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AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

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DECEMBER 22, 2023

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Merry Christmas!



Sacramento Public Library Puts out Call for Artists

By Tamara Warta

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Public Library (SPL), which has 29 locations spanning from Orangevale to Isleton, recently announced its new Parks and Tranquility project. With the intention of bringing visual and performing arts to a selection of the region's many outdoor spaces, artists are invited to apply for grant awards that range from \$5000 - \$10,000.

"We will engage and collaborate with community members, community-based organizations, and arts and justice collectives," states the official website, "to create site-specific art and educational experiences at multiple California State Park sites around Sacramento County."

A schedule of the public events developed through the Parks and Tranquility program are expected to be announced in early 2024.

The idea to bring the arts into parks and other outdoor spaces was inspired by the California State Library's statewide Parks Pass program. This program allows any California resident with a library card to borrow free passes to approximately 200 state parks. SPL specifically was granted funds to identify and create art installations to complement these passes. While any artist may apply, selected projects should carry one of the specific themes being prioritized by the library.

According to Ricardo M. Ramirez, the system supervisor of SPL, these themes include a project goal to "generate positive measurable impacts in the areas of health, natural resource stewardship, and historical and cultural connections with an equity lens."

"SPL will engage and collaborate alongside our Sacramento community members, community-based organizations, and arts and culture collectives on arts and recreational equity experiences that include community events and field trips," Ramirez also stated.

Selected artists will work with a special project team that consists of both library staff and community members. The original visual artwork will be featured at pre-selected California state parks, while other artists will prepare and execute community workshops featuring their art discipline.

"All types of art mediums are eligible," said Ramirez. "We encourage a
Continued on page 5

Orangevale's Third Annual Procession of Lights was a Magical Night

By MaryAnne Povey

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - Orangevale celebrated its third annual Procession of Lights, a heartwarming event organized by the Orangevale Fair Oaks Community Foundation. This enchanting evening illuminated the streets with holiday spirit.

Over 40 entries, including trucks, tractors, trailers, golf carts, bicycles, motorcycles, and boats, paraded through Orangevale, creating a mesmerizing display of twinkling lights and festive decor.

Families and friends lined the streets, their faces radiating joy as the procession passed by. Orangevale Live ensured that those near and far could share in the magic through a live stream.



Grand finale float sponsored by Kathleen Massae, realtor. Photo courtesy of Heidi Lettau

Special thanks to realtor, Kathleen Massae, for sponsoring the Santa and Mrs. Claus trailer, adding to the festivities. The Orangevale Recreation and Park

District led the procession with a tractor, symbolizing unity and community spirit.

This magical evening kindled anticipation for the upcoming holiday

season and will continue as a special community holiday tradition. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! ★



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Grant Supports Youth with Autism

Nonprofit Meristem Receives \$25K for Vocational Training Programs



Eleanor R, Meristem Student; Bailey H, Meristem Student; Ilana K, Meristem Student; Troy Barry, Culinary Instructor, Meristem; Nichole Baxter, External Affairs Manager, California American Water; Nancy Pryor, Grant Specialist, Meristem; and Shea Smith, Day Program Director, Meristem. Photo courtesy of AWCF

American Water Charitable Foundation News Release

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Meristem, a Fair Oaks-based non-profit organization dedicated to helping young adults with autism and other neurodiversity, recently received a \$25,000 grant from the American Water Charitable Foundation (AWCF) to support its vocational training and life skills program.

The grant is part of AWCF's Workforce Readiness Grant Program, which aims to enhance the quality of life in the communities served by American Water, the largest regulated water and wastewater utility company in the U.S.

"California American Water is proud to join leaders like Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg in supporting Meristem's important work for our community," said Nichole Baxter, External Affairs Manager for California American Water. "We know that investing in workforce readiness for neurodiverse individuals is essential for the future of our community and we are committed to helping create a more diverse and inclusive workforce."

Meristem will use the grant to purchase equipment and expand its café

internship program, providing job skills and barista training to young adults on the autism spectrum. The campus, located on 13-acres in Fair Oaks, hosts students between the ages of 18-28 and helps them develop social and practical skills for a future of greater self-sufficiency and personal growth. Meristem's curriculum and facilities offer hands-on learning in five core areas: movement, land work, craftwork, independent living skills, and preparation for work.

"The American Water Charitable Foundation's support will help us better prepare young adults on the spectrum for a future of greater independence and fulfillment. Assisting young autistic adults gain job skills through social enterprise is a critical component of the services we provide," said Meristem's Executive Director, Erin Schirm. "We are grateful to the American Water Charitable Foundation and California American Water for their support and dedication to inclusion, diversity, equity and the local community."

