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West Sacramento News Ledger

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Getting Greener



The Sacramento Tree foundation finds areas that are "under-canopied" and plants shade trees, improving these areas in many ways. Photo provided by Sacramento Tree Foundation

By Michele Townsend

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Tree Foundation, Sacramento City Council Member Jeff Harris, and Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA), hosted a tree planting event for volunteers to plant 26 trees at Mirasol Village, Sacramento's largest new affordable housing development in the River District. Mirasol Village is the former Dos Rios area that has been re-developed. Some of the 50 volunteers involved in the tree planting project included former Dos Rios residents that will soon be Mirasol Village residents. Sacramento Tree Foundation says, "This planting is part of SIMPL, an initiative to transform the

northwest section of downtown into a connected, thriving community that supports residents' quality of life, health, and inclusion in the broader region. Projects like this planting support urban greening, health and wellbeing, equitable housing, increased mobility, and decarbonized energy for the people who live and work here." Studies show that neighborhoods with more trees not only look nicer, but they have better air quality and lead to healthier community members. Better air quality produces fewer people with asthma and other respiratory issues. In addition, it cuts down on obesity and increases mental health. It is the Sacramento Tree foundation, and its NeighborWood program that finds areas that are

"under-canopied" and plants shade trees to improve these areas. The Sacramento Tree Foundation is "all things trees." They have educational programs such as Acorn Harvesting. In this program, people seek out specific kinds of acorns and bring them back to the foundation where they are planted and grown into a tree. A seed to seedling program. Sacramento Tree Foundation also has a seed to slab program. In this program, the foundation collects trees or portions of trees that organizations like the city, SMUD or PG&E have cut down and repurpose the wood from the tree, before the tree reaches its expiration date. This wood is cut into usable boards like 2 x 4's and

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Families Now Receiving October Child Tax Credit Payments

IRS Media Relations

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG) - The Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department announced that millions of American families are now receiving their advance Child Tax Credit (CTC) payment for the month of October.

This fourth batch of advance monthly payments, totaling about \$15 billion, is reaching about 36 million families today across the country. The majority of payments will be issued by direct deposit.

Under the American Rescue Plan, most eligible families received payments dated July 15, Aug. 13 and Sept. 15. Future payments are scheduled for Nov. 15 and Dec. 15. For these families, each payment is up to \$300 per month for each child under age 6 and up to \$250 per month for each child ages 6 through 17. The vast majority will be issued by direct deposit.

Here are more details on those payments:

- Families will see the direct deposit payments in their accounts starting Oct. 15. Like the prior payments, the vast majority of families will receive them by direct deposit.

- For those receiving payments by paper check, be sure to allow extra time, through the end of October, for delivery by mail. Those wishing to receive future payments by direct deposit can make this change using the Child Tax Credit Update Portal, available only on IRS.gov. To access the portal or to get a new step-by-step guide for using it, visit IRS.gov/childtaxcredit2021.

- Payments went to eligible families who filed a 2019 or 2020 income tax return. Returns processed by Oct. 4 are reflected in these payments. This includes people who don't typically file a return but during 2020 successfully registered for Economic Impact Payments using the IRS Non-Filers tool on IRS.gov or in 2021 successfully used the Non-filer Sign-up Tool for advance CTC, also available only on IRS.gov.

- Payments are automatic. Aside from filing a tax return, including a simplified return from the Non-filer Sign-up Tool, families don't have to do anything if they are eligible to receive monthly payments.

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Town Hall on Youth Vaccines

**Yolo County
News Release**

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - Parents and guardians are invited to attend an upcoming town hall on November 1 at 6:30 p.m. to receive direct information from the Yolo County public health officer on COVID-19 vaccines for children five to 11. The virtual event will be held on Facebook Live and Zoom. Yolo County Public Health Officer Dr. Aimee Sisson will focus on the expected COVID-19 vaccine rollout for children during the town hall. In addition, the town hall will answer questions about the safety of pediatric vaccinations and address updated COVID-19 guidelines for schools. The town hall will also feature County Superintendent Garth Lewis. Dr. Sisson has concluded the earliest potential date for approval of vaccines

for children would be November 3. The final decision depends on approval at both the state and federal levels. On October 26, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's independent advisory committee plans to meet to discuss emergency authorization for Pfizer's vaccine for children five to 11. If approved, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices will meet on November 2 and 3 to offer its own recommendations to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. If approved at the federal level, the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup would then complete a review of the federal process and determine the safety of pediatric vaccines for public use in California. "With information constantly coming out from the FDA, CDC, and state

of California, many parents are wondering what it means for them locally," said Dr. Sisson. "During the webinar, we will cover questions regarding vaccine safety, when children five to 11 might be eligible to get vaccinated, and vaccine mandates." The town hall will also seek to answer questions on recent updates related to schools, including the indoor mask mandate and the state's recent vaccine requirement to attend schools. On October 1, Governor Gavin Newsom announced California would become the first state to add the COVID-19 vaccine to the list of vaccinations required for school. Implementation of the vaccine mandate would not occur until the vaccines receive full FDA approval, which is not expected soon. On Wednesday (October 20), the California

Department of Public Health also announced the universal indoor mask mandate in K-12 schools would continue through the winter, stating "now is not the time to let our guard down." The town hall is designed for parents and guardians of students but is open to all members of the community. The virtual town hall begins at 6:30 p.m. on Facebook Live at www.facebook.com/YoloCOE. Spanish translation for the town hall will be provided via Zoom. Advance registration is requested at https://ycoe.zoom.us/join/register/WN_Di9PvtjwRQi2j39YTU0bvw. The public is invited to submit questions for the forum at <https://forms.gle/2LS9KhCxRDeQR8tk7>. Additional information on the town hall is available on the Yolo County Office of Education website at www.ycoe.org. ★

Matsui Issues Statement on the Passing of Colin Powell



From the Office of Congresswoman Doris Matsui

WASHINGTON, D.C (MPG) - Congresswoman Doris

Matsui (CA-06) issued the following statement after the passing of Colin Powell, Former Secretary of State, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and National Security Advisor.

