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Grapevine Independent

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Leading for a Better Life

David M. Sander, Ph.D. Steps into Presidential Role



David M. Sander Ph.D., Rancho Cordova's Mayor elect, speaks at the National League of Cities 2023 City Summit in Atlanta, GA. Photo courtesy of City of Rancho Cordova

City of Rancho Cordova News Release

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - Over the weekend, City of Rancho Cordova Mayor-Elect David Sander stepped into his new role as National League of Cities (NLC) new president during NLC's 2023 City Summit in Atlanta, GA.

Sander will serve a one-year term with a special focus on innovation as NLC recognizes its 100th anniversary in 2024.

"I am honored to be elected President of the National League of Cities at such an important time in our organization's history," said NLC President David Sander, Mayor-Elect of Rancho Cordova, CA. "As long as they've



Rancho Cordova Mayor-Elect David M. Sander Ph.D. receives the NLC gavel from former president, Mayor Victoria Woodards of Tacoma, Washington. Photo courtesy of City of Rancho Cordova

existed, the laboratories of democracy that we call cities, towns and villages have been essential in building partnerships and driving innovation in our country. I look forward to working closely with the incredible group of local leaders that make up our Board

of Directors and our NLC membership as we envision what's possible for our communities over the next 100 years."

Sander has served in the roles of mayor, vice mayor and city councilmember on a rotating basis since the founding

of the City of Rancho Cordova in 2003. He has been involved in community engagement efforts in Rancho Cordova and has been recognized for his service with several awards – including being named to the National Academy of Public Administration in 2012, being recognized as the Sacramento Region's Elected Official of the Year in 2006 and being named Volunteer of the Year by both the Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce and the Cordova Community Council in 2002. He is also formally trained as a virologist and is the Principal and Founder of Sander and Associates, a scientific consulting firm. #CitySummit2023 National League of Cities ★

FBI Warns of Charity Scams in Israel, HAMAS Conflict

FBI News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Sacramento Field Office is warning the public that criminals are soliciting donations during the Israel-HAMAS conflict. These charity scams victimize both well-meaning, local communities, and the vulnerable populations impacted by life-changing catastrophes.

Scams are especially prevalent during times of increased conflict such as war, natural disasters, or epidemics. Criminals often use these crises as opportunities to exploit individuals seeking to support humanitarian efforts. Perpetrators claim to be associated with established charities or creators of new charities associated with emergent conflicts.

Local communities may be targeted by individuals claiming to collect funds for victimized families while using the donations for their own personal gain or in support of domestic or international criminal enterprises.

Foreign terrorist organizations often establish fake charities using social media platforms to misdirect unwitting donors to subsidize their operations. Solicitations are then coordinated via social media posts, e-mail, cold calls, or crowdfunding website requests.

To avoid becoming a victim:

Approach all unsolicited communication including direct messages, calls, and e-mails with suspicion;

Visit the official website of a charitable entity directly to obtain contact information rather than clicking on links in e-mails or assuming the unsolicited call is from an official source;

Thoroughly research new charities online and verify phone numbers or e-mail addresses before donating. Be sure the named charity is not associated with scams and uses funds as they claim;

Ensure that you are using the official website of a well-known charity. Criminals may create look-alike, "spoofed" websites with URLs similar in appearance to those of known organizations;

Visit the California Attorney General's Charitable Registry Search tool to ensure a charity is registered in the State of California;

Visit the IRS Tax Exempt Organization Search to see if a charity donation to the organization is tax deductible;

Continued on page 3

Select the Best Gifts at the MACC

Story and photos by Margaret Snider

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - Winter Art Fest 2023, the Rancho Cordova Arts annual holiday market for local art and artists, began nine years ago with 12 artists. The name at that time was the Holiday Pop-up Art Gallery, since it popped up in a temporary location for the holidays. This year 23 artists, the largest number ever, will show and sell their artwork at the Mills Station Arts and Culture Center where the event is located for the seventh time.

This year the event lasts for two weekends – noon to 6 p.m., Friday through Sunday, November 24-26, and December 1-3. The second weekend will be the last chance to see this unique collection of art in one place.

Offering their work this year are Kim Brownell, Jennifer Coulter, Ciara Cumiskey, Jenny Estrada, Emily Goldhahn, Judy



Ciara Cumiskey's medium is oil painting. "I pride myself very much on my artwork being joyful, or calm ... kind of make beauty and peace and share it with other people." Photo taken during setup.

Gustafson, Deborah Kelly, Debra Kreck-Harnish, Polly LaPorte, Marsha Mason, Andrea Medina, Sherry Lynn Morris, Linda Nunes, Cathy O'Donnell, Dawn Pedersen, David Peterson, Jennifer O'Neill Pickering, Judy Pinner, Fabienne Sowa-Dobkowski, Aziz Takhai, Mary Teabo, Donine Wellman, and Sid Wellman.