For more information about Meristem, visit www.meristem.pro. To learn about other ways California American Water is supporting the community, visit californiaamwater.com. ★

Operation Bad Elf Recovers Thousands of Dollars of Merchandise

Sacramento County Sheriff's Dept. News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Sheriff's Office has recently concluded a highly successful week-long operation to combat retail theft across the region. Focusing on popular retail establishments such as Target, Walgreens, and Walmart, the operation was a strategic effort to address the rising concerns surrounding theft and its impact on local businesses and communities.

Deputies and detectives from the Sheriff's Centralized Investigations Bureau collaborated seamlessly in a coordinated effort to identify, track, and apprehend individuals involved in retail theft. The operation, which took place over the course of a week, utilized both uniformed and plain clothes officers strategically positioned within targeted retail locations. This approach aimed to deter theft and catch perpetrators in the act.

Sheriff Cooper emphasized the importance of safeguarding businesses and ensuring the safety of community members. "Retail theft not only affects the businesses directly but also has a ripple effect on our communities. By addressing this issue head-on, we are sending a clear message that criminal activities will not be tolerated, and our community's safety remains our top priority."

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Office acknowledged the importance of community engagement and encouraged

residents to remain vigilant against retail theft. Sheriff Cooper stated, "We cannot combat this issue alone. We need the active involvement of the retailers for this type of success to continue. They need to make an investment in their stores' safety, as we are not their 24/7 private security."

The Sheriff's Office successfully recovered stolen merchandise worth tens of thousands of dollars and 285 felony and misdemeanor arrests, providing a significant boost to the affected retailers.

While these arrests are significant, major problems lie within weak legislation. Sacramento County currently has over 33,000 outstanding misdemeanor warrants, many of which stem from offenses such as shoplifting and other theft-related crimes. Until a measure is put on the ballot for voters, California will continue to face these same problems, regardless of enforcement.

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Office remains committed to ongoing efforts to combat crime, protect local businesses, and ensure the safety and well-being of residents. The success of this recent operation reflects the dedication and effectiveness of law enforcement professionals in addressing pressing community concerns.

To see a video highlighting the operation, please visit the Sacramento Sheriff's Office social media channels on Facebook, Instagram, X, and YouTube. ★

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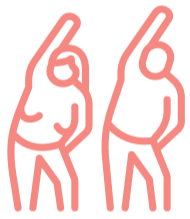
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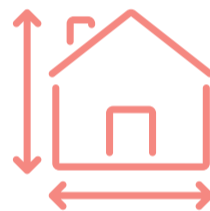
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Be A Christmas Hero

Do your kids look up to you as their hero, or do they admire a sports figure instead? How would you like to put that same sparkle in their eyes that they do? Thomas Gagliano wants you to have that love and admiration every day. Life Mentor, Speaker, and author, Thomas has seven tips to achieve your hero status in 2024 with "The Problem Was Me." Isn't that the best gift you can give your child? The Christmas presents will be tossed eventually, but the strength you can give your child will last their whole lives. So let's score with these simple tips!

- 1. LISTEN:** Provide a safe environment for your children where they can cry on your shoulder or just talk to you...even if they tell you something you don't want to hear.
- 2. PERMIT MISTAKES:** Give your children the message that they can make mistakes. Let them know that mistakes are part of being human. Affirm they can fall at times without becoming a failure.
- 3. CELEBRATE VICTORIES:** Celebrate achievements by taking your child for an ice cream or a pizza slice. Don't run immediately to the next dilemma. Take time to enjoy what's been accomplished.
- 4. MONITOR YOUR INNER CRITIC:** If we grew up with an inner critic telling us all the things we're doing wrong in life, chances are high we will give this inner critic to our children.

conversations with our children, and choose closeness instead. We can choose to be close by identifying with our children's struggles and listening to their feelings.

- 6. BE CURIOUS:** Be interested in your children's lives. Ask them how they are doing and what's new with them. By being curious, you give them the message they are important and you're thinking of them.
- 7. CONFER REGULARLY WITH YOUR INNER CHILD:** When our children struggle, stop and think about what you wanted to hear from your parent at that age. Let that compassion shape what you say and how you say it.

A good parent also gives your child a shoulder to cry on and an ear to hear their feelings and thoughts as well. Heroes can cry too, even if society tells them to be tough. Heroes let their children explore who they want to be, instead of imprisoning them in predefined roles...roles that we as parents want them to play.

The feats of the heroes he describes won't make the front page of the newspaper. However, it's so much more important. Why? Because what love can equal the love and admiration seen reflected in the eyes of your own child? Thomas Gagliano shares how to achieve that admiration in "The Problem Was Me." So let 2024 be the year you can be a hero and make a BIG difference in the lives of your children both physically and spiritually. What a gift! ★



Celebrating the Best of Orangevale

By MaryAnne Povey

As we say goodbye to another year, it's a time not only a time to reflect on the many good things that have filled our lives over the year, but also an opportunity to recognize the exceptional businesses, groups, and individuals who have gone above and beyond in making our community thrive.

