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West Sacramento News Ledger

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Serving the West Sacramento Region Since 1964

JANUARY 5, 2024

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BUT WILL HE LISTEN?



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MORE TROUBLES FOR CALIFORNIA IN 2024



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Toys Distributed to over 500 Children



The presence of Santa Claus added a magical touch to the festivities. Photo by Monica Rivera

Office of Supervisor Barajas News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Yolo County Supervisor Angel Barajas, in collaboration with the Dunnigan Fire Association, successfully hosted the 3rd Annual Christmas Toy Distribution in the tight-knit community of Dunnigan, CA. Annually, the quantity of children receiving toys rises. This year's event brought joy to the hearts of over 500 children, leaving an indelible mark on the community.

A wide variety of toys were distributed, all of which were carefully chosen to meet the distinct interests and preferences of the youths in the area. Remarkably, Yolo County Children's Alliance went above and beyond by kindly providing the community with their resources and services, which aligned with the evolving needs of children and their parents. This thoughtful contribution paved the way for resources and promoted the overall well-being of Dunnigan, Yolo, and Zamora. In his expression of gratitude, Yolo

County Supervisor Angel Barajas acknowledged the invaluable assistance of generous sponsors and committed volunteers who selflessly contributed to this noble cause. "In our third year of the Dunnigan Toy Drive, the increasing wave of support is heartening. Together, we're not just collecting toys; we're crafting smiles on the faces of children, fostering moments of pure joy that resonate far beyond the holiday season," stated Supervisor Barajas. The distribution sponsor list, having expanded from

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Caltrans Extends Public Comment Period for Interstate 80 Project

Caltrans News Release

YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Caltrans is extending the public comment period for the Yolo Interstate 80 Corridor Improvements Project Draft Environmental Impact Report from January 5, 2024, to January 12, 2024.

Comments on the Draft EIR will be received until the new deadline of January 12, 2024, and Caltrans will provide responses that will be published in the final EIR. Caltrans will also provide responses to individuals who submit written comments by mail or email. Comments can be submitted by email to the project email address: yolo80corridor@dot.ca.gov, or by mail to 703 B Street, Marysville, CA 95901, attention to Masum Patwary, Environmental Coordinator.

Copies of the Draft EIR continue to be available at the following locations: Electronic copy at project website: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-3/d3-projects/d3-i80-corridor-improvements>; Electronic copy at State Clearinghouse; Hard copy at West Sacramento Library (1212 Merkley Ave, West Sacramento, CA 95691); Hard copy at Davis Library (315 E 14th St, Davis, CA 95616)

Caltrans seeks public comment on a proposed \$465 million project to construct toll express lanes on Interstate 80 (I-80) and U.S. Highway 50 (US 50) in Yolo and Sacramento counties. Developed in partnership with the Yolo Transportation District (YoloTD), Caltrans would add a lane in both directions to reduce delays and encourage transit usage, vanpooling and carpooling. Toll revenue is expected to help fund local YoloTD bus and Capital Corridor rail services.

Other project benefits would include: Upgraded overhead electronic highway message signs; Bicycle/pedestrian improvements at the Yolo Causeway bike path; A 300-space Park-n-Ride in West Sacramento. Caltrans and YoloTD received an \$86 million grant for the project from the U.S. Department of

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Another Victim of Covid



The entrance of West Sacramento's Café La Bou before it closed on December 29th, 2023.

Story and photo by Michele Townsend

WEST SACRAMENTO (MPG) - COVID claimed yet another victim, as Café La Bou closed its doors. "La Bou," as it is usually called, has been a popular coffee and breakfast place under different owners for locals in

West Sacramento since the early 90's, but according to current staff, it just never picked up enough after COVID to make it feasible to stay open. On the counter sits a sign that reads, in part, "When I started out my business 7 1/2 years ago, from day one, this neighborhood and business has

provided me and my family with the warmest of welcomes where I have met so many wonderful customers that have been supportive throughout all of these past years. I want to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU to ALL of you as well as my staff, for all of the unforgettable experiences and great

memories that I will forever cherish. I will always be grateful for the opportunity that West Sacramento and the surrounding community has provided to me. You are truly the best!" It was simply signed "Sincerely, Johnny Garcia". Café La Bou's last day open was December 29th, 2023. ★



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Restoration of 6 Trips to YoloBus Routes 211 and 212

Yolo County Residents Encouraged to Mask and Vaccinate



A YoloBus coach runs along Route 211. Photo courtesy of YoloTD

YoloTD News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - Yolo Transportation District (YoloTD) is pleased to announce the restoration of six trips to YoloBus Woodland Local Routes 211 and 212, effective Sunday, January 14, 2024. These additional trips aim to enhance the commuting experience for passengers and contribute to the overall improvement of public transportation services in the region.

YoloTD's Acting Director of Transit Operations Daisy Romero expressed enthusiasm about restoring these trips, "We understand the importance of offering commuters more choices when it comes to their daily journeys. Restoring these trips aligns with our commitment to providing reliable and convenient fixed route services in

our community."

Beginning on January 14, 2024, commuters can look forward to the following additions to the Woodland Local Routes:

Route 211: 6:00 a.m., 7:00 a.m., 8:00 p.m.

Route 212: 7:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m.

These trips have been designed to address the evolving transportation needs of the community, providing more options for riders to plan their journeys conveniently. Riders may view the schedule and plan their trip at YoloBus.com/Routes.

The restored trips were originally part of the YoloGO plan, a strategic initiative approved by the YoloTD Board of Directors in 2021. Unfortunately, due to the unforeseen challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, YoloTD had to postpone the implementation of

these trips and temporarily reduce services.

The reinstated trips, offering early mornings and later rides, not only provide commuters with expanded options but also contribute to community well-being. This enhanced flexibility supports riders in planning their daily schedules, making it easier to meet work, education, and personal commitments.

Additionally, these trips, catering to both morning and evening hours, facilitate smoother travel for workers, customers, and tourists, ultimately promoting sustainability by reducing individual car usage and carbon emissions.

YoloTD remains committed to enhancing public transportation services and is optimistic that the restoration of these trips will contribute to increased accessibility and convenience for passengers. ★

Yolo County News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - As the New Year approaches, Yolo County is closely tracking a rise in respiratory virus activity in the community through wastewater monitoring. Recent wastewater data indicate high levels of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19, along with high levels of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). For both these viruses, the current Yolo County average is in the top third of levels seen nationally over the last year, indicating high activity.

