Boys Wrestling at River Valley HS	9:00 am
Monday 12/13	
Girls Soccer vs Laguna Creek	4:30/6:00 pm JV/V
Boys Soccer at Laguna Creek	4:30/6:00 pm JV/V
Tuesday 12/14	
Girls Basketball vs Armijo	5:30/7:00 pm JV/V
Boys Basketball at Tokay	4/5:30/7:00 pm FR/JV/V
Wednesday 12/15	
Girls Soccer vs Kennedy	TBA
Boys RC Tournament at River City	4:30/6:00 pm JV/V
Boys Soccer at Kennedy	4:30/6:00 pm JV/V
Thursday 12/16	
Varsity Boys Basketball at Carmel Tournament. (12/17-12/18)	TBD
Frosh Boys Basketball at Rocklin Tournament. (12/17-12/18)	TBD

Raider Scoreboard

Girls Basketball	
11/30 Bradshaw Christian	RCV 40 BC 48
12/2 RC Tournament	JV 20 Valley 24 RCV 34 Valley 55
Girls Soccer	
11/30 Pleasant Grove	JV 1 PG 1 RCV 2 PG 1
12/2 Christian Brothers (RC Tourney)	JV 0 CB 1 RCV 0 CB 0
Boys Basketball	
11/23 Fortune Early College	JV 53 Fortune 45 RCV 64 Fortune 45
12/2 Roseville Tournament	JV 35 Roseville 58 RCV 55 Roseville 60
Boys Soccer	
11/30 Rodriguez	JV 1 Rodriguez 1 RCV 1 Rodriguez 2
Wrestling	
Folsom Girls Wrestling Tournament	Mariam Shariz went 4-1 Camiya Cook took 2nd place

West Sacramento News Ledger

Serving West Sacramento and Yolo County since 1964

It is the intent of the *News-Ledger* to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.

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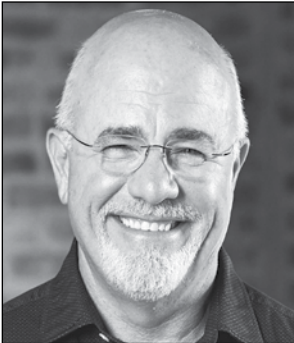
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Keep Things as Pleasant as Possible

Dear Dave,

I don't really see eye-to-eye with my dad and older brother on many things. This is not a new realization on my part, but over the last few years it has led to hard feelings and various arguments at family gatherings about religion, finances and other things. With Christmas coming up, I would like to avoid conflict and try to handle things a little better with them. Do you have any advice?

– Cam

Dear Cam,

It takes a strong, level-headed person with a good heart to want to approach a situation like this with

Dave Ramsey Says

maturity and love. I'm proud of you for trying to create better relationships within your family.

My initial advice would be don't take discussions too deep, and make a conscious effort to stay away from any hot button topics you know already exist. I'm no family counselor, but the chances of you changing a lifetime of differences and toxic behaviors, or bringing them around to your way of thinking, in one brief interaction are probably pretty small.

Don't tell them you think what they're doing is wrong or that you feel they're bad people if things get a little tense. My best advice is to be a model of sanity and reason if you feel a confrontation brewing. Situations like this are hard to deal with, especially when the conflict is between a father and son or two brothers. It's hard on you and them, plus it has a negative impact on

the rest of the family during what is supposed to be a joyful and loving time of year.

These are people you love and care about, even if they are hard to get along with or understand sometimes. Pray for them, Cam. And ask God to give you guidance, patience and understanding in this situation, too.

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 18 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions. ★

Social Security Matters
Social Security's WEP is Unfair – I Want My Money Back!



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: How can a foreign company pay into the US Social Security system? I worked in Barbados before I immigrated to the USA and earned a pension there. Now my US Social Security benefits are reduced because I receive a pension from Barbados. One has nothing to do with the other and I want my money back! **Signed: Angry Immigrant**

Dear Angry: Foreign companies don't pay into the U.S. Social Security system, and neither do residents of other countries working in their home country. But a resident of a foreign country who earns a pension in their home country, and who later moves to the U.S. and earns an additional U.S. Social Security pension, will have their U.S. Social Security benefit reduced by a provision of U.S. law called the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP). WEP was enacted by Congress in 1983 to eliminate what was viewed as "double dipping" – where someone with an extra pension (such as your Barbados pension earned without contributing to US Social Security) had their US Social Security (SS) benefit computed in the same way as a US resident who had no such extra



"non-covered" pension. The 1983 WEP rule created a special formula for those entitled to both a U.S. Social Security benefit (earned by contributing to the US program) and another pension earned without contributing to Social Security.

Though you are adamant that one has nothing to do with the other, US law says otherwise. WEP reduces the US Social Security benefit of anyone with a "non-covered" (e.g., foreign) pension so that their US Social Security benefit is more consistent with benefits provided to others without an extra non-covered pension. US Social Security is designed to provide a higher percentage of replacement income to lower income workers, and those with an extra non-covered pension enjoy an unfair advantage because their income artificially appears lower than it truly is. WEP was implemented by Congress to correct that unfair advantage. However, like you, almost everyone affected by WEP (which, by the way, includes many public service employees in 27 U.S. states) believes it to be unfair and often complain about it to their Congressional Representatives.

For information, there is a legislative bill now before Congress which proposes to eliminate WEP (H.R. 82 – The Social Security Fairness Act of 2021). I must, however, let you know that a bill

to either eliminate or reform WEP has been introduced in nearly every Congress for many years, and no previous bill has ever made it past being introduced on the floor of the House or Senate and then assigned to a committee for review, where progress seems to end.

Although you want your money back, I'm afraid I can't offer you much hope that will ever happen. Congress is more focused on other issues, including a much broader reform of the Social Security program to restore it to financial solvency before the SS Trust Fund is depleted in 2034 (which would require an across the board 21% reduction in all benefits). Whether WEP reform will be part of the corrective measures taken to restore Social Security's finances is anybody's guess. But registering your objection to the Windfall Elimination Provision with your Congressional Representative would be a step in that direction.