The "Best of Orangevale" is back for its 8th year in recognizing the finest in the community. Starting on January 1 and continuing through the end of the month, you are invited to vote for your favorites. Nominations are also being accepted through January 10th, so if you don't see your favorite listed, send in your nomination.

The award ceremony is set for

February 2 at the Orangevale Community Center – it's always a night of excitement when we honor those who have truly made a difference. This is always a sellout event – so get your tickets early! For more information, go to www.bestoforangevale.com for all the details!

Also, if getting more involved is on your new year's resolution list, then mark your calendar for January 20th, for the Annual Community Open House, 9 am - 11 am, at the Orangevale Grange, 5807 Walnut Avenue. Come meet and greet over 20 service clubs and organizations there to answer your questions, and showcase the countless options for you to join and contribute. It's a great opportunity to connect, collaborate, and create positive change together. ★

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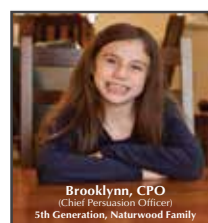
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California's Water Wars See Some Breakthroughs But More Clashes Loom



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

The politics of water in California could be likened to the constant grinding of tectonic plates 10 miles or more beneath its surface.

The Pacific Plate battles with the North American Plate for dominance along the 800-mile-long San Andreas Fault tracing California's coast. When one gives way, the state experiences an earthquake.

Similarly, California's water interests – farmers, cities and environmentalists, principally, with infinite numbers of sub-groups – joust constantly over how the state's water supplies will be apportioned.

The conflicts of water buffaloes, as they have been dubbed, play out in legislative arenas, in the many federal, state and local governmental agencies that manage water distribution, and increasingly, in state and federal courts.

Their grinding struggles have been underway for as long as California has been a state (173 years), but on occasions – sometimes separated by decades – major actions change California's waterscape.

This appears to be one of those occasions. California's recent experience of drought followed by torrential rain and snow storms seems to have jolted water stakeholders into doing things that seemed impossible just a few years ago.

California's users of

Colorado River water, principally the Imperial Irrigation District, last week formally signed an agreement with other states to reduce diversions from the much-troubled river. It's hoped that the deal will stave off an otherwise imminent catastrophe in the rivers two major reservoirs, Lake Powell and Lake Mead.

Federal officials pressed for the historic agreement, threatening unilateral cuts if it didn't happen, and lubricated it with many millions of dollars in compensation.

The state Department of Water Resources has released a final environmental impact report on a plan to bore a tunnel beneath the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and carry some Sacramento River water to the head of the California Aqueduct without pulling water from the Delta itself.

Versions of the bypass have kicked around for more than six decades, with officialdom saying it's needed to protect water supplies to the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California and opponents, particularly environmental groups, saying it would worsen water quality in the Delta. Release of the report sets the stage for what could be years of political and legal battles before construction could begin.

Tunnel advocates say that water would be drawn only during periods of high precipitation and snowpack runoff to improve water reliability, which is also the rationale for another major construction project that's languished for decades: the Sites reservoir in Colusa and Glenn counties. In November, Gov. Gavin Newsom designated Sites for streamlined approval of a final environmental impact report, paving the way for

construction that could begin as soon as 2025.

In October, the federal Bureau of Reclamation announced the approval of a storage capacity expansion plan for the San Luis Reservoir, a key element of California's water supply system. San Luis, in the Pacheco Pass, is an off-stream reservoir that absorbs water drawn from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and stores it to meet later demands. It's similar to how the proposed Sites reservoir would function – storing water when it's available to cushion periods when natural flows are diminished. The plan would increase the reservoir's capacity by 130,000 acre-feet.

Finally, the state water regulators are poised to approve first-ever projects that directly convert sewage into drinking water. Reusing water "gives us a supply that in essence is always going to be there," Darrin Polhemus, a water board deputy director, said.

While important, these recent developments don't end California's water wars. For instance, the state is beginning to implement first-ever controls on pumping from underground aquifers under a law passed a decade ago, which could sharply affect agriculture production in the San Joaquin Valley.

Meanwhile, the water buffaloes are gearing up for the most divisive of all potential conflicts – whether the state will breach water rights, some of which date back to the Gold Rush days. Preliminary skirmishes are already underway, as the New York Times detailed last week.

It will be epic.

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

Amos McGee, an Orangevale Legend



Amos McGee



From left, Amos McGee, an unidentified group of people from the era. Photo courtesy of William McGee

By Peggy Ginther

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - Amos McGee was 60 years old when he moved his family from Minnesota to Orangevale in 1901. He had lived in a number of locations. He was born in 1841, in New Brunswick, Canada, to John McGee and Mary Ann Gallup. John later moved his family to Ontario, Canada, in 1855. John relocated his family to Morrison County, Minnesota by 1862.