“Our nation has lost a great patriot and American icon in Colin Powell, whose life and story will inspire many for generations to come,” said Congresswoman

Matsui. “Throughout his career as a soldier, statesman, and diplomat, Colin Powell exemplified courage and integrity – serving as a trusted council to four presidential administrations. His legacy of devotion to country and groundbreaking leadership will live on. My prayers are with the Powell family during this difficult time.” ★

Woodland Man Graduates from Mental Health Court

By John Fout, Yolo County

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - On October 21, 2021, 33-year-old Phillip Collins, from Woodland, successfully graduated from Mental Health Court in Department 8 of the Yolo County Superior Court. Mr. Collins was homeless in Davis at the time of his arrest on September 26, 2018. He was arrested for trying to steal a bike out of a garage. He was charged with 1st degree burglary which could result in a prison sentence. As part of his agreement to enroll in Mental Health Court, he pled no contest to a second degree burglary with his conviction deferred, or placed on hold.

Mental Health Court is a minimum 18-month court-based treatment and monitoring system for adult offenders with serious mental illness. Mental Health Court is designed to increase the treatment engagement of the participants while reducing both arrests, hospitalizations, and jail time both during and after their involvement and participation in the program. The program is a collaborative effort between the Yolo County Superior Court, Probation, Health and Human Services Agency, the Public Defender, and the District Attorney. Mental Health Court follows the Forensic Assertive Community Treatment model where participants get intense services two hours per week or meet with staff four times per week. The team provides participants with wrap-around treatment, which includes a focus on mental health, substance abuse, housing, vocational and school, and physical health. The goal is to address the criminogenic factors and reduce recidivism. At the end of the program, individuals participate in a restorative justice conference.

There is a maximum of 30 participants in Mental Health Court. Addiction Intervention Court, a program for those with substance use disorders, also has room for 30 participants, and the Department of State Hospitals grant program, for those with a serious mental illness who are at risk of being sent to a state hospital, allows for 8 participants. Recently, due to funding provided by the Community Corrections Partnership, the team will be starting a Mental Health Diversion program for participants with less severe mental illness.

A results-based assessment conducted during fiscal year 2020-21 showed significant accomplishments. During the 12-month period after enrolling in Mental Health Court, participants had a 73% decrease in arrests,

a 93% decrease in jail bed stays, a 35% decrease in local hospital bed stays, and a 100% decrease in state hospital bed stays.

During Mr. Collins’ graduation, team members congratulated him and shared their thoughts. Judge Peter Williams, who presides over Mental Health Court, congratulated Mr. Collins and stated, “What you said in one of your essays should be the mantra of Mental Health Court. You said your advice to others is to be patient, and patience doesn’t mean you have to be perfect, it means for you to grow into a better person. Congratulations, Phil.” Deputy District Attorney Preston Schaub stated, “What I appreciated from your restorative justice essay is you said people should get second chances. I want you to give yourself a second chance and give second chances to everyone else in your life. Nice job.” Probation Officer Jasmine Gonzalez commented, “Phil, you have always remained very resilient and receptive. You were strong enough to face your fears.”

Judge Williams then asked others watching on Zoom if anyone wanted to speak. Davis Police Department Deputy Chief told Mr. Collins, “I have so much respect for you and for what you’ve accomplished. I want to thank you because your story makes our job as police officers worthwhile.” Next, a Mental Health Court participant said, “Congrats, Phil, and thanks for graduating because watching you today gives me hope to graduate.” A woman started to speak and said she was Mr. Collins’ mother. “Today is his big day, and I am very grateful. We could not have done it without the team’s support, and now I have my son back. I am deeply grateful.”

Finally, it was Mr. Collins’ chance to speak. “For starters, I want to thank [Probation Officer] Stephen for being the man in my corner. Thanks to [Probation Officer] Jasmine for being such a great friend. Thanks to (Health & Human Services Agency Caseworker) Terri, who even to this day is helping me, it does not stop with her, she is a machine, and one heck of a pitcher in kick ball.”

After the graduation, Judge Williams dismissed the charges filed against Mr. Collins, who is now living independently in an apartment in Woodland. In the final post-graduation phase, Mr. Collins will participate in the “alumni program,” and he will attend events and support current participants. ★

Dodd Responds to Ag/Commercial Wildfire Insurance Plan



From the office of Senator Bill Dodd

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, issued the following statement regarding Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara’s plan to ensure commercial and agricultural insurance coverage amid continuing wildfires.

“Commissioner Lara’s multipronged approach is necessary to ensure the availability and affordability of insurance for small businesses and

farmers that have been hard hit by wildfires,” said Sen. Dodd. “It will improve coverage in significant ways and affords policyholders the kind of protection they deserve. The commissioner has worked hard while in office to improve the residential property insurance market and this latest step is critical for assisting the commercial sector.”

Commissioner Lara proposed his comprehensive solution for commercial insurance coverage after several destructive wildfire seasons. Working with the California Farm Bureau Federation, he is addressing growing needs for a competitive insurance market for farm owners, wineries, and other outdoor businesses. His solution involves strengthening the FAIR Plan, California’s

insurance safety net, while aggressively reducing wildfire risk through a combination of insurance incentives and mitigation.

The commissioner also announced he is moving forward under his existing authority to pursue new rules, announced earlier this year, to require that insurance companies take into account fire-preparation actions by homes and businesses when they determine the risk of wildfires. This action will increase insurance availability and incentives for residents and businesses to better protect themselves.

Senator Bill Dodd represents the 3rd Senate District, which includes all or portions of Napa, Solano, Yolo, Sonoma, Contra Costa, and Sacramento counties. You can learn more about the district and Senator Dodd at www.sen.ca.gov/dodd. ★

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Getting Greener

Newest City Council Member Sworn In



If you are interested in obtaining free shade trees, Sacramento Tree Foundation is in a partnership with SMUD and offer this program year around. Photo provided by Sacramento Tree Foundation

Continued from page 1

The Mirasol Village project was sold at their lumber yard, Urban Wood Rescue, located in South Sacramento.

