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West Sacramento News Ledger

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SEPTEMBER 24 2021

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Honoring Hispanic Organ Donors



West Sac Mayor Martha Guerrero, President and CEO of Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Cathy Rodriguez; and Sierra Donor Services Executive Director Sean Van Slyck. Photo provided by Michele Townsend

By Michele Townsend

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Wednesday, September 15, 2021, a small service was held at Sierra Donor Services and Donate Headquarters, located at 3940 Industrial Blvd, West Sacramento. This service was to honor the generosity of Hispanic organ, eye and tissue donors, for Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from September 15 to October 15. Speakers included Sierra Donor Services

Executive Director, Sean Van Slyck; Eye Bank Director, Sam Ramos; West Sacramento Mayor, Martha Guerrero; President of Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce, Megan Morgan; as well as representatives of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the West Sacramento Chamber of Commerce. Sierra Donor Services (SDS) is the designated organ procurement organization (OPO) that is partnered with the Sacramento Region hospitals.

The SDS raised a special flag, made to honor the Hispanic donors and their families. Currently over 20,000 people in California are waiting for a life saving organ transplant and over 40 percent of those are Hispanic. Last year, over 4,500 transplant surgeries were performed in California and roughly 40 percent of those were also Hispanic. Those same percentages are consistent with the National numbers. So why are such a high percentage of patients needing a transplant of

Hispanic decent?

According to SDS, people in multicultural and minority communities have disproportionately higher rates of diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease, which lead to organ failure, especially kidneys. In addition, SDS says that genetics play a part. Transplants can be successful regardless of race or ethnicity. However the chance of acceptance and of long term survival is greater if the donor and recipient are closely

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City is Now Seeking Commission Applications

City of West
Sacramento

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Applications are now being accepted for service on the following City commissions. These commissions work directly with City staff in developing goals and advising the City Council on many issues. These Mayor-appointed positions are a great way to get involved in your community.

Parks, Recreation & Intergenerational Services Commission:

The Commission shall provide advice and recommendations to the City Council and staff on matters within the commission's scope and duties that have been referred to the commission by the City Council, Mayor, or City Manager. The scope and duties of the Parks, Recreation & Intergenerational Services Commission shall include:

(1) Parks and Related Facilities and Programs. (2) Sports and Active Living Programs. (3) Recreation and Leisure Programs. (4) Support for Civic and Community-based Organizations. (5) Community Services, including Health and Welfare concerns. (6) Adaptation of the full range of City Plans, Projects, Programs and Services to the needs of Seniors and Youth. (7) Plans for the Provision of Services targeted to the Elderly, including Recreation, Leisure, Housing, Financial Security, and Mobility. (8) Plans for the Provision of Services targeted to Youth. (9) Early Learning and Universal Preschool.

Arts, Culture & Historic Preservation Commission:

(1) Programs for the Cultural Enrichment of the City; (2) Coordinating and Strengthening existing organizations in the Cultural Arts field; (3) Methods to encourage private initiative in the Arts and Culture; (4) Formulate Programs and Methods to encourage creative activities, as well as to encourage increased public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the cultural and

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Five Hundred Smiling Faces



Quirina Orozco with the League of Heroes Inspired. Photo provided by Michele Townsend

By Michele Townsend

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - When the West Sacramento City Council found out that the number of vaccinated people in the 95605 area code was far less than anywhere else in the county, they decided to do everything they could to make the vaccine easily

accessible. Health experts say that it is much easier to get people to show up to some kind of event, and to have the vaccine available, than it is to just have a vaccination clinic. With this in mind, Mayor Martha Guerrero and the rest of the city council have been doing their best to make sure that vaccines

are offered as often as possible.

Councilwoman Quirina Orozco had another thought in mind. Quirina started making phone calls and before long organizations began to volunteer to be a part of Sunday's Fall Festival, held at Bryte Park. There was booth after booth, sponsored

by the vast number of resources available in West Sacramento. Most of the booths had some kind of game or activity for the kids to do. There was face painting, gunnysack races, three-legged races and lots and lots of give-a-ways.

County Supervisor, Oscar Villegas cooked and gave away 500 hotdogs. Music was playing and there were Superheroes and Princesses walking around, taking pictures and teaching the children that they all have a superhero inside of them. Everyone that got vaccinated received 2 River Cats tickets, all while Quirina was announcing winner after winner of \$25 and \$50 gift cards from Walmart, Target and Grocery Outlet. It was a great time, on a beautiful day. And it was all free

Yolo Food Bank had

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Packathon Packs Thousands of Care Boxes for Troops!

Story and photos from
Move America Forward
Special News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - This past Saturday MAF held our 2021 annual Packathon event in observance of 9/11 where we set out with a goal to ship 2001 boxes for the troops as well as pack an additional 911. As 2021 is also the 20th anniversary of 9/11, this was an especially important task, and we made appeals to our supporters to watch our Troopathon on Newsmax TV and donate to send care packages so we could achieve this goal.

We began packing just before 10 am and didn't wrap up until 3 pm because we had an unprecedented group of enthusiastic and energetic volunteers who just wouldn't quit! They really wanted to do something special for our troops.

At the conclusion of our Packathon drive, we had shipped 3,000 packages for the troops and packed an additional 1,500 more!

There are thousands of troops who are still deployed in the Middle East, eagerly awaiting your words of support, and the many goodies and personal care items in these boxes. These are especially important during the brutally hot Summer months!

If you donate today, our volunteers will quickly pack up a box of goodies for the troops and add it to the stack of boxes waiting to be shipped! These packages REALLY make a difference! We receive letters and notes



back from the troops every day detailing just how important these care packages are to the troops who receive them. Many troops spend 6-12 months of deployment, away from their friends and family.

To donate visit carepackages.moveamericaforward.org/ ★



City Commission Applications Now Accepted

Continued from page 1

art forms and activities; (5) Review and make recommendations upon all works of art to be acquired by the City, either by purchase, gift or otherwise, and their proposed locations; (6) The Designation and Inventory of Historic Resources and Districts. (Ord. 03-2 § 1 (part))

Applications and more detailed information about each commission are available on the City's website (www.cityofwestsacramento.org) or by contacting Laurie Ledesma, Senior Deputy City Clerk at (916) 617-4500 or at clerk@cityofwestsacramento.org. ★



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“Not If, But When: Wildfire Solutions” Screening at Yolo County Library

Yolo County Library News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - Yolo County Library will virtually screen the timely documentary, *Not If, But When: Wildfire Solutions*, on Monday, October 4 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. A discussion by director, Radu Sava, and co-director, Rebekah Hood-Sava, will follow.

California is burning at a rate of more than a million acres every year. This 40-minute film delves into the controversial world of wildfire solutions with their pros and cons and their successes and challenges. The film includes expert interviews, drone footage, historical data and maps.

Scientists working in the Sierra Foothills explain why wildfires are increasing and what can be done from a place of optimism. Interviews include staff from the California Office of Planning and Research,

UC Berkeley’s Central Sierra Field Stations, U.S. Forest Service - Tahoe National Forest, CAL FIRE, South Yuba River Citizens League, Yuba Water Agency and Camptonville Community Partnership.

“By highlighting solutions to address and reconcile that California is both forested, inhabited and shaped by human interference, our film showcases innovative solutions that include the Sagehen Forest Project, the Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative and the North Yuba Forest Partnership”, said film producer Radu Sava.

