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West Sacramento News Ledger

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Serving the West Sacramento Region Since 1964

DECEMBER 3, 2021

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COMBATING RETAIL THEFT



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United We Shine

By Kristin Thébaud,
Thébaud
Communications

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - This holiday season, the local United Way is shining a light on its nonprofit partners working to end poverty in the Capital Region. Each day for 12 days starting Nov. 29, United Way's United We Shine campaign will feature a different nonprofit partner that is working to build equity and end poverty in the region, including a specific need each is facing and how local residents can help. To participate, follow United Way California Capital Region on social media. For more: YourLocalUnitedWay.org/post/United-We-Shine.

"We are proud of the work we do at United Way to bring nonprofits together to work toward equitable systems and reduce poverty so all families in our region can thrive," said Dr. Dawnté Early, president and CEO, United Way California Capital Region. "After another difficult year, we can come together this holiday season to generously support the important work being done in our community. Over these 12 days, I hope everyone will join us in supporting as many of our local nonprofits as possible."

Featured nonprofits include Community Housing Opportunities Corporation, St. Vincent de Paul Sacramento Diocesan Council, Urban Strategies Inc., Computers 4 Kids,



United Way California Capital Region volunteers collect items for a nonprofit partner in fall 2021. The group is asking residents to support its United We Shine campaign by supporting its local nonprofit partners. Photo by Thébaud Communications

Yolo County Children's Alliance, Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency, Bless Child Community Association, YMCA, Sacramento County Gifts from the Heart, New Morning Youth and Family Services, and Empower Yolo. On Nov. 30, Giving Tuesday, United Way will share more about the work it is doing and how local residents can get involved.

For nearly 100 years, United Way California Capital Region has brought local people together to make community change happen. With a mission to build stronger, healthier and more compassionate communities, the local United Way starts at square one: helping every family succeed so their community can too. Serving Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento

and Yolo counties, the local United Way is working to meet its 20-year commitment to significantly reduce poverty in the region by helping kids excel in school, investing in families, creating meaningful partnerships and organizing to lift impacted families. For more information or to make a donation, visit YourLocalUnitedWay.org. ★

Response to Recent Smash and Grabs

Law Enforcement Administrators Coordinating Council

YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - In response to a significant increase in the number of smash and grab thefts occurring across California, Yolo County Law Enforcement wishes to ensure the community that law enforcement is prepared to respond to Yolo County businesses or individuals being targeted. Numerous stores and shopping malls across northern and southern California have been victimized by large groups of thieves acting in concert, causing many businesses to board up their windows. While Yolo County has not yet experienced similar crimes, law enforcement remains prepared to respond in the event our community experiences such crime. The recency and growing frequency of these thefts is especially concerning with the holiday season now here.

Sheriff Tom Lopez, who also serves as the Chairman of the Yolo County Law Enforcement Administrators Coordinating Council, a group that includes all of Yolo County's police chiefs and law enforcement chief executives, stated: "Public safety is our top priority. In the event that thieves target Yolo County businesses as we have witnessed in other parts of California, we are prepared to collaborate together with all of our allied agencies across Yolo County to investigate and arrest those involved."

District Attorney Jeff Reisig wants to ensure the public that those arrested will be held accountable. "Large scale theft crimes are detrimental to our community and we will continue to hold those who threaten the safety of our community accountable for their crimes, especially if violence is involved."

Business and shoppers are encouraged to remain vigilant for their own safety and are encouraged to call 911 in the event of any suspicious behavior. Any business concerned about potentially being targeted should reach out to their local law enforcement agency for tips on how to avoid becoming a victim. ★

Sacramento Sees 16th Fewest Home Sales Per Capita in U.S.

Lattice Publishing LLC,
Report from Porch

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Unusually high demand in the real estate market has been a consistent fact throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. While real estate sales – like most aspects of the economy – ground to a halt in March and April of 2020, buyers since then have been snapping homes up quickly, often

offering to pay above asking prices and make other concessions to land a deal.

Part of the reason for this spike in demand has been favorable economic conditions for middle and upper income earners. While lower-wage workers were at much greater risk of economic instability during the pandemic, most professional class workers were able to keep their jobs by transitioning to remote work, save

money from reduced spending in categories like travel, entertainment, and food, and enjoy strong returns in the stock market. Good household financial conditions and low mortgage interest rates put homeownership within reach for many buyers.

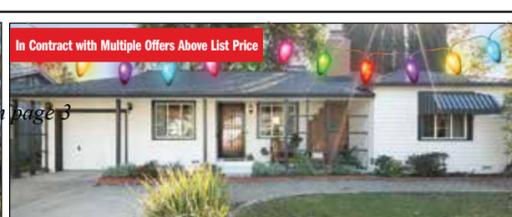
The total volume of home sales nationwide shows the extent of this demand. Seasonally-adjusted monthly home sales dropped sharply

Continued on page 3



In contract!

Continued on page 3



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SMF Holiday Travel Tips



SMF wants travelers to know there are many ways to get to their destination without carrying on all the stress. Taking the time to plan ahead will help travelers get through the terminals with ease. Photo courtesy pixabay

By Scott Johnston, Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Demand for travel is back and this holiday season has the potential to be busier than ever. Online booking sites are predicting Thanksgiving passenger levels could be twice that of 2020 levels and 75 percent of 2019. Sacramento International Airport (SMF) wants travelers to know there are many ways to get to their destination without carrying on all the stress.

Taking the time to plan ahead will help travelers get through the terminals with ease.

Make a list of all travel essentials. Don't forget masks (more on that in a moment), antibacterial wipes and disinfectant; Pay attention to travel protocols. Depending on the destination, safety and vaccination requirements may be different than those at home; Transportation Security Administration (TSA) procedures have changed since the pandemic. Everyone is required to wear a mask and maintain social distance while in the security line and on the airplane, so bringing extra masks is recommended.

Keep these helpful tips in mind when arriving at SMF:

Parking: The East Economy Lot (\$10/day), Daily Lot (\$12/day), Garage (\$18/day) and Hourly Lot (\$29/day) are open for parking. Cash is no longer accepted at cashier booths in any parking lot. Customers paying with cash will need to do so prior to returning to their vehicle. Payment can be made at one of the self-service pay-on-foot kiosks located in the Parking Garage and outside Terminal B. Bus service will be provided 24/7 to and from the terminals from both the East Economy, Parking Garage and Daily Lot.

Wait times for busses can be up to 20 minutes. For more information, please visit the parking webpage.

Boarding Pass Self-Scanning: Passengers will scan their own boarding passes and not hand them over to TSA employees.

Liquids: Must be 3.4 ounces (100ml) or smaller with the exception of hand sanitizer, which can be in a 12-ounce container. Items must be removed from baggage before it goes through the X-ray and will be screened separately.

Food: Passengers bringing meals on their flights should place them in a clear plastic bag, and in a separate tray from their luggage, for scanning.

Be Patient: Like many businesses, TSA has suffered from a staffing shortage. Allow extra time for every part of your travel journey, just in case.

Touchless Security: Get through security checkpoints faster with CLEAR, a digital health passport that uses biometrics to scan your eyes and face to confirm your identity in a touchless process. Learn more or opt-in for membership here.

If you are feeling a bit stressed out, be sure to stop by and say hello to the wonderful pups that make up SMF's BARC (Boarding Area Relaxation Corps) team. These dogs and their handlers are there to help calm nerves and relax passengers before and after flights.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released its recommendations for safe holiday travel, which is worth reviewing before you head out on vacation. As always, it is recommended travelers arrive two hours early in anticipation of additional security screenings. For more information, visit our website. ★

SAFE Credit Union Selects Its First Woman President/CEO



Dave Roughton

SAFE Credit Union Press Release

FOLSOM, CA (MPG) - SAFE Credit Union announced that Dave Roughton will retire as President and CEO effective December 31, 2022. Roughton will be succeeded by Executive Vice President/Chief Credit Officer Faye Nabhani, who will be the first woman President/CEO in the credit union's history.



Faye Nabhani

"On behalf of SAFE Credit Union, thank you to Dave Roughton for his vision and leadership to build a strong credit union and position it for success into the future," said Terrance Tremelling, Chair of the SAFE Credit Union Board of Directors. "SAFE has been fortunate to have Dave at the helm for the past six years. Under his stewardship, SAFE doubled in size from \$2.14 billion to over \$4.3 billion, and from 192,000 members to more than 240,000. Dave also led a momentous investment in the Greater Sacramento region by partnering with the City

of Sacramento to secure the naming rights to the SAFE Credit Union Convention & Performing Arts District."