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. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★

"Eating Healthy Is for Sissies"

Dr. James L. Snyder

As a youngster, I often heard my father say things that later turned out not to be on the true side of the table. So I guess that is a father's prerogative, and I probably have done the same thing many times. But I don't want to research that aspect of my life right now.

One that he said quite often was, "Eating healthy is for sissies."

I had not remembered that until several weeks ago, when I had my first heart attack. Who knew I even had a heart! And, what did my heart have against me that it wanted to attack me?

My main artery was 90% clogged, and the doctors called it the "widow maker." That was something relatively new to me.

I spent about half a week in the hospital having a stent put in to help the main artery. The nurses took more blood out of me than I knew I had. Count Dracula would have been jealous.

My stay in the hospital was only three days, but felt like an eternity. Its experiences like that make you appreciate your own home and bed and lazy chair. I was so happy to

get home.

Thinking about this, I had a dire option before me.

I could take things as my father did in a very hap-hazardous way and not take my dietary routine seriously.

On the other hand, I could take my health and my eating habits seriously.

My first impression is to go along with my dad. After all, dads are never wrong, right?

As the situation is, the biggest obstacle in my decision concerning my health and eating habits is the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. For some reason, she has taken my diet quite seriously as though it was hers.

The quandary I am in is that she is the one who supervises the culinary activities in the house. I have been barred from the kitchen for years because of an incident that happened a few years back, which I am not comfortable getting into right now.

Being in a health-challenging situation right now, I do not have many choices. It's either eat what the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has produced or starve. Starving is not the particular exercise that I enjoy.

I must admit my wife is a marvelous cook and makes

very delicious meals, which I am assured, are most healthy. From my point of view, if it does not have broccoli, then it is delicious.

Her healthy array of desserts is mouthwatering.

Therefore, I can do my own thing and be in a lot of trouble or allow the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage to do her thing and be in charge of the dietary activities in our home.

In pondering this quandary that I am in, I realized a wonderful verse in the Bible. "And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God" (Ecclesiastes 3:13).

Instead of getting all caught up in some ritualistic eating habits, I believe from God's perspective he would want me to enjoy my life. But, of course, as I realize now, enjoying life means that I take care of my eating habits to the glory of God.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com. ★

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Sat: 5:30 p.m. vigil, Sun: 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

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info@trinitywestsac.org

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Spanish Ministry Pastora: Miryam Osorio

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December 3 and 10, 2021

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. F20210942

The following person(s) is doing business as: It's All Yoga, 3075 Gabri Court, West Sacramento, CA 95691, County of Yolo. Michelle Amber Marlahan, 3075 Gabri Court, West Sacramento, CA 95691. This business is conducted by Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 10/20/2021 /s/ Michelle Marlahan

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/01/2021. Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder

By: Iramirez, Deputy

11/19, 11/26, 12/3, 12/10/21

NEWS-LEDGER

Nov 19 26 Dec 3 10 nl 3386

12-10-2021

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. F20210947

The following person(s) is doing business as: Clear Water Pool Services, 1411 McKinley Avenue, Woodland, CA 95695, County of Yolo. Mark Paul Biggs, 1411 McKinley Avenue, Woodland, CA 95695 This business is conducted by Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A /s/ Mark Paul Biggs

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/02/2021. Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder

By: kquam, Deputy

11/19, 11/26, 12/3, 12/10/21

CNS-3529480#

NEWS-LEDGER

Nov 19 26 Dec 3 10 nl 3386

12-10-2021

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. F20210959

The following person(s) is doing business as: Resolute Company, 1102 Chapman Street, Winters, CA 95694, County of Yolo. Priority Strategies, 1102 Chapman Street, Winters, CA 95694 This business is conducted by Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A /s/ Alfredo Arredondo, President

PRIORITY STRATEGIES

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/04/2021. Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder

By: kquam, Deputy

11/19, 11/26, 12/3, 12/10/21

CNS-3529663#

NEWS-LEDGER

Nov 19 26 Dec 3 10 nl 3386

12-10-2021

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. F20210945

The following person(s) is doing business as: Valley Oak Wool and Fiber Mill, 41501 County Road 27, Woodland, CA 95776, County of Yolo. Marcaill McWilliams, 627 1st Street, Woodland, CA 95695 This business is conducted by Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/07/2017 /s/ Marcaill McWilliams

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/01/2021. Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder

By: dho, Deputy

11/19, 11/26, 12/3, 12/10/21

NEWS-LEDGER

Nov 19 26 Dec 3 10 nl 3386

12-10-2021

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. F20210962

The following person(s) is doing business as: Lighthouse Bar & Grill, 2125 W. Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691, County of Yolo. Garken Corp., 2125 W. Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691 This business is conducted by Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 05/19/2016 /s/ Jim Gouveial

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/05/2021. Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder

By: mlindstrom, Deputy

11/19, 11/26, 12/3, 12/10/21

NEWS-LEDGER

Nov 19 26 Dec 3 10 nl 3386

12-10-2021

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. F20210981

The following person(s) is doing business as: Instakeyz, 1335 Lisbon Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95605, County of Yolo. Aleksandr V Kozin, 1335 Lisbon Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95605 This business is conducted by Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A /s/ Aleksandr V Kozin

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/12/2021. Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder

By: Iramirez, Deputy

11/19, 11/26, 12/3, 12/10/21

NEWS-LEDGER

Nov 19 26 Dec 3 10 nl 3386

12-10-2021

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. F20210961

The following person(s) is doing business as: Atmosphere X Photography, 820 Sacramento Avenue, Apt. 325, West Sacramento, CA 95605, County of Yolo. Kenneth Pence, 820 Sacramento Avenue, Apt. 325, West Sacramento, CA 95605 This business is conducted by Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A /s/ Kenneth Pence

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/05/2021. Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder

By: kquam, Deputy

11/19, 11/26, 12/3, 12/10/21

CNS-3530225#

NEWS-LEDGER

Nov 19 26 Dec 3 10 nl 3386

12-10-2021

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. F20210930

The following person(s) is doing business as: RT Graphix, 707 Sycamore Lane, Unit 101, Davis, CA 95616, County of Yolo. Elk Pace Inc, 707 Sycamore Lane, Unit 101, Davis, CA 95616. This business is conducted by Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 08/01/2021 /s/ Muhammad Rizwan Tufail