All the artists are members of Rancho Cordova Arts, which became in 2018 a 501(c)3 nonprofit. Membership now has reached 234.

"It's been busy," Nunes said. "There's such wonderful art here ... cold wax and all kinds of painting, and David Peterson with his cars, and so many

beautiful things." The art includes photography; oil, acrylic, and watercolor painting; encaustic; textile art; upcycled art; jewelry; ceramics; mixed media, and more. Artists are present at their stations to talk to visitors and help select the best gift for everyone on their list. Continued on page 2

Select the Best Gifts at the MACC



Polly LaPorte loves painting birds, and she gets particular pleasure in doing pet portraits for her customers.

Continued from page 1

Goldhahn's work includes many repurposed things, and she has made a number of unique Christmas ornaments, including some tiny, embellished umbrellas. "This was an idea that I had one morning in the shower, raindrops and all," Goldhahn said.

Mason's teacup cards are always well-received, and this year she has furniture as well. This includes a classic, mid-century nightstand, a kid's chair from the 1920s, a small drop-leaf table that has a chess board on the top, and a "pie safe" for which she painted an original abstract on the backboard.

Cumiskey's medium is oil paints. "I like to think of (my art) as a little bit of peacefulness and a little happy moment," Cumiskey said.

The Cordova Community Council invited local artists to start meeting regularly in 2011, putting out the first 'Call for Artists' for the 'Genesis' show at Rancho Cordova City Hall in 2011. Over the years, CCC has been instrumental in promoting and nurturing Rancho Cordova Arts and expanding its capacity.

"Come and support artists



David Peterson, while setting up his artwork at the MACC said of his watercolors, "There are some people who like the looseness, the freedom, and I try to build in composition, all the color . . . so you can look at it for 20 years on your wall."



Debra Kreck-Harnish specializes in assemblage. "Assemblage is a collection of objects that then make up another object," she said. "I see a face in something, or a skirt or a head, and they make their sculpture, I'm just a medium."

this year and make your dollars creative and locally spent," said MACC art director and curator Cheryl Gleason.

The MACC is located at

10191 Mills Station Rd., Rancho Cordova. For more information, please call Cheryl Gleason, (916) 273-5712, or e-mail cheryl@cordovacouncil.org.

Retired Assemblyman Cooley Awarded at Council of State Governments West

Special Release from Former Assemblymember Ken Cooley

LOS ANGELES, CA (MPG) - On Monday, November 13th, The Council of State Governments West (CSG West) conferred its prestigious Bettye Fahrenkamp Award for Distinguished Legislative Leadership on behalf of Western States to retired California Assemblymember Ken Cooley.

The honor was bestowed amidst the first day's proceedings as CSG West kicked off its 76th annual meeting in Los Angeles.

The annual Fahrenkamp Award presentation recognizes leaders whose legislative careers display an ability to see and work beyond the border of their own states in the interest of the West. The award honors Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp of Fairbanks, Alaska, who served with distinction in the Alaska State Senate from 1979 until her untimely death in 1991.

During Ken's time in the California Assembly, he was regularly active in CSG West and in 2015 was among the "by-invitation-only" participants in its Western Legislative Academy. (The WLA is held annually at conference facilities in Colorado Springs, Co.)

This year's Fahrenkamp Award presentation highlighted Ken's leadership



Ken Cooley was bestowed the prestigious Bettye Fahrenkamp Award for Distinguished Legislative Leadership on Monday, November 13, at the Council of State Governments West 76th Annual Mtg in Los Angeles, Calif. In the image with him is the Presiding Officer at this year's main sessions, California Assemblymember Mike Gipson of Carson, California, making the official presentation. Photo courtesy of CSGWest

role in Chairing, during 2019-2020, the inaugural Legislative Oversight Working Group at CSG West. In December 2020, the working group published for use by the CSG West member states a first-ever Western Legislative Oversight Handbook. (The western states making up CSG "West" are Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.)

Ken is often quoted to the effect "effective oversight is the most vital superpower the Legislature must exercise on a bicameral and bipartisan basis to

fulfill its "People's House" duty." He believes legislative bodies must be the eyes and ears of the public they represent to perform their "check and balance" role ensuring executive branch accountability. To this end, in 2014 he led the creation of a California Assembly Oversight Handbook which is now online.

The Council of State Governments West (CSG West) champions excellence in state governance by providing state legislators and staff with collegial growth opportunities around substantive educational programs on vital contemporary matters of common concern across the west.

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City Workers Earn their Stripes



City of Rancho Cordova employees Edgar Medina, Doug Rietz, Danielle Hale, Ashley Kobe, Russell Ducharme and Amanda Norton represented the City very well at the PRSA awards. Photo courtesy of City of Rancho Cordova

City of Rancho Cordova News Release

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - Staff in the City of Rancho Cordova are always striving for the best – as seen by the multiple awards and certifications recently achieved!

