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No Water for You!



California's proposed water conservation rules too stringent and costly, analysts say. Photo courtesy of Freestocksorg - Pexels

By Rachel Becker, CALMatters.org

California's legislative advisors lambasted the state's ambitious proposal to regulate urban water conservation, calling the measures costly and difficult to achieve, "in many cases without compelling justifications."

The proposed rules, unveiled in August, call for more than 400 cities and other water suppliers serving about 95% of Californians to meet conservation targets beginning in 2025.

The state Legislative Analyst's Office suggested

significant changes to the State Water Resources Control Board's proposal, warning that the regulations would set "such stringent standards for outdoor use that suppliers will not have much 'wiggle room' in complying." They also warn that the added costs will ultimately be borne by customers.

"Whether the benefits of the new rules ultimately will outweigh the costs is unclear," the report says. "These doubts are particularly worrisome given we find that suppliers will face notable challenges complying with these requirements."

The report recommended that lawmakers direct state regulators to "make several of the proposed requirements less stringent (such as the residential outdoor standard), consider how to target state funding to assist lower income customers, and extend some of the deadlines for suppliers to ensure they can actually achieve the framework's goals."

Water board officials didn't comment on the criticism or recommendations, but spokesperson Edward Ortiz said the report, along with other feedback received from industry and the public, will be

considered. He said a new draft of the rules will be released this spring.

"With changing weather conditions threatening to reduce the state's water supply 10% by 2040, California is advancing an all-of-the-above strategy to bolster water supplies throughout the state, including conservation," Ortiz said.

Heather Cooley, director of research at the Pacific Institute, a global water think tank, said conservation and efficiency are the cheapest, fastest ways to meet California's water needs as climate

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River Cats Announce National Anthem Auditions for 2024 Season



Sacramento River Cats News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - It's sung prior to the first pitch of every game, and now you have the chance to do the same as the Sacramento River Cats have announced their National Anthem auditions for the 2024 baseball season will take place at Sutter Health Park on Feb. 10.

Auditions are open to all soloists, groups, and instrumentalists, and those interested in performing prior to a River Cats game must submit an audition demo by Friday, Jan. 26. Demos received past this date will not be considered.

All demos submitted must be an acapella version of the Star-Spangled Banner, sung in full with clear, consistent, and correct lyrics. The full performance must not exceed 90 seconds.

To submit a demo, please email an mp3 or YouTube link to Logan Flair at lflair@rivercats.com. The subject line should read "2024 National Anthem Demo" and include a name, phone number and email address in the body of the email. Submissions that do not meet any of the submission directions or guidelines will not be considered for call backs.

The River Cats will invite the top demos submitted to Sutter Health Park for a live audition. Due to the volume of applicants, performers will only be contacted if they are selected to audition in person. Participants will be contacted the week of Jan. 29 with further instructions. ★

Realtor Hailed as Good Samaritan

Story and photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

The Union Gospel Mission has given a Good Samaritan award to Carmichael realtor Kim Pacini-Hauch.

One of very few billion-dollar lifetime sales achievers in her industry, Pacini-Hauch (65) is also known for philanthropic effort. She reached out to United Gospel during the non-profit's 2023 search for a transitional home: a facility to house graduates of a strict program of commitment to sobriety and Christian adherence.

"Kim came to us, wanting to help us find the perfect home," says Union Gospel's Executive Director Pastor Tim Lane. "When our Redemption House was found, she worked to help us purchase



Carmichael businesswoman Kim Pacini-Hauch shows her Good Samaritan award, given for efforts aiding the Union Gospel Mission of Sacramento. The pooch is Koukla, rescued during the realtor's Mexican vacation.

it. She did this pro-bono (donating back brokerage fees), out of the kindness

of her heart...I'd never met her. Then, with no persuasion from us, she came

to our aid. She's a really upscale realtor with a

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Ukrainians to Get a New Home



The former K-Mart site in Citrus Heights is now owned by Spring of Life Church, with future plans for a community center. Photo courtesy of Showcase.com.

Story by
Tamara M. Warta

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - When the Citrus Heights K-Mart closed its doors back in the spring of 2016, the large retail space stood vacant until the city was abuzz with confirmed plans of a Studio Movie Grill moving into the site. Now, after a global pandemic and multiple liens against the movie theater company due to unpaid contractor fees, the bulk of the building once again stands still. However, the site may not be as empty as it seems.

The property at 8501 Auburn Blvd is now owned by Spring of Life Church, which currently operates out of Orangevale. Back in October, Spring of Life purchased the property for an undisclosed amount and announced plans to use the space as a community center focused on helping people. The space is currently shared with a Big Lots store and a nearby nail salon and Gold's Gym.

Spring of Life is a primarily Ukrainian church that has been deeply involved with the welcoming of refugees that have poured into the Sacramento region since the start of the war. Last year, the church sent funds to bake over 10,000 loaves of bread for people in the Donetsk region of Ukraine, as well as purchased a 15-seat passenger van to help with evacuations. They have also supported a call center that coordinates aid for refugees, delivered essential medications to Ukraine, and worked to evacuate children from the local children's homes.

Now, with a large population of displaced Ukrainians here in Sacramento County, they also focus on what's right in front of them while also continuing to help abroad.

Spring of Life's senior pastor Vandym

Dashkevych, who could not be reached for comment, told CBS News back in October, "We don't just have religious services. We're more open for people. We serve refugees, we serve kids, teenagers, young generation, so we're open for people."

Since the building was purchased, the site has remained silent. This is because the church is busy fundraising and going through the lengthy and arduous permitting process. A section of their website invites people to give financially towards the rebuilding, and the church recently held a December 22 Christmas concert with all proceeds benefiting the new space.

Dashkevych and his congregation have big dreams for the space, which is not projected to open for at least a few years. Embracing the Ukrainian culture of both the church and local refugees, the community center will host festivals, outreaches, and likely host the church services currently happening in Orangevale.

Spring of Life Church is one of the main coordinators of Parasolka, which provides local immigrant services. "Parasolka" is the Ukrainian word for umbrella, and with a team of approximately 150 volunteers, the organization provides everything from legal counsel to food and fellowship to refugees.

All of Parasolka's services and events operate out of the church, and the move to the much larger community center site will allow the group to expand and offer even more resources.

To learn more about how Spring of Life Church is helping refugees, you can visit parasolka.org or the church's official website, solsacramento.com. You may also donate towards the new building through the church website. ★

Home Care Financial Assistance for Veteran Spouses



"We want them to get the benefit, which they so deserve." Aid & Assistance is provided by the Department of Veteran Affairs, and it is extremely easy to inquire about you or your loved one's eligibility. Photo courtesy of Pexels-Kampus-Production

By Michele Townsend

SACRAMENTO REGION (MPG) - As we get older, many of us need a helping hand. Our bodies may be sick, they may be broken, or they may just be worn out. In addition, the world currently has more illnesses than it ever has before. Many families would like nothing more than to keep their aging family members at home. However, Home Care is very expensive.

Insurance often does not cover Home Health Care, so many families find themselves in the position that they are forced to put their loved one in a facility, convalescent home, or some other facility that offers assisted living. There are many facilities that insurance pays for and a private facility can cost \$4,000 per month and more.

According to American Veteran's Aid, a private company, the Veteran's Administration (VA), may be able to help. The program is called Aid & Attendance and may provide you a tax-free benefits of up to \$3,536 per month for all types of long term care. It is designed to off-set the expense of long-term care and can be used for home care or for a facility.

The Vet must have served during War time and had to get anything except a dishonorable discharge. Eligible periods of war are WWII (12-7-41 to 7-26-47 is considered war service), Korean Conflict (6-27-50

to 1-31-55), Vietnam (11-1-55 to 6-7-75 for those who served in Vietnam, 8-5-64 to 5-7-75 for those who served outside of Vietnam) or the Persian Gulf War (8-2-90 through a date to be prescribed by Presidential proclamation or law).