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 10/27/2021. Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder

By: kquam, Deputy

11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17/21

NEWS-LEDGER

Nov 26 Dec 3 10 17 nl 3386

12-17-2021

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. F20210958

The following person(s) is doing business as: M&H Designs, 2568 Port Street, West Sacramento, CA 95691, County of Yolo. Agustín Manríquez Hinojosa, 2568 Port Street, West Sacramento, CA 95691 This business is conducted by Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A /s/ Agustín Manríquez Hinojosa

Owner

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/04/2021. Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder

By: kquam, Deputy

11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17/21

CNS-3530526#

NEWS-LEDGER

Nov 26 Dec 3 10 17 nl 3386

12-17-2021

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. F20210978

The following person(s) is doing business as: Wise Oak Coaching, LLC, 3625 Fisher Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691, County of Yolo. Wise Oak Coaching, LLC, 3625 Fisher Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691 This business is conducted by Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 10/27/2021 /s/ Sujel Gonzalez, President, Wise Oak Coaching LLC

Owner

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/12/2021. Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder

By: kquam, Deputy

11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17/21

NEWS-LEDGER

Nov 26 Dec 3 10 17 nl 3386

12-17-2021

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. F20210987

The following person(s) is doing business as: Hyperstance, 1969 Linden Road, West Sacramento, CA 95691, County of Yolo. Sreya and Company, LLC, 1969 Linden Road, West Sacramento, CA 95691. This business is conducted by Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A /s/ Kristine Ayers

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/12/2021. Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder

By: mlindstrom, Deputy

12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 12/24/21

NEWS-LEDGER

Dec 3 10 17 24 nl 3386

12-24-2021

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. F20210987

The following person(s) is doing business as: Beach Hut Deli, 767 Ikea Court, Suite 130, West Sacramento, CA 95605, County of Yolo. WSACBHD LLC, , 767 Ikea Court, Suite 130, West Sacramento, CA 95605. This business is conducted by Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A /s/ Lea Moss

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/04/2021. Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder

By: mlindstrom, Deputy

12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 12/24/21

NEWS-LEDGER

Dec 3 10 17 24 nl 3386

12-24-2021

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. F20211011

The following person(s) is doing business as: 1. Sunset Supply 2. Palisades Lumber 3. Integrated Technology Services 4. Siltline Construction Technology, 25886 Clawiter Road, Hayward, CA 94545, County of Yolo. Mailing Address: 951 Mariners Island Boulevard, Suite 700, San Mateo, CA 94404 ProCraft Equipment LLC 25886 Clawiter Road Hayward, CA 94545 This business is conducted by Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A /s/ David C. Becker, Manager ProCraft Equipment LLC

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/22/2021. Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder

By: kquam, Deputy

12/10, 12/17, 12/24, 12/31/21

CNS-3532147#

NEWS-LEDGER

Dec 10 17 24 31 nl 3386

12-31-2021

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. F20211005

The following person(s) is doing business as: EchoedD Fiercely, 10 North Cottonwood Street, #205, Woodland, CA 95695, County of Yolo. Echoe D. Camacho, 10 North Cottonwood Street, #205, Woodland, CA 95695 This business is conducted by Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A /s/ Echoe D. Camacho

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/19/2021. Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder

By: kquam, Deputy

12/10, 12/17, 12/24, 12/31/21

CNS-3535332#

NEWS-LEDGER

Dec 10 17 24 31 nl 3386

12-31-2021

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

#CV2021-1915

Nancie Roberta Voegel has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Nancie Roberta Voegel to four waters. IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court at 9:00a.m. on December 16, 2021, in Department 10, Room: Zoom and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted. Dated: October 29, 2021 C. Gokovich, Deputy

Publish: November 12, 19, 26 & December 3, 2021

VOEGE

1801

12-3-21

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

#CV2021-1601

Kimberly Denise Nettles-Barcelón and Aaron Joseph Barcelón have filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Maya Victoria Nettles-Barcelón to Maya Alberta Victoria Nettles-Barcelón. IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court at 9:00a.m. on December 14, 2021, in Department 9, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted. Dated: October 15, 2021 Daniel M. Wolk, Judge of the Superior Court

Publish: November 19, 26 & December 3, 10, 2021

BARCE

1801

12-10-21

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

#CV2021-1797

Nina Karpekin has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Nina Yakovlevna Karpekin to Nina Yakovlevna Albertov, Kiralina Karpekin to Kiralina Albertov, Jacob Vitaliy Karpekin to Jacob Vitaliy Albertov. IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court at 9:00a.m. on December 22, 2021, in Department 9, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted. Dated: October 7, 2021 Daniel M. Wolk, Judge of the Superior Court

Publish: November 26 & December 3, 10, 17, 2021

KARPE

1801

12-17-21

ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF VELMA HACKNEY CASE No. PR2021-0247

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both of Velma Hackney deceased. A Petition for Probate has been filed by Letitia Smith, in the Superior Court of California, County of Yolo, requesting Letitia Smith be appointed as personal representatives 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: 01/12/22 at 9:00AM in Dept. 9 located at 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 decedent, 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 a person 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. Attorney for Petitioner TOSH G. YAMAMOTO - SBN 63253, A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION 7201 S LAND PARK DR., #200 SACRAMENTO CA 95831 12/10, 12/17, 12/24/21 CNS-3535374# NEWS-LEDGER

Dec 10 17 24 31 nl 3386

12-24-2021

Notice of Public Sale

Notice of Public Sale: Self-Storage unit contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold for cash or credit card by CubeSmart Self Storage 541 Harbor Blvd. West Sacramento, Ca 95691 to satisfy a lien on Dec. 14, 2021, approx. 12:00pm on storagetreasures.com Jennifer Williams, Jewell Wilkins, Victoria Hutson, Yolanda Ellison, Mauricia Lesley, John Donohue, Wendy Villanueva, Sabrina Lopez, Alexis Brown, Josseline Pena Espinal,

12-24-2021

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 01/03/2022 @2:00PM: Jacob Alexander toys other personal items. Daniel Taylor DJ equipment, TVs. Alan Williams household goods. Katherine Archuleta Clothes, electronics, books, baby stuff. Sarah Gerard Boxes. Chantel Williams household goods. This auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.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 12/10, 12/17/21 CNS-3535219# NEWS-LEDGER

12/17/21

YOLO COUNTY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION 1280 SANTA ANITA COURT, SUITE #100 WOODLAND, CA 95776-6127 530-668-6700 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PURPOSE: A public hearing will be held by the Yolo County Committee on School District Organization (Committee) to receive comments from parents, teachers, members of the community, and bargaining unit leaders regarding the Adoption of Redistricting Plan for the Yolo County Board of Education Trustee Areas based upon the 2020 Census. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Committee may take action on adoption of the redistricting plan for the Trustee areas.