Recommended viewing for anyone interested in current fire dangers, the film is informative and encouraging. By proposing solutions, the film reduces fear and engages communities into learning more about wildfires so they can become participants in efforts to find actions and

solutions.

Awards and screenings include: 2020 Official Selection for the Wild & Scenic Film Festival, 2020 Official Selection for The Earth Day Film Fest, 2020 Official Selection for the International Wildlife Film Festival and Winner of Best Environmental Visions Film at the 2020 Sacramento Film Festival.

This event is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Davis Library.

For more information about library programs and resources, visit any of the Yolo County Library branches or the library webpage at www.yolocountylibrary.org. Individuals can also connect with Yolo County Library on Facebook at www.facebook.com/yolocountylibrary.org.

Individuals can access the screening using the following Zoom information: Zoom Meeting ID: 717 8716 7061. Zoom Passcode: 8niYbT ★

Honoring Hispanic Organ Donors

Continued from page 1

matched. This includes a family member or someone of a shared genetic background.

Out of the 115,000 men, women and children in the United States that are waiting for an organ transplant, 80 percent of those are in need of a kidney and 12 percent of those are waiting for a liver. Both of these organs can be donated by a live donor. The average waiting time for a kidney from a deceased donor is 3 – 5 years. If a live donor is a match and donates a kidney, the remaining kidney from that donor will enlarge in order to do the work of both kidneys. This will also happen with the recipient’s kidney. A portion of a liver may also be donated from a live donor, as well as partial lung, intestine and pancreas donation.

The body is an absolutely amazing machine and many parts of our body will either regenerate or adapt. Organs that have been successfully transplanted include the heart, lungs, kidneys, liver, intestines and pancreas. Each of these surgeries is life saving transplants. It’s not

only organs that can be transplanted. Cornea transplants may allow someone to regain their sight, tendons can rebuild joints, and heart valves can repair cardiac defects in a heart that is still working. Veins re-establish circulation which could mean the difference between life and death of any part of your body. Skin can be transplanted, or grafted, to heal burn patients. Bones and bone marrow can prevent an amputation and may help fight leukemia.

Yes, many of these surgeries can only take place after someone has died or has no sign of brain life. The patient must be declared clinically and legally dead. Doctors work very hard to save every life they can, but sometimes a person may have sustained a severe brain injury from an accident, a stroke or some other reason for lack of oxygen and the brain dies. If that patient is a registered donor, they are then put on artificial life support in order to keep the other organ viable. The bodies are treated with respect and if any organs can be used the OPO will inform the family. All major religions

support donation as a final act of compassion and generosity.

The SDS says that the best way to avoid becoming in need of an organ donation, yourself, is to have your blood pressure checked regularly, exercise regularly, limit foods high in salt, cholesterol and saturated fats (such as fried foods) and to visit your doctor once a year and get tested for diabetes and other illnesses that can lead to organ failure. If you are interested in the opportunity of saving a life by seeing if you are a match for someone, as a live donor, the process is a little different. Being a live donor is not included in your regular donor registration.

For more information about possibly becoming a live donor, visit DoneVida.org. And if you are not yet a registered organ donor, simply pick up the small form at any DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles), fill it out and turn it in to DMV. You will get the pink dot sticker that will go on your license or ID, and the next time you get it renewed, it will be included in the printing of your ID or license. ★

County Offers Job Seekers a Connection with California Public Utilities Commission

Yolo County Press Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - YoloWorks! Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency and the Yolo County Workforce Innovation Board, in partnership with Sacramento Employment and Training Agency, and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), are hosting a Virtual Open House on September 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This virtual open house provides job seekers the opportunity to connect to more than 14 departments at the CPUC to discuss available opportunities.

Attendees will gain access to live virtual booths where they can ask questions directly to departments or schedule 1:1 chats with department ambassadors.

Interested parties can register for the job fair virtual open house at <https://tinyurl.com/CPUCRecruitment> and by visiting the YoloWorks! webpage.

The CPUC has various positions open, including internships, analysts, engineers, Administrative Law Judges, attorneys, managers, information technology, consumer assistance and more. The CPUC offers opportunities for professional development, telework opportunities, and competitive benefits packages. Registration for the event is free and open today!

For more information, please contact Erica Johnson, HHSA Program Coordinator, at erica.johnson@yolocounty.org or call/text (530) 631-2289. ★

Catch a Ride at CruiseFest!



Check out the CruiseFest on Fulton Avenue this year. Photo: California Automobile Museum

California Automobile Museum Press Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On Saturday, October 2, 2021, from 3 to 7pm, to the delight of thousands of spectators, hundreds of eye-popping custom and classic cars will be CRUISING up and down Fulton Avenue, from El Camino to Marconi.

CruiseFest on Fulton Avenue is a benefit for the California Automobile Museum.

We were roadblocked last year due to Covid but we’re back and making plans for a spectacular 10th Anniversary celebration of CruiseFest on Fulton Avenue, Northern California’s premier car cruise!

Come for the cars...stay

for the music, food trucks & beer garden.

In terms of special featured vehicles, here’s a quick sample, with more announcements to follow. We’ll keep you updated as more commit.

Save Mart’s 12-foot tall mega-motorized shopping cart—Powered by a 454 Chevy engine, it can accommodate a handful of passengers and a few bags of groceries.

And new to CruiseFest, answering the Bat Signal ... the 7th “replica Batmobile” ever built, owned by Bob Goldsand of Meadow View. There are only 14 of the licensed replicas in the world and Bob’s is the lucky #7 car. These are the Batmobiles that were fully licensed and authorized by DC Comics and Warner Brothers.

Holy BatRaffle!

There will be a RAFFLE to WIN A RIDE in the Batmobile at a mutually agreed date and time. Tickets are \$5. Must be present to win.

Due to the growth in popularity, our last cruise was a sell-out....CRO. (cruising room only) So early registration is advised.

CruiseFest is FREE to the attending spectators!

Cruisers-Please register at calautomuseum.org - Museum members - \$40 / Non-members - \$50 / Day of - \$75 or call the Museum at (916) 442-6802

California Automobile Museum is a 501c3 non-profit organization located at 2200 Front St., Sacramento. ★

Five Hundred Smiling Faces



Whimsy and Wishes Princess and La' Shawnte. Photo provided by Michele Townsend

Continued from page 1

bags of groceries available to anyone who wanted them, Yolo County Children’s Alliance gave away free diapers and other needed items. Best of all, everyone was smiling! Quirina said “Today was exactly why I ran. It’s one thing to sit in a meeting and vote on things; it’s another to celebrate local heroes, but celebrating the community and all of its diversity where everyone openly comes together is why I love this community so much!”

Quirina is quick to say that this event was such a huge success because of all of the people that were a part of it, in

whatever part that was. “It was just a great day!” she said. The following organizations collaborated in order to bring this together; Elite Sound for the music; Matt Hargrove; Yolo Board of Supervisors – namely Oscar Villegas and Gary Sandy.

In addition, the Yolo Food Bank, Waste Management, League of Heroes Inspired, Yolo County Children’s Alliance, Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, Councilmember Orozco, Habitat for Humanity, BBCAN, Washington Unified School District, Girl Scouts Heart of Central Calif., RCDC, Home Run/ City of West Sac, Bryte Culinary program, Northern California Construction Training, Elkhorn PTO, Boy Scouts, Lighthouse Charter School, Parks and Rec, Nugget, Grocery Outlet, Whimsy and Wishes, Peggy Bell – Children’s action team, River City Democrats, Broderick Love, Luis the Paletaero, Blyue Rose Dance Project.