Roughton also inaugurated diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives at SAFE; expanded technological solutions benefiting the credit union and its members; and deepened the credit union's influence on the community through expanded philanthropic and advocacy measures. Roughton further strengthened SAFE's ties to the regional business community through serving as Chair of the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and as a board member of the Greater Sacramento Economic Council. He fostered a workplace culture that led SAFE being named a Best Place to Work in the Sacramento region for four years in a row.

Faye Nabhani joined SAFE in 2016 as Executive Vice President/Chief Credit Officer, overseeing the credit union's successful lending programs, including mortgage, auto, credit, and commercial. During her tenure, she oversaw a 52% growth in SAFE's loan portfolio. She accomplished this remarkable growth with minimal FTE increases by consolidating loan operations around the organization into one team structure. She also implemented technological upgrades to facilitate online loan applications. In response to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nabhani led efforts that provided more than \$250 million in assistance to SAFE members through no- and low-interest emergency loans, forbearance, partial payment programs, waived fees,

and the Paycheck Protection Program.

Faye provides organizational leadership, strategic vision, and lending expertise as a key member of SAFE's Executive Management Team. Faye is also the strategic leader and executive sponsor of SAFE's core system conversion to Fiserv DNA, which will be completed in April 2022. As part of the leadership transition, Nabhani will become President as of January 1, 2022, and take on the combined President/CEO role on January 1, 2023. She will be the first woman President/CEO in SAFE's 80-plus-year history.

"I am deeply honored to be the next President/CEO of SAFE Credit Union," Nabhani said. "SAFE is a strong credit union and key corporate citizen in the region. I look forward to continuing to find new and innovate ways to better serve SAFE's members. SAFE will always be a partner to our community through philanthropy, corporate engagement, and by providing financial health to our members. Dave has pushed SAFE to new heights and I'm looking forward to guiding it through its next chapter."

Prior to joining SAFE, Faye worked for KeyPoint Credit Union in Santa Clara, California, for 22 years in a variety of credit operations and management positions, including most recently as their Chief Lending Officer. Faye has served as a member of various boards of directors, including MBL LLC (now CUBG), as an Executive Committee Member of the Credit Union National Association Lending Council. ★

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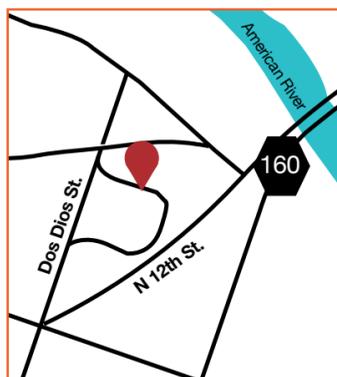
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- 2 person: \$43,500 - \$58,000
- 3 person: \$48,960 - \$65,280
- 4 person: \$54,360 - \$72,480
- 5 person: \$58,740 - \$78,320
- 6 person: \$63,060
- 7 person: \$67,440

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

Sacramento Sees 16th Fewest Home Sales Per Capita in U.S.

Continued from page 1

early at the start of the pandemic to less than 400,000 in May 2020 but rebounded to a peak of more than 650,000 in October 2020. Monthly sales since then have leveled out at a lower level, but still well above pre-pandemic levels. This volume of homes is moving off the market even in spite of the fact that the inventory of homes for sale was at record lows for most of the pandemic.

While demand is unusually high in most markets, some locations are seeing greater competition than others. Notably, Florida and Nevada are far ahead of other states in average monthly home sales at 19.7 and 16.9 home sales per 10,000 residents. Most of the leading states offer a combination of relatively affordable real estate, strong economic opportunities, and temperate climates that make them an appealing alternative to high-cost states like California and New York, which are seeing greater numbers of people moving away. At the metro level, the same trends hold with many so-called "second tier cities" in the South and West experiencing the greatest demand.

The data used in this analysis is from Redfin and the U.S. Census Bureau. To determine the metropolitan areas with the most home sales, researchers at Porch calculated the average monthly home sales

per 10,000 residents between January and September 2021. In the event of a tie, the location with the greater average monthly home sales was ranked higher. Researchers also included median days on the market, the percentage of homes that sold above asking, and median sale price. To improve relevance, only locations with at least 100,000 residents and available data from Redfin were included. Additionally, metros were grouped into cohorts based on population size.

The analysis found that the Sacramento metro area averaged 2,862 home sales per month between January and September. Overall, 12.1 homes sold per 10,000 residents. Out of all large U.S. metropolitan areas, Sacramento saw the 16th fewest home sales per capita between January and September of 2021. Here is a summary of the data for the Sacramento-Roseville-Folsom, CA metro area:

Average monthly home sales (per 10k residents): 12.1; Average monthly home sales (total): 2,862; Median days on market: 8; Percentage of homes that sold above asking: 68.3%; Median sale price: \$535,494

For more information, a detailed methodology, and complete results, you can find the original report on Porch's website: <https://porch.com/advice/cities-with-the-most-home-sales-per-capita> ★

Yolo County Offers Tips to Apply for Benefits

Yolo County Press Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - Due to an unprecedented increase in applications for Medi-Cal, CalFresh and CalWORKS, Yolo County residents may experience extended wait times and delays in processing benefits. Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) is processing applications in the order they are received; we appreciate the community's patience and understanding as we work diligently to serve Yolo County.

To avoid any preventable delays in processing your application, HHSA recommends submitting a completed application. Please include:

Completed application form(s) with as many questions answered as possible; Signatures for all applicable form(s); Proof of Residency, Identification, Income, and other applicable verifications; Current contact information where you can be reached.

Additionally, we ask clients to arrive on time for their appointment or call.

Rescheduling missed appointments can add multiple weeks to the process.

Yolo County residents can apply by visiting www.mybenefitscalwin.org or GetCalFresh.org and by calling HHSA at 1-833-744-HHSA (1-833-744-4472). Additionally, interested parties can apply in person Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. at one of our following locations:

- 25 N. Cottonwood St. Woodland, CA
- 500 Jefferson Blvd., West Sacramento, CA
- 100 A St., Davis, CA
- 111 E Grant Ave., Winters, CA

For additional information on how to connect with HHSA and the services we provide, please visit www.yolocounty.org/HHSA or call our toll-free phone line at 1-833-744-HHSA (1-833-744-4472). The phone line is ready for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in English, Spanish and Russian with automated transfer options available; agents are available for questions Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm, excluding holidays. ★

West Sacramento Parks and Recreation Opens Basketball Registration

By Michele Townsend

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Parks and Recreation is now accepting registrations for the upcoming 2022 Jr. NBA and WNBA basketball program. Kids ages 5-14 will be having a great time learning the fundamentals of the sport as well as what it means to be on a team and how important teamwork is.

Evaluation Day will be held at the West Sacramento Recreation Center, located on Jefferson Blvd on Saturday,

December 11, 2021. Practices will begin after the teams are formed and your coaches work out their schedule. Your child's coach will contact you.

The league will begin on January 15th, 2022, and will run until March 5th, 2022. All games will take place on Saturdays, at the Recreation Center. You will be provided a schedule of game times.

Registrations will be accepted until the program is full. For more information, and to register, please visit WestSacFun.org ★

Man Sentenced for Human Trafficking and Pimping Minors

Office of Yolo County District Attorney

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - On November 22, 2021, 35-year-old Jasyn Bigasan-Carter of Sacramento was sentenced to 29 years and 4 months in state prison for sex trafficking a minor, pimping a minor, felon in possession of a firearm, and disuading a witness.

The case stemmed from an arrest in April 2020, when West Sacramento Police responded to a domestic violence call at a motel on West Capitol Avenue. They contacted the first victim, a female who had recently turned 18

years old, and learned that she had been trafficked by Mr. Bigasan-Carter for the last two months. West Sacramento Police Detectives immediately opened an investigation and discovered a second minor female victim who lived out of county. The lengthy investigation that followed, which was aided by Yolo County District Attorney Investigators, revealed that Mr. Bigasan-Carter had been involved in human trafficking since January 2020.

Under the terms of the plea agreement, Mr. Bigasan-Carter will be required to register as a sex offender for life after his prison sentence is concluded. ★



Tanya Aguilera

West Sacramento Specialist

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Santa Run Coming to Town!



Santa and his Reindeer getting ready for the Holiday Season. Photo: City of West Sacramento

City of West Sacramento Press Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The West Sacramento Fire Department, in conjunction with the West Sacramento Firefighter's Association, is preparing for the annual "Santa Run" through West Sacramento. With the help of many off-duty firefighter "elves," Santa will be riding through various neighborhoods on an elaborately decorated fire truck "sleigh" and handing out candy canes purchased and donated by the West Sacramento Firefighter's Association. In addition, Santa will have a pickup truck following his "sleigh" with helpers collecting any canned food donations for the needy.