In the Building and Safety Department, Permit Technicians Naomi Smith and Brooke Lindquist recently obtained their ICC Permit Technician Certification. Obtaining the Permit Technician Certification demonstrates that one has a solid working knowledge of the construction codes and standards, and the certification provides professional recognition in the Building & Safety industry. Senior Building Permit Technician Wyatt Peter-Soliz earned his ICC Commercial Building Inspector Certification and ICC Commercial Plans Examiner Certification, and Building Inspector Brandon Labelle also obtained his ICC Commercial Building Inspector Certification and ICC Building Inspector Certification.

Additionally, Alexxiss Diaz in the Community Engagement Division attended the Municipal Management Association of Northern California (MMANC) conference earlier this month and was chosen as the recipient for the MMANC Wes McClure Award. The award seeks to recognize outstanding Student Members who attend a recognized professional school for the purpose of entering the profession of public administration or local government management.

The city's Communications Team recently received two awards from the California Capital Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). The

team received awards in two categories, including Collateral Materials/Publications and Special Events. The Communications Team received an award for the 20th anniversary of cityhood campaign which included art exhibits, parades, community celebrations and more. The 20th anniversary book also won an award, which can be viewed at CityofRanchoCordova.org/experience/20th-anniversary.

Dalia Fadl and Edgar Medina in the Public Works Department both were honored with well-deserved awards. Principal Engineer Dalia Fadl received an Outstanding Service Award from the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA). Over the past three years, Dalia has contributed to CASQA as a dedicated board member and served as the board's chair for the last two years. Principal Engineer Edgar Medina was selected as an American Public Works Association (APWA) Sacramento Chapter Manager of the Year in the Transportation category. He helped deliver numerous complex projects in partnership with the Public Works Team, contractors and other project partners. Additionally, Assistant Civil Engineer Jesse Yabes obtained his professional engineering license.

"I'm proud of our dedicated team for their outstanding achievements, from winning prestigious awards to successfully completing new training programs. Congratulations to all!" said Rancho Cordova City Manager Micah Runner.

To view job opportunities with the City of Rancho Cordova, visit CityofRanchoCordova.org/Jobs. For more information about the City of Rancho Cordova, sign up for our e-newsletter at CityofRanchoCordova.org/ENews. ★

Sacramento Kings and SMF Announce Historic Partnership

Sacramento County Department of Airports News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Kings and Sacramento International Airport (SMF) announced a groundbreaking partnership, marking one of the first formal partnerships between a U.S. airport and an NBA franchise. Over the next three seasons, SMF will serve as the official airport partner of the Sacramento Kings.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Sacramento International Airport and provide fans and travelers exclusive touch points to the Kings," said Sacramento Kings President of Business Operations John Rinehart. "Through unique co-branded experiences, we will magnify what it means to be Sacramento Proud while creating impactful moments for all who travel to and from the airport."

"SMF has proudly served as the departure point for Kings road games for many years, so this partnership represents an evolution for our respective teams," said Sacramento County Department of Airports Director Cindy Nichol. "This collaboration provides us an opportunity to work with one of the most creative marketing teams in the NBA."

This partnership holds importance for the Sacramento community as it represents a fusion of two influential entities dedicated to enhancing the local experience. The historic collaboration opens doors to innovative initiatives that will directly benefit the local population,

allowing them to engage with their favorite basketball team in unique and exciting ways including opportunities to win exclusive Kings prizes, interact with Kings personalities at select events at the airport and view franchise memorabilia. From exciting game-day activations to social media content and community-driven programs, this partnership aims to generate lasting memories for fans while fostering a strong sense of unity and pride among Sacramento residents.

Beyond the local impact, this collaboration also marks a significant milestone in the realm of sports partnerships in California showcasing the innovative spirit of both SMF and the Sacramento Kings. By pioneering this unique partnership, SMF and the Kings are not only breaking new ground in the state but also inspiring other organizations to explore unconventional collaborations that can enrich communities and create memorable experiences for fans.

As this partnership unfolds over the next three seasons, SMF and the Sacramento Kings are committed to delivering unparalleled experiences, both within the airport premises, Golden 1 Center and throughout the Sacramento region. Together, they are set to redefine the way communities interact with sports and travel, setting a new standard for partnerships that prioritize community engagement, creativity, and shared enthusiasm. Sacramento can look forward to a bright future, filled with exciting events, innovative initiatives, and a sense of camaraderie. ★

FBI Warns of Charity Scams in Israel, HAMAS Conflict

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Never pay by cash, gift card, wire transfer, or cryptocurrency. Each of these forms of payment are difficult or impossible to track and reverse.

The FBI urges the public to report these fraudulent or suspicious activities to the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center at IC3.gov. The public may also call their local FBI field office or resident agency. ★

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Dave Ramsey Says

extended plan is 30 years of not even making the principal payment. No interest is paid, and they don't touch the principal. The whole thing works backward for 30 years, and it's the very definition of a stupid government program.