Yolo County's Public Health Officer Dr. Aimee Sisson emphasizes the crucial need for precautionary measures during times of high respiratory virus activity. "Our wastewater monitoring program is currently detecting high COVID-19 and RSV levels," stated Dr. Sisson. "I recommend that everybody in the community take steps to protect themselves from infection, including wearing a high-quality mask when indoors around others. In addition, if you have not yet gotten the updated COVID-19 vaccine, annual flu vaccine, and RSV vaccine, I strongly encourage you to do so — it is not too late."

WastewaterSCAN reports that SARS-CoV-2 and RSV levels in Yolo County are at their highest since last winter's surge. Simultaneously, influenza activity is rising statewide and is currently moderate in Yolo County. All residents are strongly urged to take the following actions to prevent respiratory illness:

Vaccination: Stay up-to-date with vaccination for COVID-19, influenza, and RSV. All individuals aged six months and older are recommended to a dose of the updated XBB COVID-19 vaccine. Everyone six months and older is also recommended to receive an influenza vaccine annually. This year, a vaccine is available for RSV and is recommended for persons 60 years and older, infants, and pregnant persons. Vaccines play a pivotal role in reducing severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

Wear a Mask: In crowded indoor spaces, wearing a high-quality mask (N95, KN95, or KF94) that fits well provides an added layer of protection.

Ventilation: Indoors, enhance ventilation by using a high-quality filter in your HVAC system and adding a portable HEPA filter in rooms where you spend time with others. When weather permits, choose outdoor gatherings to maximize ventilation and reduce transmission risk.

Practice Good Hygiene: Wash hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand sanitizers are a convenient alternative when soap is unavailable.

Yolo County residents are encouraged to monitor their health for symptoms of respiratory illness, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat, muscle or body aches, or fatigue. Persons with symptoms should stay home, test for COVID-19, and follow isolation guidelines if positive. If COVID-19 testing is

negative and symptoms are moderate to severe, consider seeing a healthcare provider for influenza and RSV testing and treatment.

Antigen tests for COVID-19 are widely available at retail pharmacies and covered by insurance with no cost-sharing in-network. Free COVID-19 antigen tests and masks are accessible in vending machines at the following locations:

Davis: Mary L. Stephens Library, 315 E. 14th St.

Esparto: Regional Library, 17065 Yolo Ave.

West Sacramento (Temporarily unavailable): HESA Campus, 500 Jefferson Blvd.

Winters: City Hall, 318 1st St.

Woodland (Temporarily unavailable): La Superior Market, 34 W. Court St.

If you test positive for COVID-19 and have symptoms, talk to a healthcare provider about antiviral treatments to prevent severe disease and recover faster. Individuals without timely access to a healthcare provider can utilize free virtual COVID-19 telehealth services and medications through Sesame Care by calling 833-686-5051 or visiting their website at SesameCare.com/covid. Anyone seeking guidance on locally available resources for COVID-19 support, including testing, vaccination, or other assistance programs, should call 2-1-1.

For more information and updates, please visit the official Yolo County COVID-19 website at YoloCounty.org/Coronavirus ★

Caltrans Releases Draft Project List for Public Comment

Caltrans News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Caltrans has released the draft 2024 State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) plan, the state's primary funding program for maintaining and preserving California's transportation infrastructure.

The draft, which features a new interactive dashboard detailing the location and specifics on approximately \$16 billion in projects, will be open for public comment through Jan. 19, 2024. The list of approximately 600 projects throughout the state includes approximately 100 carryover projects where Caltrans later added climate adaptation, additional safety protections, and bike and pedestrian elements. These projects had been developed before the state's adoption of the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) in 2021. The added elements were funded by approximately \$600 million from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The 195 new projects being added to the SHOPP reflect planning work largely completed after CAPTI implementation. These projects, totaling \$6.2 billion, include many climate, safety and multimodal features within the overall "fix it first" framework established in Senate Bill (SB) 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

The SHOPP covers four fiscal years (FY 24/25 through 27/28) and funds roadway and bridge rehabilitation or replacements, along with safety improvements, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, operational improvements, and climate adaptation projects.

For increased transparency, Caltrans incorporated the interactive dashboard to allow the public to map, search and download all the proposed projects, including significant details on the project scope.

"Caltrans is focused on maintaining and improving the state's transportation network so that it is safer, more reliable and more climate resilient," said Caltrans Director Tony Tavares.

"We are also committed to transparency to ensure the public has the opportunity to be engaged before we move forward with projects."

In line with the "fix it first" philosophy, the SHOPP's primary focus is fixing and maintaining the state highway system. Along with keeping the state highway system in a state of good repair, the SHOPP also includes additional objectives, such as improving safety for all road users; increasing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure; ensuring projects are equitably distributed in rural and urban centers and throughout all socioeconomic sections; and providing for climate adaptation.

Proposed funding includes: \$8 billion to improve more than 6,000 lane-miles of pavement; \$3.2 billion to repair and upgrade 80 bridges and tunnels; \$900 million for safety improvements; \$666 million to upgrade drainage systems by repairing more than 58 miles of culverts and diversions; \$604 million for 1,400 new and improved signals, signs, ramps, and metering systems; Nearly \$400 million to make infrastructure more resilient to the impacts of climate change. The prior SHOPP had no dedicated investment for climate resiliency; \$280 million for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure; \$173 million for improved highway/interstate signage and lighting.


Interested parties are encouraged to review the draft SHOPP online dashboard at projectbook.dot.ca.gov. The website includes a link to submit online comments on the draft SHOPP.

Building on the SHOPP transportation efforts, the 2023 State Highway System Management Plan (SHSMP), released earlier this year, lays out the future objectives for SHOPP projects. The 2023 SHSMP is organized to incorporate more climate-friendly elements into maintenance projects and presents a performance-driven, integrated management plan for California's state highway system's needs, investments, and performance for the 10-year period spanning through June 2033. ★

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS  

Crime Reports

WEST SACRAMENTO



12-16-23 MOISES RODRIGUEZ-CORTEZ Arrested for Driving without a license, DUI and DUI 0.08% after allegedly driving the wrong way on West Capitol Ave. 12-19-23 CARLOS DIAZ Arrested for Assault with a deadly weapon:Not a firearm and Threaten crime with intent to terrorize.

12-21-23 JOSE MENDEZ Arrested for Disorderly conduct.

12-24-23 JAMES MONTAGNE Arrested for burglary:First degree and receiving known stolen property after allegedly breaking into a residence where he thought the owner had died. He took pictures and drawings, books and some documents and a few audio items, then locked up the house and exited through the back window. Resident said the things were his and he did not know the people that broke in.