The West Sacramento Firefighter's Association would like to extend its most sincere thanks and appreciation to all those who come out to make canned food donations, as well as to the Fire Chief & City Manager, for permitting the usage and decoration of the ladder truck for this annual tradition.

This year the Santa Run is scheduled for six nights beginning at 6:00 PM each night. Please note that the run each evening is based on the weather conditions as well. If it rains on a scheduled night, we will try to make it up the next week. The decision whether to cancel or reschedule will be made one hour prior to the run each night and will be posted on the WSPD social media outlets Instagram and Facebook to assist families with their plans. We are looking forward to a great event and hope you can join us.

Monday, December 6th, Broderick and Bryte area, on the following streets: Fremont, Douglas, Andrew, Sixth, Cummins, Anna, Kegel, Carrie, Lisbon, North Hobson, and Fourness.

Tuesday, December 7th, North Business 80, on the following streets: Pine, Palomar,

Marigold, Doran, Garnet, Greenmeadow, Evergreen, Sycamore, Buckeye, Poplar, Willow, Madrone, Rockrose, Westacre, Chaparral, Lilac, Michigan, Maple, Walnut, and Holly.

Wednesday, December 8th, Old West Sacramento, on the following streets: Deerwood, Lakewood, Fernwood, Sonora, Haverhill, Meadow, Webster, Virginia, Alabama, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland.

Thursday, December 9th, Southport South West, on the following streets: Independence, Lagoon, Meadowlark, Starling, Sandpiper, Pheasant Hollow, Duet, Constitution, Summerfield, Jacquelyn, Janet, Betty, Shirley, Leslie, Diane, Brenda, Kathy, Nancy, Violet, Mareca, Teal, Canvasback, Pitzer, and Allen.

Friday, December 10th, Southport North East, on the following streets: Kinsington, Aster, Manchester, Gateway, Sausalito, Sansome, Hearst, Randolph, Mojave, Merced, Rubicon, Ironwood, Spruce, Redwood, Alder, Limewood, Almond, Peppertree, Peachtree.

Monday, December 13th, Southport West (Bridgeway Island), on the following streets: Cayman Island, St. John, Martinique, St. Croix, Haiti, Swan Island, Suisun Bay, Ryer Island, Catalina Island, Santa Cruz, Half Moon Bay, Cooper Island, Fiji Island, Bowen Island, Solomon Island, Stuart Island, Graham Island, San Salvador, Abaco, Bridgeway Lakes, Henshaw, Eagle, Lewiston, Tahoe, and Coyote.

Please understand that Santa cannot get to every street. Santa's route will not include trailer parks, courts, or dead-end streets. For further information call (916) 617-4600.

Please do not call 9-1-1, they have no information about this event. ★

CHP Combats Retail Theft

CHP News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - With the holiday shopping season in full swing, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) is collaborating with local law enforcement agencies to aggressively investigate organized retail crimes, make arrests, and recover stolen merchandise from brick-and-mortar and online retail stores throughout the state.

The CHP's Organized Retail Crime Task Force (ORCTF) assists local law enforcement agencies and pursues leads, identifies suspects, and supports criminal investigations. Immediately following the high-profile burglaries in the Bay Area this weekend, the CHP contacted the local agencies investigating the crimes and offered assistance. As a result, effective immediately, the CHP is increasing patrols on the freeway corridors adjacent to major shopping centers.

Since its creation in 2019, the CHP's ORCTF, in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies, has participated in 773 investigations, made 240 arrests, and assisted in the recovery of more than \$18.9 million in merchandise.

"The CHP remains steadfast in its efforts to help reduce organized retail theft," CHP Commissioner Amanda Ray said. "We are collaborating with local law enforcement and district attorneys to apprehend and prosecute the criminals involved in this nefarious activity."

As California's state law enforcement agency, the CHP can assist local authorities with complex investigations that extend beyond their jurisdictions or as requested.

The ORCTF provides local law enforcement with logistical support and resources, including personnel and equipment. Every ORCTF team throughout the state shares information between law enforcement agencies and California's retailers, and has committed CHP detectives to investigate these crimes and enhance the safety of the public as they shop throughout California.

According to the National Retail Federation, organized retail theft accounts for an estimated \$30 billion in economic loss each year nationwide. Organized retail theft typically involves a criminal enterprise with multiple theft rings at numerous retail stores and uses a fencing operation to sell the stolen goods. Retailers carry losses from theft on several levels and ultimately the cost is passed on to consumers through price inflation to offset the economic loss.

If you observe organized theft:

Do not attempt to intervene; Note what the people involved look like; If possible, obtain a license plate and vehicle description; Be cautious – multiple suspects can be involved in these thefts; Report all suspicious activity to the store manager or police when safe to do so; Submit pictures or video of the suspects or criminal activity to law enforcement, if you can do so safely; Report organized retail theft incidents to CHP online at: <https://www.chp.ca.gov/notify-chp/organized-retail-theft-program>.

The ORCTF's efforts are consistent with the CHP's mission to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security to the people of California and are in line with the CHP strategic goal to protect life and property. ★

CORRECTION

On September 10, 2021, prior to the September 14, 2021 City of West Sacramento Special Election for City Council, the West Sacramento News Ledger incorrectly published the statement: "Notice to Public Regarding City Council Candidate," by Michele Townsend. The article incorrectly stated that it offered City Council candidate Dawnte Early-West the same opportunity for an interview as had been done with the other City Council candidate, Duane Wilson. Even though Townsend had texted and called on multiple occasions, she had used the wrong telephone number. This was the reason Dawnte did not respond. Candidate Early-West had no idea the West Sacramento News Ledger was trying to reach her. Therefore, Dawnte did not have the same opportunity for an article as stated. The West Sacramento News Ledger office had received several calls that we needed to interview Dawnte. We apologize for the mistake and will always try to be fair and accurate.



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How To Dispose of Your Holiday Tree

1. Cut up your tree so it fits in your organics cart.
2. Place curbside next to organics cart on your collection day from Dec. 26 - Jan. 22 (cut tree if over 5 ft.)
3. Bring your tree to a free drop off located at: 1271 West Capitol Avenue from Dec. 26 - Jan. 9

More Common Holiday Items and Where They Go



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Matsui's Statement on the Passing of Anne Rudin



Doris Matsui
Office of Congresswoman Doris Matsui

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Congresswoman Doris

Matsui (CA-06) issued the following statement after the passing of Anne Rudin, Sacramento's first elected woman mayor and community icon.

"Sacramento has lost a champion of the people and trailblazer for women and girls across our region," said Congresswoman Matsui. "Anne Rudin was a compassionate, courageous leader, who dedicated her life to the Sacramento

community and was a tireless advocate for the voiceless. Her impact will be forever felt in our great city and her legacy will continue to inspire and guide us forward. She had a light that emanated from within her, and I will always remember her kindness and cherish our friendship. My prayers are with all of her family and friends during this difficult time. Anne will truly be missed." ★

California Housing Crisis Drifts Toward Political War



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

The long-simmering conflict between state officials and local governments over housing construction – or the lack thereof – escalated this month and may be headed for a showdown at the polls next year.

Citing a stubborn shortage of housing that drives up housing prices and rents, the state has been pressing local governments, particularly cities, to encourage construction through zoning and pro-development policies. To make their point, legislators and governors have enacted new laws aimed at overcoming local not-in-my-backyard resistance to housing projects.

Attorney General Rob Bonta, armed with new authority, has stepped up the pressure by creating a new 12-member Department of Justice task force that will, he said, more strictly enforcing pro-housing laws.

Bonta hinted of more lawsuits against cities that fail to meet state-imposed quotas for zoning land for housing, a strategy that has been used occasionally in the past.

"That's certainly an area of interest and an area where we can be more involved," Bonta said during a virtual news conference. "We will be looking at cities to see if they are meeting their

obligations under the law." Bonta's announcement drew sharp criticism from the League of California Cities.

"The comments made during the attorney general's press conference today, demonizing all cities for things they do not control, will not put roofs over the heads of Californians," the organization's executive director, Carolyn Coleman, said. "Cities do not build homes, and for years have endured whiplash from the state's scattershot approach to passing housing laws that are often in direct conflict with each other and counterproductive to our shared goals to increase housing supply."

More or less simultaneously, the state Department of Housing and Community Development put San Francisco on notice that the city's recent rejection of two housing projects could run afoul of state law.

It ordered the city to provide "reasoning and evidence" for blocking more than 800 units of housing. Pro-housing groups have complained that cities often use the permitting process to stymie projects, even when they are being proposed for property zoned for housing, and recent law changes are aimed at preventing such arbitrary actions.