Eligible individuals will be Vets and spouses of Vets that are 65 years and older, need assistance with daily activities such as dressing, bathing, eating, toileting or getting around or are totally disabled. In addition, the vet must have served for a minimum of 90 days and the spouse must have been married to the vet at the time of their passing, and cannot be remarried unless it is to another wartime veteran. There is income and countable asset criteria established by the VA.

"We just want to help any war time veterans that we can," said Barbara Wright. "We want them to get the benefit, which they so deserve." Aid & Assistance is provided by the Department of Veteran Affairs, and it is extremely easy to inquire about you or your loved one's eligibility. Simply visit <https://americanveteransaid.com/>, enter your information and answer 4 questions. Generally, a representative will call you back within 24 hours and they can often determine eligibility. This is not a one-time payment, but rather a monthly payment. If you don't have access to a computer, you may call Barbara Wright at 877-427-8065 ext. 1019. ★

No Water for You!

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change renders supplies more variable and uncertain.

"We have to take real action to ensure we can provide safe, clean, reliable water for California communities," she said. "Retrofitting and taking out old devices, transforming our landscapes, all of those things have a cost. But it's far less than developing new sources of supply."

Mandated by a package of 2018 laws, the intent of the rules is to make conservation "a way of life" in California. The rules, which are two years behind schedule, are expected to be adopted by the water board this summer before taking effect in October.

The rules don't target individuals or businesses, instead setting individualized conservation targets for urban water agencies across the state based on goals for indoor and outdoor water use, leaks and other factors.

By 2035, water providers will collectively need to reduce water use by 14%. The savings would be enough to supply about 1.2 million homes every year, or about 1% of the state's total water use.

The report called this amount "modest," noting that "the agricultural sector uses about four times as much water as the urban sector."

Water agencies and city officials warned state regulators last fall that complying would be costly, roughly \$13.5 billion from 2025 to 2040 for rebates and other efforts to cut residential use. The benefits are anticipated to reach about \$15.6 billion, in large part because suppliers and customers will buy less water.

The Legislative Analyst's report noted that an assessment by a consulting firm commissioned by a water supplier raised questions about those calculations. They noted that customers, particularly low-income households, would likely bear the brunt of rates increased to cover the costs.

"Even if benefits outweigh costs in the long run, whether they merit the amount of work and costs to implement the requirements as currently proposed is uncertain," the report said.

Jay Lund, vice-director of the Center for Watershed Sciences at the University of California, Davis, called the report "an unusually frank assessment."

"Although there is good room for further conservation, this additional State effort seems like it is probably not needed, or at least, need not be as stringent and complicated as it seems. It has been asked,

"Is this juice worth the squeeze?" he told CalMatters in an email.

During the last three-year severe drought, which ended last year, the Newsom administration set voluntary conservation goals that were largely ineffective. Californians used only about 6% less water from July 2021 through the end of last year compared to 2020, far less than Gov. Gavin Newsom's 15% goal.

Some areas, especially in hot, inland areas of the state, will require more stringent conservation than others under the proposed rules. Inland and eastern California will be required to cut back the most, with the biggest cuts, up to 34%, needed in desert areas, followed by the Tulare Lake region.

Even in the North Coast area, which as a whole is not expected to need to cut back at all to meet the 2035 targets, two large suppliers serving more than 1.6 million customers will nevertheless need to reduce their water use by a quarter.

But increasing conservation in the places that need it most will seem a bargain when inevitable longer and drier droughts occur, said Felicia Marcus, former chair of the water board and now a visiting fellow at Stanford University's Water in the West Program.

"The goal is both to make each locality more resilient to the nightmare curveballs climate change is throwing at us, and to do it in a way that integrates efficiency first and foremost as the most cost and carbon effective measure in the long run," Marcus said.

Sonja Petek, the principal fiscal and policy analyst who authored the report, said the office isn't saying to abandon the conservation regulations, it's just recommending changes to make them more feasible.

"Water conservation is one of the important components of the state's overall water management strategy," she said, citing more severe and prolonged droughts and the need to reduce reliance on overdrafted groundwater basins. "Our concern is that if these regulations were adopted as written, it could lead to a scenario where compliance is not feasible for some water suppliers, so the state might not achieve its ultimate goals."

Assemblymember Laura Friedman, a Democrat from Burbank and an author of the original legislation, said the report "raises some valid concerns with the rulemaking process thus far, however, I have faith in the water board to do its due diligence in implementing the standards that were passed." ★

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Community Open House A Big Success in Connecting Volunteers

The Fair Oaks Chamber Goes 70 Years Strong!



Jake's Journey Home representatives speak with potential volunteers.

Story by MaryAnne Povey, photo by Jayden Velasquez

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - Despite the January drizzle, the Orangevale/Fair Oaks community organizations and service groups showcased their unwavering spirit during the annual Community Open House 2024. With an impressive turnout of 34 clubs, groups, and organizations, the 4th annual event provided a unique opportunity for residents to connect with their neighbors, explore numerous booths, and learn about the participating organizations. Brad Squires, the event organizer, shared his thoughts, saying, "This annual event serves as our 'one-stop shop' for those looking to get more involved. It's always awesome to unite our volunteers who contribute to the greatness of our town and provide others with the chance to participate."

One of the highlights of the day was the epic door prize raffle, featuring items generously donated by each group, giving one fortunate participant a memorable surprise.

This year's participants included: the Orangevale Chamber, Orangevale History Project, HART of Orangevale and Fair Oaks, OV Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club of OV and Fair Oaks, Helping Hands OV,

Orangevale Woman's Club, Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank, Big Day of Service, Orangevale Teen Council, Orangevale Grange, Orangevale Community Garden, Orangevale Farm & Garden Club, OV Recreation & Parks District, Options For Youth, Friends of the Library, Orangevale Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Just Serve, Orangevale Live, Food Bank Farm, Disconnect to Reconnect, Stars and Stripes Rescue, Jake's Journey Home, Orangevale Rocks, Redeemer Covenant Church, Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids, Divine Savior Church, Assemblyman Josh Hoover, ABLED County of Sacramento Department of Personnel Services, American River Girls Softball Casa Roble FFA, and Althea Canines.

For anyone interested in plugging in immediately, the Big Day of Service is looking for volunteers. The planning is already in full swing, with the next project meeting scheduled for February 21 at 5:30 PM. This year's goal is to tackle an impressive 50 projects throughout the Orangevale/Fair Oaks area, and they need 1500 dedicated volunteers! It's a wonderful chance to get involved and make a significant impact on our community. For more details, please visit <https://www.bigdayofservice.com/projects>. ★



Judy Andrews. Photo courtesy of Chrysti Tovani

By Judy Andrews, Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - In 2022, I joined the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce (FOCC) as a "resident" member. Although I don't own a business, it opened many doors for me including a board of directors role last year. I still reap the same benefits as business members do, and enjoy attending the monthly networking events. I've met some wonderful people along the way. You can, too! If you are not a member, it's a great time to join. The Fair Oaks Chamber turns 70-years-old this year! Come show your support for this long-standing organization as they celebrate a banner year of serving the community. See you in Fair Oaks!

Welcome 2024 Board of Directors

On Dec. 21, the 2024 board of directors was sworn in by Sacramento County Supervisor Rich Desmond at the FOCC's monthly luncheon hosted by Café Italiano. Officers

include President Mary Howard, Vice President Douglas Proctor, Treasurer John Oldham, and Secretary Mysti Shaw. The directors are Rachel Griffith, Jen Rodriguez, David Spencer, Jeanette Woodward, and Katie Yount.

Kimberley Pitillo has been the chamber's executive director for 10 years. "What a privilege it's been — working alongside an inspiring group of business leaders, local government officials, and others committed to making a difference in the community! I want to thank our amazing members for their outstanding support over the years — and for always stepping up to ensure the success of the chamber's many programs and events. We wouldn't be able to exist for 70 years without our members!"