Amos enlisted in Company I, 7th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry at the age of 20 years old right after arriving in the states. He had a credible and interesting military record as a Veteran of the Civil War. He was mustered out at Fort Snelling on August 16, 1865. Amos then engaged in farming and homesteaded a tract of land near St. Cloud, Minnesota. On November 5, 1881, Amos married Ida Sutliff, a native of Minnesota. He was postmaster at Rice, Minnesota, resigning shortly before coming to California.

He purchased a home with 15 acres on Filbert Avenue developing orchards and vineyards. When they arrived, there were just a few homes scattered around in the town. Amos took an active part in the community. He had been a trustee in the Methodist Episcopal Church for many years both in Minnesota and Orangevale. He died on April 15, 1926, at the age of 84 and is buried in Citrus Heights. Amos witnessed the remarkable growth and advancement of Orangevale.

His wife, Ida, was born in 1860 in Houston, Minnesota, to Samuel and Lydia Sutliff. Ida's first marriage was to Dr. Leonard Roach with whom she had



Ida Sutliff. Photo courtesy of William McGee

one daughter, Elsie Roach, 1880-1964. She studied medicine with her doctor husband, acquiring knowledge and skills which enabled her to minister to the sick and ailing, and also to be a midwife. Ida served this role in addition to caring for her family.

She had seven children with Amos within 16 years. They are: Samuel Anson McGee, 1882-1890; Harriet A. McGee, 1885-1969; George A. McGee, 1887-1974; Mary I. McGee, 1892-1980; Ulysses S. McGee, 1890-1891; Elbert B. McGee, 1894-1960; and William S. McGee, 1899-1978.

She died July 16, 1931, in Orangevale at 71 years and is buried in Citrus Heights. Her life was one of service. ★

Sacramento Public Library Puts out Call for Artists

Continued from page 1

wide range of artists and all levels of experiences to apply for these grants. We are fortunate to be in a dynamic and lively arts community, and are continually inspired by what we see, hear, and experience. We plan to curate a number of public programs that will incorporate the work of the selected artists that reflect our communities and the joy of being in natural spaces."

While any type of artist is welcome to apply, it is with the understanding that their art form may be converted to accommodate a realistic outdoor art installation. A watercolor or acrylic painter, for example, may complete their piece and see it converted into a more durable digital print. Dancers should expect to accommodate an outdoor learning or performance space in lieu of a traditional indoor studio.

In order to be eligible for the Parks and Tranquility grant, applicants must be a resident of the Sacramento region and aged

16 or older. Applicants cannot be currently employed by SPL, and should be eligible to receive taxable income. The selected artist(s) must also be available for public events and installations related to the finalized artwork at the select location(s).

The grant application and selection process is a quick turnaround — applications are due by December 30th, and artists will be notified by the end of January. Time is of the essence for those artists wishing to be considered. With all levels of experience welcome to apply, SPL understands there will be questions. Applicants may call (916) 264-2920 or email parksandtranquility@saclibrary.org with any inquiries.

Potential artists may visit saclibrary.org/Parks-and-Tranquility for more information and to apply, as well as for the opportunity to view artists' inspirations behind the project for a better view of what SPL is seeking out for this unique new opportunity. ★

Change of Museum Exhibits at the Orangevale History Museum

The Orangevale History Project News Release

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - The Orangevale History Museum introduces new exciting displays. Now is the time to make plans to visit the museum at 6920 Hazel Avenue, Orangevale, to see the changes. The theme of one display is "Wartime in the Vale" with information on Orangevale residents participating in war efforts. A second display is the History of Sunrise Mall with pictures over the years. It has been loaned

to the museum by the Citrus Heights Historical Society. A second "hands on" History Encounter has been added for museum visitors.

During this holiday season the museum is open Thursdays 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., and Saturdays 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. They will be closed on Saturday, December 23rd, but open on December 31st. Take a trip to the museum with your family or holiday visitors and enjoy the new displays. If you have visited before, now is the time to make a second visit. ★

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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



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

presentation highlighted Ken's leadership 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. ★

Canvassers Needed for the 2024 Point-in-Time Count

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF) announced on Monday, December 4, 2023, that the evenings of Wednesday, January 24 and Thursday, January 25 have been selected for Sacramento's 2024 Point in Time Count (PIT). SSF is seeking hundreds of volunteers to help with what will be the most wide-ranging community effort to date to determine the number of people experiencing homelessness in the Sacramento region.

The event is intended to provide a comprehensive estimate of the total number of individuals and families living outdoors and in places not intended for human habitation on a single night. SSF will release the results in a report in spring 2024. PIT data enables community leaders to better understand homelessness, design more effective policies and programs, and measure progress toward reducing and ending homelessness.

The PIT is part of a nationwide effort. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires communities to do a census to qualify for annual federal homelessness response dollars. In 2022, the Sacramento community

received \$30.5 million in HUD Continuum of Care funding, \$29 million of which was dedicated to maintaining permanent housing programs and directly served 1,271 households.