12-25-23 JOSEPH DRAKE Arrested for Burglary and Obstruction.

INCIDENT/CRIME REPORTS

11-19-23 Unidentified suspects stole approximately \$6,000 - \$7,000 worth of tools. Burglary.

12-15-23 Shooting occurred on Lighthouse Drive and Fountain Drive. Assault with a firearm on person.

12-18-23 A battery was stolen out of victim's tractor trailer. \$100 loss. Petty theft.

12-19-23 Subject arrested. Verbal road dispute. In the midst of the dispute, suspect appeared to intentionally run victim's vehicle off the road. Assault with a deadly weapon:NOT a firearm, Threaten crime with intent to terrorize.

12-20-23 Victim's vehicle was burglarized in his driveway. \$800 loss. Burglary and Vandalism.

12-21-23 Vandalism to fire knock box. \$612 loss. Vandalism

12-21-23 Subject was seen and reported by multiple people looking into vehicles and opening garages in a neighborhood. Subject was found hiding next to a fence in business next to a residence and did not live in neighborhood. Subject was found to be on Sacramento County probation and was arrested. Disorderly conduct.

12-21-23 Residents called in reports of shots fired following a verbal argument between neighbors. When Officers arrived, they found 5 spent 9MM shell casings were located in a driveway on Laurel Lane. Attempts to contact resident via loud speaker and by telephone were unsuccessful. Follow-up to be conducted by investigations. Willful discharge of a firearm in a grossly negligent manner.

12-21-23 Unknown male subject walked into the store, went to hardware, grabbed pressure washer, put in cart and left. \$450 loss. Petty theft.

12-14-23 Victim had over \$15,000.00 worth of items stolen from storage unit. \$17,300 loss. Burglary and Grand theft.

12-19-23 Suspect brandished a firearm at victim after hitting his car. Suspect fled. No Hit and Run report requested but victim wanted to press charges for brandishing a firearm. Exhibit concealed firearm in public.

12-19-23 Burglary at City of West Sacramento Public Works Building.

12-22-23 Right side front passenger window broken and items taken. \$245 loss. Burglary.

12-24-23 Subject entered residence and removed several miscellaneous items. Subject detained. Property returned to owner. Burglary and Receiving known stolen property.

12-25-23 Subject caught committing Burglary. \$585 loss. Burglary and Obstruction.

Toys Distributed to over 500 Children

Continued from page 1

the previous year, played a pivotal role in enhancing the scale and impact of the event. The collective efforts of the sponsors and volunteers translated into more smiles, laughter, and excitement among the children.

With their distinctive populations, Dunnigan, Yolo, and Zamora symbolize the diverse range of experiences and cultural backgrounds that define Yolo County. The toy distribution event not only brought seasonal cheer, but also fostered a sense of community and shared responsibility. The presence of Santa Claus added

a magical touch to the festivities. The genuine delight on the faces of the children served as a reminder of the positive influence such events have on the community's overall well-being.

The 3rd Annual Christmas Toy Distribution in Dunnigan emerged as a ray of joy and unity. The event not only brought joy to the youth, but also strengthened the bonds of community in this unique corner of Yolo County. The collective warmth of generosity and compassion shone bright, leaving an enduring impact on the hearts and minds of all those who participated in and benefited from this remarkable initiative. ★

Caltrans Extends Public Comment Period for Interstate 80 Project

Continued from page 1

Transportation in 2021. That federal funding expires if the project is not federally authorized for construction by September 30, 2024.

Based on the proposed schedule, Caltrans anticipates construction to

begin in October 2024 and finish the project in winter 2027, contingent on funding.

Caltrans District 3 is responsible for maintaining and operating 4,385 lane miles in 11 Sacramento Valley and Northern Sierra counties.

For district updates, follow Caltrans District 3 on X @CaltransDist3 and on Facebook at CaltransDistrict3. For real-time traffic, click on Caltrans' QuickMap or download the QuickMap app from the App Store or Google Play. ★

SAFE Grants \$10,000 to Overnight Childcare Crisis Nursery

SAFE Credit Union News Release

FOLSOM, CA (MPG) - Exemplifying the credit union's commitment in 2023 to provide philanthropic support to nonprofits supporting healthy communities, SAFE is providing funding to help the most vulnerable of Yolo, Sacramento and Solano county residents.

The credit union recently awarded the Yolo Crisis Nursery with a \$10,000 SAFE community grant to assist the center's efforts to give children experiencing, or at risk of being abused and neglected, a safe, healthy and caring environment.

The grant provides funding for the nursery's Safe Stays Crisis Respite Care program. The crisis nursery – one of only four throughout California – is the only crisis nursery licensed to provide overnight crisis childcare in Yolo County.

"Our vision at the

nursery is that every child grows up in a safe, stable, and loving home," said Yolo Crisis Nursery Executive Director Heather Sleuter. "We are thrilled to partner with SAFE Credit Union on this grant. It will enable the nursery to care for more vulnerable children and their families in our community."

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, an estimated one in four children in the country experience abuse or neglect in their lifetime. In addition, the most recent available data from KidsData, an organization that promotes the health of children in California, shows 43 reports of abuse or neglect per 1,000 children were made in Yolo County in 2020.

The Safe Stays program provides between 2,000 and 2,500 stays for children annually, including 100 parents and children in crisis benefitting from the program that offers a caring and homelike



Yolo Crisis Nursery Executive Director Heather Sleuter

environment for visitors. "We are so humbled and proud to be able to provide funding for such an extraordinarily impactful program in our area," said SAFE Credit Union Vice President of Community Relations and Financial Education Rebecca Delmundo.

The Yolo Crisis Nursery, founded in 2001, offers free, 24-hour nurturing childcare for infants and children up to the age of five and provides wrap-around services for parents and caretakers. To find out more visit: <https://yolocrisisnursery.org/>. ★

Yearlong Reading Program to Continue in 2024

Yolo County News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - Yolo County Library has a New Year's resolution for you: Read more in 2024. Beginning January 1, the Library will continue the reading program that spans the entire calendar year, entitled "52: A Yearlong Reading Journey."

The Library is once again challenging patrons to read as many books as they can in 2024 with the help of our weekly prompts. Yolo County Librarian Diana Lopez said, "We are really excited about continuing 52: A Yearlong Reading Journey

in 2024! Reading is a life-long skill that can offer many benefits. It is a great way to learn new things, relax, and even escape into exciting worlds different from your own. Reading can also be a great way to connect with others and make new friends by sharing recommendations and joining book clubs. If you're looking for some encouragement and an opportunity to read more books, sign up for this amazing program!"