I really don't think you want your daughters to be part of something like this. But that means you're going to be stuck with paying off these loans. You might as well just own it and pay them off now.

I want you to understand this, Mike. I don't advise people to dip into their savings every time a problem comes up prior to retirement. But you're 59 1/2, and at that point there's no penalty. Plus, you've got \$625,000 sitting there. You're going to pull less than \$60,000 out, plus a little in taxes, to make the problem go away. It's not as bad as it could be, but I'm afraid you're going to have to pay a little stupid tax on this one. I'm sure your girls didn't know all this, but it's a perfect example of what can happen when you put your faith in a stupid plan coming out of Washington, D.C.

I hate it for you guys—and everyone else in America who took out a bunch of student

loans—because you're getting messed over by your own government. The first way they messed you over was to put a student loan program out there and then tell you the way to success was to borrow tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars for a degree in left-handed puppetry. And now, guess what? You're a barista! Then, they start shouting they're going to forgive it all. After that it's, "No, we're not. Yes, we are. No, we're not. Yes, we are."

The fact is, they don't intend to forgive it. It's the biggest scam in history—mathematically speaking—perpetrated on the American public by our government.

—Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of "The Ramsey Show." He has appeared on "Good Morning America," "CBS This Morning," "Today," "Fox News," "CNN," "Fox Business" and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company Ramsey Solutions. ★



The New Arab Street Is Here At Home

The old conventional wisdom was that the U.S. couldn't be too pro-Israel for fear of inflaming "the Arab street."

The new conventional wisdom will have to be that we can't be too pro-Israel for fear of inflaming "the Western street."

The Arab street, a hoary cliché of commentary on the Middle East for decades, was a reference to public opinion in the Arab countries, with the strong implication that if we offended it, the result would be massive anti-Western demonstrations and perhaps violence.

Well, here we are, with this dynamic playing out throughout the United States and other Western countries. We have offended the new Arab street within our own societies. In response, it has lashed out in mass protests, intimidation of Jews, antisemitic chants and graffiti, property damage and anti-patriotic acts and sentiments.

It is hardly the global intifada that speakers at these events call for, but it is significant agitation. Left-of-center political parties will take it seriously, and the Biden administration -- hesitant to speak of antisemitism without reference to fashionable Islamophobia, as well -- has already been influenced by it.

The Arab street in the West is not literally Arab, although Muslim immigrants and their children,

along with foreign students, are clearly a large component. Woke young people who come by their anti-Israel views via intersectional politics, along with traditional left-wing and anti-war activists, play a big role, too.

It makes for a noxious mix. The West's Arab street mobilized in the immediate aftermath of October 7 before Israel even had the chance to mount any substantial response. It inveighed against Israel on principle even after an unspeakable pogrom.

Of course, things have only picked up from there. A week or so ago, more than 300,000 pro-Palestinian protesters marched in London, chanting for the elimination of Israel. That would be a notable crowd in an Arab capital, but it's especially remarkable in one of the greatest cities in the Western world.

In a nice touch that, again, one would expect in a country in the Middle East, the protest march ended at the U.S. Embassy.

A couple of days earlier, thousands of protesters shut down midtown Manhattan. They vandalized a police cruiser, writing "IDF KKK" on it, and splattered fake blood on the New York Times building. They kicked and smashed windows at a shut-down Grand Central Station.

Unlike other mass movements, most famously the civil-rights movement, the protesters don't seek to swath themselves in American symbolism and ideals. Palestinian flags, not American flags, are the banners of these marchers. In Manhattan, they removed American flags from a lamppost.

And they've vandalized war memorials in Europe.

In some prominent cases, we have directly imported hatred of ourselves via the Middle East. At a large pro-Palestinian rally in Washington, D.C., the lawyer and activist Lamis Deek praised martyrdom and resistance, and belittled that "the truth is the Western world is a lie." She comes from Nablus, and her worldview is about what you'd expect of someone from there.

At MIT, Israeli and Jewish students say they were blocked from attending class by a pro-Palestinian protest at the school's main entrance. The protest violated the rules, but when the school ordered all protesters to leave the area or face suspension, the contingent of Jewish counter-protesters left, while the pro-Palestinians stayed.

Were they suspended? No, apparently because many of them are foreign students. The president of MIT cited "visa issues" in not following through on the discipline.

This is perverse. But we can never forget the extent to which we ourselves, through determined inculcation in our own schools, have made students from right here in the United States haters of Israel and the West. Altogether, we've created the conditions for the ongoing cataract of anti-Israel agitation, coupled with outright antisemitism and harassment of Jews, that shows no signs of abating.

Why settle for an Arab Street abroad, when you can have one here at home?

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Advertised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 05, 2023.

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And Another Thing What is Your Favorite Holiday Movie?