2024 Events

Here's a sneak peek at some of the FOCC's upcoming events. Be sure and check for updates at Fairoakschamber.com:

Jan. 18: The Best of Fair Oaks 8th Annual Awards Gala was held at North Ridge Country Club where the 2023 winners were announced. Event highlights will be published in the American River Messenger (Americanrivermessenger.com) on Feb. 9.

March 14: Join the Fair Oaks and Orangevale Chambers for an After Hours Mixer from 5-7 p.m.

at the Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank. Pre-registration is required. For details, see Fairoakschamber.com.

May 17: Mark your calendar now for the chamber's biggest event of the year — Taste of Fair Oaks at North Ridge Country Club. Ticket info is coming soon.

June 27, July 25, Aug. 22: Concerts in the Park is returning to Fair Oaks Park (11549 Fair Oaks Blvd.) this summer. Watch for event details as we announce the bands.

Milestone Memberships

January is a milestone month (and year) for the following chamber members:

- Woman's Thursday Club of Fair Oaks – 40 years
- Fair Oaks Theatre Festival – 40 years
- Dick's Rancho Glass – 30 years
- Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool – 30 years
- Dustin Buck, Buck Wealth Management – 20 years

Welcome New Members

Please welcome the chamber's newest members: Chicago Title Company; CSL Solutions; The Law Office of Thomas D. Reid, APC; Roger Niello, Friends of the Chamber; The Treasured Home; and Whole Wellness Therapy.

For questions about the FOCC, please contact Kimberley Pitillo at (916) 967-2903 or info@fairoakschamber.com. ★

Sacramento Superior Court Implements e-filing for Civil and Probate Cases

Sacramento Superior Court News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Superior Court has implemented electronic filing or e-filing for civil and probate cases effective today, Jan. 16, 2024.

"E-filing will enhance the efficiency and accessibility of court filings for court users and legal professionals," said Presiding Judge Bunmi Awoniyi.

With e-filing, parties in civil and probate cases may submit documents to the court through an approved service provider listed on the court's website.

For civil cases, use of e-filing will be optional until July 1, 2024, at which time it will become



The Sacramento County Courthouse. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Superior Court

mandatory for litigants represented by attorneys. Self-represented parties in civil cases will be exempt from this requirement, but may file electronically in addition to filing documents at the counter, utilizing drop boxes, or postal services.

For probate cases, attorneys and self-represented parties are exempt from the mandatory electronic filing requirements set to take effect on July 1, 2024 but are encouraged to utilize e-filing in addition to filing documents at the counter, utilizing drop boxes, or postal services.

Documents submitted electronically to the court will be reviewed and processed.

"The court looks forward to providing a more convenient and streamlined process for Civil and Probate cases," Awoniyi said. ★

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Orangevale Community Update

Take our Communities Back from Criminals

including catalytic converter thefts, car break-ins, burglary, and assault. The urgency to act is clear!

The core of the problem lies in a system that removes accountability for criminal behavior. Felonies have been downgraded to misdemeanors, emboldening individuals to commit theft and other crimes without significant repercussions. Businesses are prohibited from defending their premises effectively and are burdened with additional costs for security and employee training. Despite numerous attempts to reform Proposition 47, these efforts have been consistently blocked by politicians in Legislature.

If the Legislature is unable to take action to keep our families and businesses safe, we need citizens to change the law.

The "Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act" will be gathering signatures to make the changes in the law that the Legislature is unable or unwilling to make. This measure will increase penalties for theft, provide resources to tackle root causes of homelessness, and crack down on drug dealers who are poisoning our neighborhoods.

Key components of this measure include:

- Increase in drug and mental health treatment to tackle the root cause of homelessness.

- Enhanced penalties for armed drug possession to get violent drug dealers off the street.

- Increasing penalties for trafficking hard drugs and allowing judges to sentence drug dealers to state prison.

- Make drug dealers subject to murder charges if their activities lead to deaths.

- Mandated treatment for repeat drug offenders.

- Increasing penalties for repeat offenders and smash-and-grab gangs.

This Act will help us tackle the root causes of addiction and homelessness, which not only improves the security of our communities but also creates opportunities for individuals struggling with these issues to successfully reintegrate into society.

It also sends a firm message to drug dealers: trafficking hard drugs, particularly when armed or causing harm or death, will result in severe consequences. The Act advocates for the use of state prisons over local jails for such offenders, ensuring a secure environment while also providing a chance for rehabilitation. This dual approach reflects our commitment to both public safety and the potential for positive change.

The "Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act" represents a significant stride towards reinforcing safety and justice within our community. By addressing the loophole that allows repeat offenders to exploit the current felony theft threshold and introducing measures such as the aggregation of stolen property values and heightened penalties for organized thefts, we're poised to deter and punish these crimes more effectively. This comprehensive approach not only rectifies the flaws in our current system but also emphasizes the protection and well-being of law-abiding citizens and businesses.

Thank you for reading — and as always if you want to contact me, call me at 916-874-5491, or e-mail me at SupervisorFrost@sac-county.gov.

Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost represents the 4th District, which includes the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, North Highlands, Rio Linda, Elverta, and Rancho Murietta. ★

Investing in EV Charging Reliability Statewide With Federal Funding

California Department of Transportation News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In a boost for electric vehicle reliability, the U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded Caltrans more than \$63 million in federal funds to fix and install more than 1,000 chargers at 300 sites statewide.

The \$63.7 million from the federal Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator (EVC RAA) grant program – part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – will replace broken charging stations and install additional chargers to meet new federal standards for public charging infrastructure.

"Thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, California will receive nearly \$64 million to improve EV charging stations across the state," said Senator Alex Padilla. "Accelerating the adoption of an electric vehicle powered future requires a strong, reliable, accessible charging network across the state."

"This funding will allow California to continue to lead the nation in zero-emission-vehicle adoption, increasing reliability and cutting planet-warming pollution," said California State Transportation Secretary Toks Omishakin. "We want to thank the Biden-Harris Administration, Sen. Alex Padilla, and the state's congressional delegation for supporting the expansion of a charging network throughout the state while combatting climate change."

"Increasing the accessibility and standardization of EV charging stations will help us to build a more modern transportation system," said Tony Tavares, Caltrans director. "This latest federal funding will support Caltrans in achieving its climate action goals."

"As EVs go mainstream, ensuring a reliable charging network is a top priority," said Patty Monahan, commissioner of the California Energy Commission (CEC). "As California's lead agency for building out charging infrastructure,

the Energy Commission includes reliability requirements for our grants, but many chargers aren't covered by these requirements. This federal funding will help fix and upgrade broken EV chargers, giving EV drivers more options for convenient refueling."

The EVC RAA program is part of the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program and made funding available for states to repair or replace EV charging stations identified as "temporarily unavailable."

For the application, Caltrans worked with EV charging providers to develop a list of chargers to fix and upgrade to national charging standards within the program timeline. The funding will support the replacement of both Level 2 and DC fast chargers. Caltrans will partner with the CEC to implement this funding, building on the agencies' partnership to deliver the NEVI Formula Program.

HOW WE GOT HERE

EV chargers: California currently has by far the most electric chargers in the nation with over 42,000 public charging ports;

California leads the country in all zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) market metrics, including the largest EV market share percentage, and the most extensive public charging infrastructure;

The success of the state's programs has led to ZEVs becoming a top export and has spurred major advances in manufacturing and job creation;

Over 25% of new passenger vehicles sold in California through Q3 of 2023 were zero-emission vehicles;

California has reached its ZEV truck sales goal two years ahead of schedule;

This latest award comes on the heels of California's call for projects to support \$40 million in charging projects for passenger vehicles in the state's NEVI program.

Ten EV charging and hydrogen fueling projects in California, totaling \$168 million, were recently awarded funding under the Federal Highway Administration's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program. ★

Grant Program for Non-Profit Organizations to Open

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors intends to continue providing \$1 million through the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Grant Program to support nonprofit organizations located in Sacramento County in Fiscal Year 2024-25.