Pick up a 52 checklist at your local library branch, or sign up on Beanstack to join the program digitally. Beanstack is available on mobile devices through the

Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or can be accessed by web browser at www.YoloCountyLibrary.Beanstack.org/reader365.

52: A Yearlong Reading Journey is free and sponsored by the Yolo County Library Foundation and the various Friends of the Library groups. For more information or to sign up, visit your local Yolo County Library branch or www.YoloCountyLibrary.org/ycl52. Connect with Yolo County Library on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/YoloCountyLibrary.org and Instagram at @yolocountylibrary. ★

West Sacramento Recreation Center's 15th Anniversary Party/Open House

City of West Sacramento News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Passholders and the West Sacramento community are invited to celebrate 15 years of health, wellness, and community at the Rec Center. Stop by on Friday, January 12,

2024, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. to check out the facility. Our event will offer something for everyone, spanning all age groups. From thrilling Mario Kart tournaments to exciting rock wall challenges, group exercise classes and more, there will be entertainment and activities suitable for both kids and adults. ★

Tanya Aguilera
West Sacramento Specialist

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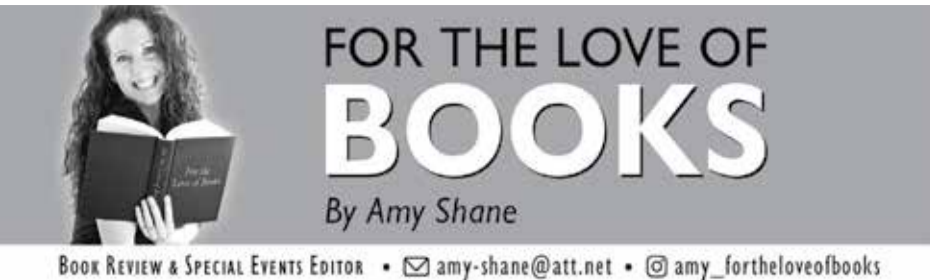
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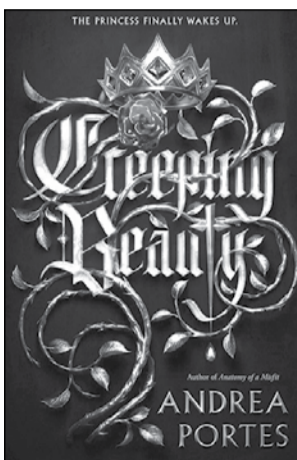
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Creeping Beauty

by Andrea Portes



◆ Publisher: Harper Teen
◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
◆ Release Date: Aug. 22, 2023

nothing, but beauty is a currency. Now fighting for survival and finding a way home, Bitsy learns the power and sharpness of her own mind. The only way to survive this world is to be cunning, deceitful, and quick, all attributes Bitsy never knew she possessed.

Yet, in a land ruled by greed and possession, Bitsy must still learn who is there to help and who is there to profit, opening the door to more questions than there are answers. Ultimately, this poses the true question: At what point is the Princess's true awakening?

The Princess finally awakens in this twisted, retold story of Sleeping

Beauty. While giving the illusion of sleeping in a deep slumber, Sleeping Beauty is actually very awake, living an alternate reality in a strange new world. A world that is meant to challenge Sleeping Beauty in every facet of her life, ultimately forming its own awakening.

While the preface of this Sleeping Beauty retelling is alluring, readers will uncover a confusing plot line that tackles weighty, sensitive issues. With the princess landing in a kingdom where most of the inhabitants die, to narrowly escape only to be sold to the highest bidder, readers will be left questioning which direction this story is headed. However, the story's saving grace is that the main character has quite the growth, learning to use her mind, skills, and wit to survive. This story's quick ending is left to readers' interpretation, but also is the subtext. Andrea Portes doesn't serve the story or its meaning on a silver platter; instead, it allows the readers to ponder and think for themselves the true meaning and message behind the real awakening of Sleeping Beauty. ★

Social Security Matters

If My Wife Claims Now, Will It Hurt My Social Security Amount?



By Russell Gloor,
AMAC Certified Social
Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I am 69 years old, and my wife turned 70 early this year. I am still working full time. My wife is not working, but she got a letter from Social Security saying she should take her Social Security as soon as possible.

My question is: since my wife has reached her full retirement age, can she take her SS without it affecting mine when I claim? I plan to work at least another year, depending on how the economy goes (I may have to work longer if it doesn't get better). I have IRAs and a 401k to pull from when I retire. **Signed: Anxious Husband**

Dear Anxious: The reason your wife received a letter from Social Security (SS) suggesting she claims now is because her benefit reached maximum some time ago at age 70. Thus, there is no reason for her to wait beyond age 70 to claim. By delaying past age 70 your wife is losing money so she should apply as soon as possible. I suggest your wife call Social Security at 1.800.772.1213 (or your local office) right away to request an appointment to apply for her

benefits and she should be sure to request six months of retroactive payments (SS will pay up to 6 months retroactively). If your wife has a "my Social Security" online account, she can also apply online at www.ssa.gov/apply, but she should be sure to request six months of retroactive benefits in the "Remarks" section of the online application. Because your wife is more than six months past age 70, getting 6 months retroactive benefits will not reduce her age 70 benefit amount. Nor will your wife claiming her benefits now negatively affect your Social Security when you later claim.

Even though you plan to continue working, likely beyond 70 years of age yourself, you should not wait beyond age 70 to claim for the same reason – your benefit will reach maximum when you are 70. You can apply for your benefits up to 4 months in advance, and specify you want benefits to start in the month you turn 70. If you haven't already done so, you may wish to create your own "my Social Security" online account now at www.ssa.gov/myaccount, which will make it easier for you to apply online at www.ssa.gov/apply when the time comes next year. Applying online is, by far, the most efficient way, but you need to have your online account set up first to do so.

Just so you know, there is no need to worry that you won't get credit for work income earned after you have applied for your benefits. Even after you are collecting benefits, Social

Security will automatically review your earnings each year when that info is received from the IRS (after you file your income tax return). If your most recent earnings are higher than those in any of the 35 years of lifetime earnings used to calculate your benefit when you claim, Social Security will automatically increase your monthly payment amount. In other words, you shouldn't delay past age 70 to claim Social Security because you're working – you'll still get credit for those earnings, automatically.