These organizations came together in a big way, for a lot of people. Last but certainly not least, Quirina would like to thank her children Alexis, Erika and Noa for running the face painting and other booths. Only around 20 people got vaccinated, but that 20 more than were yesterday and the goal is just to keep everyone healthy. ★

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MEMORIAL NOTICE

LaVerne Cano

May 5, 1966 to August 25, 2021

Passed away unexpectedly in Broderick, CA. Lived all her life in Broderick, CA, briefly in Yuba City, CA. Proceeded in death by her mother and father, Jacqueline Corona and Gabriel Cano, along with her late husband, Alfred Scott Ramirez. Survived by her two sons, Steven Gomez and Panchito Carrera, her two brothers, Gabriel and Vol Cano, two sisters Wendy Fish and Catherine, many Aunts and Uncles, nieces and nephews, cousins, but especially her first born grandson, Steven Gomez, along with Cita the granddaughter she raised, with many other grandchildren in heart and mind as she passed.

Celebration of Life held 10/02/2021, 2PM at Elkhorn/ Broderick Park, 890 Cummins Way Broderick, CA 95605. Pot luck, bring a dish if you can.

Thank A Veteran Today

McCarty and Senator Pan Present Latino Center of Art & Culture \$1M



The Latino Center of Art and Culture received a \$1 million check from Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D – Sacramento) and Senator Richard Pan (D- Sacramento) on September 15th at Winn Park. From left to right: Jim Gonzalez - Latino Economic Council, CEO; Cathy Rodriguez - Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, President/ CEO; Councilmember Katie Valenzuela, (Behind councilmember) Cruz Naranjo, Arts Commissioner (District 4), Senator Dr. Richard Pan; Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D – Sacramento); Marie Acosta, Executive Director, LCAC - Carissa Gutierrez, Board Chair, LCAC. Photo provided by Office of Assemblymember Kevin McCarty

Office of Assemblyman Kevin McCarty

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D – Sacramento) and Senator Richard Pan (D- Sacramento) presented a \$1 million check to the Latino Center of Art and Culture (LCAC) on Wednesday, September 15th at 3:30pm at Winn Park.

Founded in 1972 – during the Chicano Civil Rights Movement of the 1970s—as La Raza Bookstore, the center has become a hub to Sacramento’s Chicano artists. In 2014, the Center became the Latino Center of Art and Culture.

The LCAC provides programs that help artists and communities affected by either race, class, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or immigration status. LCAC offers new insights into contemporary, emerging Latinx art, while supporting and maintaining centuries-old cultural traditions that

speak to and reflect Latino identity and history.

The funds from Assemblymember McCarty and Senator Pan were made possible through the 2021 California budget and will be used to renovate the building at Winn Park, which will then be occupied by LCAC.

“The Latino Center for Arts and Culture provides a safe haven for artists and for the Latin Community to congregate, learn and share their rich culture,” said Assemblymember McCarty. “It’s a much needed space during these divisive times.”

“I am excited to support the Latino Center for Art & Culture, which celebrates, and preserves art and culture of Chicano, Latino, and Native populations in Sacramento, in establishing a new home in Winn Park thanks to state dollars we secured,” said Dr. Richard Pan. “The Center’s new home will enable growth of the artistic and cultural contributions of

Sacramento’s Latinx community to our region’s rich, diverse cultural offerings.”

“The Latino Center for Arts and Culture is a critical institution in our community,” said Councilmember Katie Valenzuela, who will be speaking during the event. “Helping them find resources and space to conduct their programming has been a high priority for our office. This \$1 million will help them establish a cultural hub and further activate Winn Park. I applaud Assemblymember McCarty for making this dream a reality!”

“The Latino Center of Art and Culture, Sacramento’s second oldest cultural institution, is honored to have a new home in Winn Park. We thank Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, Senator Richard Pan and Councilmember Katie Valenzuela for making this new home a reality,” said Latino Center of Art & Culture Executive Director, Marie Acosta. ★

Sacramento Tall Club Rises to New Heights



Bob Huggett, president of Sacramento Tall Club. Courtesy photo

By Thomas J. Sullivan

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Members of the Sacramento Tall Club (STC), a social club of men and women in Rancho Cordova who share a special common attribute are looking to grow their membership.

Club members are once again meeting socially for lunch, dinners and “TGIF” events, while following state and social pandemic protocols.

Open to singles and couples, the STC is an active group of people who are tall and love getting together and having fun,” said their president, Bob Huggett. “Anyone at least 21 years of age may join if they meet the club’s height requirements.”

Women must be at least 5’ 10” tall, and men must be at least 6’ 2” (measurements are taken barefoot). Huggett said if you are a spouse of a regular STC member, you may still be an associate member if you

don’t meet the height requirement.

Huggett, a 6-foot-7-inch chief engineer at the California Department of General Services, describes what it’s like to be vertically gifted and the camaraderie he’s found since joining the STC.

“Well, advantages are, of course, being above the others, [but] you’re always looked at a little bit differently when you’re tall. Not every place is built for tall people. Not every airplane I get in has enough headroom and legroom and all that stuff,” Huggett said.

Huggett said STC members are looking at new ways through MeetUp and social media to attract younger members to join the group as the base age of club members is climbing.

“We want to share the fun and fellowship we’ve enjoyed through the years as club members as we welcome new people, and begin building new friendships,” Huggett said.

The STC is a member of Tall Clubs International (TCI). Established in 1982, the STC lists some 80 active members in the greater Sacramento region, and a few members from as far away as Reno and Stockton.

Huggett said he is especially proud that one of STC’s own, Folsom resident Rusty Bloomquist was honored with the 2021 Tall Clubs International (TCI) Frank Winker Lifetime Achievement Award this summer.

Bloomquist, who has

served terms as STC treasurer, vice president and sergeant-at-arms, was cited for his work as national TCI vice president during the pandemic to encourage national membership and providing advice to those seeking to launch new local TCI chapters.

The STC awards scholarships to eligible graduating high school seniors.

“They must meet our height requirements and write an essay on “What Being Tall Means to Me,” Huggett said. Local scholarship winners can go on to compete for a second national scholarship award.

“We put on all kinds of events which satisfy the variety of tastes of our club members. We try to have get-togethers at fun places such as bar and grills, interesting restaurants, night clubs, and whatever else we can think of that’s likely to be fun and enjoyable,” Huggett said.

“Without the height, we’re just normal people, and there’s nothing really different about us. In the club, that’s really the only common trait we have: We’re all tall,” Huggett said. “It costs nothing to attend one of our events and check us out.”

Upcoming events for the Sacramento Tall Club are posted on social media including Facebook and Meetup, Huggett said. Call 916-469-8255 to learn more about upcoming events or visit their web page at sacramento-tallclub.org. ★



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This Is Not about Freedom or Personal Choice



Commentary
by Jane M. Orient, M.D.

Today we have two contrasting quotations from world leaders. One said: “Mandatory vaccinations will never be allowed because [this] is a free country and its people are sovereign.” The other said: “This is not about freedom or personal choice.”

The first was by Vladimir Putin. Russia, a free country! The second was by Joe Biden. The U.S. is no longer a free country, and the people are not sovereign. Nor are the once-sovereign states. If state governors won’t cooperate with him, “I’ll use my power as president to

get them out of the way.” It is not clear exactly how he would accomplish that. Invade the state and occupy its capitol and its courts? Arrest the governor and perhaps the legislature and throw them into prison without bail like some January 6 demonstrators? Already, many states are suing – perhaps we will learn whether the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution has any meaning.