By Bob McGarvey

The trees are changing the colors of their leaves as they lose them before the winter comes in. Our little grandchildren would enjoy jumping into the piles of leaves before it would rain and get them all wet. The wind going through those leaves would bring them to life, and some of us would seem to be a whispering, listening audience. It was almost like the leaves were singing a melody for the people who were passing by. That brings many memories of the past when we were young, and the autumn would bring so many colors and sounds to our young eyes and ears.

Onward to other things, like onward to Christmas cards. I am one of those people who likes to send Christmas cards in the mail. Many people send their cards on line, but we enjoy receiving Christmas cards in the mail, and we can have them part of our decorations during the holiday. When I was in the stores, it was nice to look at the cards they have on display. As I said before, there aren't any decorations outside for Thanksgiving, but there are a few cards which can be sent for that holiday. I have to admit I haven't sent any of those cards, but perhaps we can get a few in the mail anyway We'll see.

My wife and I were able to go to Florida on vacation a couple of weeks ago to see two of our children. We had a great time being with them and talking to their families while we were there. Something that stuck out very quickly

was the cost of gasoline there. The average cost was from \$2.98 to \$3.25. It would be very nice if some of that gas could find its way to Rancho Cordova or other places in California. The best price we have found right here is \$4.09 a gallon. That is definitely better than what it was a few months ago, but like everything else, we think our cost shouldn't be as high as it is. All that aside, we really enjoyed getting together with a couple of our children.

What is your favorite holiday movie? White Christmas, A Miracle on 34th Street, Its a Wonderful Life, A Christmas Carol, or maybe your favorite movie isn't well known by many, but it is still your favorite. Maybe it is a religious movie or a movie like Home Alone, or Hallmark Christmas movies. Whatever movies you like the most in the holidays are important to you. You can enjoy your favorite movie and not worry about whether there are too many others who like it, too.

When I was going to college, something that is very important to me came from the sociology teacher who asked if I was a self-starter. They said that it was very important for me to be a self-starter. You, too, should not depend on someone else on what to do or what to say. That comment was much more important than I thought it was initially. Maybe being a self-starter will help you, too.

Another thing which is very important is to remember Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. It should never be forgotten.

From Bob McGarvey, God bless, and see you next time. ★



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Production Layout/Graphic Design – This part-time position assists with the layout of the newspapers and works with the production staff to create our weekly newspapers. Must have good working knowledge of InDesign production programs. Must be able to work within our current system and be able to take direction to meet our deadlines. Previous layout experience is a must. This is an entry level position. Work hours are between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm. This position is in our Gridley office and begins in January.

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City Reporter – We are seeking a part-time City Reporter for our newspaper group. This position may be assigned to work in the Carmichael office or another area office and works directly with the Editor. Work hours are flexible depending on assignments. Previous reporting experience is required.

Advertising Services Support – We are seeking a part-time Advertising Services Support person for our newspaper group. This position works in the Carmichael office and works directly with the owner of the company and the advertising/graphics staff. Work hours are flexible between 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Previous office experience is required.

Delivery Driver – We are seeking a part-time Delivery Driver for our newspaper group. This position would transport newspapers from our Carmichael office to our offices in Marysville and Gridley. Work hours are from 8:30 to 4:00 every Thursday. Must be able to lift and move bundles of newspapers without assistance. Must have your own reliable cargo van. This is an independent contractor position and pays a flat rate for your service.

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A Murky Forecast



Storms have arrived in California. The Oroville Spillway at Lake Oroville in Butte County is ready for a wet year. Photo courtesy California Department of Water Resources

By Rachel Becker,
CALMatters.org

As forecasts tease California with rainstorms this week, the state's reservoirs are already flush with water.

It's a big departure from a year ago: The state's major reservoirs — which store water collected mostly from rivers in the northern portion of the state — are in good shape, with levels at 124% of average. In late 2022, bathtub rings of dry earth lined lakes that had collectively dipped to about two-thirds of average — until heavy winter storms in January filled many of them almost to the brim.

Yet healthy water levels don't mean California's reservoirs are full. Most of California's large reservoirs are operated for flood control as well as water storage, with space kept empty to rein in winter storm runoff.

The wet season has arrived in California, with El Niño conditions projected to continue strengthening. But for the Golden State, with its unpredictable swings from dry to wet and back again, El Niño doesn't guarantee heavy rainfall.

And as California's water managers plan for the water year ahead, they're faced, as always, with their dueling responsibilities: forestalling floods while preparing for possible scarcity in a state where water supplies are often stretched thin and long

droughts are common.

When state climatologist Michael Anderson looks into California's water year ahead, he says the crystal ball is cloudy.

Threats of a major storm dissolved into showers in parts of California this week, with another surge of rainfall expected to wrap up this weekend. Rainfall is only expected to reach 1 to 2 inches statewide through Saturday morning, with light snowfall predicted in the Sierra Nevada mountains at higher elevations.