So, I suggest that your wife take fast action to apply for her Social Security benefits to avoid losing any more money, and that you plan to apply for your benefits to start when you turn 70. There is no financial advantage to waiting beyond age 70 to claim, even if you continue working.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★

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(916) 372-6570

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2124 Michigan Blvd.,
West Sacramento, CA 95691

(916) 265-4025

pastorron@newseasons.ws
www.newseasons.ws

West Sacramento Baptist Church

Sun. School - 9:30 a.m.

Sun. Worship - 11 a.m.

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

2124 Michigan Blvd.
(916) 371-2111

Community Lutheran Church

Join us for a positive, uplifting message!

We welcome all!

Sunday Service at 10 a.m.

920 Drever St.

(916) 317-8804

[Facebook.com/CommunityLutheranWestSacramento](https://www.facebook.com/CommunityLutheranWestSacramento)

CommunityLutheranWestSacramento

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1500 Park Blvd. W. Sacramento

(916) 371-5875

www.TrinityWestSac.org

info@trinitywestsac.org

Pastor Jamie Crook

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revrick@csasacramento.org



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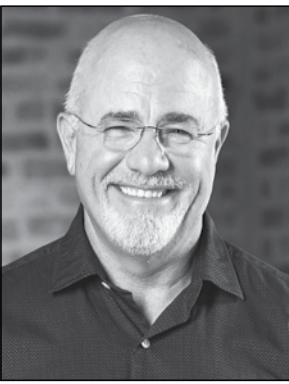
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Dave Ramsey Says

to be practical and realistic at the same time.

This next part is more observation than insult, so I hope you'll understand. Your friend sounds to me like he might be a little impulsive and unrealistic. When it comes right down to it, maybe a touch immature, too. So, I think what we're talking about here is how to give your friend a gentle, well-intentioned nudge in a more realistic direction. He needs to open his eyes to some positive financial realities of life—like living on a written, monthly budget—and not making a habit of chasing rainbows and making excuses.

If he came to me for advice, the first thing I'd tell him is that the most employable people are ones who aren't broke. When you go into a job interview and you're broke, it's easy to come off as desperate and tense. That doesn't make for a very good interview.

The answer to that, when you're essentially unemployed, is to work any legitimate full-time job. At the very least, two, three or even four part-time jobs. Deliver pizzas, wait tables

and mow yards. It's doesn't matter what you're doing, as long as you're generating a livable income for yourself. Smile and be professional at whatever you're doing, too. You never know when you might come face-to-face with your next real employer. But none of this will happen if you're working three or four hours a day, and spending most of your time at home in front of the television.

I hope this helps. I hope your friend will listen to you and understand you have his best interests at heart. But if he doesn't, all you can do is hope for the best and pray for him.

Best of luck, Garrett. You're a good friend.

— 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 Ramsey Solutions ★

But Will He Listen?

Dear Dave,

My best friend is having financial problems, and I'm worried about him. He's "between jobs" now and making less than \$600 a month through a part-time job. He says he's holding out for his dream job, which is about ten hours away, but even when he's working full time, he always asks to borrow money or says he's running low. He interviewed for his dream job several months ago, and I haven't got the heart to tell him he was probably passed over for the position. Is there anything I can do to help him?

— Garrett

Dear Garrett,

I assume that since you're good friends, he's willing to listen to what you have to say. There's absolutely nothing wrong with having a dream job. You just have

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West Sacramento News Briefs

MPG Staff

Parks and Rec Fit n' Play - Fit n' Play class focuses on getting your kiddos moving and familiar with basic physical fitness such as body weight exercises, yoga, stretching, cardio and will incorporate games, relay races and other fun activities. Event held at Recreation Center, 2801 Jefferson Blvd., January 9, 2024, 6:45 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. For ages 7 to 12. Fee: Free for passholders, \$10 for non-passholders.

Kids Night Out - Kids get a night out and parents get a night off! Kids will enjoy three hours of games, activities like crafts and dancing, as well as dinner and a movie! Be sure to send your child with a blanket and pillow to be comfortable during

movie time.

When: Friday from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. on December 8 | January 12 | March 8 | April 12

Where: West Sacramento Community Center 1075 West Capitol Ave., West Sacramento, CA 95691

Who: For Kids in Kindergarten through 5th Grade (Ages 5-12)

Cost: \$15 per child/ session

Advance Registration required. Please register today! Space is limited and sign-ups close the Sunday prior to the event date. Find the event under "Youth and Teen activities" or enter "Kids Night Out" into the search field.

Questions about the event? Please contact our Recreation Coordinator Lucy Ramos.

Zumbini - Free Demo

Session - Created by Zumba and BabyFirst for kids ages 0-5, Zumbini combines music, dance and educational tools for 45 minutes of can't-stop, won't-stop bonding, learning, and fitness fun! This class is open to the child and mom, dad, grandparents or any caregivers. Register here! Find it under "Special Interest Adult, Teen & Youth." Date: 01/13/2024 12 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. Recreation Center located at 2801 Jefferson Blvd., West Sacramento, California 95691.

West Sacramento has 4 options for Christmas Tree Recycling! Here's how you can give your tree a second life:

Recycle your tree curbside by placing it next to your organics cart on your regular service day,

December 26 through January 22. Trees' lengths must be no longer than 5ft. You may also cut your tree into smaller sections and place them inside your organics cart.

Have the Cub Scouts recycle it for you! Pack 49 is offering tree pickup and recycling for donations. Contact the Scouts at Pack49Trees@gmail.com to inquire about a tree pick up appointment.

Take it to the Yolo County Central Landfill for free tree recycling daily, December 26 through January 15, excluding New Year's Day, when the landfill will be closed. Located at 44090 County Rd. 28H, Woodland, CA 95776.

Drop it off at WM's free Christmas Tree recycling bin at 1271 W Capitol Ave., daily from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., December

26 through January 9.

Please remove the tinsel, lights, stand, and ornaments before recycling your tree.

Turner Library is offering some great classes and events - Location is 1212 Merkley Ave., West Sacramento.

January 8 - Maker Monday: Join us the 2nd Monday each month as we craft and draw together! Have fun and connect with others as we encourage each other's creativity. Bring your own project to work on or use supplies provided by the library. All skill levels welcome. Best for adults & teens 16+. 12:30 p.m.-2 p.m.

January 9 - Hug-a-bye-baby: A lap-sit program best for children under one year and their parents/caregivers to promote language and social development

through songs, stories, rhymes, and play.

January 10 - Wiggle Wednesday: Get the wiggles out at this weekly music and movement program! All families welcome — best for children ages 1-5.