Who would have believed that a U.S. President would ever say such things?

Biden claims jurisdiction over 17 million healthcare workers, especially if they work in a facility that gets funding from Medicare or Medicaid. “If you’re seeking care at a health facility, you should be able to know that the people treating you are vaccinated – simple, straightforward, period.”

Never mind if the alternative may be having *no* qualified person to care for you. Never mind if the unvaccinated worker, who cared for people before there were vaccines, got infected,

recovered, and now has better immunity than vaccinated people. Never mind that workers with 20 years of dedicated service will have their careers and their livelihoods ruined if they don’t obey the dictator. Never mind that some of the obedient servants die – just coincidentally? – a few days after the shot. Or that some experience heart damage or paralysis. The government with its sovereign immunity does not have to compensate them, and neither do the vaccine makers or administrators, who are protected under the mantle of government.

“This is a pandemic of the unvaccinated,” states Biden. This non-evidence-based assertion is false. The most vaccinated countries in the world, including Israel and Gibraltar, are having the worst outbreaks. Both vaccinated and nonvaccinated persons shed virus, get hospitalized, and die. In the UK, a majority of the COVID-19 deaths last month were among vaccinated people, with a death rate dramatically higher than a year ago, when

there was no vaccine.

Why, besides vaccine failure, would public health officials be pushing for continued masking, distancing, and a “booster” injection a few months after a person is “fully vaccinated”?

Can we blame it on the Delta variant? Did unvaccinated persons make it? Or did the vaccine, with its narrowly targeted immunity, actually select out this variant, creating or worsening the problem? Dr. Robert Malone, an inventor of mRNA vaccines, talks about “escape mutants.” Could we be creating a “monoculture” immunity, which like monoculture agriculture, is disastrously vulnerable if a resistant pathogen comes along?

Not content with owning the bodies of healthcare workers and federal employees and contractors, Biden appeals to the private sector, such as employers of 100 or more persons, to exert his will on other Americans. “To those of you running large entertainment venues from sports arenas to concert

venues to movie theaters, please require folks to get vaccinated or show a negative test as a condition of entry.”

To “protect” children under the age of 12, who are at very low risk, Biden wants everybody around them to get the vax—teenage siblings, parents, caregivers. Children over 12, that magic threshold, should get vaccinated, Biden says, and he “strongly supports independent scientific review for vaccine uses for children under 12.” He adds: “We can’t take shortcuts of that scientific work.” So far, the scientific process has been anything but independent. Moreover, studies are not scheduled to be complete before the end of 2022, and studies on myocarditis, to which teenage boys may be most vulnerable, until 2027. Any shortcutting there? And how long would fertility effects take to show up in a child who is 11 when vaccinated?

The satirical *Babylon Bee* has dubbed the program: “Your body, my choice.” Are you pregnant, worried about a miscarriage? Hoping to be

pregnant? Aspiring to an athletic career? Do you have a history of allergies, but have not yet had anaphylactic shock from polyethylene glycol (PEG) or Polysorb 80?

The choice of what risks you have to take will be Biden’s. But the consequences will be all yours.

Jane M. Orient, M.D. obtained her undergraduate degrees in chemistry and mathematics from the University of Arizona in Tucson, and her M.D. from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1974. She completed an internal medicine residency at Parkland Memorial Hospital and University of Arizona Affiliated Hospitals and then became an Instructor at the University of Arizona College of Medicine and a staff physician at the Tucson Veterans Administration Hospital. She is the editor of *AAPS News, the Doctors for Disaster Preparedness Newsletter, and Civil Defense Perspectives, and is the managing editor of the Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons.* ★

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Cost-of-Living Crisis Continues to Drive Up California’s Poverty Rate

California Business Roundtable News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - According to data published by the U.S. Census Bureau, California continues to have the worst poverty rate among all states when adjusted to account for government programs designed to help low-income families and necessary expenses for critical goods and services.

“More people live in poverty in California than in any other state because of our high and rising costs of living. More than 16 percent of Americans living in poverty live in California, despite being home to just 12 percent of the population,” said Rob Lapsley, president of the California Business Roundtable. “Driven by our housing and overall cost-of-living crisis, more Californians struggling to make ends meet are falling into poverty.”

California’s cost-adjusted poverty rate (2018-2020 average) was 15.4 percent, while 16.5 percent of all Americans living in poverty live in California. Rates among the other states ranged from 5.9 percent in Minnesota to 14.5 percent in Mississippi (16.5 percent in DC), with the US average at 11.2 percent and the average among all

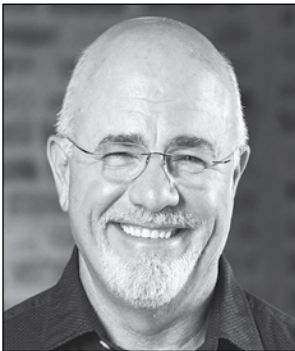


The cost of everything is going up. Photo by Anna Shvets, Pexels.

states other than California at 10.6 percent. For the first time, California residents paid more for electricity in March 2021 than the average for all other states in the nation. They also continue to pay the highest gas taxes and prices in the country and for the ongoing housing crisis through increased housing costs. As tracked by the Center for Jobs and the Economy’s Affordability Index, nearly all necessity costs for the average California family continue to increase.

“Unfortunately, it is likely that our poverty crisis will continue to get worse,” Mr. Lapsley continued. “We are seeing a significant increase in

inflation, which will drive costs up even higher. At the same time, a series of new and expensive energy mandates are being implemented, which will drive up the cost on home electricity, gasoline, goods and services, and housing. And let’s not forget the more than \$200 billion in new and higher taxes introduced by the California Legislature in 2021 alone. Without prioritizing focus on affordability and honest discussion of the price Californians are paying for new and expensive regulations, fees and mandates, we will never address the growing poverty crisis in our state.” ★



Dave Ramsey Says

Think of an Emergency Fund as Insurance

Dear Dave,

I have decided it’s time to get control of my money. Your plan sounds workable, but I talked to some friends about it, and they think I would be better off using a credit card for emergencies. Can you explain why you advise saving a separate emergency fund?

– Leslee

Dear Leslee,

When bad, unexpected things happen, like a job layoff or a blown car engine, you shouldn’t depend on credit cards. If you use debt to cover emergencies, you’re digging a financial hole for yourself. My plan will walk you out of debt forever, and a strong foundation of any financial house includes an emergency fund.

Putting together a fully funded emergency fund is Baby Step 3 of my plan for getting out of debt and gaining control of your money. Before you reach this point, however, steps one and two should be completed first. Baby Step

1 is saving \$1,000 for a starter emergency fund. Baby Step 2 is where you pay off all debt, except for your home, using the debt snowball method.

A fully-funded emergency fund should cover three to six months of expenses. You start the emergency fund with \$1,000, but a full emergency fund can range from \$5,000 to \$25,000 or more. A family that can make it on \$3,000 per month might have a \$10,000 emergency fund as a minimum.

What is an emergency? An emergency is something you had no way of knowing was coming – an event that has a major, negative financial impact if you can’t cover it. Emergencies include things like paying the deductible on medical, homeowners or car insurance after an accident, a job loss, a blown automobile transmission or your home’s heating and air unit suddenly biting the dust.

Something on sale you “need” is not an emergency. Fixing the boat, unless you live on it, is not an emergency. Want to buy a car, a leather couch or go to Cancun? Not emergencies. Prom dresses and college tuition are not emergencies, either.