"Overall this is looking to be a beneficial rainfall event for Southern California, which is definitely welcome during the typical peak of our fire season," the National Weather Service office for San Diego reported earlier this week.

Some headlines heralded it as the first storm of many as El Niño continues to strengthen and intensify. Characterized by warming of the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, El Niño is often expected to bring wetter weather.

But in California, the connection is more tenuous. Of seven El Niño events over the past 23 years, Anderson said, two have been dry, three have been roughly average and two have been wet. One recent study reported that El Niño accounts for only about 25% of the year-to-year variability in California's rain and snowfall during the winter.

"What that tells me is

anything goes," Anderson said. "El Niño by itself doesn't define our water year."

In fact, the year is actually off to a drier start: Statewide, California has seen only about 45% of average precipitation since this water year began Oct. 1.

Marty Ralph, director of the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes at UC San Diego, suspects that it's atmospheric rivers like the ones that pummeled California last year that will determine whether El Niño will bring a firehose or a trickle to California.

"It's like you're playing poker, and you've got a good hand — that's El Niño for us. But we haven't finished the round of the game, and we still have to draw a couple cards," Ralph said. "But we might not draw the good cards."

With seasonal outlooks unable to reliably say whether a winter will be wet or dry, water managers must plan for both.

Fortunately there's some wiggle room this year, according to Jeanine Jones, the Department of Water Resources' interstate resources manager. Last year's massive snowpack and abundant rainfall filled the state's reservoirs enough that even if this rainy season leans dry, she said, "We're going into next year with a cushion, which is always good."

That doesn't mean the reservoirs are full, though. Lake Oroville — the largest reservoir on

the State Water Project, which sends water south to farms and cities — and Lake Shasta — critical to growers and other water users reliant on the federal Central Valley Project — are at about two-thirds of their total capacity.

That's because with reservoirs that serve the dual purpose of flood control and water storage, water managers must release water to keep space empty to wrangle possible floods during the wet season, Jones said.

The water that flows into rivers and streams and out to the ocean is often bemoaned as water wasted. But waste is in the eye of the beholder, said Jay Lund, vice-director of the Center for Watershed Sciences at UC Davis.

"Water that's 'wasted' is always water used by somebody else," Lund said.

The list of benefits for fishing, conservation, Delta farmers, water quality and healthy shorelines is lengthy. Water allowed to flow out into the San Francisco Bay, for instance, washes away salts and pollutants, transports sediment and sand necessary to maintain marshes and restore eroding beaches, assists salmon in migrations and helps maintain healthy ecosystems.

Still, the Public Policy Institute of California reports that California could have socked away more water last year, had there been better ways to ferry water from full rivers

to groundwater recharge sites, and better coordination among landowners, local agencies, and others.

"I tend to think that there is room for capturing more surface water ... if you could afford the cost of capturing it," agreed Lund. "That, to me, is the biggest problem."

The controversial Sites Reservoir project, for instance, is projected to cost more than \$4.4 billion. The reservoir, planned in the western Sacramento Valley, would store as much as 1.5 million acre-feet of Sacramento River water, alarming environmental groups that say drawing more water from the river will imperil its already-struggling fish.

In early November, Gov. Gavin Newsom cleared the project to be fast-tracked "to the extent feasible" through any litigation challenging it under the landmark California Environmental Quality Act. That move was made possible with new legislation. Even so, the project is not expected to be completed before 2030 or 2031.

In the meantime, researchers like UC San Diego's Ralph, along with local, state and federal agencies, hope to operate the state's reservoirs more nimbly by incorporating new weather forecasting tools into decades-old rulebooks governing when to hold onto water and when to release it.

The program allowed

the Russian River watershed to hold onto about 7,000 to 8,000 acre-feet more water in Lake Mendocino this past year, and an additional 19,000 acre-feet more in Lake Sonoma, according to Donald Seymour, deputy director of engineering with Sonoma Water. The Department of Water Resources announced that it is expanding the effort to two major reservoirs, Lake Oroville and New Bullards Bar, as well.

Many are looking down rather than up for opportunities to store more water. The Department of Water Resources estimates that about 3.8 million acre-feet of water was captured through groundwater recharge by last summer.

The Southern California water import giant, the Metropolitan Water District, also recently announced a \$211 million groundwater bank in the Antelope Valley. The bank can store 280,000 acre-feet of water, enough to fill Castaic Lake, the largest State Water Project reservoir in Southern California. Though construction to allow withdrawals hasn't been completed yet, the bank stands ready to accept deposits.

The bank is aimed at providing a little more net for the tightrope walk that California's water managers start anew every water year.