For the last 7 years, the Board of Supervisors has awarded funds to organizations that carry out community-based programs and/or services in the areas of economic and workforce development, arts and culture, community development, and health and human services. The County began setting aside funding for this purpose in 2017.

Grants will be allocated through a competitive process and applicants must meet eligibility and funding requirements. Applications will be accepted online beginning February 2, 2024, through the County's Office of Budget and Debt Management with a deadline of March 4, 2024.

Funding for the TOT Grant Program will come from County Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenues. Transient Occupancy Taxes are levied on guests who occupy rooms in hotels, motels, and other temporary lodging accommodations in the unincorporated area of the County.

2024-25 TOT Grant Program Application Dates & Details:

Grant Application DEADLINE: March 4, 2024, 5 p.m.

Grant Application Period: February 2 – March 4, 2024

All applications and requested materials must be submitted by 5 p.m. on March 4, 2024. No late applications will be accepted.

Online Applications: Only online applications will be accepted. Apply online beginning February 2.

Duplicate and incomplete applications will be disqualified.

Applicants will receive electronic receipt notification upon submission of application.

Grant Program and Application Virtual Workshop:

February 13, 2024 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. The workshop includes a review of the following:

- Grant program and Timeline
- Insurance Requirements
- Application Questions
- Timeline and submission information
- Q & A's

Grant Application Review Period: March 5 – 11, 2024

County staff will review applications for completeness and compliance with minimum eligibility requirements. Applicants will be notified electronically if proposals do not meet the minimum qualifications and will not continue to the evaluation process.

March 12 – April 26, 2024

Subject Area Expert Panel Application Review: Subject area experts will review, evaluate, and rank qualifying applications.

May 2024

TOT Board Review Committee: Board Review Committee to review recommendations of the Subject Area Expert Panel's Recommendations and award District-directed grants based on input from Subject Area Experts.

Grantee Award Approval

June 2024

Grant Program Hearing Notification: Applicants will receive an electronic notification of the schedule for the Board of Supervisors Hearing, where recommended award selections will be made.

The Board of Supervisors will make the final determination and approval for all TOT Grant Program recipients.

County Budget & Debt Management Division staff will notify applicants of funding selections within five business days of Board Hearing approval. All notifications will be made electronically.

County Budget & Debt Management Division staff will draft and administer agreements between the County and grantees.

For more information about the grant program, visit the TOT Grant Program website. ★

Dignity Health Donates to Sacramento Area Nonprofits

Dignity Health Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Dignity Health announced today the distribution of \$1,060,274 to 15 community-based organizations in Sacramento and Yolo counties. The goal of this contribution is to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable and underserved populations and bring about real and lasting improvements to the region.

"A core element of our mission is giving back and we take pride in sustaining our support for organizations that go the extra mile to address the diverse needs of our community," said Dignity Health Community Health and Outreach Manager, Phoua Moua. "These collaborations empower us to take on the intricate health and human challenges faced by our community."

"I find ongoing inspiration in the inventive and unique solutions crafted by our community partners to address the expanding needs of our community," said Michael Korpel, Greater Sacramento Market President of Dignity Health. "Through our investments in these organizations, we aim to cultivate a sense of belonging and comprehensiveness. Our objective is to provide the community with the necessary resources and support essential for leading healthy, prosperous lives while also minimizing the likelihood of significant future health interventions."

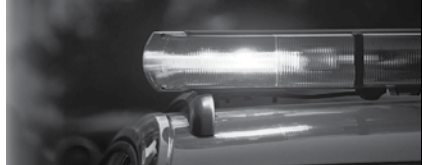
Every three years, Dignity Health and health system partners conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment in each county to determine the most pressing health priorities. The 2022 community assessment indicated that having access to mental and behavioral health and substance-use services are key priorities, as well as having access to basic needs such as housing, jobs, and food. With this in mind, Dignity Health and its grant committee selected several organizations to help address this need, including Arrive Alive California, Inc. Arrive Alive California, Inc.'s community focused educational programs are designed to stop dangerous and destructive behaviors through unique, holistic, and multi-faceted approaches led by subject matter experts and specialists.

"At Arrive Alive California, Inc., we are committed to developing, promoting, and facilitating evidence-based education to raise awareness on possible life altering decisions, thereby saving lives," said Angela Y. Webb CEO/Executive Director at Arrive Alive California, Inc. "With the support of Dignity Health, we can take a big step towards building a community of responsible and empowered individuals who prioritize safety and well-being."

The Greater Sacramento Market has awarded community grants to fifteen collaborative projects across Sacramento and Yolo counties for CY 2024. ★

MPG

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS



5 Over 50 Volunteer Award Nominations Open

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County is celebrating individuals who are 50 years of age and older who dedicate their time, energy, and passion to making our community a better place. The Sacramento County Adult and Aging Commission is now taking applications for its 5 Over 50 Volunteer Award.

Nominees must be 50 years of age or older, actively involved in volunteer work, and residents of Sacramento County. If you know someone who meets the criteria and has made an impact in Sacramento County, nominate them for the 5 Over 50 Volunteer Award. Learn more about the application process and access the form by visiting the Adult and Aging Commission page. Two letters of reference are



5 Over 50 Volunteer Nominations now open. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

required. The deadline for nominations is Friday, February 9.

The 5 Over 50 Awards will be presented on May 21 during a Sacramento County Board of Supervisors meeting. The award is presented in May to coincide with Older Americans Month. Five nominees will receive the award, with one person

selected from each district within Sacramento County.

Sacramento County's Adult and Aging Commission members look forward to celebrating the winners. The 5 Over 50 Award not only recognizes these individuals for their hard work but also celebrates their impact in making Sacramento County a great place to live. ★

CAPIAA Welcomes its New Executive Director, Khydeeja Alam



Khydeeja Alam was appointed new executive director of the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs. Photo courtesy of Speaker's Office, California State Assembly

CAPIAA News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

The California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs (CAPIAA) is thrilled to announce the appointment of Khydeeja Alam as its new executive director. Khydeeja Alam was sworn in by the Honorable Robert Rivas, speaker of the California State Assembly, at the State Capitol surrounded by family and friends.

"California's diverse AAPI communities enrich and strengthen our state in countless ways and have a pivotal role in driving our state and nation forward," said Governor Gavin Newsom. "Director Alam brings more than a decade of experience working on a variety of priority issues for the state, and deep ties to nonprofit and philanthropic partners that will help further the Commission's important work. I thank her for her dedicated service to our state, and commitment to elevating the needs and concerns of our dynamic AAPI communities."

Khydeeja brings a wealth of experience and leadership in advocacy, non-profit, and state government to this role, and the commission is confident in her ability to lead CAPIAA in its mission to elevate the political, economic, and social issues of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

"I extend a heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Khydeeja Alam for this exciting appointment. I have had the pleasure of witnessing her career unfold through the years as a former colleague," said Speaker of the California State Assembly Robert Rivas. "She is passionate, determined and a fierce advocate for her community. There is no one better suited to represent the best interests of over 6 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who call California home. As speaker, I look forward to working alongside her in this new capacity."

One of the key focus areas for CAPIAA under Alam's leadership will be to educate, raise awareness, and advocate for the rights and safety of AAPI communities. The Commission will work towards an inclusive and supportive environment for all residents of the state.

"The Commission is excited about the fresh



The Honorable Robert Rivas, right, speaker of the California State Assembly, administers the oath of office to Khydeeja Alam. Photo courtesy of Speaker's Office, California State Assembly

perspective and dynamic leadership that Khydeeja Alam brings to the table. Khydeeja will undoubtedly play a crucial role in advancing CAPIAA's mission to ensure the voices and needs of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are at the forefront of discussions and investments by California decision makers," said CAPIAA Chair Serena Kirk.

As executive director, Alam will spearhead efforts to maximize outreach efforts with Asian and Pacific Islander American communities, including informational campaigns about public and private programs that benefit community interests, and addressing issues of access and cultural language sensitivity within state agencies, departments, and other commissions. Most importantly, Alam will bring visibility around the incredible work the commission continues to do on behalf of California's AAPI communities.