Never rationalize the use of your emergency fund for something you

should save for. On the other hand, don’t make payments on medical bills after an accident while your emergency fund sits there fully loaded. If you’ve gone to the trouble of creating an emergency fund, make sure you are crystal clear on what is and isn’t an emergency.

Also, keep your emergency fund in something that is liquid. Liquid is a money term that basically means easy to access with no penalties. I use growth-stock mutual funds for long-term investing, but I would never put my emergency fund there. I suggest a money market account with no penalties and full check writing privileges for your emergency fund.

Your emergency fund account is not for building wealth. It’s an insurance policy against rainy days!

– 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 20 million listeners each week. He has appeared on “Good Morning America,” “CBS This Morning,” “Today,” Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and 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. ★

How the Covid IP-Waiver Could Sabotage Crucial Cancer Research

Commentary by Andrew Spiegel

President Biden craves a cure for cancer. In a speech to Congress this spring, he vowed to “end cancer as we know it.” And as Vice President, he helped start the Cancer Moonshot initiative.

Yet by giving his backing to a global waiver of intellectual property rights for Covid-19 vaccines, President Biden may have endangered millions of Americans living with cancer.

The Biden administration has said that it would join a World Trade Organization move to suspend IP safeguards for the vaccines. Its intentions are no doubt sincere, founded in the belief that a waiver will help rid the world of Covid. Yet the setting aside of IP protections has consequences that the administration seems to have overlooked.

If adopted, the waiver won’t galvanize the supply of vaccines bound for the developing world - certainly not in the immediate term. What it will do is threaten scientific innovation that could lead to cures for cancer and other diseases.

I’ll explain why. Technically, the waiver supported by the United States would only apply to IP on Covid vaccines. So what has this got to do with cancer?

There are two consequences. First, intellectual property underpins

scientists’ incentives to make discoveries. Without proprietary “armor” to protect research, rivals could blithely - and lawfully - use scientists’ know-how, data, or manufacturing processes.

Second, waiving IP on underlying vaccine technology has ramifications for drug innovation. Since the same technologies are used for potential treatments for other diseases, vaccine-makers would have to give up IP on those projects too.

Consider the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines. They use “mRNA” to promote an immune response to Covid-19, a technology that took decades to develop. With the successful rollout of mRNA Covid-19 vaccines, researchers in the United States and Germany now hope they can use mRNA to fight other viruses. Moderna has active trials for mRNA vaccines for Zika, HIV, and the flu.

Cancer doctors and patients pray that mRNA is the key to a cure. Moderna, in fact, has two mRNA vaccine candidates for cancer. Researchers hope that mRNA could instruct the body to combat cancerous tumors like it fights a virus.

With the IP waiver, Moderna’s mRNA technology could end up with rivals, leaving the company with greatly diminished incentives - and greatly diminished investment dollars - to

continue with mRNA clinical trials, including ones for cancer. Advanced drug innovation could come to a halt. What investor would fund biotech startups if copycats can swoop in?

This scenario is made especially distressing by the fact that the upsides of the IP waiver are negligible. Manufacturers need specialized facilities and hundreds of ingredients to make vaccines. Vaccine-makers have struck licensing deals to scale up production. Every facility on earth that can safely produce effective vaccines is already doing so. Getting rid of IP won’t make the scale-up go any faster. It could, however, unleash millions of shoddy copycats and event counterfeit vaccine doses.

President Biden has shown how he can help vaccinate the world without holding mRNA research hostage. For instance, he has already agreed to donate 580 million of the United States’ surplus vaccine doses to COVAX - a WHO, CEPI, and Gavi co-led initiative to distribute Covid-19 vaccines to developing countries.

With President Biden, the cancer community has an ally in the White House. And yet, with the IP waiver, he’s undermining the only industry that may find a cure for cancer.

Andrew Spiegel, Esquire is the Executive Director of the Global Colon Cancer Association. ★



River City Weekly Sports

Game Dates 9/24 to 9/30

RC Sports

Friday 9/24
Football BYE Week
Girls Water Polo @ Woodcreek Tournament
Girls Tennis @ Dixon

Saturday 9/25
Girls Water Polo @ Woodcreek Tournament
Boys Water Polo @ Dixon

Tuesday 9/28
Girls Volleyball @ Grant
Girls Tennis @ Monterey Trail

Tuesday 9/28
Boys/Girls Water Polo @ McClatchy
Girls Volleyball @ Laguna Creek
Girls Tennis @ Grant



Game Times

All Day
4:00 p.m.


All Day
TBD

4/5/6 FR/JV/V
4:00 p.m.

Boys@4/Girls@5
4/5/6 FR/JV/V
4:00 p.m.

Raider Scoreboard

Football
9/3 Woodland
9/10 Antelope
Girls Volleyball
9/7 Laguna Creek
9/9 Kennedy
Girls Tennis
9/9 Laguna Creek
9/10 Davis
Boys Water Polo
9/10-9/11 Sierra Shootout/
Chuck McCollum Tournament
Girls Water Polo
9/11 McClatchy
Tournament
X Country
XC Invitational



RCV 7/WHS 40
RCV 7/AHS 56 RCJV 12/AHS 12

FR won/JV won/Varsity lose in 5 games
JV lose/Varsity won in 5 games

RC 8 / LC 1
RC 8 / Davis 1

RC Boys won 2 and lose 2

RC Girls took First Place

Ryan Martin: medals in 2 races
Hannah Amundsen: medaled in 1 race
Madhavi Hooks: medaled in 1 race

Season Records	League	Overall
Football		0-3
Girls Tennis	1-0	5-1
Girls Volleyball	1-1	2-4
Boys Water Polo		2-2
Girls Water Polo		3-0

Social Security Matters

Will Retiring Early from Work Affect my Social Security?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I stopped working at age 55, well before my full retirement age of 66 years and 10 months. I had over 35 years working prior to retiring from work. I don't intend to start collecting Social Security until my full retirement age. Will I be penalized for all those years between when I stopped working and my full retirement age?

Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning Ahead: Will you be "penalized?" No, because whenever you claim your Social Security benefit, it will be based upon the highest-earning 35 years over your entire lifetime (with the early years adjusted for inflation). Would your benefit be higher if you had continued to work and have high earnings longer? Probably, because earnings in the latter part of one's career are usually considerably higher than those in the early years. But everyone's situation is different.

Higher earnings today don't necessarily replace those in earlier years because of the inflation adjustment. For example, someone with \$50,000 in



1990 earnings would need to earn more than about \$115,000 in today's dollars to replace the earlier year. And keep in mind that your benefit computation uses only the dollars which you paid SS taxes on. So, someone earning \$500,000 this year would, for benefit computation purposes, only get credit for \$142,800 in earnings because the latter amount is what Social Security FICA (or Self Employment) taxes were paid on.

It is from your highest-earning 35 year history that your Average Indexed Monthly Earnings or "AIME" is determined, followed by yet another formula to convert your AIME to your "primary insurance amount" or "PIA." Your PIA is what you are entitled to in the month you attain your full retirement age (FRA). If you claim before your full retirement age you'll get less than your PIA, and if you claim after your FRA, you'll get more than your Primary Insurance Amount. If you delay claiming past your full retirement age, you'll earn delayed retirement credits (DRCs) up to age 70, at which time your benefit could be as much as 29% more than your PIA. Of course, you can also claim

at any time between your FRA and age 70 to get all DRCs you've earned to the point you claim.