More than 500 volunteers participated in the last PIT count in February 2022. It concluded that an estimated 9,278 individuals experienced homelessness on a single night. Find the full report on Sacramento Steps Forward website.

"The PIT is a huge community-wide effort that gives people a chance to make a meaningful contribution toward better understanding where we are and is a great way to contribute toward addressing and ultimately ending homelessness," said Lisa Bates, Chief Executive Officer of SSF.

To register as a volunteer, visit the volunteer portal at <https://sacramento24.pointintime.info/>

To learn more about volunteering and the purpose of the PIT, read the FAQs.

The PIT's main deployment center will be at Sacramento State's Harper Alumni Center. Several other satellite locations will operate in the region. Canvassers will fan out to predetermined census tracts across the Sacramento region. The 2024 PIT will also include

more intensive coverage of known homelessness locations along the American River Parkway.

Volunteer canvassers will be able to utilize a new "Counting Us" mobile application, a HUD approved method of counting used in many cities and counties across the U.S. The application replaces previously used apps and paper-based data collection methods. The app, developed by Simtech Solutions, Inc. - which is joining forces with SSF this year as the researcher selected for the PIT Count - will support efficient canvassing by volunteers.

To canvass, a volunteer must be at least 18 years old, be willing to travel by foot or car to predetermined locations, and be willing to use their personal smartphone and flashlight. Additional volunteers are also needed for a variety of support functions at the deployment centers. Volunteers are required to complete a volunteer training session. Two live training sessions will be offered via Zoom, on Wednesday, January 10 and Wednesday, January 17, both from 5 to 6:30 PM. For those unable to attend a live session, there is a new recorded training option with a short quiz to assure accountability and comprehension. The live training is highly recommended for new PIT volunteers. ★

MPG

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS



New Low-Floor Light Rail Trains Enter Final Testing Phase



A low-floor test train at 16th Street on December 7, 2023. Photo courtesy of SacRT

SacRT News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) is pleased to announce a significant milestone in the Light Rail Modernization Project as its new low-floor trains enter the final testing phase, bringing the region one step closer to an enhanced and more accessible public transit system. SacRT began the "burn-in" testing phase on December 7, 2023. Testing is being conducted systemwide on the Blue, Green, and Gold Lines from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m., Monday through Friday. This schedule is designed to minimize any impact on regular light rail service.

During this phase of testing, the new low-floor trains will simulate real-world scenarios, actively pulling into stations, deploying ramps, opening and closing doors and proceeding to the next station. To distinguish these trains from regular service trains, prominent "Test Train" decals are on doors and windows to prevent customers from accidentally boarding.

The burn-in testing is expected to take approximately two weeks per train. This thorough process allows SacRT staff to

identify and address any issues before the trains are approved for passenger service. The testing process is projected to continue through spring 2024 for the first 20 low-floor trains in anticipation of starting passenger service with the new trains on the Gold Line in summer 2024. Learn more about the testing process at sacrt.com/newtrains.

About the New Low-Floor Light Rail Trains:

The new low-floor vehicles will provide easier access at every doorway, a spacious seating design, and large windows for better light and views. They feature improved accessibility with wider aisles. The new low-floor vehicles will increase overall operational flexibility by providing more access to passengers with disabilities. SacRT is modernizing the light rail system to make future travel easier, safer, and more convenient for riders. The project includes the purchasing of new low-floor trains, reconfiguring station platforms to accommodate the new trains and adding a passing track to allow for 15-minute light rail service at all Folsom area stations. Learn more about the project at sacrt.com/modernization. ★

Made It Home for Christmas

*A brother calls from Alaska
another calls collect*

*A sister calls from south L.A.
As we guess who's calling next*

*As we grow a little older
each one's sure to realize
how Dad and Mom worked and saved
to put presents before our eyes*

*Our family spans the world now
spreading all that we have learned
from cold showers every holiday
to every Christmas we have earned*

*Christmas Day is changing
We're getting older every year
but its warmth abounds in memories
and in wishing you were here*

*So from Mom and Dad's prayers go out
to our families and their youths
to their hopes and dreams of doing well
and in living Christmas truths*

— Paul V. Scholl

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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.

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Newsstand Delivery Driver – We are seeking a part-time Newsstand Deliver Driver for our newspaper group. This position works from the Carmichael office and delivers to our locations in the West Sacramento/ Sacramento Region. Work hours are from 8:30 to 5:00 Thursday and/or Friday. Must be able to lift and move bundles of newspapers without assistance. You must have a reliable vehicle. This is an independent contractor position.