"The California Asian American and Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus (AAPILC) welcomes Khydeeja Alam as the new executive director for the Commission on Asian Pacific Islander American Affairs (CAPIAA). The Caucus looks forward to continued partnership with the Commission under the leadership of Khydeeja to ensure that we continue to uplift and mobilize our AAPI community here in California," said Assemblyman Evan Low, chair of the AAPILC.

Alam will also play a pivotal role in providing assistance to policymakers and state agencies by identifying the needs and issues of AAPI communities, developing appropriate responses, and implementing programs to address these concerns effectively.

"I welcome Khydeeja Alam as the new executive

director of CAPIAA. Her lived experiences as an immigrant and her hard work that led her to be where she is today is an incredible benefit to the AAPI community and a celebration of the rich tapestry of perspectives that will guide CAPIAA towards meaningful progress," said State Treasurer Fiona Ma.

The only ethnic commission established by California state law, CAPIAA's mission is to address the diverse and complex needs, issues, and concerns of Asian American and Pacific Islander American communities. The commission plays a crucial role in advising the governor and legislature on the views, needs, and concerns of the state's population of over six million Asian and Pacific Islander Americans.

"Khydeeja Alam's dedication to public service will serve her well as executive director. She's a respected leader in her community and trusted advisor to many lawmakers. I look forward to seeing what she will accomplish in this new role," said Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins

Khydeeja Alam: "I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to represent the AAPI community. As CAPIAA's new executive director, I look forward to continuing the commission's incredible work, and taking it to the next level, while ensuring that over six million AAPI community members have a strong representation. I believe the stronger the footprint of the commission, the stronger and more resilient the AAPI communities will be. As a first Pakistani American in this role, I wear my identity with pride. This position allows me to pay it forward, uplift, and empower the community and the next generation of AAPI leaders." ★

Realtor Hailed as Good Samaritan

Continued from page 1
down-to-earth heart."

Pacini and husband Dick Hauch are long-time givers to the cause. "My family is Christian," she explains. "We believe in service to God and to others. Union Gospel Mission needs the right house in the right neighborhood, close to Mission headquarters. Residents also need access to nearby ministries until they're ready to be on their own. It took months, but we found the right house. I was happy to go on this journey with the Mission. It's always nice to donate professional services; the value is tangible."

A 36-year real estate veteran, Pacini-Hauch grew up in Incline Village, graduated from the University of Nevada and moved to Sacramento in 1983. Real estate brought her stellar success. Now specializing in luxury homes, she works under the RE/MAX Gold umbrella, with her own Luxe Living brand.

Giving back seems a secondary career. Dog-loving Pacini-Hauch supports any number of animal and humanitarian causes. The realtor and her husband, retired anesthesiologist Dick Hauch,

have their own charitable foundation.

"You get to a point in life when you recognize the need is so great for so many organizations," says Pacini-Hauch. "The Bible shows us the Good Samaritan, who cared enough to save a life when the man's own people left him to die. How can you look the other way when you see suffering?"

"You can't necessarily be the one who gets people off the streets. But you can support charities that do. If being a check-writer is all you can do, then write a check. If you can't write a check, volunteering your time is even more valuable. There's always a way to help."

"Giving is a learned behavior. My parents didn't have much but they cared. They were always helping with fundraisers and inviting people home to share meals. "I've made giving back a function of my profession. If you make a living in a community, you owe it a commitment."

"You'll be richly rewarded by how good you feel."

Learn about Union Gospel Mission at www.ugmsac.com. ★

Rio Linda Resident Named Director of Impact at Local United Way

United Way News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sia Magadan of Rio Linda has joined United Way California Capital Region as director of its Impact department that runs the nonprofit's many programs focused on ending poverty for local families starting in school.

Prior to joining United Way, Magadan was director of community engagement and fundraising for Rootid, a communications agency in Berkeley focused on nonprofits. Before that, she worked as development manager for the Oakland Literacy Coalition and Edventure More in San Leandro. She also serves as a consultant for BIPOC nonprofits through her firm, edYOUcate.

"Sia's invaluable expertise in education and her deep understanding of the unique challenges facing unhoused and foster youth within our community make her a valuable addition to our team," said Dr. Dawnté Early, president and CEO, United Way California Capital Region. "With Sia overseeing this work, we look forward to making lasting strides toward positive change in



Sia Magadan, new Director of Impact at United Way California Capital Region. Photo courtesy of United Way.

the lives of these youth, ultimately contributing to United Way's broader goal of ending poverty through education."

Founded in 1923, United Way California Capital Region has been a transformative force in the Sacramento community for more than a century, serving Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, and Yolo counties. The local United Way's Square One approach to ending poverty is grounded in a public health model and uses a threefold strategy to address community needs from birth and beyond: helping kids excel in school, investing in families and strengthening

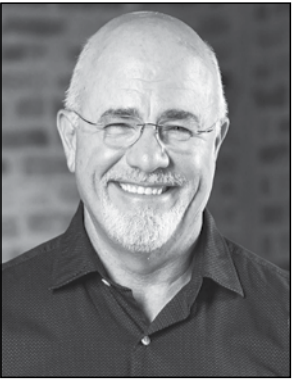
schools. At United Way's core is the philosophy that families possess the blueprint for their success. United Way supplies books to young children, provides literacy tutoring, addresses housing and food security, leads the region's largest tax preparation initiative, and launched Sacramento's first guaranteed income program. United Way works across diverse school districts, providing case management for foster youth and leading the Community Schools initiative in West Sacramento. For more information or to make a donation, visit www.YourLocalUnitedWay.org. ★



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**Be Fair, But Firm**

Dave Ramsey Says

behind with his bill, but at the same time you need to let him know that you can't function as his bank. You're a small business, and you need your money. Some kind of understanding and agreement have to be reached.

For starters, a fair request would be asking him to help things along by trying as best he can to get current on his bill as soon as possible. At the very least, he needs to do something to reduce the amount owed within 10 days. You've provided services for him, and you're owed money that's long past due, so there's nothing wrong with this. I'd also establish an understanding that once he's caught up on the past due amount that all payments for services going forward will be due within 14 days after delivery.

Now, he may not like this. If he pushes back too hard, you may have to switch to a cash-only basis with payment due

on delivery. If it were me, and he didn't like any of these options, I'd politely suggest he take his business elsewhere.

Like I said, he's probably not a bad guy, just another small business person who's disorganized. That's not an uncommon thing. But you definitely need to correct this behavior before it gets any further out of hand. You've got a business and a livelihood to think about, too!

— 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 ★

Outsiders Love Bashing California But Residents Are Souring On The State, Too

**By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org**

As Republican presidential candidates were slogging through Iowa and talking to voters prior to this week's caucuses, California-bashing was common.

Los Angeles Times reporter Seema Mehta picked up on the phenomenon, writing that "the Golden State, its elected leaders and its policies were a constant target."

"Bashing California, one of the most liberal states in the nation, is a grand tradition in the GOP," Mehta observed. "But Republican presidential candidates may be targeting the state and its politicians more this cycle because they are a better target than President Biden."

"Biden isn't as motivating a villain as other Democrats might be. So the Republican candidates are essentially running a negative campaign against California," California politics scholar Dan Schnur told Mehta. "The very worst thing Ron DeSantis could think of to say about Nikki Haley during the debate was that she might be more liberal than (Gov.) Gavin Newsom. For an Iowa Republican — or any Republican for that matter

— that's an absolutely terrifying concept."

California may be the state that many in the rest of the nation loves to hate, but a new poll of Californians indicates that they aren't very sanguine about the state, either.

The UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies found that just 33% of California voters believe the state is headed in the right direction while 57% say it's on a negative track.

"This is a somewhat more negative assessment than voters have given in similar measures conducted over the past 11 years," poll director Mark DiCamillo said.

The sour attitudes extend to Newsom, the poll found. Asked about his job performance, 47% of voters surveyed disapprove and 46% approve. That's a very slight improvement from the 49% to 46% ratio that pollsters found in October.