"We always plan for it to be potentially very dry, or very wet," said Brad Coffey, Metropolitan's water resources manager. "No matter what kind of year we had this year." ★

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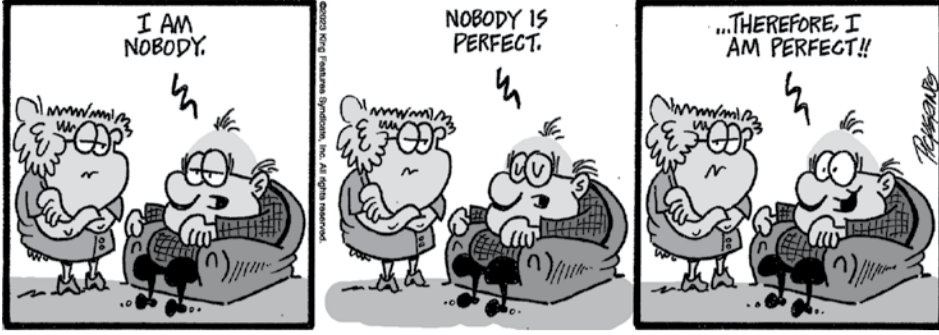


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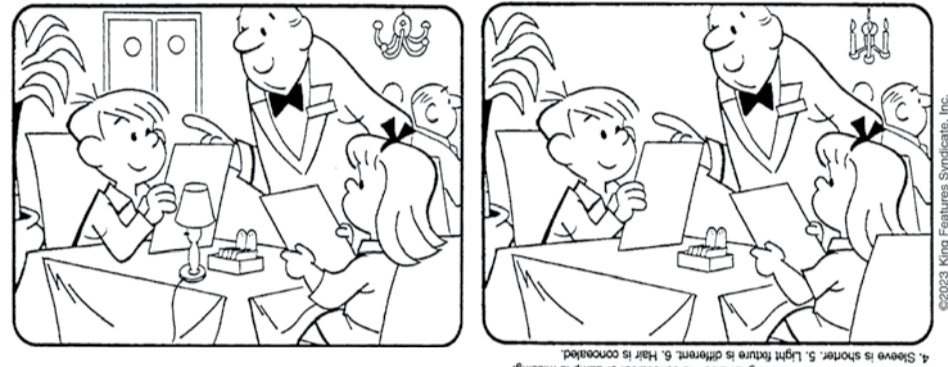
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.



GRIN TO BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • MATH 101

- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Loaded up
 - Tube in old TV
 - Pouches
 - Tequila source
 - Stick in water
 - Jig's French cousin
 - TV's "___ Secretary"
 - Money in Myanmar
 - Photoshop maker
 - "Result of multiplication"
 - "Whole number"
 - "Say 2+2 is 5, e.g."
 - Arctic floater
 - Dashboard acronym
 - Fountain serving
 - Spanky or Alfalfa
 - Short for "hurry up"
 - Live bait
 - Turn upside down
 - Cassette contents
 - Retire from military, for short
 - Jason's vessel
 - Sicker
 - "Sight for ___ eyes"
 - Puppy cry
 - Denver option, at a diner
 - Apartment
 - Green turtle's domain
 - Final
 - Personal trainer's place of employment
 - "Venn ___"
 - "Point in 2.5"
 - Barrel racing meet
 - Gobbled up
 - On the rocks (2 words)
 - "Fields Medal to a mathematician, e.g."
 - Sports official, for short
 - 8 of something
 - Like Gulf Stream
 - Big bang maker
 - Required things
- DOWN**
- "I lift my ___ beside the golden door"
 - Petri dish gel
 - Carpenter's groove
 - Dodge, as in tax bill
 - Takes exception to
 - Native Egyptian, in Roman times
 - *Line with one endpoint
 - Path in the woods
 - Left or right, e.g.
 - Awestruck
 - *Three-dimensional figure with 6 square faces
 - Palm reader, e.g.
 - Cake with filling
 - Three people?
 - Neither here ___ there
 - Subcontract (2 words)
 - *1,2, e.g.
 - Sacred song
 - Canada's favorite tree?
 - "Nobody ___ it Better"
 - Fix a cat
 - First discovered asteroid
 - "Measured in degrees"
 - Parkinson's disease drug
 - Banana remnant
 - Between dawn and noon
 - Brown shade
 - Retread, past tense
 - Non-alcoholic brew
 - Rockefeller or Bezos
 - Like today's phone
 - Kind of pie
 - No-win situation
 - Wisconsin neighbor
 - Jewish month of Purim
 - Disease-causing organism
 - Clever
 - Indoor allergy cause
 - Crushed it, as in a test
 - "___ Make a Deal"
 - *X

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Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

You Can't Run Away From Your Problems



No one wants problems. Escaping from problems can be much more appealing than resolving them. Running away is certainly tempting, especially when facing persistent, repetitive problems.

Not only is it impossible to outrun your problems, attempting to do so exacerbates your frustration. When you try to escape, problems follow you. This is because the problems you experience repeatedly are due to what's inside you rather than where you are. When you constantly face the same problem situations, you must look in the mirror to find the cause.