If you are interested in other projects involving urban greening, visit www.simplsac.org. If you are interested in obtaining free shade trees, Sacramento Tree Foundation is in a partnership with SMUD and offer this program year around. For further information about free shade trees, visit www.sactree.com

The Mirasol Village project was made possible with support from SMUD, SIMPL (Sacramento Integrated Multimodal Placed-Based Living), and California Strategic Growth Council’s Transformative Climate Communities program (a group that funds projects that are economically, environmentally and socially beneficial to disadvantaged areas) with funds from California Climate Investments. ★

Dive into Aquatic Ecology, Climate Change, and Ecology Research



Junna Wang, Ph.D, is Graduate Group in Ecology at UC Davis with a broad interest in aquatic ecosystems, e.g., rivers, lakes and estuaries. Photo provided by Yolo Basin

Yolo Basin Foundation Press Release

YOLO REGION, CA (MPG) - Three UC Davis graduate students are using their skills to take a closer look at the Yolo Bypass and Putah Creek. Join them to hear about “Current Research Studies in the Yolo Bypass” at Yolo Basin Foundation’s Flyway Nights speaker series via Zoom on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 7 p.m. These three students received support from the Kulakow-Julian Graduate Student Fellowship and will discuss their scientific projects in the Bypass.

Mattea Berglund, Ecology graduate student at UC Davis, focuses on how human-driven change impacts aquatic ecosystems,

with the goal of informing effective and equitable management strategies. Mattea uses genetics to learn how juvenile Chinook salmon microbiomes differ between floodplain, agricultural, and river habitats.

Clancy McConnell, 4th-year Ph.D. candidate in Geography at UC Davis, is studying the historical ecology and restoration of lower Putah Creek and the Yolo Basin. He examines how the pattern of riparian vegetation changed due to the creation of Monticello and Solano Dams. Clancy uses that information to model effects of large restoration projects on habitat connectivity along lower Putah Creek and the western edge of the Yolo Basin.

Junna Wang, Ph.D. candidate in the Graduate Group

in Ecology at UC Davis, focuses on how land cover affects physical, chemical, and biological processes in streams, lakes, and wetlands. She studies how climate change interacts with hydrology to influence species interactions and community structure in freshwater ecosystems and specifically, what supports aquatic food webs in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area .

The Kulakow-Julian Graduate Student Fellowship supports graduate students who are conducting research in the areas of environmental education, public use, environmental sciences, or environmental or conservation policy related to the 16,800-acre Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area or the 60,000-acre Yolo Bypass.

Flyway Nights is a monthly speaker series highlighting environmental issues, natural history of Northern California, and current research topics in conservation. Yolo Basin Foundation hosts Flyway Nights the first Thursday of the month from November to April through virtual presentations.

A \$10 donation to support the Foundation’s wetland education programs is suggested. For the complete schedule and to register, visit www.yolobasin.org/flywaynights or call Yolo Basin Foundation at (530) 757-3780. ★

By Michele Townsend

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Wednesday, October 20, 2021, Dr. Dawnté Early West was surrounded by her husband, Norman West, friends, family, her daughter’s Girl Scout Troop, City Council Members and supporters as her parents, Tara and Dan Early, swore her into her seat as the fifth West Sacramento City Councilmember.

The seat became available when Councilmember Martha Guerrero was elected Mayor. Dawnté is the first African-American elected to City Council. By Dawnté joining the council, our city council is now 80 percent female.

Dawnté was about bursting at the seams with excitement and pride. She has had a lot of excitement lately, as she not only beat her opponents in the special election, but she also recently became President and CEO of United Way.

Dawnté said, “We know that the pandemic has hit many of our neighbors and friends hard. As we come out of this pandemic, I plan to focus



Left to right; Dr. Dawnté Early West, husband Norman West, father Dan Early, mother Tara Early. Photo provided by Michele Townsend

on good governance, ensuring a sustainable budget, supporting local businesses, working on innovative solutions to address homelessness, and increasing employment opportunities.”

She continued, “We can do this by building upon our existing programs as well as exploring new opportunities for collaboration with my colleagues on the council and partnerships with regional

agencies, local nonprofits, and employers. Going into this next year, I am excited and hopeful for the potential our council has to accomplish the things West Sacramento residents need for our city to continue to be a place individuals, children, and families can thrive.”

Dawnté is looking forward to working for her community and can’t wait to see what challenges it will bring her. ★

Ironman Triathlon Cancelled by Storm

By Michele Townsend

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - After all of that training and planning, more than 3,500 athletes were disappointed to find out that the Ironman Triathlon was cancelled due to the Bomb Cyclone that struck Northern California. It was just simply too dangerous for the athletes. It is unknown when or if the race will be rescheduled. The Ironman organization posted this notice:

“Important Information-Race Update...”

“Weather conditions have deteriorated overnight and are expected to worsen over the course of the day. We no longer

believe that we can provide an acceptably safe swim and bike environment for our athletes. We regret to inform you that the 2021 IRONMAN California triathlon cannot take place today on Oct. 24, 2021.

“The safety of the athletes, volunteers, and spectators is our highest priority. It would not be responsible to host the event at this moment in time. We recognize that the change at this late juncture will come as a disappointment and are working diligently to provide our athletes with further details and racing options.”

We thank our athletes for their commitment and look forward to providing them with an exceptional race experience in the future. ★

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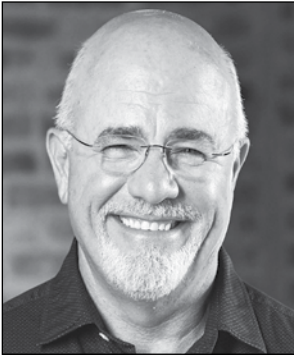
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Let’s Tweak that Idea a Little

Dear Dave,

I am on Baby Step 2, and I started a YouTube channel earlier this year that led to a new opportunity to make additional income. I try on and review clothing, and I’m paid \$30 for each clip that’s anywhere from 30 seconds to two minutes long. Right now, I have about 1,000 viewers. This requires me to buy items from several brands. I usually return the items when I’m through filming, but I’m currently funding this with a credit card I only use for this project. I only pay the minimum each month until I get the refund, so at any given time there can be up to \$4,000 on the card in rotation. I make about \$86,000 at my normal job, so is this an okay way to fund my project and chalk it

Dave Ramsey Says

up as a business expense?