"However, similar to the October survey, twice as many voters say they strongly disapprove of the governor's performance (33%) as strongly approve (17%)," DiCamillo noted.

The poll introduced a new topic — the whopping budget deficit that Newsom and the Legislature must address this year — and discovered that nearly 90% of voters consider it a serious issue and there's almost no support (13%) for raising taxes to deal with it. Instead, voters prefer that Newsom and legislators cut spending (51%) or tap into state reserves (35%) to cover the deficit, which

Newsom pegs at \$38 billion but the Legislature's budget analyst estimates to be \$68 billion.

Newsom also has shunned raising taxes, but progressive legislators, with support from groups dependent upon the state budget, such as public employee unions, have continued to press for higher personal and corporate income taxes and/or a new tax on wealth.

It appears that by cutting or postponing some spending, using reserves, borrowing from special funds and implementing some accounting gimmicks, the governor and the Legislature could fashion a 2024-25 budget without new taxes.

However, Newsom's budget advisors and those of the Legislature also agree that California faces continued multibillion-dollar deficits for the next several years, at least, which means the debate over spending cuts and taxes will continue for the remainder of Newsom's governorship.

"The survey suggests little appetite for tax increases to address the deficit, but a challenge for Governor Newsom and the Legislature is that while spending cuts, in principle, are relatively popular, that support would likely dissipate when it comes time to making cuts to specific programs and services," the co-director of the poll, Eric Schickler said.

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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Kings Korner By V.G. Harris



Wow, what I was about to dub the roller coaster Kings suddenly went into a four-game slide, and suddenly they are only five games above five hundred.

From an impressive 4th place in the Western Conference, to suddenly 8th, has a numbing effect, and gives fans and pundits alike a chance to pause and wonder what's to come.

Being a glass half-full guy, I believe in this team, and with Mr. Sabonis turning Mr. double-double into Mr. triple-double, we only need to shoot free throws with more accuracy, and give him a little more help on the boards.

For sure the players have to own giveaway games to Milwaukee and Phoenix, back-to-back, in what are two of the worst losses in Kings history.

But the coaching staff has got to up their game. Better coaching could have won both games, and just as the Kings who are dead last in free throw shooting need to improve greatly, so does this coaching staff.

In today's NBA, it seems there's a coach for every player, but no one is teaching our players how to make an unguarded 15-foot shot with no defense. Seems implausible, but neither fans nor coaches should take this lightly. We are simply losing games due to our inability to shoot free throws.

So, first order of business moving forward, get out of 30th position in free throw shooting.

Secondly, Monte McNair needs to show that his blockbuster trade for Domantas Sabonis was not a fluke. Waiting till the midnight hour of the trading deadline is really not the desired approach, so like the rest of the fans, I'm waiting with baited breath to see what Monte is going to do this year.

Laurie Markkanen with the Utah Jazz is the quintessential fit for what ails the Kings. Domantas Sabonis leads the NBA in rebounding, but he can't do it alone. Starting next to Sabonis is forward Harrison Barnes who has managed to average 10 points and a whopping 2.8 rebounds per game.

Harrison simply doesn't bring it every game, and with only five players on the floor we need more than what he brings.

Markkanen rebounds at a clip four times better than Barnes, and is averaging 24 points per game. Pundits have said Utah may consider a Markkanen for Murray trade and I would hope Monte McNair would take a hard look.

This is not a mark on Murray, but 7-footers that can play forward and shoot are a commodity that can't be ignored, and the likelihood of Murray growing another 4 inches seems unlikely. Currently Keegan is giving the Kings 5.5 rebounds a game and 16 points. Not bad, but it pales in comparison to what Markkanen is doing.

Without question, many Kings fans are adamantly opposed to moving Murray, but if the Kings can actually talk the Jazz into this trade, look out opposing teams.

There have been other trade rumors, and one has Tobias Harris or Jerami Grant coming to the Kings, but for which Kings player is unknown. It is believed that Harrison Barnes would be in the conversation, but both Grant and Harris are tweeners, and the Kings don't need any more tweeners than they already have.

Both Murray and Barnes are 6'8," and so are Harris and Grant. Just swapping names is not what any Kings fan is hoping for, so I'll remain in the Laurie Markkanen camp and say my prayers.

Honestly, for this writer, as long as the Kings aren't including Sabonis, Fox, and Monk in any trade possibilities, I'm open to anything that will improve this team. We were just 10 games over five hundred, and we need to get back there and beyond as soon as possible.

I'm extremely optimistic, and a lot of that comes from what I've seen in Monte McNair. He's young, and to some degree still unproven, but right now would be just the time to make an indelible mark that says, "I've arrived!"

If you have a great trade you'd like to share, let me know at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com.

Until next time, enjoy the games! ★

Social Security Matters How Can I Get Details about My Social Security Payment?

**By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor**

Dear Rusty: How do I find the actual breakdown of the Medicare insurance that I have auto deducted and my actual Social Security payment? I was just looking at a video which explained the 3% Cost of Living Adjustment we will be receiving this year, and it compared the current payout to the new payout. There seems to be a big difference in what I am getting and what they said in the video. Currently my Social Security payments are \$1,431. My Medicare insurance is supposed to be \$165, which means my total Social Security is about \$1,596. On the video it said all retired workers are getting \$1,848 with the new increase to take it to \$1,938.00. There are a couple hundred dollars there that I seem to be missing out on. Can you help me understand that difference? **Signed: Confused Senior**

Dear Confused Senior: What you're asking for is an itemized breakout of your gross Social Security benefit, any deductions being taken therefrom (e.g., your Medicare Part B premium), the amount of your COLA increase, and your net Social Security payment for 2024. If that is the case, the best

way to get this detail is in your personal "my Social Security" online account, which provides all the information mentioned. You can access your online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount, and if you don't already have that online account set up, you'll need to first establish your online access credentials (instructions for how to do that will be at that website).

I'm not sure which video you watched, but "all retired workers" do not get \$1,848 (or \$1,938). Everyone's Social Security benefit is different, based on their lifetime earnings record and the age at which they claimed benefits. The numbers you heard in the video were likely average Social Security payments, not the actual amount you should personally be receiving. Here's how it works:

- Your personal benefit is based on your Primary Insurance Amount (PIA) which is the amount you get if you claim for your benefits to start at your full retirement age (FRA), which is somewhere between 66 and 67 depending on the year you were born. Claim before your FRA your benefit is permanently reduced; claim after your FRA it is higher. Your personal maximum benefit is achieved if you claim at age 70.

- The Medicare Part B premium (for outpatient healthcare services) is automatically deducted from your Social Security payment. Although the standard 2023 Part B premium was \$164.90, the standard 2024 Part B premium is \$174.70. You may also have other things (e.g., income tax) withheld from your monthly Social Security

payment.

- The annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for 2024 is 3.2%. That means your gross Social Security benefit goes up by that percentage starting in 2024. But there was also a \$9.80 increase in your Medicare Part B premium starting in 2024, which means that you won't see all of the COLA increase in your Social Security payment. Since your Medicare premium is deducted from your Social Security, that Medicare increase will also be taken from your SS payment, so you won't see the full 3.2% COLA increase in your 2024 Social Security payment.

To see all of this detail for you personally, I suggest you access your online "my Social Security" account as described above. As an alternative, you can also call Social Security at 1.800.772.1213 and request a Benefit Verification Letter which will include all the information you seek about your Social Security payment.

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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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.