Meanwhile, the state's pressure on local officials to sanction more housing could be tested with a ballot measure next year.

Angered by passage of two new state laws that open up more land for multi-family projects, Senate Bill 9 and Senate Bill 10, some city officials are proposing

an initiative measure that essentially would bar the state from overriding local land use laws.

The proponents have formed a new organization, Our Neighborhood Voices, to promote the initiative with "major funding from AIDS Healthcare Foundation." It is a Los Angeles-based organization that has promoted pro-rent control and anti-development measures in the past and whose president, Michael Weinstein, has become a polarizing figure in California's perennial housing debate.

Our Neighborhood Voices contends that the two laws essentially strip local officials and residents of their ability to shape the ambience of neighborhoods and allow developers to do whatever they want to do without local input.

"Voters strongly oppose the new state laws that strip our ability to speak out about what is happening literally right next door to our homes," said Bill Brand, mayor of Redondo Beach, as the organization released a poll that found strong support for the proposed ballot measure.

On multiple fronts, therefore, California's skirmishing over control of housing development is escalating into all-out political war as state officials increase pressure on local officials and they try to erect a legal wall to protect their traditional land use authority.

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

Secretary of State Shirley Weber Certifies Recall Election Results

Office of Secretary of State

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D. has certified the results of the September 14, 2021, California Gubernatorial Recall Election.

The results for the question of whether to recall Governor Gavin Newsom are:

Voting Yes – 4,894,473
Voting No – 7,944,092

While the question of recalling Governor Newsom failed, the results for the replacement candidates are required to be tabulated. The results for each candidate may be found <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/prior-elections/state-wide-election-results/2021-ca-gov-recall-statement-vote>

"Despite the ongoing uncertainties of the pandemic, I am encouraged that millions of Californians were still committed to participating in the California Gubernatorial Recall Election – nearly 3.5 million more than participated in the 2003 recall election," Secretary Weber said. "As I've said before, democracy matters to Californians, and giving them the option to participate early by mail, at secure drop-off locations, or safely in person has clearly

reinforced their commitment to making their voices heard.

"I also want to commend the state's elections officials and poll workers for stepping up to ensure the recall ran so smoothly. The short timeline and the logistics of providing voter information, ensuring access to the election, securing the ballots, and protecting the health and safety of voters were challenging endeavors. Their effectiveness at delivering an accessible, fair, and secure election under these conditions deserves our respect. I am proud to serve with them in the administration of our democracy."

By-the-Numbers

22,057,154

Total registered voters (as of August 30, 2021), 88.87 percent of eligible voters – a state record.

12,892,578

Total votes cast. This is 3,479,084 more votes than were cast in the last statewide gubernatorial recall election in 2003.

11,733,429

Total vote-by-mail ballots, 91.01 percent of all votes cast.

58.45 %

Turnout percentage of registered voters ★

River City Weekly Sports

Winter Sports 12/3 to 12/9

RC Sports

Friday 12/3

Girls Soccer RC Raider Cup Classic at River City. (12/3-12/4) JV at 1:10 / V at 5:50

Girls Basketball Rumble on the River Classic at River City (12/3-12/4)

Boys Basketball at Buck Bailey Tournament at Woodland (12/3-12/4)

Saturday 12/4

Girls Soccer RC Raider Cup Classic at River City. (12/3-12/4) JV at 10:50 / V at 12:00

Girls Basketball Rumble on the River Classic at River City.(12/3-12/4)

Boys Basketball at Buck Bailey Tournament at Woodland (12/3-12/4)

Monday 12/6

Girls Soccer vs Armijo 4:30/6:15 JVV

Tuesday 12/7

Wrestling vs Davis 5:00

Girls Basketball at Ponderosa 5:30/7 JVV

Thursday 12/9

Girls Basketball at Valley Tournament (12/9 to 12/11) TBA

Boys RC Tournament at River City

12/9 JV plays at 3:30

12/10 at 3:30

12/11 at 9:00

Game Times

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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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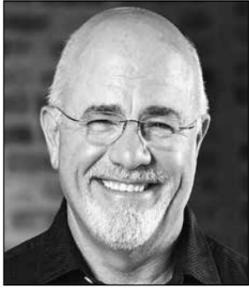
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Cutting Costs During the Holidays

Dear Dave,
We're doing our best to stick to our cash Christmas budget this year. Are there any traps to avoid, and do you have other advice on ways we can cut costs during the holiday season?

– Rene
Dear Rene,

If you're getting out of debt, the phrase "extra money" probably isn't even in your vocabulary. Regardless, stores will do everything they can to convince you to toss a couple of extra items into your cart when Christmas rolls around. Their festive marketing is everywhere, and most of it tries to get you to spend extra on things you don't need or can't afford.

It might be Christmas, but that doesn't mean you need to buy a bunch of high-end electronic gadgets for everyone. Any way you slice it, electronics add up to be way more than most people want to spend. Try focusing on more personal – and less

Dave Ramsey Says

expensive – gifts that will be truly meaningful to the ones receiving them.

Set a reasonable budget, determine what's fair for each person and stick to it. Be sure you're following realistic gift guidelines before you go out shopping. If you have kids, don't let their Christmas lists dictate how much you spend. Your budget should do that. Look out for sneaky buys that drain your wallet, too. Some people spend as much on stocking stuffers as they do regular gifts under the tree.

Whether you're shopping online or out and about, remember that extended warranties are not a good deal. Neither are store credit cards and the accompanying "discounts." It seems everyone from big-box retail stores to mom and pop operations have their own store credit card these days. Sure, they'll be happy to offer you 10 to 20 percent off a \$7 purchase of socks if you'll just open an account. But there's a good chance you'll still be paying off this year's Christmas next December.

If gift wrapping at the store is complementary, go for it. If not, just do it yourself. Sure, it takes a little time and effort, but you'll save a ton of money buying a few rolls of wrapping paper at the local

dollar store. Don't wait until December 20th to order your Christmas presents, either. Plan ahead – like right now – so you don't have to worry about expensive overnight shipping rates.

Finally, I know many folks want to send Christmas cards to everyone they know every year. Some people go completely over-the-top, with their family (including the dog and cat) dressed to the nines and a photo taken by a professional photographer. Come on! You can cut costs by sending cards to just your closest friends and family. It's okay to be a little selective here, and the cards don't have to be expensive. I hope this helps, René!

– 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
Should I Take My Widower Benefit Now?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I lost my wife 7 years ago. I was told that I could possibly collect 30 to 35% of her benefit as a widower benefit when I turned 60. I will be 61 soon. Would it make sense to pursue this if it is true? I am still working full time. Would this affect my ability to collect Social Security on my own account once I retire? **Signed: Working Survivor**

Dear Working: Survivor benefits for a widower can be paid as early as age 60 if you have not remarried prior to that. But collecting a survivor benefit before you have reached your full retirement age (your "FRA", which is age 67) creates some other considerations you should be aware of:

- Your survivor benefit will be based upon the SS benefit your wife was entitled to at her death. Taken at your FRA you'd get 100% of the SS amount your wife was entitled to at her death, but if taken any earlier than your FRA the survivor benefit will be reduced.
- Taken before your FRA, your survivor benefit will be actuarially reduced according to the number

of months prior to your FRA it is claimed. The reduction amount is 4.75% less per full year earlier than your FRA, and that is a permanent reduction. If you take your survivor benefit at age 61, you'll get 71.5% of the SS benefit your wife had earned up to her death.

- Since you're not yet receiving your own SS retirement benefit, you can take your survivor benefit first and allow your personal SS retirement benefit to grow. Assuming your personal SS retirement benefit will be more than your survivor benefit, you can switch from your survivor benefit to your SS retirement benefit at any time after you are age-eligible to do so (age 62). You can also, if you wish, choose to continue your survivor benefit until your personal SS retirement benefit reaches maximum at age 70. At age 70 your own benefit will be 24% more than your FRA benefit amount.
- If you claim the survivor benefit before your FRA and you are still working, you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much you can earn before SS takes away some of your benefit. The earnings limit for 2021 is \$18,960 (the 2022 limit is \$19,560) and if your earnings from work exceed that amount, SS will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit.

So, although you can claim a survivor benefit from your deceased wife

now (and allow your own SS benefit to grow), practically speaking you may not be able to get a survivor benefit if you are working full time and earning considerably more than the annual earnings limit. In other words, the penalty for exceeding the earnings limit may entirely offset the survivor benefit you are entitled to. If you're over the earnings limit by only a small amount, you'll only lose benefits for the number of months needed to repay what you owe. And for clarity, in the year you attain FRA the earnings limit goes up by about 2.5 times and the penalty is less (\$1 for every \$3 you are over the limit), and once you reach your full retirement age there is no longer a limit to how much you can earn. To avoid the earnings test, you could also choose to wait until your FRA to maximize your survivor benefit and then wait until age 70 to claim your maximum SS retirement benefit.