Understanding your taxes: Confused by your taxes? Join us for a presentation by SAFE's Financial Wellness Team as they shed light on some of the mystery that exists around what taxes are, how they are used, and important documents to understand.

January 11 - Yoga at the Library: Come relax your mind and body with our weekly yoga class led by certified instructor Maria Betts. Be sure to bring a mat and bottled water, and wear comfortable athletic clothing. Beginners welcome! ★

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Notice of Public Hearing

Pursuant to Government Code Section 66018, The West Sacramento Economic Development and Housing Commission (EDH) will conduct a public hearing on January 24, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. to announce the availability of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for program year 2024 and to receive public comment regarding programs and projects that may be considered for funding. Interested persons are invited to attend. The hearing will be held at the City of West Sacramento City Hall, second floor, 1110 West Capitol Ave., West Sacramento, California 95691.

The City of West Sacramento receives an annual allocation of CDBG funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As a condition of the grant, the City is required to develop an Annual Action Plan outlining how funds will be used to meet goals set in a HUD-approved five-year Consolidated Plan. The 2024 Annual Action Plan will cover the fourth year of the City's 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan.

CDBG funds must be used for projects that meet at least one of the three HUD national objectives:

1) benefitting low and moderate-income households; 2) addressing slums or blight conditions; or 3) addressing an urgent need such as flood or earthquake damage. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to: public infrastructure, parks, affordable housing and job creation; in addition to public services such as programs serving the homeless, disabled, elderly or low-income persons. Public facility development may be eligible for projects such as acquisition or rehabilitation of shelters, health clinics, or youth centers benefitting low- and moderate-income families. The City estimates an allocation of funds close to the prior year's CDBG allocation of \$518,743 and an estimated \$300,000 in program income to be available during program year 2024.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk, at clerk@cityofwestsacramento.org, seventy-two

(72) hours prior to the meeting to allow the City to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to this meeting.

Assistance is available to groups representing low-income residents that are interested in learning about CDBG funding for programs or projects. Questions or comments may be directed to Isaah Alford, Community Investment Planner, at (916) 617-4555 or by email at isaaha@cityofwestsacramento.org.

The City of West Sacramento promotes fair housing and makes all programs available to low- and moderate-income households regardless of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual preference, marital status or disability.

Aviso de Audiencia Pública

En conformidad con la Sección 66018 del Código de Gobierno, la Comisión de Vivienda y Desarrollo Económico de West Sacramento (EDH, por sus siglas en inglés) llevará a cabo una audiencia pública el 24 de enero de 2024 a las 6:00 p.m. para anunciar la disponibilidad de fondos federales de Subvención en Bloque para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG, por sus siglas en inglés) para el programa del año 2024 y para recibir comentarios públicos sobre programas y proyectos que pueden ser considerados para financiamiento. Las personas interesadas están invitadas a asistir. La audiencia se llevará a cabo en el Ayuntamiento de la Ciudad de West Sacramento, segundo piso, 1110 West Capitol Ave., West Sacramento, California 95691.

La ciudad de West Sacramento recibe una asignación anual de fondos CDBG del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD, por sus siglas en inglés). Como condición de la subvención, se requiere que la Ciudad desarrolle un Plan de Acción Anual que describa cómo se utilizarán los fondos para alcanzar las metas establecidas en un Plan Consolidado de cinco años aprobado por HUD. El Plan de Acción Anual 2024 cubrirá el tercer año del Plan Consolidado 2021-2025 de la Ciudad.

Los fondos de CDBG deben usarse para proyectos que cumplan con al menos uno de los tres objetivos nacionales de HUD: 1) beneficiar a los hogares de ingresos bajos y moderados; 2) abordar las condiciones de los barrios pobres o deteriorados; o 3) abordar una necesidad urgente, como daños por inundaciones o terremotos. Los proyectos elegibles incluyen, pero no se limitan a: infraestructura pública, parques, vivienda asequible y creación de empleo; además de servicios públicos como programas que atienden a personas sin hogar, discapacitadas, de la tercera edad o de escasos recursos. El desarrollo de instalaciones públicas puede ser elegible para proyectos como la adquisición o rehabilitación de refugios, clínicas de salud o centros juveniles que beneficien a familias de ingresos bajos y moderados. La Ciudad estima una asignación de fondos cercana a la asignación CDBG del año anterior de \$518,743 y un estimado \$300,000 en ingresos del programa estarán disponibles durante el programa del año 2024.

En conformidad con la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA, por sus siglas en inglés), si necesita ayuda para participar en esta reunión, comuníquese con la Secretaria de la Ciudad, a clerk@cityofwestsacramento.org, setenta y dos (72) horas antes de la reunión para permitir que la Ciudad haga arreglos razonables para asegurar la accesibilidad a esta reunión.

La asistencia está disponible para grupos que representan a residentes de bajos ingresos que estén interesados en obtener información sobre la financiación de CDBG para programas o proyectos. Las preguntas o comentarios pueden dirigirse a Isaah Alford, especialista en inversiones comunitarias, al (916) 617-4555 o por correo electrónico a isaaha@cityofwestsacramento.org.

La ciudad de West Sacramento promueve la vivienda justa y pone todos los programas a disposición de los hogares de ingresos bajos y moderados, independientemente de su edad, raza, color, religión, sexo, origen nacional, preferencia sexual, estado civil o discapacidad.

West Sac News Ledger 1-5-2024

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received and submitted **electronically** through the City's Procurement system at <https://www.cityofwestsacramento.org/business/invitation-to-bid> until **12:00 PM local time on January 31, 2024**, at which results will be posted and available for public review for the:

RIVER WALK PARK – GRAND STAIRCASE REPAIR PROJECT

This Invitation to Bid (ITB) is for the construction phase of the River Walk Park – Grand Staircase Repair Project. The City is seeking a qualified contractor to provide all labor, material, equipment, and services necessary.

TENTATIVE CITY SCHEDULE:

Mandatory Bid Walk:

January 16, 2023 - 11:00am
At the "Grand Staircase" just east of:
200 Waterfront Place
West Sacramento, CA
95691

Bid Release Date December 28, 2023
RFI Question Cutoff January 23, 2024
Proposals Due no later than 12:00pm January 31, 2024

INQUIRIES:

Questions about this Invitation to Bid should be submitted through the OpenGov at <https://www.cityofwestsacramento.org/business/invitation-to-bid>. If appropriate, the City will post responses to Bidder questions through the Procurement system.