So, as you can see, the Social Security benefit you get will be determined by two main things - your 35 year lifetime earnings history, and the age at which you claim. You can't do much now to change your 35 year earnings history (short of returning to work and having very high current earnings), but you can control when you claim. And that decision, of course, should consider your health and your life expectancy, how badly you need the money, and your marital status. Your marital status is important if your spouse can collect a spousal benefit from your record, or if you are concerned about the amount your survivor(s) will receive if you die first.

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Are You Ready for Fall?

Dr. James L. Snyder

With such a tumultuous summer, I'm glad we are now beginning the fall season. There for a while, I didn't think it was going to come. But, contrary to my negativity, it has arrived, and I'm delighted.

Summer wasn't quite the way summers have been in the past. My family didn't have many get-togethers and picnics like we normally do. However, we did have one, and that had to do for the summer. I'm hoping next summer we can catch up.

During the past summer, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage said several times, "When will this heat ever go away?"

I would always laugh and say to her, "When it is ready to go."

She did not send a smile back at that time, but I still was smiling.

As we were getting closer to the fall season, the rain just came without a hint of letting up.

"When," my wife said, "will this rain ever stop?"

As soon as she said that, she looked at me and said, "That was not a question for you to answer."

I laughed because I had an answer right on the tip of my tongue.

I like to enjoy one season, because it always prepares me for the next season.

Of course, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is entirely against that. She would prefer that the season be the same all year long. But I like change.

I like to enjoy one season, and then I want to prepare myself for the next season.

The bad times during one season prepares me for the good times in the next season. If I didn't have a bad time, I wouldn't recognize a good time.

As we were sitting watching TV the other night, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage says, "I really don't like change. I wish things would stay the way they are."

"Well," I said, "you certainly have changed through the years."

She looked at me with a scowl and said, "What do you mean?"

Then I tried explaining to her that we've been married 50 years, and when we started our marriage, we were quite different than we are today.

"I'm not the person you married 50 years ago."

She looked at me rather quizzically and said, "Who are you?"

She stared at me, and then both of us broke out in hilarious laughter.

There are two aspects of change; either for good or for bad. Each season brings in the kind of change needed to prepare for the next season.

I don't know what this fall season will bring with it. I'm glad I don't know because I probably would start the season with great discouragement instead of expectation.

As we discussed, my wife said, "and you are twice the man I married 50 years ago." I thought about that and looked at her rather strangely, and then she broke out laughing. I was hoping she wouldn't explain.

Thinking about that I was reminded of a verse of Scripture, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Right now, I'm in the season where God can bless me. I don't know what the next season holds for me but I do have faith in God to fully prepare me for the upcoming change.

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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Crossword Puzzle on Page 8

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E	R	O	D	E		A	D	O		F	I	R	E	S			
T	E	N	E	T		R	A	M		A	L	G	A	E			
H	O	T	M	A	I	L		B	U	R	N	E	R				
			A	I	D			S	O	L	O						
C	A	R			L	O	C	I		T	U	G	R	I	K		
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R	I	N	K					E	A	H		D	E	N	T	S	

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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Ridden or pushed around yard

6. Chlorofluorocarbon

9. Spiral-horned antelope

13. Make a canyon, e.g.

14. Much of this about nothing?

15. Forest destroyers

16. Basic belief

17. Popular pickup

18. Lake scum

19. "Popular email service eventually bought by Microsoft

21. "CD "maker"

23. FEMA's assistance

24. Musician's time to shine

25. Stephen King's Christine, e.g.

28. Plural of locus

30. Mongolian monetary unit

35. Wraths

37. Jar covers

39. Like yellow polka dot bikini?

40. Desert in China and Mongolia

41. Knight's mount

43. Cogito ____ sum

44. Change the Constitution, e.g.

46. Ready and eager

47. Table mineral

48. "Jennifer Aniston-inspired haircut, with "the"

50. Bank on

52. Modern prefix

53. Beacon light

55. Oolong, e.g.

57. * ____ Sese Seko, overthrown Zairian dictator

60. "African National Congress leader released from prison

64. Like a candle?

65. "1997's "Fly" by Sugar

67. Lowest point

68. Smart ____

69. Marching insect

70. Opposite of digest

71. "Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan's domain

72. Employer Assisted Housing, acr.

73. Fender bender consequences

DOWN

1. Crystalline hydrochloride, colloquially

2. Nabisco top best-seller

3. Refuses to

4. Bodily swelling

5. Not wholesale

6. Lewis of sprinting and long jumping fame

7. Vaccine-approving agency, acr.

8. Burger, fries and soda

9. Brick-drying oven

10. It's hard to resist

11. Precedes Abby

12. Consume, as in drugs

15. Slang for radical or cool, 2 words

20. America's singer choices

22. Last, abbr.

24. Weapon in a holster

25. Fidel Castro's smoke

26. Pleasant odor

27. Renaissance instrument resembling a violin

29. "TV hit "Sex and the ____"

31. "Bee ____"

32. What many TV hits have done

33. Fireplace

34. * ____ Protocol, climate change-related international treaty

36. Hyperbolic sine

38. Withered

42. COVID-19 variant

45. Expose the falseness

49. " ____ the Games Begin!"

51. Pined

54. Sign of a saint, pl.

56. "Bad news travels fast," e.g.

57. Algeria's neighbor

58. Plow-pulling duo

59. "Where It's At" singer

60. Urban story

61. Adam and Eve's garden

62. "Oscar winner "Schindler's ____"

63. A in BA

64. "Gulf ____ or Bosnian ____

66. American Nurses Association

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 8

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6	4	9	2	7	1	8	3	5
1	5	4	6	8	7	3	2	9
2	7	3	1	9	5	4	8	6
9	8	6	4	2	3	5	7	1
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California’s ‘Corridor of Corruption’ Yields New Case



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

Six years ago, the HBO network aired an episode of “True Detective,” an anthology of complicated crime stories. It was set in the fictional Southern California city of Vinci, a cesspool of corruption and crime obviously based on Vernon, once described as “the most corrupt five square miles in California.”

In addition to fictionalizing Vernon’s sordid history, the episode folded in California’s bullet train project, but it was deservedly flailed by critics as incoherent.

Vernon, unfortunately, is not an isolated example. The southeastern quadrant of Los Angeles County is rife with municipal malfeasance, and was once dubbed a “corridor of corruption” by state Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon. Numerous local officials have been charged with bribery, self-dealing and other transgressions.

Last week, the Los Angeles County district attorney charged four men, including former state Sen. Frank Hill, with stealing \$20 million that the City of Industry advanced to a company called San Gabriel Valley Water and Power LLC for a solar

power project that never materialized.

The case stems from a battle among several cities for control of a 2,500-acre cattle ranch called Tres Hermanos in the Chino Hills, which was to have been the project’s site.

Hill, a Republican who was snared in a federal investigation of Capitol corruption three decades ago and spent four years in prison, was a consultant on the project. Others facing charges are William Barkett, owner of San Gabriel Valley Water and Power, attorney Anthony Bouza, and former Industry City Manager Paul Philips, now city manager of Bell, the scene of another corruption scandal a decade ago.

Philips and Bouza allegedly handled the funds, which between 2016 and 2018 were routed to an account controlled by Barkett, according to the district attorney’s office.

“While some of the money was paid to other vendors, Barkett is accused of spending about \$8.3 million on personal items. He also allegedly falsified or altered invoices to inflate the amount,” the DA’s office said.