Regardless of when you claim your survivor benefit, your own SS retirement benefit won't be affected. Your SS retirement benefit, which will replace your smaller survivor benefit, will be based solely on your lifetime earnings history and the age at which you claim it.

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). ★

I Ain't 16 Anymore

Dr. James L. Snyder

I've had so many birthdays in my life that I really don't know how old I am. All I know is that I'm one year older than I was last year. I would not be able to remember when my life began if it wasn't for paperwork.

When I was 16, I was rather oblivious of things that were happening in the world. I had no internet, computer, cell phone, video games or anything of the like. So in all actuality, I was on my own.

One thing that really impressed me about being 16 was that I could get a driver's license and drive a car. The disappointing aspect about this was, I didn't have enough money to buy a car and so had to borrow my father's car when it was convenient for him. Oh boy, those were the days.

At 16, I believed I had become a certified adult. I was at the stage now where nobody could tell me what to do.

However, I still was in high school, and for some reason, my teachers thought they were in charge of the class. How little did they know?

It took being sent to the principal's office five times

before realizing I was not really in charge of my class.

I remember my father saying to me, "Son, you're 16 now, and you are in charge of your life."

My father wasn't quite done with me yet, "Now that you are 16, you're going to have to pay for your things."

The next day as I was ready to go to school, I stopped and asked my father, "Dad, I need some money for lunch today."

My father looked at me and said, "I thought you were in control of your life?"

"Yes, dad, I'm in control of my life; I'm my own boss." "Then," my father said, "that means you have to pay for your own lunch. If you're in charge, that means you have to pay for what you have."

One Saturday, I needed to borrow my father's car to go to a baseball game. "Dad, can I borrow your car so I can go to my baseball game this afternoon?"

"You sure can," my father said, "and by the way, the car is low on gas, so you'll have to put gas in the car."

It took me a long time to realize how great my life was before I turned 16. If I would have known that, I think I would've lived more

extravagantly on my dad's credit card.

After celebrating my 16th birthday, I cooled down a little bit to realize that life really is hard, and getting old is not for sissies. Plus, it's very costly.

Before I was 16, I thought everything was free, I could do whatever I please, and there would be no accountability.

Right after turning 16, I ran across what has become my life verse from the Bible. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Looking back, I can see that it serves no purpose not to trust in the Lord. However, I experience things that are beyond my experience and understanding, and that's when God steps in. wisdom and his love for me.

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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<p>West Sacramento Baptist Church</p> <p>Sun. School - 9:30 a.m. Sun. Worship - 11 a.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study - 6:30 p.m. 2124 Michigan Blvd. (916) 371-2111</p>	<p>Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church</p> <p>911 Park Blvd. West Sacramento Office: (916) 371-4814 Fr. Mathew Rappu, Pastor Mass: Mon, Tues, Wed 8:30 a.m. Fri 8:30 a.m. at OLG school during school year Sat: 5:30 p.m. vigil, Sun: 9 a.m., 11 a.m.</p>	<p>Looking for a place to worship?</p> <p>Check here first! To find out how to list your place of worship in this directory, call (916) 371-8030 for more information.</p>	<p>Trinity Presbyterian Church</p> <p>1500 Park Blvd. W. Sac. CA (916) 371-5875 www.TrinityWestSac.org info@trinitywestsac.org Pastor Jamie Crook Spanish Ministry Pastora: Miryam Osorio Sunday Worship Services: 10 a.m. Blended/Traditional Noon Spanish Language</p>	<p>Center for Spiritual Awareness</p> <p>1275 Starboard Dr. (916) 374-9177 (For prayer line, listen for prompt) Sun. Service: 11 a.m. Youth Programs & Jr. Church Rev. Georgia Prescott www.csasacramento.org for weekly affirmations All are welcome!</p>

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. F20210929
The following person(s) is doing business as: NewsLedger, 1040 West Capitol Avenue, Suite B, West Sacramento, CA 95691, County of Yolo.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. F20210943
The following person(s) is doing business as: Eagle Auto Sales LLC, 1540 South River Road, West Sacramento, CA 95691, County of Yolo.

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.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. F20210985
The following person(s) is doing business as: Clear View Window Cleaning and Pressure Washing, 5304 Rogers St, Davis, CA 95618 County of YOLO

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF YOLO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #CV2021-1601
Kimberly Denise Nettles-Barcelon and Aaron Joseph Barcelon have filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Maya Victoria Nettles-Barcelon to Maya Alberta Victoria Nettles-Barcelon.

on storagetreasures.com Jennifer Williams, Jewell Wilkins, Victoria Hutson, Yolanda Ellison, Mauricia Lesley, John Donohue, Wendy Villanueva, Sabrina Lopez, Alexis Brown, Josseline Pena Espinal, Candy Johnson, Toni Coe December 3 and 10, 2021

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. F20210950
The following person(s) is doing business as: Hampton Inn & Suites, 2060 Freeway Drive, Woodland, CA 95776, County of Yolo.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. F20210939
The following person(s) is doing business as: The Buhagiar Group LLC, 3954 Maritis Street, West Sacramento, CA 95691, County of Yolo.

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.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. F20210979
The following person(s) is doing business as: Kan's Private Portfolio Trading, 852 Wallace Drive, Woodland, CA 95776, County of YOLO

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 Vitally Karpekin to Jacob Vitally Albertov.

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 12/20/2021 @2:00PM: Perry George 2 bedroom apartment. Beds, dressers, boxes, tvs, clothes, etc. Fornati Kurneh Household Items Andrew Kosbab Furniture, Boxes, Totes, amps This auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. F20210938
The following person(s) is doing business as: The Boomer Gazette, 3810 Mendocino Court, West Sacramento, CA 95691, County of Yolo.

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.

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.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. F20210991
The following person(s) is doing business as: David Legal Center, 130 G Street, Suite D, Davis, CA 95616 County of YOLO

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.

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE
Notice is hereby given pursuant to California Business and Professional Codes #21700-21716, Section 2328 of the UCC of the Penal Code, Section 535 the undersigned, StorQuest Express Self Storage/Ramco St. of West Sacramento, will sell at public sale by competitive bidding the personal property of Ruth Corona, Christopher Hauenstein, Karrie Nash, Kenneth Veach, Maximiliano Silva, Darren Vaughn, Debra Fry, and Naniu Saechao.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. F20210937
The following person(s) is doing business as: Casco Dock and Door, 3701 Seaport Boulevard, West Sacramento, CA 95691, County of Yolo.

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.

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.

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.

NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY DECISION FOR THE PROPOSED MINOR MODIFICATION OF A TITLE V OPERATING PERMIT
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District solicits public comment on the proposed minor modification of a Title V permit issued to Conduit Infrastructure Holding IA, LLC at 1601 South River Road in West Sacramento, California.

The District's analysis of the legal and factual basis for this proposed action and the proposed permit are available for public inspection at the District office at the address below. This will be the public's only opportunity to comment on the specific conditions of the proposed revised Title V permit. If requested by the public, the District shall hold a public hearing regarding issuance of this revised permit. For additional information, please contact Jennifer Border at (530) 757-3650. Written comments on this project must be submitted within 30 days of the publication date of this notice to Benjamin Beattie, Engineering Manager, Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District, 1947 Galileo Court, Suite 103, Davis, California, 95618. Dec 3, 2021

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. F20210948
The following person(s) is doing business as: Heartfelt Seasonings, 2163 Valley Oak Lane, Unit 1099, West Sacramento, CA 95691, County of Yolo.

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.

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.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. F20210957
The following person(s) is doing business as: Beach Hut Deli, 767 Ikea Court, Suite 130, West Sacramento, CA 95605, County of Yolo.

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

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. F20210945
The following person(s) is doing business as: Hauling Aces, 3408 Kauai Road, West Sacramento, CA 95691, County of Yolo.

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.

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.

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.

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

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. F20210945
The following person(s) is doing business as: Alex Tkachev, 3408 Kauai Road, West Sacramento, CA 95691, County of Yolo.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. F20210945
The following person(s) is doing business as: Marcaill McWilliams, 627 1st Street, Woodland, CA 95695 This business is conducted by Individual.

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.

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.

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Riley Reviews

"GHOSTBUSTERS" NEW GENERATION; "HOUSE OF GUCCI" SOAP OPERA

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"GHOSTBUSTERS: AFTERLIFE" Rated PG-13

Nostalgia is a good thing to relish during the holiday season. For most, we hopefully reminisce about happy times with family and friends gathered for celebrations and seasonal parties.