DATE: Tuesday, December 14, 2021

TIME: 6:00 p.m. [approx.]

LOCATION: Yolo County Office of Education 1280 Santa Anita Court, Suite 120 Woodland, CA 95776 or Zoom Conference Meeting https://ycoc.zoom.us/j/97637728971 Or One tap mobile : US: +16699006833,,97637728971# or +13462487799,,97637728971# Or Telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099 Webinar ID: 976 3772 8971

Individuals wishing to speak before the Committee are requested to fill out a speaker card, which will be available in the Conference Center. Completed speaker cards need to be submitted to the Board Recording Secretary; speakers will be called in the order in which the cards are received. You may also use the *raise hand feature in Zoom to speak on this matter during the meeting.

Each individual addressing the Committee will have a maximum of three minutes to speak to ensure that all who wish to address the Committee on this matter will be heard.

Materials subject to the public hearing will be available at the public hearing and online at www.ycoc.org.

If you would like a copy of the materials prior to that time, contact the Yolo County Office of Education at 1280 Santa Anita Court, Suite #100, or call (530) 668-3702.

West Sacramento News Ledger 12-10-2021

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Riley Reviews

THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT LIVES IN MOST SEASONAL TV PROGRAMS

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

The British monarchy fascinates many and that is perhaps explained by two things. First, there is a subscription video on demand service dedicated to all things Royal, and it is called True Royalty TV.

Second, the royal-centric service is ringing in the holiday season with “A Very Royal Christmas: Sandringham Secrets,” which will give viewers a look at how the Royal Family celebrates Christmas Day at the Queen’s country estate.

Will Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, be a part of the holiday celebration? If one bothers to read tabloid stories about the couple’s rift with the Royal Family, the invitation could be lost in the mail.

Meanwhile, Mariah Carey, who has not to anyone’s knowledge married a prince, has an eponymous holiday spectacular on Apple TV+ entitled “Mariah’s Christmas: The Magic Continues.”

The holiday special will reveal the first and only performance of the multi-Grammy Award-winning global icon’s new single, “Fall in Love at Christmas.”

The singer-songwriter will be joined by Grammy-nominated worldwide artist Khalid

and Grammy-winning legend Kirk Franklin, as they bring the spirit of Christmas to fans around the world.

One thing not previously known is that, according to the press release, Mariah is the “Queen of Christmas” who will also ring in the holidays with a dazzling new rendition of fan favorite, “Christmas (Baby Please Come Home).”

NBC finds the Christmas spirit with Grammy and Emmy Award-winning global superstar Kelly Clarkson in her holiday special, “Kelly Clarkson Presents: When Christmas Comes Around,” which has a repeat airing on Wednesday, December 15th.

Clarkson’s love for the holiday season is no secret, as she celebrates it all year long with “Ambush Christmas” segments on her award-winning daytime talk show with studio viewers and guests treated to off-season snow, music and epic giveaways.

Timed to the release of her new holiday album, Clarkson’s special will be filled with original new songs as well as a curated list of iconic classics, dancing, performances featuring My Band Y’all with a streamlined modern orchestra and remarkable duets.

According to Clarkson, “People celebrate the holidays in different ways and that is the inspiration behind the original songs and the

curated classics that are featured in this special. No matter what your heart is feeling, I hope this hour brings you joy and happiness.”

The Lifetime channel presents “My Favorite Christmas Melody,” in which once promising singer-songwriter Abby (Mya) now finds herself writing uninspired jingles for commercials.

As she heads home for the holidays, Abby is enlisted by the local high school music teacher to help save the school arts program. In the process, Abby rediscovers her voice and regains the confidence to go after her dreams.

Not all holiday programming, unless you go the Hallmark Channel’s inexhaustible supply of Christmas movies, can be as uplifting or in tune with the seasonal spirit of good cheer.

While it pops into select theaters first, Amazon Prime Video’s “Being the Ricardos,” about Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, will drop on the streaming service close to Christmas.

Though the hit “I Love Lucy” television series was a groundbreaking sitcom, Lucille Ball (Nicole Kidman) and Desi Arnaz (Javier Bardem) battled television sponsor Philip Morris, muckraking gossip columnist Walter Winchell and each other.

“Being the Ricardos” offers an intimate glimpse into the pair’s often turbulent partnership, their whirlwind courtship, their passionate love affair and the burning ambition that made them the leading innovators in the Golden Age of television.

On screen, Ball’s signature screwball comic genius, supported by longtime co-stars William Frawley (J.K. Simmons) and Vivian Vance (Nina Arianda) and the show’s legendary writing staff, make “I Love Lucy” an

unprecedented popular success.

In the boardroom, Arnaz’s visionary business acumen creates a brand-new paradigm for television production as they transform themselves from B-movie contract players into the founders of the world’s top independent TV production company, Desilu Productions.

But even as their on-screen marriage and soaring success make the pair one of America’s most admired couples, conflicting desires at home begin to eat away at everything Ball and Arnaz have accomplished.

Written and directed by Aaron Sorkin, the story told in “Being the Ricardos” benefits from two stellar actors tasked with revealing the couple’s complex romantic and professional relationship.

It’s likely a good bet that the action-adventure series “MacGyver” (the original one with Richard Dean Anderson) is better known than the cult-film “MacGruber” based on a “Saturday Night Live” parody of the aforementioned TV series.