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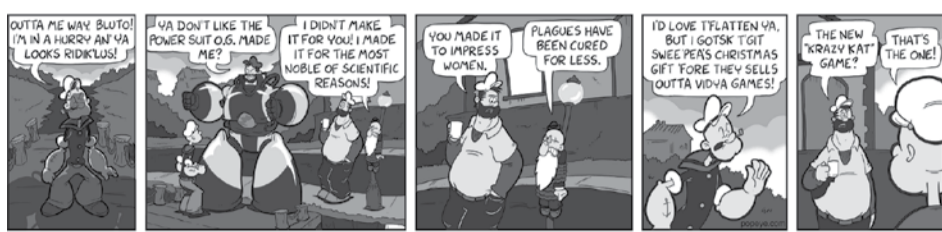
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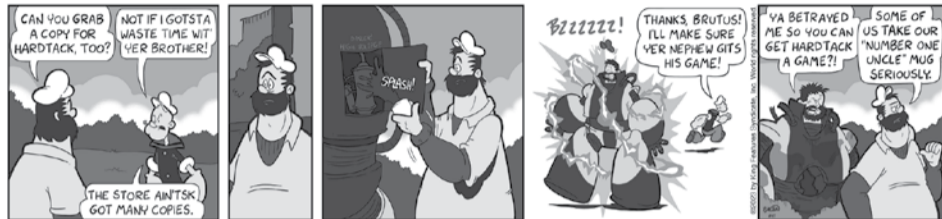
by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb



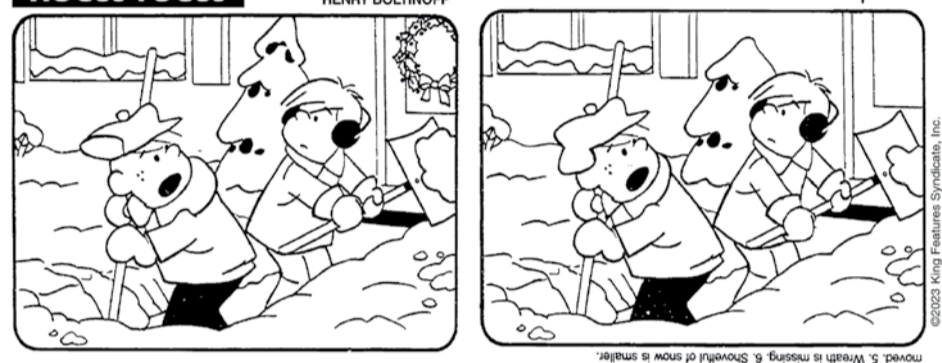
by Gary Kopervas



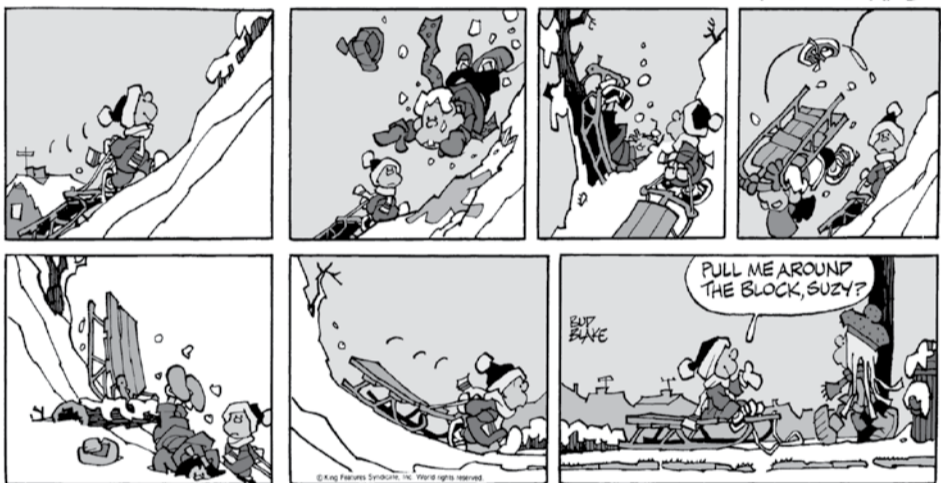
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

GRIN and BEAR IT



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

C	H	A	S	M	A	L	B	S	U	E	D		
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CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Great divide
 - Priestly vestment
 - Took to court
 - Haile Selassie's disciple
 - 10 decibels
 - *Appletini's schnapps
 - Rose oil
 - Maui garland
 - Birth-related
 - *Old Fashioned liquor option
 - *Gin+vermouth rosso+Campari
 - Not him
 - Bye, in Palermo
 - VA.gov beneficiary
 - Puerto follower
 - Like Ferris Bueller
 - Exclude
 - "___ Your Enthusiasm"
 - Green-light
 - Tiny coffee cup, or ___-tasse
 - Cut mission short
 - Not final or absolute
 - Makes a sweater
 - Wing-shaped
 - Bird, in Latin
 - One with drug dependency
 - Do like a frog
 - A U.S. time zone
 - Dance with #17
- Across**
- Anatomical duct
 - "It usually comes in a conical glass"
 - *Popular cocktail mixer
 - Spy's other name
 - Knicks' org.
 - Give a speech
 - Clan emblem
 - Party barrel
 - Clean a spill (2 words)
 - Part of pump
 - Sargasso or Barents
 - Same as apse