The same feeling is also most welcome when a movie taps into a sentimental yearning for the past. Good news arrives for fans of "Ghostbusters" for a franchise still alive when it could have been given up for dead after the 2016 reboot.

The aptly-named "Ghostbusters: Afterlife" may evoke the spirit of the 1980s but it is rooted in contemporary times with the relatives of the late Harold Ramis' Dr. Egon Spengler carrying on the legacy.

"Ghostbusters" is family-driven from the aspect of director Jason Reitman helming this sequel to his father Ivan's directorial effort for the 1984 original comedic blockbuster.

To be sure, there are plenty of sly special effects with maliciously destructive apparitions, but Jason Reitman is equally focused on a character-driven story that

draws the family of one of the original Ghostbusters into the picture.

Estranged from her father, the now divorced and broke Callie (Carrie Coon) learns that she has inherited Spengler's property in Oklahoma, and she's hoping for a fresh start with teenage son Trevor (Finn Wolfhard) and 12-year-old daughter Phoebe (Mckenna Grace).

Enrolled in a summer school class taught by flippant Gary Grooberson (Paul Rudd), the nerdy, precocious Phoebe is befriended by spirited classmate Podcast (Logan Kim), a loquacious but hilarious narrator of even the most mundane details.

Meanwhile, Trevor ends up working a local diner where he pretends to be older only because he has a crush on Lucky (Celeste O'Connor). Not surprisingly, Grooberson develops a romantic interest in Callie.

There's a time when Callie wistfully hopes that Phoebe might get into some trouble if only because she seems so proper. Little does Mom know that the adventurous kids are going to unearth the remnants of Spengler's ghostbusting days.

Finn discovers the vintage Cadillac ambulance used by the Ghostbusters and

the kids end up joyriding through town and get their first taste of what it is like to hunt down malevolent ghouls and also end up in the local jail.

While the plot is expectedly predictable, the delight to be had is from a very likable, charismatic cast, from the always genial Paul Rudd to the resourceful kids. A moving tribute to Harold Ramis and great cameos bring a nice touch to the pleasing "Ghostbusters: Afterlife."

When the credits start to roll, be sure to stay for a mid-credits scene and the one at the very end when the screen goes dark. The "Ghostbusters" franchise has probably not have zapped its last ethereal being. A new generation may be taking hold.

"HOUSE OF GUCCI" Rated R

Glamour, greed, decadence, betrayal, deceit and ambition are all on florid display in the soap opera drama "House of Gucci," a turbulent saga about the Italian fashion empire of great wealth that was not spared a scandalous crime.

Some may enter the cinema aware of a sordid wrongdoing that roiled the Gucci family. On the other hand, what I and probably many others know about this Italian company are the famous double G logo and the replica handbags sold to the unsuspecting at flea markets.

What matters in this Ridley Scott directed film based on real life events is how the story moves from bickering Gucci family members to a Gucci empire no longer in the hands of a family member.

Maurizio Gucci (Adam Driver), son of Rodolfo Gucci (Jeremy Irons), a former

actor and dilettante who appears not as connected to the business as his brother Aldo (Al Pacino), is a law student when he meets Patrizia Reggiani (Lady Gaga) at a party.

Patrizia, who works as secretary in her father's trucking company, mistakes Maurizio for a bartender, and he charms her by saying she looks like Elizabeth Taylor, or maybe he should have said Sophia Loren.

The two fall in love and decide to marry, much to the chagrin of papa Rodolfo, who believes she's a social climber and gold digger. He's not far off the mark, but Patrizia turns out to be much more than that.

Where Maurizio seems quiet and a bit passive, Patrizia is bold and assertive, pushing him to his rightful place in the Gucci empire. They soon take up residence in New York and go to work with Aldo at the flagship store in Manhattan.

Aldo thinks of his own son Paolo (Jared Leto), who has no talent for business or fashion, as an idiot, and this, of course, becomes another source of tension in Gucci world.

Meanwhile, the marriage sours when Maurizio reconnects with old flame Paola (Camille Cottin) and dispatches his sidekick to inform Patrizia that their marital bond is over.

As the story spins into a reckless spiral of revenge that leads to murder, "House of Gucci" is riveting for the solid performances primarily by Lady Gaga, Adam Driver, Al Pacino and a goofy Jared Leto. ★

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Dirty Cello to Perform at Sofia



The Dirty Cello's shows are all about high energy. Photo courtesy Dirty Cello

Special Release to MPG

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Blues and bluegrass band Dirty Cello comes to The Sofia Theater for their 3rd time.

The blues and bluegrass band Dirty Cello is not your typical band. Fronted by renowned classical cellist, Rebecca Roudman, this genre-bending band plays high energy blues and bluegrass like you've never heard before. There's even a smattering of classic rock like the Rolling Stones thrown in.

According to Roudman, the band specializes in unique venues that are off the beaten path like The Sofia Theater in Sacramento. The band is fresh off a tour to the far northern reaches of Iceland where they played many shows including a slightly confused cowboy festival held in their honor. "Everyone in the town dressed like American style cowboys," says Roudman, "There were cowboy hats, camouflage clothes, beer drinking contests, and even a slightly confused singalong of Country Roads." Also on that tour, the band played in an old fish processing factory with the smell of herring still lingering in the air.

"The Sofia is one of our favorite theaters to perform at, and we can't wait to come back, and put on a great show," says Roudman.

Roudman reports that Dirty Cello's shows are all about high energy and fun. The band is known for taking everything a bit uptempo, running into the crowd, and

prompting classic singalongs.

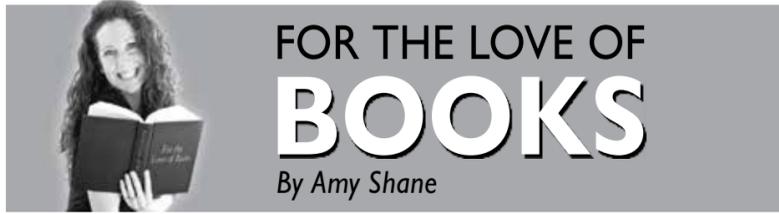
From China to Italy, and all over the U.S., Dirty Cello brings the world a high energy and unique spin on blues and bluegrass. Led by vivacious cross-over cellist, Rebecca Roudman, Dirty Cello is cello like you've never heard before. From down home blues with a wailing cello to virtuosic stompin' bluegrass, Dirty Cello is a band that gets your heart thumping and your toes tapping!

"When lead guitar is replaced by the sound of hot licks on a cello, blues, rock and bluegrass rise to a new dimension. Dirty Cello - a five-piece band from San Francisco - makes its style of string music to inspire audiences to swing, sway and dance." Ashland Daily Tidings.

"The band plays every style imaginable, and does some fantastic covers. (Their rendition of "Purple Haze" is incredible.) But what is most spectacular about them is hearing the depth of soul in Roudman's playing - it goes beyond what most people would expect from the instrument. She plays it with so much heart, you'll wonder why more bands don't have a cellist." Good Times Santa Cruz

The concert is presented by SBL Entertainment. The Sofia Theater is located at 2700 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento, California 95816. The performance is scheduled for Dec 11 at 7 PM

Tickets range from \$32 - \$42. For tickets go to <https://bit.ly/2Tm5VFc> or tickets@bstreettheatre.org or call 916-443-5300.★



The Holidays Are Here!

The Holiday gift-giving guide returns with a wonderful new array of Children's books. This year our favorite publishers have compiled their top picks for the holiday season as well as their number one reads throughout the year. So, if you are looking for the perfect gift or one that will give holiday cheer or hours of entertainment, remember the gift of a good book is timeless. Don't forget to check back for each week's new Holiday Highlight. This week, Harper Collins Publishing and Abrams Publishers start with Holiday magic and musical enchantment in their top picks.



Stories From the Music Box: Twas the Night Before Christmas by Clement Moore

Wind up the music box and let the musical interlude of "Deck the Halls" fill the room while you read the classic Christmas poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas." This beautiful storybook is the perfect Christmas Eve gift and will quickly become a new treasured favorite, as well as a lovely holiday decoration.

The Wishing Tree by Meika Hashimoto, illustrated by Xindi Yan

Rediscover the magic of the holidays. When young Theo makes a wish to Santa, he never expects to hear back. The magic of the Wishing tree unfolds in this beautiful story of one boy helping a town rediscover the magic of Christmas. This story also includes 12 beautifully illustrated holiday cards to start their own wishing tree.

The Snowflake by Benji Davies

Follow a tiny snowflake's journey as she tumbles and falls, looking for the perfect place to land. A darling, whimsical story that shows each and every one of us to trust our journey, as we will all discover the place we are meant to be.