West Sac News Ledger 12-29-23 and 1-5-2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Self-storage Cube contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by **CubeSmart Asset Management, LLC** as Agent for Owner 541 Harbor Blvd. West Sacramento Ca, 95691 to satisfy a lien on January 11, 2024 at approx. 12:00PM at www.storage treasures.com:

Joshua Joseph, JEWELL WILKINS, John Taylor, Aicha Fousshi-Fischel, Shonika Williams, Lisa Overstreet, Corazon Fernandez, Aileen Tavernia, Michelle Lee, Aileen Tavernia

West Sac News Ledger 12-29-23 and 1-5-2024

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received and submitted electronically through the City's ProcureNow system at <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/cityofwestsacramento> until **2:00 p.m. local time on January 24, 2024**, at which time and place results will be posted and available for public review for the:

WASHINGTON AND BRODERICK LIGHTING AND SAFETY PROJECT

The proposed work consists of installation of video detection systems, TESCO backup battery systems, new signal cabinets, pedestrian push buttons, and various street light fixtures in the Washington District. This project is funded by the Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant. All project work must meet all applicable codes and requirements.

The Contractor shall provide labor, tools, equipment, and incidentals, and shall perform all work necessary to deliver a completed project.

Pre-Bid Meeting: Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

- Completion of Work:** All work shall be completed within **Thirty (30) working days** from the date designated on the Notice to Proceed.
- Obtaining Contract Documents:** Contract documents and plans are available for downloading free of charge through the City's ProcureNow link at <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/cityofwestsacramento>.

- Questions:** Project-specific questions must be submitted through the City's ProcureNow link at <https://secure.procurenow.com/portal/cityofwestsacramento>. If appropriate, the City will post responses to Bidder questions through the ProcureNow system. The cutoff date for submittal of questions is **Monday, January 15, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. local time**.

- Submission of Proposals:** Sealed proposals will be received and submitted **electronically** through the City's ProcureNow system at <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/cityofwestsacramento> until **2:00 p.m. local time on Wednesday, January 24, 2024**, at which time and place results will be posted and available for public review for the:

Each Bid must conform and be responsive to this notice and shall be submitted through the City's ProcureNow system at <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/cityofwestsacramento>.

- Bid Security:** Each proposal must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of a cashier's check, certified check, or Bid bond executed on the prescribed form, in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total Bid price payable to the City of West Sacramento.

Bidders are hereby notified that in accordance with the provisions of Public Contract Code section 22300, securities may be substituted for any monies which the City may withhold pursuant to the terms of this Contract to ensure performance.

- Construction License:** Bidder must possess a current Class "A" General Engineering issued by the State of California at the time the bid is submitted.

- Contractor Registration:** All Bidders, and Subcontractors subject to Public Contract Code section 4104, must have registered with the California State Department of Industrial Relations pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5 prior to submitting a bid. Furthermore, a Contractor, and all Subcontractors subject to Public Contract Code section 4104, must be registered pursuant to Labor Code section 1725.5 before entering into a contract to work on a public project.

- Preconstruction Conference:** A preconstruction conference will be convened after the Contractor has delivered the necessary bonds, insurance certificates, and signed agreement in proper form as required in the invitation to bid, Bid proposal, and general conditions of these specifications. Prior to any work, the Contractor shall provide the Engineer with a list of key personnel assigned to the project and the telephone numbers where they may be reached at any time. The list shall be made available in sufficient copies and presented at the preconstruction conference.

- Award:** The award shall be made to the lowest responsible Bidder whose proposal complies with the specified requirements. The award of the Contract will be made by the West Sacramento City Council, and the Contractor shall execute the Contract within ten (10) days after it has received the Contract from the City. The City reserves the right to waive any irregularity in the proposals. No Bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the opening of bids.

- Rejection of Bids:** The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids, or to waive immaterial irregularities in any bid. Any Bid not conforming to the intent and purpose of the Contract Documents may be rejected. The City reserves the right to make all awards in the best interest of the City.

- Disqualification of Bidder:** If there is a reason to believe that collusion exists among any Bidders, none of the bids of the participants in such collusion will be considered and the City may likewise elect to reject all bids received.

- Relief of Bidder:** Attention is directed to the provisions of Public Contracts Code section 5101 and the following, concerning relief of Bidders and in particular to the requirements therein that if the Bidder claims a mistake was made in its bid, the Bidder shall give the City written notice, within five (5) days after the opening of bids of the alleged mistake, specifying in the notice, in detail, how the mistake occurred.

- Wage Rates:** Bidders are hereby notified that the California Department of Industrial Relations has determined the general prevailing rate of wages for each craft, classification, or type of worker needed to execute the work. Copies of the current schedules for prevailing wages are on file in the City's office, and the contents of those schedules are included herein as if set forth in full.

It shall be mandatory for the Contractor and any Subcontractor under it to pay not less than the said specified rates to laborers and workmen employed by them in the execution of the Contract.

- Bonds:** The successful Bidder will be required to furnish a payment bond in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract price, and a faithful performance bond in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract price.

By: Ryan Teves, Senior Civil Engineer

Date: 12/22/2023

West Sac News Ledger 1-5 and 1-12-2024

COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

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SEA HOG, MAY I HAVE THE REST OF THE NIGHT OFF?

SURE, LINDEN, EVERYONE DESERVES ONE LAST GOOD NEW YEAR'S EVE.

I HATE TALKING TO YOU AFTER YOU USE YOUR CRYSTAL BALL.

THOUGHT ABOUT USING YOUR PAID TIME OFF? LIKE, BEFORE APRIL?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SETTIN' OUT BLACK-EYED PEAS 'N' SOAK.

YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT STUFF?

ABSOLUTELY. WE ALSO GOTSK TEATS CABBAGE, WIT A LIL SPINACH, FER GOOD FORTUNE.

AN' COURSE, THERE'S THE TRADITION OF THAT FRISK NEW YEAR'S KISS!

EXCUSE ME, ME LOVE.

GOTTA EAT 'EM TOMORROW FER A LUCKY NEW YEAR.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

WHAT A SIGHT I AM. THREE LUMPS OF SNOW FOR A BODY, AND ROCKS FOR EYES.

NOT TO MENTION THESE STRAIGHT DEAD BRITTLE BRANCHES FOR ARMS...

OH GREAT, AND NOW MY NOSE ITCHES!

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

BACK IN THE DAY... HAPPY NEW YEAR 1983 HA

DO YOU THINK WE CAN STAY UP TILL DAWN?

TODAY... HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024 HA

DO YOU THINK WE CAN STAY UP PAST 10:00 PM?

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

C'MON, PUNKINHEAD!

IT SNOWED!

COME OUT WHEN YOU GET PRESSED

WHERE'S THE SNOW?