Peacock’s upcoming action-comedy series “MacGruber” serves as a sequel to the 2010 cult-favorite feature film of the same title, starring once again Will Forte as the titular character.

After rotting in prison for over a decade, America’s ultimate hero and uber patriot MacGruber is finally released. His mission: to take down the mysterious villain from his past, Brigadier Commander Enos Queeth (Billy Zane).

With the entire world in his crosshairs, MacGruber must reassemble his old team, Vicki St. Elmo (Kristen Wiig) and Dixon Piper (Ryan Phillippe), in order to defeat the forces of evil. ★

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The Perils of the Biden WTO Waiver

Commentary
by Mark Cohen

The Biden administration wants to improve America’s international reputation. That’s why it endorsed a proposal before the World Trade Organization to waive all intellectual property rights related to Covid-19.

The president intends for this offer to be seen as a generous gesture that his “America First” predecessor would never have made.

Yet this endorsement is toothless virtue-signaling at best – and dangerous economic capitulation at worst.

It caught our European allies by surprise. The EU nations, especially Germany, do not support the proposed waiver. Even the WTO did not fully agree with the original proposal which would have applied to a wide range of medical equipment and diagnostics.

The easiest way for America to boost its international standing is to serve as the world’s “arsenal” of vaccines, to quote President Biden. His administration has already pledged to donate over one billion of our surplus doses to developing countries.

Waiving IP rights, by contrast, won’t boost vaccine supply – for a number of legal and logistical reasons. All 164 WTO members must agree for proposals to go into effect. A similar effort to deal with

patents and the HIV epidemic was launched in 2001 and was not finally agreed to until 2017.

Even if the waiver does ultimately gain unanimous consent from major supply countries and the developing world, there are major obstacles that will prevent it from boosting supply.

First, most facilities that can produce vaccines are already doing so. The Serum Institute in India, the world’s largest vaccine manufacturer, says it’s on track to produce a billion doses this year. Aspen Pharmacare, South Africa’s largest generics manufacturer, is on track to produce hundreds of millions of doses.

Second, the supply bottleneck right now stems from a shortage of raw inputs, not IP protections. When a Guardian journalist asked the Serum Institute’s CEO whether he agrees with the accusation that “the developers who hold the patents on the vaccines have licensed too few manufacturers to make them?” the chief executive flatly replied “No. There are enough manufacturers. It just takes time to scale up [production].”

Third, there are few scientists and engineers who fully understand the know-how behind mRNA vaccines. If the waiver were implemented, governments would have to work with the brand-name makers to transfer that know-how and possibly compel the transfer of

their senior staff. All those issues could take months, if not years, to resolve.


In other words, the waiver won’t increase vaccine production, and certainly not in time to quell developing countries’ Covid-19 outbreaks or new variants. But it could hand over leading-edge American technology to our competitors and cripple our ability to respond to future challenges.

There has been remarkable bipartisan concern about IP theft from China and other countries.

It now appears that we would eliminate the risk of thievery by giving away the technology. It’s staggering that the Biden administration would make it more likely that future medical breakthroughs come with a “Made in China” label. After all, mRNA has many potential uses beyond Covid-19. Scientists are already testing whether the technology could prevent cancer and HIV.

Today, giving away IP rights risks more than economic competitiveness. It also risks the ability of the United States to respond safely and effectively to the pandemics of the future for all.

Mark Cohen is Director of the Asia IP Project at the Berkeley Center for Law and Technology at the University of California, Berkeley. This piece originally ran in the International Business Times.



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BOOKS

By Amy Shane

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

Holiday Young-Adult Gift Guide

Are you looking for that perfect book for the young adult reader on your list? This year Macmillan publishers have you covered with this year’s top favorites.

Little Thieves by Margaret Owen

There once was a beautiful princess, a wicked maid, and an enchanted string of pearls. On one fateful day, the wicked maid steals the face of the princess, taking with it everything the princess’s life as well as her betrothed. While the princess is then instantly cast out to live the life of a servant. But when the servant is finally caught, she must pay for her crimes, returning the life she stole to the rightful owner. Is this classic tale the real story? Now, it is time for the truth to finally be told.

In this stunning retelling of the Goose Girl, readers will be taken deep into an enchanted story where the wicked maid finally has a chance to have her story heard.

Me Moth by Amber McBride

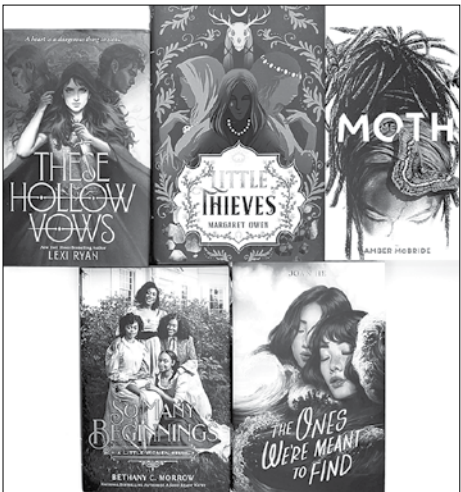
After Moth loses her family in an accident, she struggles to discover her family roots, and then she meets Sani. Now, together with each other’s help they will be able to navigate the ghosts of their past, as they search for answers. In a story of searching for who you are and where you are from readers will be thrown into a story that is unforgettable, power and raw.

So Many Beginnings A Little Women Remix by Bethany C. Morrow

A brilliant and beautiful reimagining of Little Women. Readers will once again fall for this beautiful story of sisterhood and love in a realistic and authentic retelling.

The Ones We’re Meant To Find

Two sisters are living worlds apart. Cee has been living on an abandoned island,



with only a single memory of her sister, and it’s up to her to figure out how to escape. Kasey, a STEM prodigy, lives in a world governed by science that has been the result of many man-made disasters. Now it is up to her to choose the path to help humanity.

This futuristic tale highlights and features hope for humanity in a story of haunting emotion and sisterly bonds.

These Hollow Vows Lexi Ryan

Brie has always hated the Fae, but when her sister is sold to a Fae King, she knows she will have to make a deal to get her back. However, dealing with Fae can be treacherous and dangerous, leaving her unable to decide who to trust. But things get even more complicated when Brie realizes that she is starting to fall for the prince. Then the mysterious leader Finn catches her off guard with his seductive charm, making her decision of who to trust even more dangerous.