– Amber

Dear Amber,

You’re taking a risk here, from a business perspective, by playing around with \$4,000 in debt to make \$30 a pop. That’s inordinate. And you shouldn’t be paying for the clothes in the first place. These brands should be giving you clothes to review – that you keep – for the marketing exposure, but I’m not sure you’ve got enough eyeballs on you yet to justify them giving you the clothes for free.

Basically, it sounds like you’re trying to put yourself in a position to be an influencer. And the way influencers get paid is by monetizing eyeballs. Obviously, YouTube and other platforms will pay you if you can get the eyeballs. But 1,000 viewers really aren’t a lot these days. You’re getting there, though, and I’m glad you’re working at it and trying to make things happen.

You make good money, Amber. I want you to set aside \$2,000 or \$3,000 for this business, maybe out of the business income, and

prime the pump one time. By that, I mean open a separate checking account that’s for your clothing exchange process only. Here’s the thing, let’s say you bought \$1,000 worth of stuff from one of these companies, and they suddenly decide they’re not taking it back. You just ate that \$1,000. And guess what else? Now, you really have credit card debt.

There are three things you can always be sure of in business. One, it’s going to cost twice as much as you think it will. Two, it’s going to take twice as long as you think it will. And three, you are not the exception to these things. While we’re at it, add this to the list of stuff you can always be sure of – you’ll never find me advising or endorsing credit card debt!

– 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. Morning, He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions. ★



A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“DUNE” RATED PG-13

Forget about David Lynch’s 1984 version of “Dune,” because I certainly have and won’t revisit his vision for any comparison to director Denis Villeneuve’s take on Frank Herbert’s science-fiction novel.

Set thousands of years in the future, the year 10191 to be exact, “Dune” tells the story of Paul Atreides (Timothee Chalamet), a young man propelled by fate into an intergalactic power struggle.

The son of beloved, embattled ruler Duke Leto (Oscar Isaac) and powerful warrior priestess Lady Jessica (Rebecca Ferguson), Paul will be given the ultimate test of conquering his fear when fate and unseen forces pull him inexorably to the sands of the remote planet Arrakis.

An unwelcoming desert wasteland, Arrakis is home to an indigenous human civilization called the Fremen. The planet has been fiercely contested for generations for its valuable natural resource.

The allure of Arrakis is the fight for control of the Spice, a rare, highly valued, mind-expanding resource upon which space travel, knowledge, commerce and human existence all rely.

But those seeking to harvest the Spice must survive the planet’s inhospitable heat, hurricane-strength sandstorms, and monolithic sandworms that are justly feared with the kind of reverence usually reserved for gods.

The battle for Spice involves a trade war pitting House Atreides against House Harkonnen, the leader of which is the sadistic Baron Harkonnen (Stellan Skarsgard), a truly malevolent force ruling through fear and determined to feed his addiction to cruelty.

On the side of good is Josh Brolin’s irreverent and quick-witted Gurney Halleck, Duke Leto’s Warmaster, who has been forged in battle and will do anything necessary to protect House Atreides by overseeing Paul’s combat training.

The deadliest weapon for House Atreides is Jason Momoa’s Duncan Idaho, a legendary sword master and fearless pilot who serves as the eyes and ears of Duke Leto and defends members of the family as though they were his own.

Another wrinkle to be considered is that “Dune” is an incomplete take on Frank Herbert’s vision not easily translated to a cinematic adaptation, and it is understood that Villeneuve is looking to bring forward a second part to this movie.

Meanwhile, this big screen adaptation fully immerses the audience in the moving story of Paul’s coming of age against family rivalries, tribal clashes, social oppression and ecological disaster on the unforgiving, austere planet of Arrakis.

While the film may be streaming on HBO

Riley Reviews

“DUNE” MYTHIC FUTURISTIC JOURNEY; “CANTERVILLE GHOST” ON TV

Max, “Dune” demands to be seen on the big screen to appreciate its stunning visual effects. On the other hand, viewer interest may wane for those who are less than avid followers of science-fiction.

“THE CANTERVILLE GHOST” ON BYUtv

In conjunction with BBC Studios, the cable network BYUtv turns the Oscar Wilde novella “The Canterville Ghost” into a four-part modern retelling of the humorous short story about an American family moving into a haunted British castle.

Premiering fittingly on Halloween, “The Canterville Ghost” stars Anthony Head as centuries-old Sir Simon de Canterville, the ethereal inhabitant of Canterville Chase, an estate purchased by Hiram Otis (James Lance), an American billionaire with ideas foreign to the locals.

Hiram and his psychotherapist wife Lucy (Caroline Catz) have three children, 22-year-old Virginia (Laurel Waghorn) and mischievous 12-year-old twins Franklin and Theodore (Joe and Tom Graves) who devise ways to torment Sir Simon.

For hundreds of years, the otherworldly and malevolent Sir Simon de Canterville, who considers himself Britain’s premier ghost, has taken immense pride in scaring the locals and terrorizing the tenants of his castle in rural England.

Even his own descendant Lord St. John Canterville (Harry Gostelow), who grew up in the castle, moved his family out when he could no longer take the haunting and abandoned the estate to an American willing to buy the ancient mansion with all of its contents.

For the lonely, unhappy spirit, the thought that anyone would move into his ancestral home is an insult, but it’s an even greater affront that a family of (gasp!) Americans would have the temerity to purchase his property.

That the uppity Americans are unwilling to be frightened by a ghost who wants them to skip back across the pond to their homeland is certainly unsettling to an apparition who believes he’s an experienced performer going about his haunting duties with enthusiasm.