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8	6	4	7	1	2	3	5	9

DOWN

- Sticking point, in alimentary tract
- Possesses, archaic
- *Bellini with ___ Spumante
- Squirrel away
- a.k.a. felt-pen
- Competently
- M tley Cr e's Tommy
- Russian pancakes
- Practice in the ring
- As far as (2 words)
- Distinctive flair
- Place for a hero
- Fluffy sweater material
- "All My Children" vixen Kane
- 2010 Movie "___ Pray Love"
- Toyota model
- *Moscow Mule spirit
- Make corrections
- Shy
- * ___ Libre
- Forearm bone
- Not dead
- Honkers
- *Lemon or orange piece
- South American monkey
- Highlands hillside
- Crossbeam
- Religious split
- 252-gallon wine cask
- *Tequila+grapefruit juice+sparkling water
- Kind of golf course
- Razor sharpener
- S.A.T. section
- Balm ingredient
- Baptism or shiva, e.g.
- Asian weight unit
- John Galsworthy's "The Forsyte ___"
- Nukes
- Sewing case
- Gym set
- * ___'s Knees

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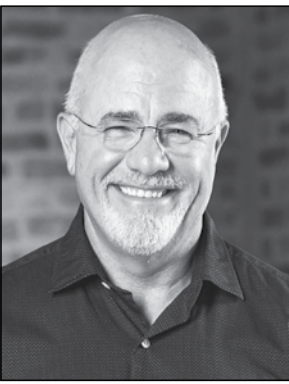
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Don't Be Afraid To Start Small

Dave Ramsey Says

things off the ground. That should be a guideline for every entrepreneur.

But guess what? You may have more money on hand than you think. You're a little heavy on your emergency fund right now. I recommend people have three to six months of expenses set aside for emergencies. You could back your emergency fund down to six months of expenses, and move the extra over to an account designated for your business. After that, grow it slowly each month until you have enough to open your doors. You'd be surprised how much cash will pile up, even if you save just a little bit at a time.

The big thing, Kirsten, is don't be afraid to start small. Don't despise humble beginnings. Some of the best and most successful companies in America started as micro-businesses or cottage industries. I literally started my company

on a card table in my living room. It's easier and safer in a lot of ways. So, I love the wisdom you're showing by wanting to keep your full-time job while starting the business online.

So, yeah. Take three or four months of expenses out of your emergency fund, and move it to a designated business account. Watch your budget carefully, and keep spending to a minimum. Above all, don't take your business into debt. Grow it at the speed of cash. The best, most successful businesses don't outrun their money and other resources!

— Dave

**Leadership and small-business expert Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored eight national bestselling books, including EntLeadership, and is a host of The Ramsey Show and The EntLeadership Podcast.* ★

New Report Projects Massive \$68 Billion Deficit

California State Senate Republican Caucus News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) announced this morning that California has a projected \$68 billion budget deficit through the next fiscal year, a sharp but entirely predictable turnaround from surpluses Governor Newsom bragged about just last year. This deficit will have significant consequences for education funding and other programs, as economic reality brings legislative Democrats' overspending and overpromising back down to earth.

The Vice Chair of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, Senator Roger Niello (R-Fair Oaks) offered his reaction to the LAO's announcement:

"Despite all warnings that it was unsustainable, California's tax-and-spend majority increased state spending by \$116 billion over the last six years, nearly doubling the general fund budget in that short time. Republicans cautioned that this level of spending would lead to greater deficits, and it would be more prudent to show restraint. Unfortunately, the majority party ignored those warnings, enacting a budget in June that already projected a \$14 billion deficit, even before the LAO's new report

revised the deficit to \$68 billion."

Senate Minority Leader Brian W. Jones (R-San Diego) added, "Governor Newsom and Democrat lawmakers turned a \$100 billion surplus into a \$68 billion deficit in just 2 years. Even more alarming, the five-year deficit forecast is an astounding \$155 billion, thanks to the overspending Democrats jammed into the last few budgets. California built up significant budget reserves under the requirements of a bipartisan 2014 initiative, but Democrats have managed to outspend even what the reserves can cover.

"During my first budget cycle as an Assemblymember in 2011-2012, California operated with a \$143 billion budget. Fast forward to the 2023-2024 budget cycle, Democrats' spending soared the budget to a staggering \$311 billion! In a mere decade, our state's budget has more than doubled in size, an exponential surge, while the financial capabilities of Californians certainly haven't undergone such a monumental increase as many struggle to afford to even stay in the state.

"Hopefully, the supermajority will see it is time for a more realistic budget strategy, instead of throwing money at a laundry list of projects that sounds nice on the national television debate stage." ★

Dear Dave,
I'd like to slowly start a business online while working my regular job. But even though I'm in pretty good financial shape, I don't have much money left at the end of the month. I have no debt except for my house, and I also have nine months of expenses in my emergency fund. How can I start my business without borrowing the money?