Lexi Ryan once again captures the hearts of her readers with a whole new story of Fae magic.

Merry Christmas!

FROM

MPG

Thank

A Veteran Today

Crossword Puzzle on Page 9

M	E	C	C	A		A	C	T			C	U	B	E
O	C	E	A	N		G	A	R			T	E	P	E
P	R	I	M	A		O	B	I			A	D	O	R
Y	U	L	E	L	O	G					B	O	X	I
						L	O	T			L	E	V	I
F	C	C				G	H	E	E			A	N	G
L	A	O	S			E	G	I	S			G	U	I
U	R	A	L			R	O	S	E	S		A	V	I
T	O	T	E	M		S	U	R	E			R	I	D
E	L	I	D	E	S						R	A	R	E
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						T	W	E	L	V	E		S	W
W	R	I	T	E										
R	E	L	A	Y										
Y	E	L	L											

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CLUES

ACROSS
1. Pilgrim's destination
6. Make a scene
9. Rubik's puzzle
13. Hawaii environs
14. Toothy fish
15. Cone-shaped dwelling
16. White Swan in "Swan Lake" ballerina
17. ____-Wan Kenobi
18. "Decorate with wreaths and holly, e.g."
19. "Either dessert or source of heat (2 words)"
21. * ____ Day, or second day of Christmastide
23. Land parcel
24. Strauss of denim fame
25. Broadband access overseer, acr.
28. Clarified butter
30. Acute one and obtuse one
35. Southeastern Asian country
37. Joust's breastplate
39. Shrewdness
40. Caspian basin river
41. "Pasadena's Tournament of ____"
43. Tel ____ , Israel
44. Native American emblem
46. "Why not?"
47. Hitchhiker's quest
48. Omits when speaking
50. Hard to find
52. Bear's winter quarters
53. Hoodwink
55. Scepter's partner
57. "Number of days in Christmastide"
60. "Ugly" holiday party garb?
64. Prepare a letter
65. "Bingo!"
67. Hunger for
68. Pass-the-baton race
69. "Cranberry sauce sometimes comes from it"
70. Same as tori
71. Raise the roof
72. German river
73. Stall sound

DOWN
1. Whiny and miserable
2. Shade of beige
3. Finish a ceiling, to a plasterer
4. Marlboro alternative
5. Not digital
6. Bug-eyed
7. Not Uber
8. Social group
9. Ghana monetary unit
10. Second word of many fairytales
11. Cause of Titanic's demise
12. Poetic "even"
15. Burdensome
20. Not this or that
22. Lab eggs
24. Time off
25. *Champagne holder
26. *Wassailing composition
27. Raccoon's South American cousin
29. Feeling of superiority, pl.
31. ____ gum, food additive
32. Furiously angry
33. Exclude or omit
34. *Number of candles in kinara, Kwanzaa
36. *Troika vehicle
38. "Will be," according to Doris

42. Asian goat antelope
45. Potpourri
49. Chevy Suburban, e.g.
51. Builds
54. *Popular holiday wish
56. Munchausen's title
57. *Bedecked arbor
58. Shakespeare, to his friends?
59. And others, for short
60. Minus
61. Tropical edible root
62. Anon's partner
63. Take a load off
64. Like some humor
66. *Traditional main holiday dish

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 9

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16						17				18			
19						20			21	22			
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64						65	66			67			
68						69				70			
71						72				73			

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 9

1	9	5	4	8	2	6	7	3
3	8	2	9	7	6	4	5	1
6	4	7	3	5	1	2	8	9
7	1	3	8	6	9	5	4	2
2	6	4	5	1	3	8	9	7
9	5	8	2	4	7	1	3	6
4	2	9	1	3	5	7	6	8
8	7	1	6	9	4	3	2	5
5	3	6	7	2	8	9	1	4

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3	8		9					
		7		5		2		9
7					9	5		
			5	1	3			
		8	2					6
4	9	3		7				
				4		2	5	
	6	2				1		

Solutions on Page 9

Holiday Visit Sparking Concerns with Aging Parents?

Commentary
by Chris Orestis, CSA
and President of Retirement Genius

As families reunite during the holidays, it's not unusual for adult children who haven't seen their aging parents in a while to begin to worry about them.

Are they experiencing health problems?

Are they still mentally on top of things?

Is it time to start thinking about long-term care?

"The holidays and their aftermath are the busiest time of year for long-term care admissions," says Chris Orestis, president of Retirement Genius (www.retirementgenius.com) and an authority on retirement planning, long-term care and financial health.

"Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, families get together and many are seeing Mom or Dad for the first time in months. Some will discover that their parent's health has declined and he or she should not be left to live on their own any longer."

If you are concerned about aging parents, Orestis offers a few things to be on the lookout for:

Physical deterioration. Be aware of potential signs such as significant weight loss, balance issues and falling, and loss of strength and stamina, Orestis says. "You might also see loss in what is known as ADL – activities of daily living," he says. "That includes such things as the ability to dress, eat, shower or use the toilet independently.";

Mental deterioration. It's easy and tempting to blow off loss of memory or confusion about names, dates and locations as just a "senior moment," Orestis says. "But cognitive deterioration is an important warning sign that you should be on the lookout for dementia and Alzheimer's," he says. "These conditions can worsen quickly and can lead to many physical breakdowns and



Seniors want to remain independent as long as possible, and they don't want to become a burden on their family. Photo Monkey Business Images, Dreamstime

safety issues.";

Lifestyle deterioration. Maybe your parent was one of those sticklers for the adage "a place for everything and everything in its place," but now the home isn't kept so neatly. "You may even encounter things that are oddly out of place, such as a house plant in the refrigerator or pots and pans in the bathtub," Orestis says. "Even more concerning, you might see signs of physical damage because they crashed the car into a fence or the wall of the garage, or there are burn marks on the kitchen wall from a flash fire. It's important to remember that long-term care is

not only a matter of healthcare, but also a matter of safety."