But Sir Simon’s attempts to haunt the Otis family fall flat when the Americans greet his efforts with gift baskets and positive affirmations. He’s consumed with guilt and unable to go to eternal rest until he finds redemption he so desperately craves.

The Otis family has its own struggles. Virginia seeks solace after dropping out of law school and is the only one who doesn’t torment the ghost. Lucy and Hiram must navigate the treacherous and chilly waters of British aristocracy that abhors outsiders.

Like many of Oscar Wilde’s works, “The Canterville Ghost” has been adapted for films and television on many occasions. BYUtv may have a hit on its hands. ★

Caltrans Finalizes Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan

Caltrans News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Caltrans this week released the final version of its 2021 Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP), a highway and rail improvement plan to prioritize and develop transportation projects that connect the state’s different regions and move people and goods more safely, efficiently and sustainably.

“Caltrans envisions a transportation system that fits the unique needs of all areas and people of our state,” said Caltrans Director Toks Omishakin. “Forward-thinking plans like this provide a roadmap to meeting our sustainability and equity

goals while safely and efficiently getting both people and goods where they need to go.”

Updated every five years, the 2021 ITSP focuses on enhancements to key highway and rail corridors connecting different regions throughout the state to expand travel options, improve safety and accessibility, ensure the efficient movement of goods, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and fortify transportation infrastructure to be more resilient to the impacts of climate change. These policies and goals align with other recent statewide plans - including the Climate Action Plan for Transportation

Infrastructure, California Transportation Plan 2050, California Freight Mobility Plan 2020 and the 2018 California State Rail Plan - to form a comprehensive strategy for a safe, equitable, sustainable, accessible and resilient transportation system.

Caltrans will implement the 2021 ITSP to guide investments and prioritize interregional projects while coordinating with local agency partners and public stakeholders.

The adopted 2021 ITSP, along with responses to public comments on the draft plan released in August, can be found at the Caltrans ITSP home page. ★

Families Now Receiving October Child Tax Credit Payments

Continued from page 1

• Families who did not get a July, August or September payment and are getting their first monthly payment this month will still receive their total advance payment for the year. This means that the total payment will be spread over three months, rather than six, making each monthly payment larger.

The IRS is currently sending letters to some Americans reminding them it is not too late for families who haven’t filed a 2020 income tax return – including those who are not normally required to file because their incomes are too low – to sign up for advance CTC payments. Most low-income families can get these monthly payments. The IRS urges families who normally aren’t required to file a tax return to visit IRS.gov for more information on how to file a return and receive their credit.

Update on Sept. advance Child Tax Credit payments

In September, the IRS successfully delivered a third monthly round of approximately 36 million Child Tax Credit payments, totaling more than \$15 billion. Given the new components of this program, the IRS continues to work hard to make improvements and deliver payments timely.

After the September payment was issued, the IRS resolved a technical issue, which the agency estimates caused fewer than 2% of CTC recipients not to receive their September payment on the scheduled payment date. Payments have since gone out to affected individuals.

The impacted group primarily included taxpayers who recently made an update to their bank account or address information using the IRS Child Tax Credit Update

Portal. In particular, the issue affected payments to married taxpayers filing jointly where only one spouse made a bank account or address change, which usually results in payments being split into two (between the existing account or address and the new account or address).

In some of these cases, the split payment caused a delay in making payments, and further caused individuals to receive slightly more than the correct payment in September. To address this, the payment that each spouse receives in October, November and December will be reduced slightly to adjust for the overpayment. For each taxpayer receiving a payment, the typical overpayment was \$31.25 per child between 6 and 17 years old and \$37.50 per child under 6 years old. This will result in about a \$10 to \$13 reduction per child in the three remaining monthly payments.

The IRS will send letters to affected individuals with this information. The IRS continues to closely monitor this program and the agency appreciates the patience of those whose payments were affected.

The IRS encourages partners and community groups to share information and use available online tools and toolkits to help non-filers, low-income families and other underserved groups sign up to receive these benefits.

Links to online tools, a step-by-step guide to using the Non-filer Sign-up Tool, answers to frequently asked questions and other helpful resources are available on the IRS’ special advance CTC 2021 page. It’s at IRS.gov/childtaxcredit2021. ★

What Would Life Be Without Mistakes?

Dr. James L. Snyder

If somebody has not made mistakes in life, I would have to give that award to the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

I suppose she does make mistakes, but she knows how to fix them before anybody notices them. I wish I knew how she does that.

I remember several years ago a mistake I made. I planned to fill up my truck with gas for the week.

Driving to the gas station, I thought of something I needed to pick up at Publix, which was on the way. So I stopped, went in and bought the item I wanted and then went out to get in my truck and go get some gas.

As I turned the key to start the engine, it did not start.

I looked at the fuel tank gauge and saw that it had passed empty, and according to that, the truck was out of gas.

I sat in the truck staring at my cell phone. I knew what I had to do, but I didn’t want to do it. In a few minutes, I tried to start it again, and I had the same result.

Quietly sitting in the truck, I continued staring

at my cell phone. I had no option at the time. I had to do what I had to do.

So, I called the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

“My dear,” I said as sweetly as possible, which is above my pay grade, “could you get a can of gasoline and bring it to me? I’m over here at Publix.”

I heard silence on the other end, and then I heard chuckling.

“Are you telling me,” she said, trying not to chuckle, “that your truck is out of gas?”

“No,” I said sarcastically, “I just want to know if you can bring me a can of gasoline to Publix.”

“Oh,” she said, “I might be able to get over there in about three hours.”

I hung up the phone and sat in my truck thinking that I had a three-hour wait until she got there with the gas for the truck.

On my fourth deep sigh, I saw my wife driving her van and park right next to my truck. I saw her through the window with the biggest smile I’ve ever seen her wear.

She got out of her van and said, “Is this the truck that’s out of gas?”

She got a can of gas out

of her van and set it down next to my truck. I picked it up and emptied it into my truck’s gas tank.