IT MELTED

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

LET ME GUESS, YOU LEAVE A GIANT BOTTLE OF MILK OUT FOR BABY NEW YEAR FOR GOOD LUCK, TOO?

GIVE ME SUSTENANCE, MORTALS.

I DUNNO 'BOUT GOOD LUCK, BUT I KNOWS WE'LL HAVE BAD LUCK IF WE DONTSK!

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Ottoman is turned. 2. Drawer is added. 3. Phone is moved. 4. Legs are shorter. 5. Hat is turned around. 6. Boy is moved.

GRIN AND BEAR IT

by Dave T. Phipps

NEW PLAN... WAIT UNTIL I GET OUT OF THE HOSPITAL TO TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS.

"He has a few good years left if he skips New Year's Eves."

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K	O	R	E	A	L	E	A	N	O	R	S	E
A	W	A	Y	M	A	R	Y	U	K	O	N	

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • WINTER FUN

CLUES

ACROSS

- Mulligatawny and gazpacho, e.g.
- Half of NFL
- "Oscar" of sports
- Relating to sight
- Sargasso
- Dugout glider
- Not fresh
- First H in HRH
- Face-to-face exams
- "Ice fishing shelter
- "Polar" activity
- "Type of Christmas tree
- Diagonal
- Tax return professional, acr.
- Kind of cola
- Diaphragm spasm
- Scepters' partners
- Of two minds
- Jean Baker
- Rabbit's winter one is white
- Sheik's bevy?
- Type of dam
- Butcher's refuse
- Etna's emission
- Secret disclosure
- Stellar
- Chap or fella
- Diabetic ketoacidosis, acr.
- A or O, to blood
- Unit of electrical resistance
- "Finger warmers
- "Certain sleigh ride
- Courtroom excuse
- Gobbled up
- Train runners
- Land of taekwondo
- "Caroline in the City" Thompson
- Relating to Scandinavia
- Not home
- Last winter mo.
- Klondike river

DOWN

- Acronym in a bottle
- Chooses
- Colorado's neighbor
- a.k.a. pilau
- Like a longer route?
- Grayish
- ATM extra
- Carpus, pl.
- Bring home the bacon
- Unforeseen obstacle
- "Skier's aid
- Da or oui
- Jenny McCarthy to Melissa McCarthy
- Engagement, archaic
- di-dah
- Onslaught
- "Warming drink
- Faculty members, for short
- Behind a stern
- "Frosty's eyes
- Type of hood
- Apollo of "Rocky"
- Inuit skin boat
- "a.k.a. anorak
- "Betelgeuse, e.g.
- Snow, in Italy
- Lord's estate
- Lithuania's neighbor
- NaOH
- Like a rosebush
- Church song
- Meow, alt. sp.
- in-the-dark

CROSSWORD

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We publish 18 local newspapers in the Sacramento Region. Our main office is in Carmichael. We have been publishing for 17 years and are seeking new qualified employees.

CURRENT WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Office Administration – We are seeking a full-time administrative support person for our newspaper group. This position works in the Carmichael office and works directly with the Office Manager. Work hours are between 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Previous office management experience is required.

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.

Copy Editor – We are seeking a part-time copy editor for our newspaper group. This position works in the Carmichael office and works directly with Editor. Work hours are flexible between 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Previous editing experience is required.

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.

Newsstand Delivery Driver – We are seeking a part-time Newsstand Delivery 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.

To find out more or to apply:
Email your questions or resume to Publisher@MPG8.com

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It is the intent of the *News-Ledger* to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.

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MPG ENPA CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

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 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 over-promising 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." ★

It's A New Year, But California Will Continue To Struggle With Existential Issues In 2024



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

California enters the new year with its existential issues still unresolved, and a new one – an immense budget deficit – threatens to make dealing with them even more difficult.

California has made very little progress, if any, on narrowing its shortage of housing, its levels of homelessness and poverty remain among the nation's highest, and its population is declining as hundreds of thousands of Californians decamp for other states.

The Legislature's budget analyst has calculated that California faces a \$68 billion gap between revenue and already programmed spending over a three-year period that began in 2022. Annual deficits in the \$30 billion range thereafter.

Next week, Gov. Gavin Newsom will quantify his version of the yawning gap and how he proposes to close it, touching off six months of negotiations with the Legislature on a 2024-25 budget.

It will dominate election-year discourse in California and complicate Newsom's simultaneous efforts to expand his national political image by portraying California as a model of compassionate and effective governance that should be emulated elsewhere.

Newsom and other statewide officials – Democrats all – will not be on the ballot this year, and it's certain that Democrats will continue to enjoy supermajorities in both legislative houses. California's only electoral uncertainties are which of three Democrats will fill the late Dianne Feinstein's seat in the U.S. Senate and outcomes in as many as 10 congressional districts that could determine which party controls the House of Representatives.

The big election year action will be on a spate of high-dollar ballot measures, particularly those that would affect how Californians are taxed. While it's coincidental that tax issues are arising just as the state experiences one of its periodic budget deficits, the juxtaposition does give the campaigns for and against them an added flavor.

The most prominent tax measure, sponsored by the California Business Roundtable and other corporate groups, would make raising state and local taxes more difficult. If passed, it would require voter approval of any state tax increases and increase voting thresholds for local taxes.

Democrats and their allies, especially public employee unions, despise the measure, and the Legislature seeks to undermine it with a constitutional amendment – also on the November ballot – that would increase the required voting margin for measures that increase margins for taxes.

In addition to those dueling propositions, a third measure, also placed on the November ballot by

the Legislature, would lower the voting threshold for local taxes and bonds for infrastructure improvements. Having competing ballot measures on the same issue has become something of a trend in recent elections.

Those, however, are just three of the propositions that will, or could be, placed before voters this year.

Three other biggies are: a business-backed initiative to repeal the Private Attorney General Act, a unique California law that allows private citizens to file class-action lawsuits against corporations; an oil industry referendum that would repeal the Legislature's imposition of a 3,200-foot buffer between oil wells and "sensitive receptors" such as schools and homes; and the latest of many attempts to make it easier to enact rent control laws.

All in all, voters will decide one measure on the March primary ballot – Newsom's mental health bond – and at least a dozen others in November. Competing interests could easily spend a quarter-billion dollars to persuade voters.

Interestingly – and perhaps sadly – none of them will materially affect the aforementioned existential issues that have come to define California in the 21st century. The chances are quite strong that when Californians look back on 2024 a year hence, those issues will be as depressing as ever.

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

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