Certainly, seniors want to remain independent as long as possible, and they don't want to become a burden on their family, either physically or financially, Orestis says. As a result, they may try to avoid discussions about their health, mental capabilities and the possibility of the need for the assistance. Family members may be inclined to avoid these conversations as well.

"For some people, the need for long-term care can be brought on from a sudden event such as a fall, stroke, advancing dementia, or

other health-related malady," he says. "For others, it can slowly creep up over time and without realizing it one or more loved ones have become caregivers. Confronting the fact that a person has transitioned in life from being independent to dependent in one way or another is difficult."

But eventually, if it becomes clear professional long-term care is needed, family members should discuss a plan for making that happen. After that, the conversation should take place with the loved one in question, who may be apprehensive or even resistant, Orestis says.

"That conversation should be handled with compassion and delicacy," he says. "Emphasize that not only will this move improve their health and safety, but there will be numerous opportunities for social activities, games, art, entertainment and great food."

"The key is for the family to come together. Look for the signs that care is needed, formulate a plan, communicate effectively with your loved ones and change the perspective about long-term care from a negative to a safe, healthy and enriching experience in the continuing journey of life." ★

West Sac Kids Build Care Packs for Homeless



The West Sac Kids Give Back is a group of local children, in which their parents wanted to teach them the importance of giving back to your community. Photo courtesy Pojolslaw | Dreamstime.com

By Michele Townsend

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - If you are one of those people that would *like* to give, and help out your community, but you look at your own struggles and can't really budget in the cost of a donation... not one that seems like it would make a difference anyway... then I have two things to say – First *any* donation, whether it be your money, your time, merchandise or a service, makes a difference to those in need of it. No matter how big or small.

The second thing that I would like to tell you, is that if you are on a tight budget, this project is the one for you. It's a project that you *can* see a difference with just five dollars. The West Sac Kids Give Back is a group of local children, in which their parents wanted to teach them the importance of giving back to your community. This group has taught those kids (and I think many more people, too) about taking care of your community.

Each year, West Sac Kids Give Back, collect items such as socks, toothbrush, toothpaste, bar soap, deodorant, beanies and gloves, and then these children assemble "care packs". These care packs are put together for and given out to the homeless in West Sacramento. You can

buy any and all of these items at the dollar store, or the store of your choice. All you do then is drop them off. The kids will do the rest!

This year, there will be TWO drop and pack events. The first one will take place on Saturday, December 19th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at LENISE'S CAFÉ, located at 3150 Jefferson Blvd. The second drop and pack event will be held on Tuesday, December 21st from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at STREETS OF LONDON, located at 2200 Lake Washington Blvd.

All you need to do is drop off an item or a bag of items... whatever you can do. There will be a team at the sight assembling care packs as the items come in. By the way, gallon size zip lock baggies are needed too, as that is what they separate the items into.

These Care Packs are assembled and then distributed to the Yolo County Children's Alliance, Mercy Coalition, Collins Teen Center and the Downtown Streets Team to be handed out to homeless individuals that need them. Please mark your calendar, set your phone, or tie a string on your finger, so that you remember to stop by one of the two drop sites/times and give a little to help out those that have lost so much. ★

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WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



IT SNOWED! IT SNOWED! WINTER IS FINALLY HERE!


A WINTER WONDERLAND FULL OF ICE AND SNOW FOR ME TO GO CRAZY!!

FIRST I'M GONNA RUN UP TO THE... WHOA

THIS HAS GOT TO BE HOW SOMEONE FIRST THOUGHT OF SNOW ANGELS.

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering




WHEN DOES A JOKE BECOME A DAD JOKE?

WHEN IT BECOMES APPARENT.

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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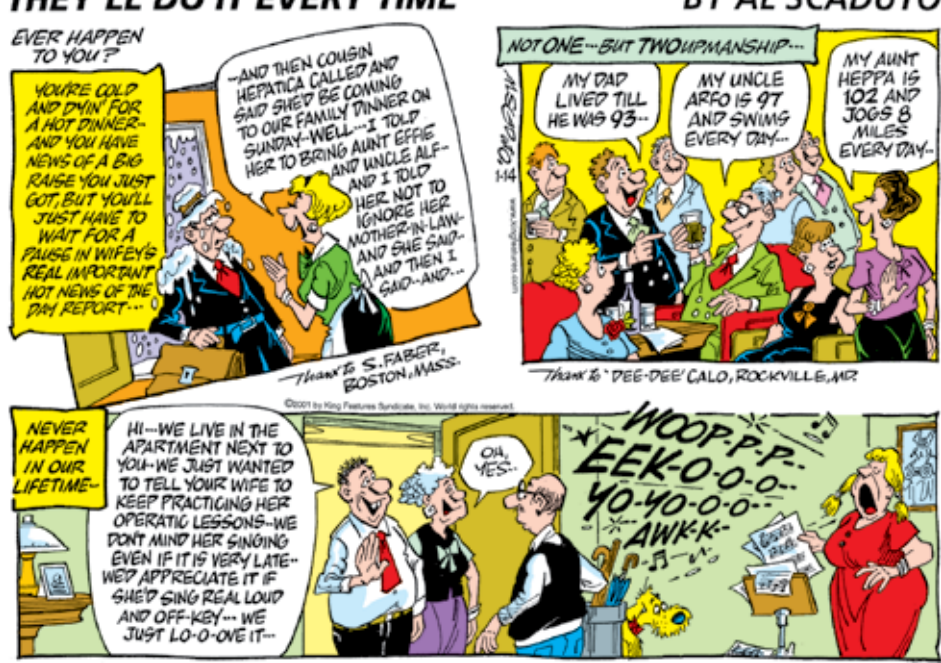
WHAT IS... OINK?

WHAT IS... MOO?

WHAT IS... BAA?

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



EVER HAPPEN TO YOU?

YOU'RE GOLD AND DWIN FOR A HOT DINNER-- AND YOU HAVE NEWS OF A BIG RAISE YOU JUST GOT, BUT YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR A PAUSE IN WIFE'S REAL IMPORTANT HOT NEWS OF THE DAY REPORT...