When finished, I put the can back in her van and closed the door. Then, I looked at her and simply said, “Thank you so much for your help.”

She chuckled and said, “Do you think you ought to go and fill your truck up with gas now?”

Being all out of mistakes at this point, I told her, “I’m going right now and fill this truck up with as much gas as I can get.”

I like what David said, “Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults” (Psalm 19:12).

It’s one thing to deal with the mistakes at hand, but it’s another thing to be cleansed from secret faults. So I’m learning to deal with the mistakes that I don’t know I’m making each day.

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. ★

Crossword Puzzle on Page 7

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

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7

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

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CLUES

ACROSS

1. *Core of Persia today
5. *Belgian village where Roman soldiers enjoyed warm mineral springs
8. Pitch symbol
12. More luminous star
13. Abbott and Costello or Rocky and Bullwinkle
14. Eurasian goat-like antelope
15. Team's ranking
16. Make someone angry
17. Mix in
18. *Formerly Ceylon (2 words)
20. What tide does half the time
21. Reggae subgenre
22. Back then
23. ____ profundo
25. Depleted (2 words)
28. Wet firecracker
29. Catch in a net
32. Hip bones
34. Dormer without D
36. Schiller's poem
37. "It is silent" in sheet music
38. Discharge
39. Admirer
41. Earlier in time than, archaic
42. Not out (2 words)
44. Pinocchio and his kind
46. Evergreen creeper
47. "A League of Their Own" member, e.g.
49. Command to a fly
51. *Formerly Siam
54. Rain forest ruminant
55. Irish for Ireland
56. It's under a fig leaf?
58. Shockingly graphic
59. Impersonator
60. Manlike man-eater of fairy tales
61. Crunchable information
62. Popular '60s drug
63. A ____ move

DOWN

1. Opposite of outs
2. Fish eggs, pl.
3. Affirm solemnly
4. Lowest points
5. Seeking damages
6. Kenosha Kickers' music
7. On the sea
8. *Once named Kampuchea
9. Trunk appendage
10. Shining armor
11. Facsimile machine
13. Fire-starter in fairy tales
14. Trojan War military action
19. Red-dot pointer, e.g.
22. Cigar residue
23. *Myanmar, formerly
24. " ____ One" on a ticket
25. Consumer
26. Stomach sore
27. Boat stops
28. John's and Jane's last name?
30. Pie a la ____
31. *Tokyo, formerly
33. Absorbed, as in a cost
35. *Abyssinia, now
37. Jury duty event
39. Comedian Schumer
40. Has more elm trees
43. Roundish
45. Not digital
47. Ox prod, pl.

48. Propelled like Argo
49. Arctic jaeger
50. '80 TV series " ____ to ____" (1 word)
51. Bluish green
52. Canceled
53. "American ____," Jeanine Cummins' bestseller
54. Like one of the Testaments
57. Modern, prefix

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 7



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

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.
Solutions on Page 7

Raider Scoreboard



Football

10/15 Burbank

JV 0 Monterey Trail 34
RCV 35 Monterey Trail 8

Girls Volleyball

10/19 Monterey Trail
10/21 Grant

FR won JV won Varsity won in 4 sets
Varsity won in 4 sets

Boys Water Polo

10/16 Bear River
10/16 Pinole Valley

RC 4 Bear River 11
RC 11 Pinole Valley 13

Girls Water Polo

10/16 Pinole Valley
10/16 Inderkum

RC 14 Pinole Valley 0
RC 12 Monterey Trail 11

Season Records	League	Overall
Football	0-2	0-8
Girls Tennis	7-1	14-3
Girls Volleyball	5-5	7-8
Boys Water Polo	1-1	1-3
Girls Water Polo	2-1	3-7

River City Weekly Sports

Game Dates 10/29 to 11/24



RC Sports

Friday 10/29

Football vs Kennedy (Senior Night)

Game Times

JV/V 5:00/7:15

Girls Volleyball 3rd in League

Girls Water Polo 2nd in League

Boys Water Polo 3rd in League

Tennis 1st in League

All these Teams are competing in
Playoff the week of 10/25 to 10/29.

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11/6 @ Angels Camp TBD

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Wed. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

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911 Park Blvd. West Sacramento

Office: (916) 371-4814

Fr. Mathew Rappu, Pastor

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Fri 8:30 a.m. at OLG school during school year

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

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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