This doesn't mean all problems are necessarily your fault. But there may be some aspect of your personality causing or attracting the problems. So, an effective way for resolving problems is to alter your behavior to produce better results.

Jane is currently working at her fourth job in ten years. Whenever Jane begins a new job, everything is great for the first year or so. Then things always go down hill for her. Jane's coworkers start avoiding her. Her supervisor becomes more judgmental, criticizing Jane's work habits.

Jane invariably changes jobs after growing dissatisfied with her work environment. She erroneously believes there is something wrong with the people she works with. In each new job, the pattern repeats itself. Needless to say, Jane is very frustrated, convinced it's next to impossible to find a decent work environment.

Of course it is possible to land in a bad job. If that's the case, changing jobs should remedy the situation. In Jane's example, the same scenario reoccurs. Perhaps Jane takes her problems with her to each new job. Jane needs to assess her interpersonal communication skills, as well as her job performance, before once again jumping ship.

Over the last 20 years, Steven and his family moved five times. Sometimes they stayed in the same area, other times they moved to a new town or state. Wherever Steven went, he had the same problems. The neighbors were

annoying, their house always had problems, there was too much traffic, and people were rude.

Was it possible for Steven to have such bad luck? Or was there some component of Steven's nature that always found fault with whatever situation he was in? Since Steven has found himself in the same scenario for two decades, chances are he has been taking his problems with him. Unless Steven identifies and corrects the elements of his personality responsible for his dissatisfaction, it won't matter where or how often he moves.

Ed has trouble staying in a relationship. When he meets someone new, things are great in the beginning. Then the problems develop. Ed gets impatient with his partner. He is very independent and doesn't want to adjust his lifestyle to accommodate another person. Ed has little desire to consider the needs of the person he is with.

When each relationship invariably ends, Ed is relieved and starts looking for someone else with whom he will be truly compatible. The problem is Ed's attitude is incompatible with being in a successful relationship. Ed doesn't think there is anything wrong with him. Therefore, he is destined to experience the same problems in every relationship. Should he happen to meet someone who feels the same way he does, the relationship will end even faster since neither one of them will be willing to be considerate of the other.

Don't try to outrun your problems. Objectively analyze why your problems occur. Often it can be helpful to seek input from an objective party who can give you constructive feedback. You can change your behavior and attitude to prevent the same problems from repeating themselves.

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Christmas Cheer Lights the Night

Cordova Community Council News Release

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - With the push of a big red button and a roar of the crowd, the Cordova Community Christmas Tree was lit for the 24th time Sunday night, officially kicking off the holiday season in Rancho Cordova.

Former Mayor and Assemblyman Ken Cooley, who is the 2023 Rancho Cordovan of the Year, drew the honor of pushing "on" to the holiday season before a crowd estimated at a record 7,000.

Event goers took horse-drawn hayrides around Village Green Park, miniature train rides around the 35-foot tree provided by the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers Railroad, took in a Live Nativity reenacted by the United Methodist Church of

Rancho Cordova and visited with more than 45 businesses, community and faith organizations who turned out to help celebrate the season.

Hundreds of children of all ages consulted with Santa Claus and frolicked among the snowflakes which swirled in the air during regular Village Green Park "blizzards," all leading up to the magical moment when the tree was lit.

As the tree exploded with lights, the skies filled with fireworks, topping off a perfect holiday overture.

"What a wonderful way to open the holiday season," said Vice Mayor David Sander, who is also president of the Cordova Community Council, which produced the traditional event for a 24th year. "It's another beautiful night in Rancho Cordova, full of neighbors and friends. That's what it's all about." ★



The 24th Annual Cordova Community Christmas Tree Lighting was celebrated at Village Green Park on Sunday, November 26. Photo by Rick Sloan



"Encore Christmas," an acapella quartet, dressed in Dickens costuming, roamed the park and stage to sing holiday standards during this year's lighting ceremony. Photo by Rick Sloan



A horse-drawn cart gives riders a rustic experience throughout the evening. Photo by Rick Sloan



The United Methodist Church of Rancho Cordova reenacted for park goers a live nativity scene which is the heart of the Christmas story. Photo by Rick Sloan



The skies were filled with fireworks as the tree was lit by Former Mayor and Assemblyman Ken Cooley, who was this year's Rancho Cordovan of the Year. Photo by Rick Sloan



Kids, families and friends enjoy the official opening of the holiday season in Rancho Cordova during this year's Christmas Tree Lighting. Photo by Rick Sloan



Children consulted with Santa Claus about this year's presents and reminded the old man of their good behavior. Photo by Rick Sloan



All of Rancho Cordova's princesses graced the holiday kick-off which added beauty to the evening. Photo by Rick Sloan



Children frolicked and played among the snowflakes swirling in the air during Village Green Park's "blizzards." Photo by Rick Sloan