The Lion, The Which, and the Wardrobe Board Book

The enchanting story by C.S. Lewis is now available for little readers. With engaging illustrations and simple sentences, this beloved classic will help everyone discover or even rediscover the magic of Narnia.

Five Little Monkeys Looking For Santa by Eileen Christelow

The five little monkeys are back, and this time they are on the search for Santa. The adorable rhyming story and five mischievous monkeys will make readers fall over in fits of giggles, as the little monkeys discover themselves in trouble over and over.

I'm Dreaming of a Wyatt Christmas by Tiffany Schmidt

When Noelle Partridge accepts a baby-sitting job over the winter break, she never expected her life to take a spin. Noelle just wanted to celebrate the Holidays with all the holiday spirit while also preparing for her ballet academy audition at Beacon. But when the children's older brother Wyatt unexpectedly surprises them, Noelle's head starts to spin. As an elite dancer at Beacon academy, Wyatt has his own big decisions looming on his mind. Just maybe, with a little Christmas magic, Noelle might get her Christmas wish along with a dancing partner of her dreams. ★

Crossword Puzzle on Page 9

A	L	A	S		L	I	E		S	I	D	E						
G	U	R	U		T	I	D	Y		K	U	D	O	S				
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T	R	E	E			K	I	M			N	U	T	S				

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CLUES

- ACROSS
- "Oh, my!"
 - Say untruth
 - Left or right
 - Spiritual leader
 - "...ing Up with Marie Kondo"
 - Great reviews
 - Related
 - Double reed woodwind
 - Fourth deck
 - "The _____," MTV's trailblazing reality show
 - Affirm with confidence
 - I to Greeks, pl.
 - ... Baba
 - Powerball and such
 - Swaggering show of courage
 - Spermatozoa counterparts
 - Based on two
 - Has a mortgage
 - ... dog, gin and grapefruit juice cocktail
 - DNA transmitter
 - "The Real Housewives" is full of this type of conflict
 - Write on a tombstone
 - Unwholesome atmosphere
 - Hairpiece, slangily
 - Stitched again
 - Unit of electric current flow
 - Solemn pledge
 - Like nose during hayfever
 - Uncouth one
 - "Who _____ a Millionaire?"
 - Front of cuirass
 - Sixth month of civil year
 - "Jack and the Beanstalk" instrument
 - Travesty
 - Italian money
 - "Vanilla Ice Goes Amish" and "Cleveland Hustles" state
 - "...house Masters" on Animal Planet
 - "Not Kholé or Kourtney
 - Common allergens
- DOWN
- Gelatin substitute
 - Gospel writer
 - "Tosca" song, e.g.
 - Like sunroom, hopefully
 - Balance in the sky
 - "Pop _____" and "American _____" pl.
 - Gave the once-over
 - "Outwit, Outplay, Outlast" show
 - Not active
 - Point of entry
 - Sixth sense
 - Foot, to a child
 - Aussie bear
 - Buzz Lightyear's buddy
 - Brow shape
 - "The Biggest _____"
 - Egg-shaped
 - Same as talcums
 - Civil rights concern
 - In the know
 - Raise objections
 - Missouri River tributary
 - Like a desert
 - Crime scene evidence
 - "Singing competition (2 words)
 - Curses
 - Feline sound

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									
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59											60					61		
62											63					64		

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- "I think I can, I think I can..." e.g.
- "For better or for..."
- "Monty _____'s Flying Circus"
- r in a circle, pl.
- Deprive of weapons
- "Star of wilderness reality shows, _____ Grylls
- Fairytale beast
- Street-crossing word
- Hawaiian island
- Londoner, e.g.
- Narrative poem
- Back of a boat

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				5				4	3									
6		2															5	
8		4																3
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				8												3		2
								4	2							8		
		4													5			6

Solutions on Page 9

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 9

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

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Rum and Cola Holiday Ham

Few things bring family and friends together quite like the holidays, and serving up an elegant, seasonal meal centered around a mouthwatering main dish is a recipe for creating lasting memories with the ones you love.

Forging a fabulous holiday experience for the special people in your life starts with choosing a flavorful, tender cut of meat to serve as the centerpiece of the meal. Hand-cut by expert butchers, options like Spiral-Sliced Ham, Boneless Heart of Prime Rib Roast and Butcher's Cut Filet Mignons from Omaha Steaks can serve as the focal point of a memorable holiday dinner. Flash frozen to capture freshness and flavor, you can select a standout cut of meat from the comfort of your home and have it delivered directly to your door in time to put together a tender, juicy main course.

Find more holiday recipe inspiration at OmahaSteaks.com/blog/recipes.

Rum and Cola Holiday Ham

Recipe courtesy of Omaha Steaks
Executive Chef David Rose

Prep time: 30 minutes

Cook time: 80 minutes

Servings: 10-12

Ham:

1 Omaha Steaks Spiral-Sliced Ham (8 pounds)

Glaze:

1 cup cherry fruit spread
3/4 cup dark spiced rum
3/4 cup cola
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

To make ham: Thaw frozen ham in refrigerator 24-48 hours. Remove from refrigerator and let ham come to room temperature, about 30-45 minutes.

Preheat oven to 325 F. Remove ham from foil and film. Return ham to foil wrapping and place in oven-safe roasting pan. Roll foil down leaving 2 inches of foil around bottom of ham.

Place roasting pan with ham in oven on lower rack and heat uncovered 60-75 minutes, until ham starts to brown. While ham cooks, make glaze. To make glaze: In medium saucepot, whisk fruit spread, rum, cola, Worcestershire sauce, Dijon mustard and salt until well incorporated. Bring to boil then reduce heat to medium. Simmer over medium heat 10 minutes then remove from heat. Cool to room temperature.

During last 15 minutes of cooking, glaze ham every 5 minutes.



Dijon-Herb Prime Rib Roast with Garlic Butter Mushrooms

Dijon-Herb Prime Rib Roast with Garlic Butter Mushrooms

Recipe courtesy of Omaha Steaks
Executive Chef David Rose

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 3 hours

Servings: 4-6

Dijon-Herb Rub:

1/4 cup minced fresh Italian parsley
1/4 cup minced fresh oregano
1/4 cup minced fresh thyme leaves
1/4 cup minced fresh rosemary leaves
3 fresh garlic cloves, minced
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
1/2 cup canola oil
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika

Prime Rib Roast:

1 Omaha Steaks Boneless Heart of Prime Rib Roast (4 pounds), thawed
kosher salt, to taste
ground black pepper, to taste
1/4 cup canola oil

Garlic Butter Mushrooms:

6 tablespoons olive oil
1/2 cup small diced yellow onion
4 fresh garlic cloves, minced
1 pound button mushrooms, cleaned and quartered
1 pinch kosher salt, plus additional, to taste, divided
1 pinch ground black pepper, plus additional, to taste, divided
1/2 cup chicken stock
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
1/4 cup finely chopped Italian parsley

To make rub: In medium bowl, whisk parsley, oregano, thyme, rosemary, garlic, Dijon mustard, oil, salt, black pepper and paprika until well incorporated.

To make prime rib roast: Pat prime rib roast dry on all sides with paper towels. Season generously with salt and pepper, to taste. Allow roast to come to room temperature about 30 minutes.

Rub Dijon herb rub all over prime rib roast and allow to stand 10 minutes.

Preheat oven to 250 F.

In large cast-iron pan, warm oil over medium-high heat.

Sear roast on all sides until golden brown, 2-3 minutes per side.

Place seared prime rib on wire rack-lined sheet pan and place in oven.

Cook until internal temperature is 10 F below desired cooking doneness.

Rest 15-20 minutes before slicing.

To make mushrooms: In large pan, warm olive oil over medium-high heat. Add diced onions and saute about 1 minute.

Add minced garlic and lightly saute until fragrant, about 20 seconds.

Add mushrooms and pinch of salt and ground pepper to pan. Saute 3-4 minutes, or until mushrooms are tender.

Add chicken stock and reduce to one-third in volume, 3-4 minutes.

Add butter and parsley to pan and saute until butter is melted and incorporated. Immediately remove from heat and season, to taste, with salt and pepper.

Serve mushrooms with prime rib roast.