Center for Spiritual Awareness

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Amber Waves



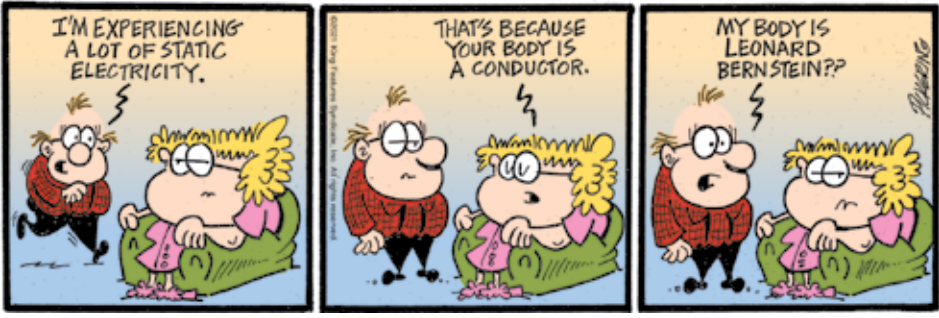
Out on a Limb



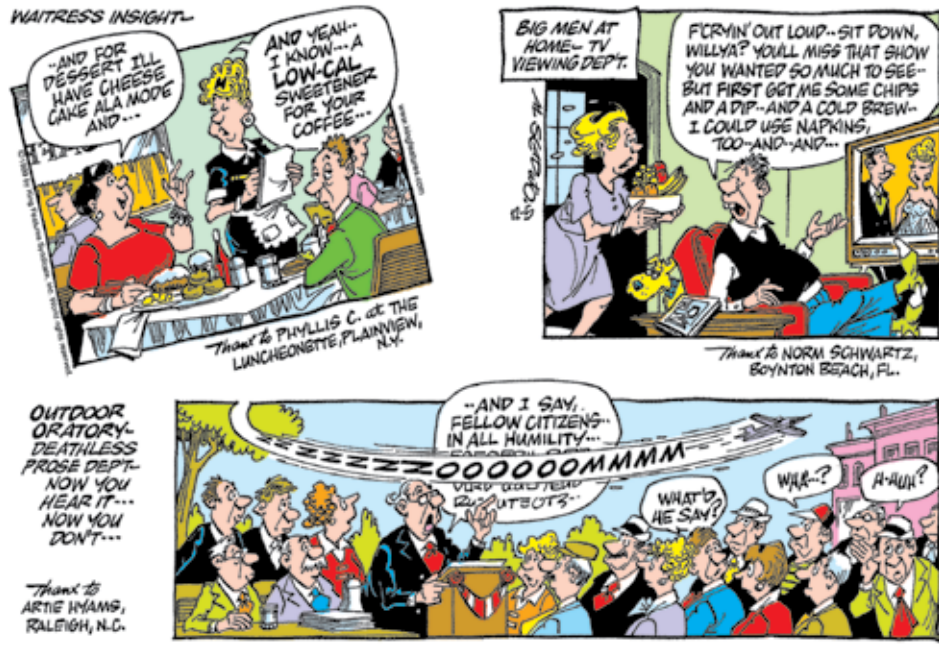
R.F.D.



The Spats



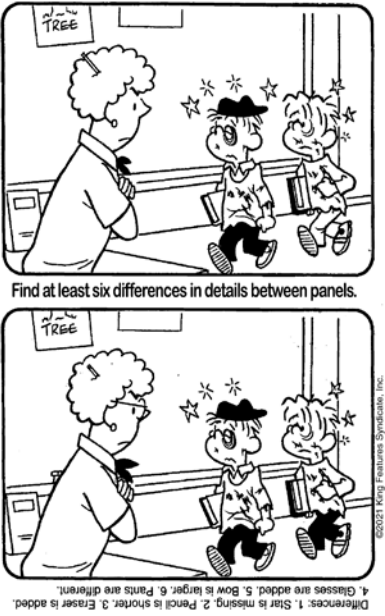
THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



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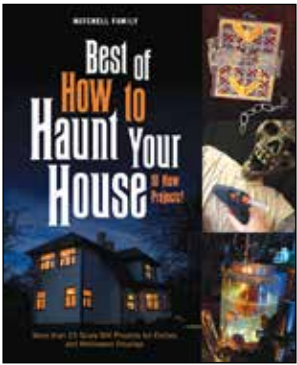
BOOKS

By Amy Shane

BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • [✉ amy-shane@att.net](mailto:amy-shane@att.net) • [📷 amy_fortheloveofbook](https://www.instagram.com/amy_fortheloveofbook)

Halloween Haunts

These haunting reads will have you ready for Halloween, or continuing the haunting thrills past Halloween night.



The Best of How to Haunt Your House
by Lynne Mitchell, Shawn Mitchell, Schiffer Craft

Be the most frightening house on your block with the Best Of How To Haunt Your House: More than 25 Scary DIY Projects for Parties and Halloween Displays. This book is a visual display of Halloween extravagance, beauty, and pure craftsmanship. With over 25 Halloween projects and frightening displays, the Mitchell family is here to make your Halloween dreams or nightmares come to life. Whether you are looking for one or two simple projects of an overall extreme makeover, these do-it-yourself projects will help your transform the ordinary into the extraordinary.

Every type of project is covered, from the large and extravagant projects such as a gothic cemetery, mad scientist lab, and creepy scarecrows; too little items

such as potion bottles, flying bats, and spells books. Learn how to craft and carve styrofoam, make faux moss, and even learn how to make the infamous monster mud. With 127 pages of full-color photographs, this book can easily be categorized as the encyclopedias to Halloween décor and even used as a coffee table book. With directions on how to achieve animated props, lighted labs, costumes, and personalized tombstones, whatever your heart desires, the Mitchell family is here to help you achieve it.

Slewfoot: A Tale of Bewitchery
by Brom, NightFire



One of the most stunning collections of haunting artworks paired with a dark tale of bewitchery, feminism, terror, and wicked intent. Taking readers back into the colonial time of 1666, where the lines between Pagan and Puritan are purely drawn and the

echoes of which are uttered among the lips of villagers. Young and newly widowed, Abitha is quickly shunned by the villagers, and she is left battling for any shred of power she can hang onto, considering she is a woman in a patriarchal society. Then she meets Slewfoot, a spirit who is also struggling to find his place. Is he a dark entity or one that is meant to save? Together they must discover the terrifying truth while they come together to create something dark and ominous that could end the village once and for all.

A spellbinding tale reaches from the depths of darkness and grabs its readers by the throat, ready to pull them under. Captivating readers from the very first line, Brom delicately tickles the edges of fantasy and realism, proving to new readers that his pen is just as mighty as his brush. Brom leaves readers questioning if this is a haunting fairytale or a dark, fantastical horror. Acclaimed for his dark fantasy artwork, Brom is also known for his prior novels, comics, and games and fans of his will be blown away by the stunning, expressive artwork included in this book brings the story to even more haunting depths. ★

Social Security Matters

Is Taxing Social Security Fair?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: Taxing Social Security benefits isn't fair. It would benefit everyone if seniors could earn as much as possible without having their Social Security taxed. We would still be paying into Social Security which would help the fund. I also feel that all people earning over \$100,000 should pay into Social Security because they can afford it. This would help fund Social Security without hurting anyone financially. Many seniors are struggling financially and should be able to earn as much as we can without a portion of our Social Security being taxed.