— Kristin

Dear Kristin,

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Bob's BASEBALL Tours
Hall of Fame Tour
Attend MLB games at Cincinnati, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Toronto, Boston & New York Yankees.
Visit football, baseball, basketball & hockey Halls of Fame
Tour begins at host hotel near Cincinnati Airport and ends near Newark Liberty Int'l Airport
Tour includes deluxe motor coach transportation, all admission tickets, quality hotels, etc.
We also offer an Arizona Spring Training Tour (March 3-6) and a New England Fall Foliage Tour (Sept. 27-Oct. 3) with games at Fenway Park and Yankee Stadium.
For more information, call or text for a free brochure: 507.217.1326

Advertise in your local community newspaper
Call (916) 773-1111



BEST OF FAIR OAKS 2023



You're Invited!

Tickets are expected to sell out fast.
 Don't miss your chance to attend
 the 8th annual "Best of Fair Oaks" event.

BestofFairOaks.com

This year's event will be held:

Where: North Ridge Country Club, 7600 Madison Ave, Fair Oaks

When: Thursday January 18, 2024

Cost: Contact the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce for details

FairOaksChamber.com or call **916-967-2903**

KP International MARKET
 FOOD COURT NOW OPEN
 Come Sample! Taste of the World!
 Market: 7 Days: 8am - 9pm
 Food Court: 7 Days: 11am - 7:30pm
 Korean/Mex/West: 7:30pm last call
 Chinese/Japanese: 7:00pm last call

NOW OPEN
 ENJOY OUR FRESHLY BAKED BREAD & CAKE
 10971 OLSON DR. RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670



FRESH PRODUCE

Sugar Cane Peeled 1 lb \$2.59	Pickling Cucumber 89¢/lb	Bosc Pear 99¢/lb	Russet Potato 10 lbs \$2.99
Jumbo Pineapple 2/\$5.00	King Oyster Mushroom \$1.79/lb	Singo Pear Box 11 lbs \$29.99	Mini King Oyster Mushroom 250 g \$1.99

AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY

EED Vegetable Oil 40 Ltr \$4.99	Fusion Aloe Vera Drink 1.5 liter \$2.99	Masera Corn Flour (gluten free) 4 lbs \$4.99	Antibiotic Listerine 3 kinds 1 liter \$6.99	El Campesino Mesquite Charcoal 15 lbs \$11.99
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ASIAN GROCERY

Dragonfly Rice Vermicelli 32 oz \$3.99	Singha Lemon Soda 11.2 Ltr 99¢	Soyy Coconut Cream 14 Ltr \$1.99	Lucia Baby Corn in Brine 15 oz \$1.79	Trung Nguyen Coffee 17.6 oz \$3.99
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EUROPEAN GROCERY

Goodwill Premium Parkwhent 3 kg \$13.99	Alkbar Gold 100% Pure Ceylon Tea 5 x 50 gr \$12.99	Noodles Altya Region Honey 905 gr \$11.99	Viola Original Cheese Spread 198 gr \$3.19	Son Siro Naturally Flavored Cake 950 gr \$8.99
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KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY

Chef Kim's Cooked White Rice 12 x 1.4 oz \$9.99	Asai Chicken Tea 1 kg \$5.99	Sonogoro Cellophane Noodles 170 g \$5.99	Mini Korean Cookie 120 g \$1.49	Wing Sesame Oil 370 ml \$3.99	Pure Astor Red Ginseng Premium 60x20ml \$5.99
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HOUSEWARES

MINK BLANKET 6 COLORS AVAILABLE KING SIZE ONLY \$39.99	KAUZEN POKER PAN 30 CM \$14.99	ELECTRIC BBQ GRILL \$39.99	WATERMELON SLICE KNIFE \$3.99
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FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Frozen Cutted Salmon REG. \$4.99/lb \$2.99/lb	Shrimp 31/40 Peeled & Deveined 2 lbs REG. \$14.99/ea \$10.99/ea
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WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS

Beef Ribeye Roast - Boneless Chuletón de Ternera Asado Deshuesado \$6.99/lb	Beef Ribeye Steak - Boneless Filete Chuletón de Ternera Deshuesado \$7.99/lb
Beef Cross Rib/Shoulder Roast - Bnls \$4.99/lb	Pork Baby Back Ribs \$3.99/lb
Chicken Thighs Boneless \$1.79/lb	Pork Tenderloin Boneless \$2.99/lb
Pork Loin Roast Boneless \$2.99/lb	

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Korea Sweet Pancake 5pcs REG. \$5.99/ea \$2.99/ea	Schwarz Oven Roasted Turkey Breast \$10.89	Belmont German Ham \$5.49	Green Olives Stuffed with Almonds \$5.99
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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 DECEMBER 20 - DECEMBER 26, 2023.