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 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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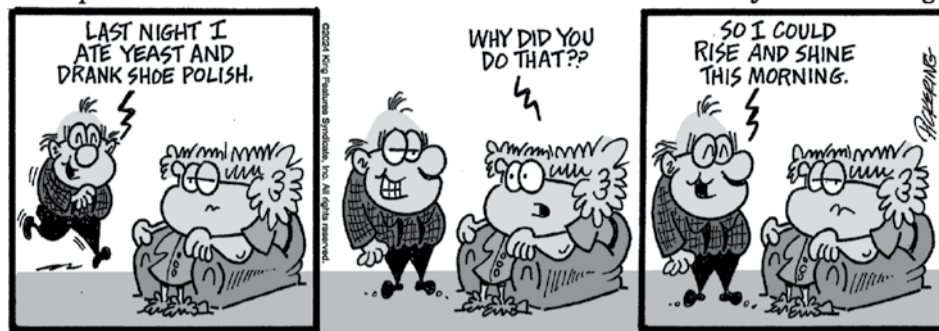
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COMICS & PUZZLES

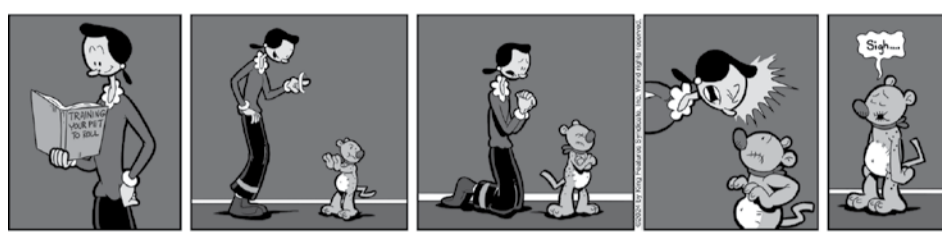
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

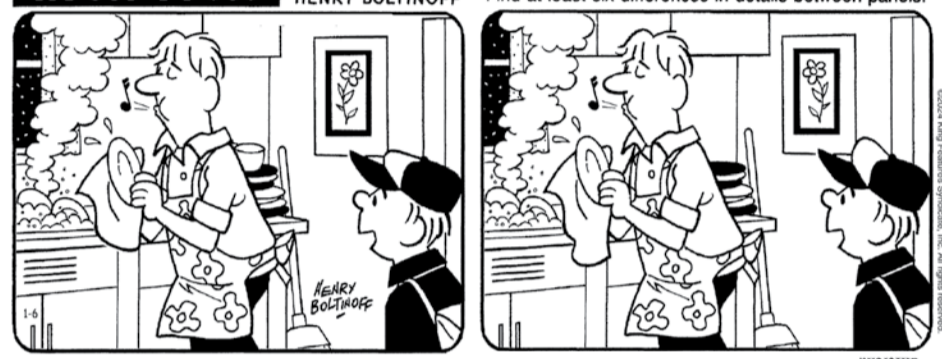
by Gary Kopervas



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Light is moved. 2. Nose is smaller. 3. Buttons are added. 4. Bricks are lower. 5. Headlight is missing. 6. Shirt is different.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



GRIN THE BEAR IT



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Sri Lankan language
 - Something to chew on, especially for cows
 - Mascara holder
 - Muscat resident
 - "... Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest"
 - Father, colloquially
 - Jewish folklore creature
 - Debtor's letters
 - Art class prop
 - *Barbie's little sister
 - *... 4 game
 - One less than jack
 - *... Frog educational toy
 - Nutcracker's distinguishing feature
 - Taboo, alt. sp.
 - Cooking fat
 - Deserter's acronym
 - President's David
 - Shower accessory
 - Pro ...
 - Conical dwellings
 - Prep flour
 - *Thomas or Henry, e.g.
 - Law school test acronym
 - Genealogist's creation
 - Maurice of "Where the Wild Things Are"
 - Flying saucers
 - Make mistakes
 - Chemically-induced curls
 - Harry Potter's Hedwig
 - *Certain Patch
 - *Not real dough
 - Normal
 - Clingy seed container
 - ...-la
 - Theater curtain fabric
 - Put into service
 - Female deer, pl.
 - Pub offering
 - Go on a trunk
 - What's in your e-wallet?
- DOWN**
- Duds or threads
 - Wildly
 - French Sudan after 1960
 - All thumbs
 - Marine gastropod
 - Coconut fiber
 - *Shedding-type card game
 - Tie in tennis
 - Shark's provision
 - Part of cathedral
 - Work detail
 - "Stop!" to marchers
 - Correspondence friend (2 words)
 - Make, as in a law
 - Edible type of grass
 - Complete payment (2 words)
 - *Banned lawn darts
 - Fully informed
 - Supreme Teutonic god
 - Get-out-of-jail money
 - Like Neverland boys
 - France's longest river
 - Bid on a house, e.g.
 - *Certain gun ammo
 - *Best ... schemes
 - "Mice an' Men"
 - "La Vie en rose" singer
 - Counter seat

CROSSWORD

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The Campfire Café is a Landmark

By Cris Hall Gerard, Orangevale History Project

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - A “landmark” is defined as an object or feature of a landscape or town that is easily seen and recognized from a distance, especially one that enables someone to establish their location. The Campfire Café is a landmark.

When was it built? Best guess is after the war, in the late 40s. I do know that it was sold to Noel and Edna Wilson by Harold and Gertrude Falkiner in June 1950. In 1951 new owners Louis and Dorothy Escola were reported. My grandparents built and lived in the brick house next door during this time.

The first records of land-marking are like this from the Folsom Telegraph newspapers. “Collapsible Camp Trailer... phone Folsom 262-Y-4 or call at the yellow brick house next to the Campfire. Café on Greenback Lane.” That went on for years. Sometimes we forget what times really looked like in the 1950s. I can’t pass up mentioning this ad from 1954: “Dynamite Blasting Powder -Wm Rumsey Ph YU 5-2082.” Yikes!

EARLY ROOTS

Researching the Campfire Café roots, the Folsom Telegraph in 1950 pulled out this: Three boys were sentenced to county jail for running down many mailboxes along Illinois Ave. Their sentence was suspended when the boys agreed to attend church on Sundays at least three times a month for the next year. They were paroled to the local pastor.

If that was not enough, their mom required them to replace every mailbox damaged. This case stemmed from the arrest of the operators of the Campfire Café and a bartender at Holmes Café for selling liquor to minors. The Campfire Café owners had only been in place for less than 6 months.



Nancy Pierce Myeron and Rod Hill stand by the sign they prepared. Photo courtesy of Nancy Pierce Myeron and Rod Hill. Photo courtesy of Orangevale History Project

RESCUED BY TRAYLOR’S

It was shortly after this, in 1952, when the Traylor’s era began. John and Leota were in Southern California when his brother, Art, living in Shingle Springs told John about this place. John had learned to cook in the military and already had experience of owning and operating the Trucker’s Café near El Monte, CA. The draw of Northern California not only included the restaurant, but fishing and the employment booms with Folsom Dam and Aerojet.

CAFÉ

The Traylor’s changed the landmark from the outside of the building to the restaurant inside. The food was homemade. From bread and rolls to jams and jellies, maple syrup and pies, to everything that came out of the garden and off the trees was used to make things. Salle Brothers, nearby, provided fresh eggs daily.

The Daily Specials menu was typed on a typewriter daily by

Traylor’s niece and the “red-headed” very shy waitress, Barbara.

The restaurant itself featured those 50s style dinette tables with Formica tops on the left, the big open campfire in the center and the lunch counter on the right.

The customers loved the food, the atmosphere, and the friendships made over time. When asking about memories I could feel the joy and fullness as fond memories poured out. Apple butter, pomegranate jelly, homemade biscuits and rolls, Cherry Coke and fries, hot roast beef sandwiches, Denver omelets and squash cakes. My heart smiled at comments like “best breakfast in town,” “ate there every morning,” “Leota: past master at making chocolate cake” and “my grandpa took me there”.

There are so many stories all filled with the emotion of fond remembrances.

ON THE INSIDE

John and Leota had four children: Elaine, John, Rosemary and Glenn. All the children worked

in the restaurant as did niece Barbara. Leota passed in 1985.

Long time employee Michelle Ridley Hetherington and I chatted recently. She got her first job there at 14 as a dishwasher and remembered it being the first job for lots of kids in town. Summertime had lots of work preparing all the fruits for what was to come for them.