Barkett is no stranger to questionable financial dealings. As I wrote about the Tres Hermanos squabble nine months ago, “In 1993, federal authorities unsealed an indictment of him and eight other persons involved in what was described as a penny stock scheme aimed at defrauding elderly retirees.

“Two years later, the charges were dismissed by a judge, who cited

unreasonable pre-trial delays by prosecutors. A decade later, Credit Suisse, an international banking company, accused Barkett of misappropriating millions of dollars he had borrowed to launch a large farming operation in the San Joaquin Valley. The suit was later dropped after a confidential settlement.”

Barkett is the scion of a politically powerful Stockton family and in the interest of full disclosure, the head of the family sued me and the Sacramento Union for libel four decades ago after I wrote a column about his influence. We were exonerated by a San Joaquin County jury.

The City of Industry is also no stranger to corruption allegations. In 2009 the Los Angeles Times probed the city’s insular structure, revealing, as it noted last week, that “for years, the city government was headed by former Mayor Dave Perez, who owned trash-hauling and maintenance companies that racked up millions of dollars a year in contracts with the city...”

“An audit years later by KPMG found that Perez’s companies had made a fortune off the city, with contracts valued at more than \$326 million,” the Times reported.

Once again, the corridor of corruption yields a case of insider dealing, but it’s not the first and won’t be the last. The corridor’s surface has barely been scratched.

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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By Amy Shane

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September's Cover Love and Favorites

Enola Holmes And the Black Barouche by Nancy Springer

Fans of the Netflix movie will be thrilled to discover that Enola Holmes is back with a whole new adventure. As the younger sister of the infamous Sherlock Holmes, it is no surprise that Enola is a strong, confident, independent girl even at the age of fifteen. With all the skills, wit, and independence of her brothers, this time it's Enola's turn to uncover the truth behind the Black Barouche and the missing wives of the Earl of Dunhynch. However, going undercover turns out to be more difficult than she first intended, and this time she might need the sleuthing help of her brother, Sherlock.

Fans of the series will fall in love with Enola all over again as this story perfectly continues Enola's story. Nancy Springer delivers all the wit, determination, and spirit of the adventurous young Holmes. The perfect story for fans of the movie and an empowering read for young girls.

Once Upon A Broken Heart by Stephanie Garber

Raised in her father's curiosity shop, Evangeline Fox grew up on beautiful stories filled with



magic and fairytales. Evangeline didn't need to see evidence of the magic; she knew in her heart it existed. So, when her heart becomes shattered by her one true love, she knows there is only one person who can help, The Prince of Hearts. The Prince of Heart's ill-fated kiss alone was worth giving up the world, but this time the price might be more than she is able to give. The Prince of Heart wants more, and he always gets what he wants. Now, Evangeline will have to determine just how far she will go for her fairytale happy ending.

Stephanie Garber takes her readers by the hand and leads them into a story of broken hearts and Happily Ever After's, teaching readers to beware of making a bargain with Fate. Powerful storytelling opens the door to an imaginative,

magical world that will have readers falling under Garber's spell and believing in Fates and fairytales. However, watch out, readers; you might find yourself in love with a mischievous Fate, leaving you on your own dangerous quest for love.

The Lost Girls by Sonia Hartl

Holly Liddell has been sixteen for thirty years, and she is ready for revenge. It's not just the fact that she still has crimped hair or that the only job she can get is fast food; it's the fact that her Vampire ex, Elton, has cast her aside for another. Even worse, Holly discovered she wasn't his only love. But fate has its own plan, and when all the exes meet, they decide to take back their power and kill their vampire ex once and for all, breaking their eternal ties. It's a perfect plan, except Holly falls in love with Elton's new girlfriend. Will Holly be able to face her past, kill their ex, and get the new girl?

Sonia Hartl takes her readers into a story of vampire bad-girls banding together to seek revenge, but along the way, discovering who they are and what they mean to one another. A fun story for fans of the 80's vampire movies. ★



Riley Reviews

"COPSHOP" B-MOVIE THRILLS DONE RIGHT; "KATE" ON NETFLIX

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"COPSHOP" RATED R

The production of a B-movie could either be a low-budget commercial film or in the broader sense a genre picture with an exploitative or even campy quality, which might describe any number of action thrillers starring Gerard Butler.

The B-grade is often used in a pejorative sense to diminish the artistic appeal of an action picture, but for "Copshop," in which Butler has a key role, that would be an unfortunate misjudgment.

Butler's Bob Viddick is a man of mystery, but first the proper set-up is to observe that Frank Grillo's Teddy Murreto is equally enigmatic as he drives along an isolated Nevada desert highway in a car riddled with bullet holes.

Why is Teddy on the run, but more puzzling, why does he sucker-punch police officer Valerie Young (Alexis Louder) who is trying to break up a wedding brawl outside a casino?

Teddy wants to get arrested so that he's safely tucked away in the jail at the remote police station of Gun Creek, little aware that assassin-for-hire Bob is on his trail and just as eager to stage an ostensible drunk-driving accident to end up in a cell across from Teddy.

What ensues is a lot of tough-guy jabbering between the two jailbirds, as Teddy has a bounty on his head that seemingly has something to do with the murder of the state's Attorney General and missing documents in a briefcase.

The reasons for the political assassination are not only murky but actually prove irrelevant to the plot. Bob wants to kill Teddy, while Teddy just wants to find out if his ex-wife and son are safe, but from what or whom we don't really know.

Meanwhile, a truly psychotic killer named Anthony Lamb (Toby Huss) shows up at the police station carrying birthday balloons and a machine gun, and then promptly goes berserk in a bloody rampage.

With most of her colleagues falling victim to the psycho and after being injured herself, Officer Young manages just barely to find refuge in the holding cells and is faced with the dilemma of deciding whether to trust Bob or Teddy for help.

Trust is hard to come by at this police station when one of the officers has a keen interest on retrieving contraband stored in the evidence locker. What's his connection to any of the criminals?

As good as Frank Grillo and Gerard Butler may be as relentless adversaries, Alexis Louder's rookie cop steals

the show with her wit and intelligence as well as fearless bravery in the face of extremely challenging circumstances.

Capturing the essence of '70s exploitation, "Copshop" proves to be similar in a good way to a grindhouse film with the feel of something Quentin Tarantino might have directed flanked by "Reservoir Dogs" and "Pulp Fiction."

Best of all for this entertaining, rousing thriller, filled with tough dialogue and even rougher violence, is the climactic moment of an escape that leaves room for a sequel that one hopes brings director Joe Carnahan ("Smokin' Aces") back behind the camera.

"KATE" ON NETFLIX

While we're on the subject of violent action thrillers, why not take a look at Netflix's "Kate," a brutal drama involving an assassin in Japan racing against the clock after being poisoned to hunt the party responsible for her condition.

As the titular character, Mary Elizabeth Winstead's assassin, mentored in the craft by a father figure in Woody Harrelson's Varrick, bears a lot of similarity to "Gunpowder Milkshake," another recent Netflix film. Or think of Natalie Portman in "Leon: The Professional."

Not to divulge too many details, Kate violated one of the rules of a professional killer, which is why she was poisoned by a deadly dose of Polonium-204 and can only keep going with occasional jabs of adrenaline.

In the quest to find her killer, Kate teams up with rebellious teenager Ani (Miku Patricia Martineau), who has ties to the Japanese underworld but is disaffected with her criminal relatives who have made her an orphan.