Signed: Overtaxed Senior

Dear Overtaxed Senior: Few would argue that paying income tax on Social Security benefits is fair. Nevertheless, Congress enacted taxation of Social Security benefits in 1983 as part of a reform package which restored Social Security to solvency at the time. When the law was first enacted, 50% of SS benefits were taxable for single tax filers who earned more than \$25,000 and for married couples who earned more than \$32,000. That was the law until 1993 when Congress added another threshold for both single and married filers. The 1993 law



allowed up to 85% of SS benefits to be taxed for single filers who earned more than \$34,000 and for married filers earning more than \$44,000.

Ever since enacted, those laws have been viewed as unfair by many senior organizations and especially by the individuals who paid income tax on their benefits. The unfortunate reality is that eliminating income tax on Social Security benefits without also implementing other offsetting reforms would exacerbate Social Security's now tenuous financial condition (income tax on benefits added \$41 billion to Social Security's revenue in 2020). Thus, calls today for repealing income tax on Social Security benefits go largely unheeded. It's worth noting that 13 U.S. states also levy a state income tax on Social Security benefits.

Although the payroll taxes you pay into Social Security while working are different from income taxes on your benefits, people earning over \$100,000 today do pay into Social Security through a FICA tax (or self-employment tax) on their earnings. Paying this tax is what entitles you to receive Social Security benefits. The 2021 threshold after which SS contributions are no longer taken from earnings is \$142,800, and this amount goes up a bit each year. But even completely removing that payroll tax cap and

further taxing higher earners would not fully resolve Social Security's current financial issues. Social Security's Trustees predict that monthly benefits are at risk of reduction starting in 2034 unless Congress acts to reform the program. Eliminating income tax on benefits is one of many suggestions now being considered in reform proposals, as is increasing (or eliminating) the payroll tax cap. Whether Congress will include either of those suggestions in future Social Security reform legislation is anyone's guess.

So, while we agree that levying income tax on Social Security benefits amounts to "double taxation" (because you also pay income tax on your earnings used to qualify for Social Security), taxing your Social Security income is, nevertheless, permitted under current law. As unpalatable as that law may be, and as unfortunate the effect is on struggling seniors, the AMAC Foundation can only offer guidance on how existing Social Security laws and regulations affect those who contact us. However, our parent company, the Association of Mature American Citizens, is very well aware that paying income tax on Social Security "isn't fair" and regularly lobbies Congress on that topic.

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). ★

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Gavin’s Gas Lawn Equipment Ban Hits the Little Guys



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

Gov. Gavin Newsom’s signature on Assembly Bill 1346 makes one wonder whether California politicians ever fully understand – or even want to understand – the ramifications of their decisions.

The measure aims to eliminate the sales of gasoline-powered lawn equipment, such as mowers, string trimmers, leaf blowers and other devices, within a few years.

The purpose, it’s said, is to eliminate the exhaust emissions from small engines that create smog and contribute to global warming.

The bill’s author, Assemblyman Marc Berman, a Menlo Park Democrat, contends that “operating the best-selling, gas-powered commercial leaf blower for one hour emits air pollutants comparable to driving a 2017 Toyota Camry from Los Angeles to Denver. Smog-forming emissions from small engines will surpass those from passenger vehicles this year.”

One could add that the gas-powered lawn machines also emit jarring levels of noise.

Under AB 1346, the California Air Resources Board will decide how and when sales of gas-powered

devices will be prohibited and it could be as early as 2024. A shift to battery-powered machines presumably would occur as older devices need replacement.

Tools powered by rechargeable batteries are convenient, quiet and relatively inexpensive to operate and make perfect sense for the homeowner. Personally, I’ve used them almost exclusively for the past quarter century and wouldn’t have it any other way.

That said, what’s practical for personal use is not necessarily so for lawn care professionals, most of them single persons or small crews, and often immigrants. It’s estimated that California has at least 50,000 such microbusinesses.

Mowing a lawn once a week is one thing, but pros do it a dozen or more times a day to keep their families housed and fed. They would have to not only buy the equipment but dozens of batteries and chargers and have the facilities, including sufficient electric power supplies, to recharge those batteries.

Backers of the legislation, a coalition of public health and environmental groups, would let the Air Resources Board figure out the details. There’s the possibility of a \$30 million fund to help buy new equipment.

The arithmetic, however, indicates that the proposed conversion would cost much more than that, either borne by the lawn services or taxpayers.

Andrew Bray, vice president of the National Association of Landscape Professionals, told the Los Angeles Times that “a

three-person landscaping crew will need to carry 30 to 40 fully charged batteries to power its equipment during a full day’s work,” adding, “These companies are going to have to completely retrofit their entire workshops to be able to handle this massive change in voltage so they’re going to be charged every day.”

The larger landscape companies that Bray represents could make the switch and adjust their fees accordingly. But how about the little guys?

A basic array of high-quality, battery-powered lawn tools – a mower, a trimmer and a blower – would cost at least \$1,000. Enough spare batteries and chargers would at least double the initial cost. So at a minimum, with 50,000 lawn services, the total cost would be \$100 million. The real world cost would likely be a quarter-billion dollars or more.

Even were the state willing to cover replacements, how about the infrastructure that small landscapers, operating out of their homes, would need to recharge their batteries? Would we be putting them through a daunting application process? Would the many undocumented landscapers submit the paperwork?

Newsom and the legislators who voted for this bill may think they are doing the right thing, but did they ever consider that they are messing with people’s livelihoods and lives? Nothing in the bill indicates they did.

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

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- ▶ Weekly pickup during leaf drop season (Nov. 1 - Jan. 31)

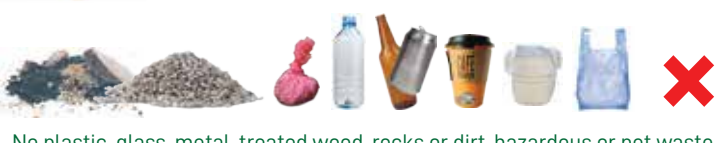
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- Ensure cart lids can close.
- Only place green waste, food scraps, and food-soiled paper in cart. Do not place food waste or food soiled paper in leaf bags.
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