We talked about my favorite memory, the chairs and with them not matching the tables. And the tables — not numbered like other cafes, but rather known as the “red table” or “big table” or “green table.” Michelle also fondly recalled a time when the roof would leak and there were buckets at various tables to contain the drips. Seating was then by “bucket or no bucket” tables. She worked there for 12 years, met her husband there, went through two pregnancies there and worked right up to the day it closed: John was like a father to her.

COMMUNITY HEART

The Traylor family always

supported the community. Lions Club met there, as did the Damsite Motorcycle Club and many other groups in town.

Do you remember when businesses would take out ads in the paper welcoming and wishing new businesses success and just wishing everyone a Merry Christmas? I found the Campfire Café did just that in the 70s. I wish we would see that today.

In the 80s, customers and a business owner who had a stretch limo ate there at least three times a week, maneuvering the limo among the pickups and jeeps. There was a wonderful write up in 1984 in the Orangevale News about the homemade food and the garden that contributed so much and what pride and care John took in it all. The soups also got a favorable rating from a columnist in the Telegraph in 1984.

THREE GENERATIONS

John was interviewed in May of 1996 by the Orangevale News: Campfire Café has been his for 44 years. Through those words I can feel the country-like corner at Filbert and Greenback and the frontier style of up-front down-home cooking. I can see the regular patrons, now three generations worth, at the counter with a few others being welcomed in for the very first time. And I can see John and his family going about the business of food and friendships.

THE BANNER READS THANK YOU JOHN FOR ALL THE GOOD MEMORIES

He had a plan, and at the age of 77 and a bout with pneumonia, John knew it was time. The Campfire Café closed on April 6, 1997, after 45 years.

So, from all of us who remember, thank you John and everyone else, for those 45 years. The corner and the name will always be the landmark. ★

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MPG

From Catfished to Homeless to Sheltered

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- Keith and Sadie amble around the grounds at the Florin and Power Inn Safe Stay Community – a collection of tiny sleeping cabins that shelter homeless people while providing for not only their basic needs but also connecting them to critical supports that help them exit homelessness. Sadie, an amber-colored hound, was recently vaccinated and spayed by the Bradshaw Animal Shelter's new mobile vet clinic, right on the premises. She is shy and wary of other humans, but she stays glued to Keith's side as they walk through the astroturf courtyard to get rechecked by the traveling veterinarian.

"It is great to have this service come to us. Sadie is important to me; I am glad to know she is fixed and healthy. I've had her since she was a puppy and I want to take care of her," Keith says.

Keith and Sadie have been at the Safe Stay Community for about three weeks. Keith is hopeful that his steady social security income and the help from the rehousing navigators will land him a safe, clean, and pet-friendly apartment soon. "I have excellent credit," said Keith. "I've never had bad credit. I'm hoping that helps me find a place that will take Sadie. I just need something I can afford on my social security."

Keith came to Sacramento four years ago. A musician in New Orleans, he had been posting videos of himself singing and playing on Facebook. A woman reached out to him via direct message and said she liked his singing and his look and would love to meet him. His wife passed away a few years prior, and he was lonely. They began chatting online and exchanging photos and promises. She lived in Sacramento, and she asked



Keith and his beloved Sadie. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

him to come and live with her. She had a place and a car that he could use to find a job. She'd take care of him.

Keith spent his last \$700 on a red eye from New Orleans to Sacramento. The woman who picked him up from the airport

was not the woman he'd seen in the photos. She was also homeless, staying with her mother, and didn't have the promised car. Keith had been catfished, and now he was broke, in an unfamiliar city, and unsure of what to do next. With nowhere to go and

no resources to care for himself, Keith still went home and stayed with the woman he'd been chatting with for weeks.

Keith found a job he could walk to—\$20 an hour doing construction. He was a hard worker and had good skills, and soon

Keith was promoted to foreman and made \$25 an hour. To his surprise, one day a woman showed up at his front door with a little dog. She couldn't care for it anymore and had heard he was good with dogs. Who can turn away a dog in need? Keith fell in love with Sadie immediately.

But he wasn't in love with the woman he was living with. When Keith revealed he didn't want a romantic relationship with the woman who'd tricked him, she kicked him and Sadie out. He rented his own apartment and reinvested in his first love—music. He purchased a guitar, and a new amp and started playing again. Finally, Keith was feeling like this life-changing move across the country wasn't so bad.

And then came a global pandemic. His construction job halted, and he lost his job. To add insult to injury, his apartment was robbed, and his guitar and amp were stolen. His landlord gave him short notice to vacate so that he could renovate the apartment and rent it for more money. With just his social security payments, Keith couldn't find a place he could afford, and he was right back to where he started—homeless.

"These cabins are amazing. Having my own bed, a door, three meals a day, a place to shower, a safe place for Sadie. I'm so grateful. All I need is a dog-friendly apartment that I can afford on my social security, and I'll be fine."

The staff from City Net, the onsite provider at the Safe Stay, is working diligently to find Keith housing that he can afford with his income and/or minimal assistance that will accept a pet.

Keith has grown children in Florida. One day, when he can, he wants to fly back to see them, but he doesn't want to be homeless when he sees his family for the first time in years. "I want them to be proud of me." ★

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Chubee Hawaiian Style Jerky Strips 2.25 oz	REG. \$5.49	\$4.99 /ea
Knorr Bouillons 32 oz	REG. \$12.99	\$8.99 /ea

ASIAN GROCERY

Charol Coconut Water 1 liter	REG. \$2.99	\$2.49 /ea
Jin Shan Zhenjiang Black Vinegar 186 Ltr	REG. \$2.49	\$1.99 /ea
Dragonfly Tapioca Flour 14 oz	REG. \$1.59	99c /ea
Lee Kum Kee Pure Sesame Oil 567 Ltr	REG. \$13.99	\$15.99 /ea
Singha Lemon Soda 11.2 Ltr	REG. \$1.29/ea	2/\$0.99 -TAX-CRV

EUROPEAN GROCERY

Marcy Polo Multi-Flower Honey 32 oz	REG. \$13.99	\$11.99 /ea
Ditanka Refined Sunflower Oil 920 ml	REG. \$5.99	\$3.99 /ea
Ditanka Unrefined Sunflower Oil 920 ml	REG. \$5.99	\$3.99 /ea
Good Day Biscuits 600 gr	REG. \$1.69	\$4.99 /ea
Nutella B-Ready 132 gr	REG. \$5.49	\$4.49 /ea

KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY

Premium Sushi Rice 4.4 lb	REG. \$12.99	\$6.99 /ea
Tea Herb Sunflower 30pk 3000 ml	REG. \$19.99	\$7.49 /ea
Organic Cucumbers 300 g	REG. \$4.99	\$4.99 /ea
Wang Wang Curry 275g	REG. \$2.99	\$2.99 /ea
Choco Pie 3 kinds 11.56 oz	REG. \$3.99	\$3.99 /ea
Choco Pie 3 kinds 11.56 oz	REG. \$3.99	\$3.99 /ea
Japanese Style Noodles 2 kinds 35.27 oz	REG. \$3.99	\$3.99 /ea
Kadoya Roasted Sesame Oil 11 oz	REG. \$2.99	\$2.99 /ea

HOUSEWARES

Electric BBQ Grill	REG. \$99.99	4.99 /ea
Shower Head	REG. \$14.99	3.99 /ea
Electric Rice Cooker	REG. \$29.99	14.99 /ea
Electric Rice Cooker	REG. \$15.49	15.49 /ea
Electric Rice Cooker	REG. \$15.99	15.99 /ea

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Dried Cod Fish 500 g	REG. \$16.99/ea	\$12.99 /ea
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EUROPEAN DELI

Columbus Applewood Ham	REG. \$79.99	\$7.99 /lb
Columbus Beef Pastrami	REG. \$12.09	\$12.09 /lb
Pized Green Olives	REG. \$13.99/lb	\$4.99 /lb
Green Cracked Olives	REG. \$4.99/lb	\$3.99 /lb

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