The storyline for "Kate" is hardly distinctive. Winstead's Kate is to Harrelson's Varrick what Maggie Q's Anna is to Samuel L. Jackson's Moody in "The Protégé," at least on the superficial relationship of a female contract killer to her male mentor.

In the final analysis, "Kate" is a derivative pastiche of the genre, cursorily satisfied with seizing only the most ruthlessly intense and borderline sadistic actions of a professional killer operating in a fantasy underworld.

Of course, since Winstead's Kate has only 24 hours to live, all niceties must be dispensed with in her headlong rush to kill every Yakuza scumbag that stands in the way of her ultimate target.

While "Kate" may waste its star's versatile talent, mindless escapism is not necessarily something to dismiss as we breathlessly await better films at the multiplex. Good thing that the next James Bond film "No Time to Die" is just around the corner. ★

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WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

AT LAST I'VE CREATED THE PERFECT LITTLE COMMUNITY FOR MY ACTION FIGURES.

DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT GERALD THE MIGHTY GIANT IS ABOUT TO ATTACK!

NOW FACE THE WRATH OF MY POWER AS I PUMMEL YOUR TOWN TO OBLIVION!

I THINK WE DEFINITELY NEED TO CUT BACK ON THE SUGAR WITH THAT BOY.

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

SHHH, SHHH, WE'LL HEAR YOU... HERE HE COMES...

I'VE SURE HOPE HE'S NOT PLANNING ONE OF HIS SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTIES FOR ME.

R.F.D.

by Mike Marland

WHY ARE THERE ALWAYS SO MANY ROCKS RIGHT WHERE YOU WANT TO DIG A HOLE, DAD?

WELL, JUNE, IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER...

I'D SAY THEY'RE ALL IN CAHOOTS!

QUICK, EVERYONE! OVER HERE!

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LAFF-A-DAY

"Being a true bipartisan committee, we have reached two different conclusions!"

"He's been that way ever since he found out it doesn't read 'Beware of the Dog!'"

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

IN SOME HOUSEHOLDS THE MAN IS CONSIDERED TO BE THE KING!!

IN THIS HOUSEHOLD YOU ARE CONSIDERED TO BE THE TWO OF CLUBS!!

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO

Puzzle Pic - Find the guy who pulled every string to avoid doing jury duty - but no dice - he had to serve - now listen to him...

I wouldn't have missed it for the world - it's every citizen's duty - a great experience - privilege - I have served - yessir - always wanted to...

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TSK-TSK-TSK - YOUR HAIR IS IN TERRIBLE SHAPE - WHO CUT IT LAST?

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B-BUT-I'VE HEARD SHOVELING SNOW CAN BRING ON A HEART ATTACK...

NO, NO! I'VE HEARD IT'S INACTIVITY THAT DOES IT...

THANKS TO TOM ALVAREZ, FORT CHARLOTTE, FL.

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

WHY DO I GET A BAD FEELING? CREDIT CARD BILLS GENERALLY DO NOT REQUIRE TWO ENVELOPES.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF

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What Parents Need to Know about Returning to School

By Kirsten Clausen, Safe Schools for All

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Five Key Reminders as California Schools Reopen:

California school districts are close to fully reopening for the 2021-22 school year. Seventeen of the 20 largest districts have reopened with the other three on schedule to reopen soon. By implementing the right precautions, such as wearing masks indoors, parents can feel confident about their children being back in school for full, in-person learning.

“With the help of scientists and medical professionals, we have gathered a lot more information about the coronavirus since it first hit America more than a year ago and those learnings are being applied to the new school year,” said Dr. Naomi Bardach, team lead for the Safe Schools for All program. “It is imperative that we work together to support learning and growth for all students by fully reopening schools, which play a vital role in our communities.”

“Living with the virus has become our reality and we are learning to adapt,” continued Dr. Bardach. “There will continue to be challenges this school year but with a multi-layered strategy in place — testing, vaccinations, masking, improved



California school districts are close to fully reopening for the 2021-22 school year. MPG file photo.

ventilation — we are confident this is the best path to safely returning to in-person learning.”

“As we dig into the school year, there are several things that parents should keep top of mind that will directly impact their children’s safety and well-being. Here are five key areas that I recommend paying close attention to,” recommended Dr. Bardach.

Vaccinations remain key to COVID-19 prevention in kids.

Medical research has shown that children are less likely to catch the coronavirus than older students and adults. Most children contract the virus from a close relative in their home, not from other students or school personnel. Vaccines substantially reduce the need for quarantines, especially in middle and high schools;

Remember all teachers and staff in K-12 public and private schools are required to get vaccinated

or undergo weekly COVID-19 testing.

The requirement to get vaccinated or weekly COVID-19 testing applies to the state’s 320,000 public school teachers and more than 250,000 support staff — from cafeteria employees to campus custodians — and at least 80,000 private school employees, according to the California Department of Education and labor unions. It will also pertain to school volunteers. These individuals will set

the tone on our campuses and ensuring their safety allows for more focus on the students.

School-associated cases are evidence that schools are screening out COVID-19.

Schools are creating safe spaces through layered approaches including testing and contact tracing which supports identifying cases, in addition to sending ongoing notifications to keep parents updated. Vaccinations for anyone 12 years of age and older and masks

for all students supports schools in being safe spaces for students.

Schools reopening promotes mental and social-emotional health.

The last year and half has been a long and hard challenge for many of our students. The absence of school structure has led to social isolation and anxiety which severely impacts student’s social and emotional development. Research supports the reopening of schools to promote the mental, social-emotional and academic well-being of students. We must do all we can to mitigate the substantial effects of students remaining out of in-person learning. We want them back doing the things they love – socializing, spending time with their friends and playing sports.

The Delta variant remains a concern.

The presence of the Delta variant has created a need to increase testing capacity in many schools, although children are not the principal drivers of virus transmission. Vaccination is the best way to protect against the Delta variant. Unvaccinated children may safely return to school, but that makes other protective measures such as masking more important for them.

For more information and ongoing updates, parents can visit <https://schools.covid19.ca.gov/pages/parent-page>. ★



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West Sacramento, CA 95691

www.springmedicalclinic.com • (916) 265-6309

1 **FREE** Regular B-12 Shot (\$10 Value) or
FREE 1 Page Body Composition Summary Report (\$10 Value)

Just stop by anytime during clinic hours

Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer now or in the future, nor used as monetary "value" towards the costs of any other service. No Cash Value. Limit one certificate per household. Offer good for NEW PATIENTS and/or returning Spring patients that have not been to Spring in over a year.

MANDATORY ORGANICS SERVICE COMING SOON

Starting in January 2022, all businesses are required to have organics service or face enforcement from the City of West Sacramento.



What Is California’s Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy (SB1383)?

In recent years, California has experienced record setting heat, drought and wild fires attributed to climate change. SB 1383 addresses climate change by reducing the methane emissions caused by landfilling organic waste. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas with 84 times the heat trapping potential of carbon dioxide.

The new law sets targets for organic waste reduction:

- By 2025, divert 75% of organic waste to composting facilities.
- Recover at least 20% of currently disposed edible food by 2025. Learn more at www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp

Shown below are items defined as organic waste.



Food Waste



Food-Soiled Paper



Yard Waste & Untreated Wood

AVOID FINES - SIGN UP FOR ORGANICS SERVICE NOW.

Waste Management offers organic carts and bins in two different sizes:



35 & 64 gallon organic carts



2 & 3 yard organic bins

Contact Waste Management at (866) 844-1508 to sign up for organics service. Learn more at www.calrecycle.ca.gov/organics/slcp