--AND THEN COUSIN HEPATICA CALLED AND SAID SHE'D BE COMING TO OUR FAMILY DINNER ON SUNDAY-- WELL-- I TOLD HER TO BRING AUNT EFFIE-- AND UNCLE ALF-- AND I TOLD HER NOT TO IGNORE HER MOTHER-IN-LAW-- AND SHE SAID-- AND THEN I SAID-- AND...

NOT ONE-- BUT TWO! MANSHIP...

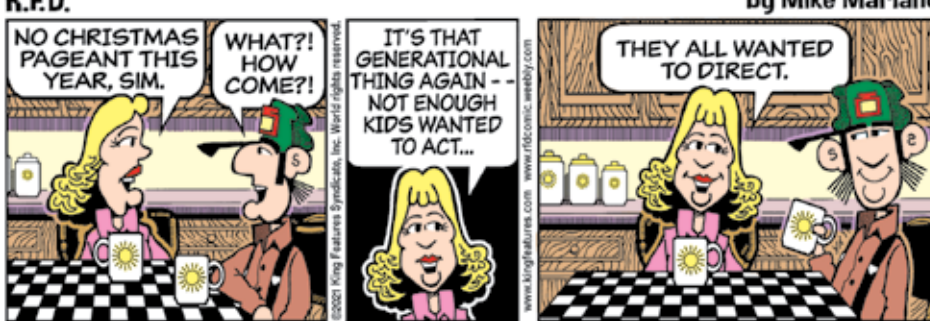
MY DAD LIVED TILL HE WAS 93...

MY UNCLE ARFO IS 97 AND SWIMS EVERY DAY...

MY AUNT HEPPA IS 102 AND JOGS 8 MILES EVERY DAY...

R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



NO CHRISTMAS PAGEANT THIS YEAR, SIM.


WHAT?! HOW COME?!

IT'S THAT GENERATIONAL THING AGAIN-- NOT ENOUGH KIDS WANTED TO ACT...

THEY ALL WANTED TO DIRECT.

GRIN and BEAR IT


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"When we formed this carpool, I think we all assumed that one of us had a car."

LAFF-A-DAY


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"No, no, put it back! You have to cook that!"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

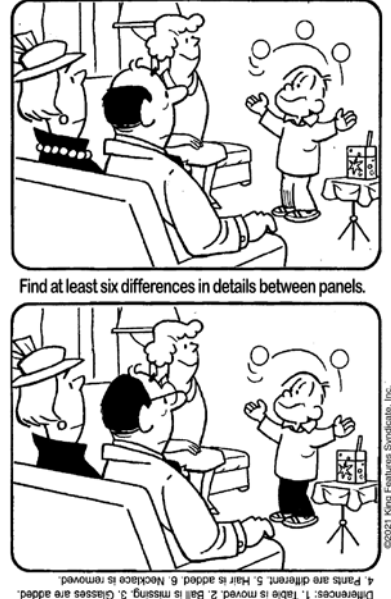
by Dave T. Phipps



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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Table is moved. 2. Ball is missing. 3. Glasses are added. 4. Pairs are different. 5. Hair is added. 6. Mischief is removed.

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How to Slash Americans’ Electricity Bills

Commentary
by Wayne Winegarden

Whenever you hear about America’s electricity system these days, it’s usually some big problem that has captured the public’s attention.

There are examples of energy companies operating inefficiently, such as ratepayers having to foot the bill for massive cost overruns at the Vogtle nuclear power plant in Georgia. Sometimes, as was the case in South Carolina, customers wind up paying higher rates to cover the costs of building generation resources that are never completed and generate no electricity. And we have seen outright corruption, such as the FirstEnergy scandal in Ohio that led to the largest criminal fines for bribery ever imposed by the local U.S. Attorney’s office.

What do all of these examples have in common? They involve government-mandated electricity monopolies. Residents and businesses lose out when states rely on electricity monopolies, forced to endure higher prices, reduced investment in new infrastructure, and less reliable power.

When thinking about America’s electricity future, we want a system that produces abundant and reliable energy supply to power our homes and businesses. We want to be able to keep the lights on at the most affordable price possible. And at a time when the country is increasingly concerned about global warming, we want to generate more “green energy” and lower emissions.

The key to making each of these priorities a reality is through electricity competition.

Right now, there is electricity competition at the wholesale level – or the source from which power companies acquire electricity supply to sell to local customers – for most of the country outside the Southeast, Southwest, and Northwest.



When thinking about America’s electricity future, we want a system that produces abundant and reliable energy supply to power our homes and businesses. We want to be able to keep the lights on at the most affordable price possible. Photo by Pok Rie from Pexels

In addition, 13 states and the District of Columbia have retail competition, where individual customers can choose a power company that best meets their requirements, such as lower prices or more power being generated by green sources.

As I document in the new Pacific Research Institute study “Affordable and Reliable,” if every state switched to a competitive electricity market, it would be a win-win for customers, the economy, and the environment.

The latest data shows that competition lowers prices for consumers. Prices in competitive wholesale markets were trending downward and were at or near 6-year lows in 2020. States with competitive retail markets saw prices drop 0.3% between 2008 and 2020 – compared to a 20.7% price increase in monopoly states.

Competition also ensures that power interruptions are rarer and brief. Because competitive wholesale markets are regional and encompass a larger geographic area, they have more diverse energy generation options when supplies are tight. A key measurement found that the frequency of sustained power interruptions was 10.4% lower in competitive states compared to monopoly states.

As America transitions to a clean energy future, competition ensures that we will make additional progress in lowering emissions. Looking at the latest figures from between 2008 and 2018, state emission levels dropped on average 12.1% in competitive states, compared to 7.3% in monopoly states.

The research makes it clear – if we want to lower costs for consumers, make our economy more competitive for investment and job creation at a time of uncertainty, ensure that we have a reliable electricity supply to power our homes and businesses, and boost our progress in lowering emissions, then policymakers in states with government-mandated electricity monopolies should pass reforms establishing competitive electricity markets.

Dr. Wayne Winegarden is senior fellow in business and economics at the Pacific Research Institute, and author of the new study “Affordable and Reliable.” Download a copy at www.pacificresearch.org. ★

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