Suya-Dusted Filet Mignon with "Red Rice" Risotto

Recipe courtesy of Omaha Steaks
Executive Chef David Rose

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 1 hour

Servings: 4

Suya Dust:

2 cups roasted cashews
1 tablespoon chicken bouillon
1 tablespoon, plus 1 teaspoon, smoked paprika
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1 teaspoon ground black pepper
2 teaspoons ground ginger
2 teaspoons garlic powder
2 teaspoons onion powder

"Red Rice" Risotto:

3 tablespoons canola oil
1/2 cup diced yellow onion
3 fresh garlic cloves, smashed
1/2 cup diced red bell pepper
1 tablespoon tomato paste
1 large beefsteak tomato (about 1/2 pound), chopped
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika
1 teaspoon kosher salt, plus additional, to taste, divided (optional)
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper, plus additional, to taste, divided (optional)
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 1/2 cups Arborio rice
4 cups warmed chicken stock, divided
1/2 cup finely chopped Italian parsley
1 cup freshly shredded Parmesan cheese

Filet Mignon:

4 Omaha Steaks Butcher's Cut Filet Mignons (6 ounces each)
kosher salt
ground black pepper
4 tablespoons canola oil
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 clove garlic
1 thyme sprig

To make suya dust: In food processor, blend cashews, chicken bouillon, paprika, cayenne pepper, bell pepper, black pepper, ginger, garlic powder and onion powder into fine powder.

To make "red rice" risotto: In medium saucepan, warm canola oil over medium-high heat. Add onions, garlic and red bell pepper, sauteing until lightly caramelized, about 1 minute.

Add tomato paste to pan and saute until fragrant, about 1 minute. Add chopped tomato, Worcestershire sauce, paprika, 1 teaspoon kosher salt and 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper; continue sauteing until tomato starts to break down and soften, 3-4 minutes. Reduce heat to simmer and cook 3-4 minutes.

Remove from heat and finely blend in food processor. Set aside.

In separate medium saucepan, warm olive oil and butter over medium-high heat.

Add Arborio rice and stir until slightly nutty and translucent, about 1 minute.

Add pureed tomato-pepper mixture and 1 cup chicken stock; bring to boil then reduce heat to medium.

Add 1 cup stock each time Arborio rice absorbs almost all broth. Continuously stir risotto each time stock is added to rice. Keep adding stock until risotto is al dente and still viscous then stir in parsley and Parmesan cheese. Season, to taste, with salt and pepper, if desired.

To make filet mignon: Pat steaks dry with paper towels and liberally season with salt and ground black pepper on both sides.

In large cast-iron skillet, warm canola oil over medium-high heat.

Place filets in skillet and sear 3 minutes. Flip steaks and add butter, garlic clove and thyme. Baste steaks with butter and allow filets to finish cooking, 3-4 minutes for medium-rare doneness.

Rest filets 7-8 minutes. Serve over "red rice" risotto and sprinkle suya dust over filets.



Suya-Dusted Filet Mignon with "Red Rice" Risotto

WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves



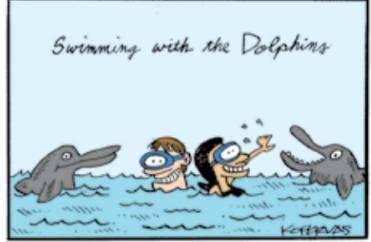
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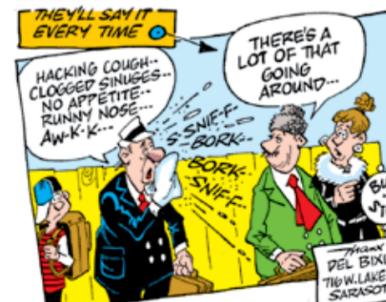
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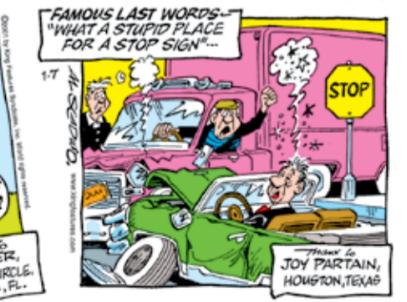
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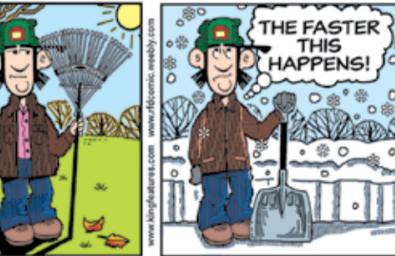
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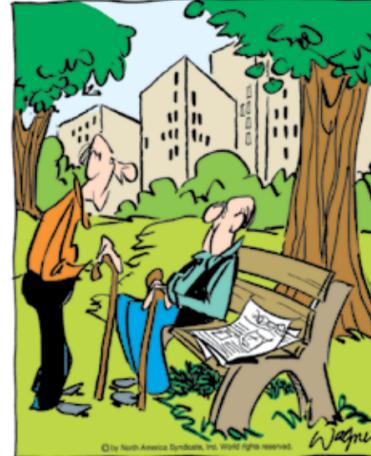
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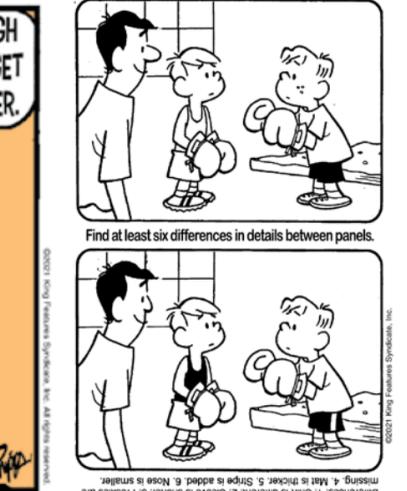
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New Home Sales in Region Continue to Increase

North State Building Industry Association Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - New home sales in the Sacramento region are expected to continue rising for the next couple of years peaking at around 8,000 in 2023 before dropping off slightly in 2024. But while those sales totals are higher than most years since 2007, annual sales will remain far below they were before the Great Recession and well below the amount of new housing needed to meet current and expected demand, a panel of economists and builders said at the North State Building Industry Association's annual Regional Housing Forecast presentation.

Dr. Sanjay Varshney with Goldenstone Wealth Management, Dr. Dean Wehrli with John Burns Real Estate Consulting and Denton Kelley with LDK Ventures, told nearly 300 participants in-person and virtual that despite inflationary pressures, mortgage rates are expected to remain at historic lows, which will help counterbalance rising housing prices and keep the market for new homes strong.

Wehrli said his firm projects sales of 7,200 in 2022 (14.3% above this year), 7,800 in 2023 (8.3% higher than 2022), and 7,400 in 2024 (a 5.1% decline from the prior year.)

We are projecting over the next four years for the Sacramento MSA to



Panelists Expect New Home Sales in Sacramento Region Will Continue Increasing Through 2023, the North State BIA Reports MPG File photo

do pretty well. My biggest worry is, do we have the land to do it? We do in some places, not so much in others. Do we have the labor to do it? Do we have the supplies to do it? You hope the supplies will shake out some time next year, but labor is going to be constrained for the foreseeable future," he said.

He noted that builders have ramped up production, with permits up 41% in the region year over year, the fourth highest rate in the country behind San Francisco, Jacksonville, Fla., and

San Antonio, but that still isn't enough to meet demand.

We have ratcheted up supply, but I'd argue in the long-term perspective that new-home sales in the 7,000s is at or below the organic demand," he said.

Wehrli said a major demand driver has been the revolution in working from home caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Varshney noted that Sacramento gained about 20,000 households from the Bay Area once tech workers didn't have to live close to their offices.

Many people have moved to Sacramento, along with places like Austin, Tex., Boise, Ida., Reno and Phoenix, where housing was more affordable.

He added that the region remains well-positioned even if companies adopt a hybrid schedule, where workers are in the office two or three days a week and work from home the rest of the time.

"People who moved to Phoenix or Reno or Boise would have to be closer to the Bay if that happens, and our competitors are Tracy,

Lathrop and Manteca – and Sacramento has a lot more (amenities) than they do," he said.

If Bay Area companies do implement hybrid schedules, he said Elk Grove would benefit due to being closer to Silicon Valley than South Placer County or Folsom, but he said those submarkets have more land available and will likely be major growth centers for the next 10- to 20 years.

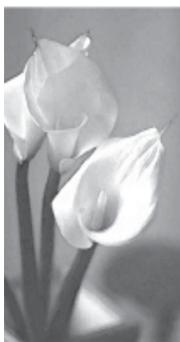
Kelley, who is developing The Railyards and focuses more on multi-family than single-family

housing, said about 3,000 units of market-rate apartments are in the pipeline, which he said was more than usual but because relatively few apartments have been built in the urban core during this cycle leads him to believe we're not overbuilding.

Lots of people still want to live in an urban environment, so my general feeling is if the city improves the environment downtown it should all work out as long as we continue to invest in amenities people want, he said. ★

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