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# West Sacramento News Ledger

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## Fire Stations Getting Facelifts



A West Sacramento Fire Department Officer fights a blaze. Photo courtesy of the West Sacramento Fire Department

By Angela Underwood

**WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Three West Sacramento Fire Department station improvements require hundreds of thousands in repairs, renovations and maintenance. Fire Station 45, constructed in 2006, houses all administrative staff and serves as the location for the Fire Administration Division. The station's worn-out carpet, heavily worn-out workstations and furniture, and cracked drywall and paint call for restoration. In 2023,

Pro Builders was awarded the project, finding additional areas of improvement, including painting and replacing flooring in the kitchen and two offices. Officials adopted the biennial Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget for Fiscal Years 2023-2025 for the Fire Station 45 Improvements Project, appropriating \$500,00; however, additional funding of \$80,000 is needed to finish. Before approving the funds, Councilwoman Verna Sulpizio Hull said she recently attended an open

house at Fire Station 45 and has driven with Chief Steve Binns to the city's other fire stations. "I have seen firsthand these upgrades that are being recommended tonight, and I am in full support of all of them," Sulpizio Hull said. "I am very happy to see this work being done, and I want to compliment the capital projects team who we have heard amazing things they have been doing to manage projects." After the meeting, the Territorial Dispatch spoke with Chief Binns, *Continued on page 3*

## Yolo County Food Bank Feeds Riverbank Elementary Students



Yolo County Food Bank arrived at Riverbank Elementary, supplying families in need with nutritional food needed for students to learn successfully. Photo courtesy of Yolo County Food Bank

By Angela Underwood

**WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - There are emergency responders, and there are food responders. Food responders make up the Yolo Food Bank, which serves one in three households suffering from food insecurity here. Yolo County has a 30% insecurity rate, which is higher than the state and national average. Washington Unified School District (WUSD) officially partnered with Yolo Food Bank to feed dozens of students at Riverbank Elementary. WUSD Executive Director of Communication Director Giorgios Kazanis said collaboration between the district and Yolo County partners is critical to ensuring that every student has access to nutritious meals. "Many students rely on school meals as a primary source of nutrition, and by partnering with Yolo County, we can extend this support beyond the school day to address food insecurity issues that students may face at home," Kazanis said. "This partnership allows us to provide essential nourishment to students, ensuring they have the fuel they need to learn, grow, and thrive academically and personally." Kazanis added during times of high inflation and food insecurity, the need for food assistance becomes even more pressing. "By supplying food to students and families during these challenging

*Continued on page 7*

## Free Shade Tree Program Supports Biodiversity

By Angela Underwood

**WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The role of urban tree canopies is unprecedented as temperatures continue to rise. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service reports that "the burning need to address harmful and often deadly heat waves is undeniable," stating "one powerful and simple solution is to plant more trees." City arborist David Culbertson said West Sacramento's three-decade-old tree program continues to plant, protect, and preserve trees contributing to community health. The city's efforts play a crucial role in improving air quality, providing shade, and supporting biodiversity, according to Culbertson.



A large shade tree in West Sacramento was planted to help canopy the city from rising heat temperatures. Photo courtesy of West Sacramento

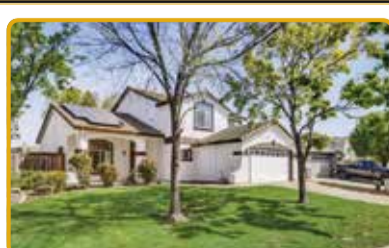
"The Tree Program was initiated to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of our community through regulations that govern the planting and removal of trees," Culbertson said. Culbertson said the program protects West

Sacramento's history by limiting the removal of landmark or heritage trees, adding, "It also ensures the

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# Matsui Statement on TSMC CHIPS Announcement

Office of Congresswoman Doris Matsui News Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG) - On April 8, Congresswoman Doris Matsui (D-CA), co-author of the Creating Helpful Incentives to the Production of Semiconductors (CHIPS) for America Act, issued the following statement after the Department of Commerce announced a preliminary memorandum of terms to provide up to \$6.6 billion in direct funding for Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) under the CHIPS and Science Act. This proposed funding would support TSMC's investment of more than \$65 billion to construct three leading-edge fabs in Arizona. These fabs will produce some of the world's most advanced semiconductors critical to national security and consumer products like smartphones, AI datacenter servers, and more.

"Today's announcement is another milestone on our road to reassert America's global innovation leadership," said Congresswoman Matsui. "These investments will ensure a secure pipeline of

some of the most advanced semiconductors in the world – mission critical components our national security apparatus needs to succeed. As co-author of the original CHIPS Act, I am pleased to see this legislation working as intended – bringing innovative economic anchors to communities across the country, protecting our national security, and creating good-paying jobs for American workers. I will continue to work hard to ensure we maximize these investments moving forward."

Congresswoman Matsui introduced the original CHIPS Act in June 2020 alongside Congressman Michael McCaul (R-TX) and Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and Mark Warner (D-VA). She successfully included an amendment based on the CHIPS Act as part of the FY21 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to enable the building and modernization of semiconductor manufacturing facilities in America. She also led efforts to secure this funding through the CHIPS and Science Act. ★

# Yolo County Sheriff STARS Receives Generous Donation from Valley Tire



STARS Lt. Susan Carter and Secretary Janice Cardin accepted Valley Tire's generous donation and thanked them for their support. Photo courtesy of Yolo County Sheriff STARS

By John Finazzo

YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Brett Pedroia of Valley Tire, Woodland recently presented a check to Yolo County Sheriff STARS (Sheriff's Team of Active

Retired Seniors). STARS is a non-profit volunteer group who assist the Sheriff's Office with a variety of community services such as community events, vacation home checks, vehicle

maintenance, farm equipment stamping, etc. This donation will allow STARS to purchase a computer software program to identify service projects, organize work schedules and log hours worked. ★

# Free Shade Tree Program Supports Biodiversity

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safe removal of trees that may pose a safety hazard to surrounding structures and people."

"One of the key objectives of the Tree Program is to improve West Sacramento's tree canopy and urban forest through the Free Shade Program," Culbertson said of the arrangement, which allows residents two shade trees per year.

The arborist said increasing the number of shade trees enhances the aesthetic appeal of West Sacramento neighborhoods and provides numerous environmental benefits. West Sacramento offers dozens of tree types, including Flowering Crabapple, Weeping Blue Atlas Cedar, Japanese Black Pine, and Scarlet Oak.

Shade trees are delivered at the end of April, in conjunction with Arbor Day celebrations, and at the end of September. Cut-off dates for orders are a month before delivery: at the end of March for the April delivery and at the end of August for the September delivery.

"Apart from promoting the continued renewal of our urban forest through planting new trees, the Tree Program helps preserve the large trees that currently provide us with oxygen and shade," Culbertson said.

Residents require a tree permit to perform significant pruning or removal. Heritage trees with a circumference greater than 75" and Heritage oaks with a circumference greater than 50" need a permit to prune or remove, as well as street trees within 12.5



West Sacramento has a free shade tree offered to every resident twice annually along with stakes and delivery. Photo courtesy of West Sacramento

inches from the curb or street.

For residents who may have removed trees due to "an imminent threat to public safety or infrastructure," officials ask that the issue be documented with photos to submit for a retroactive permit. Unless there is just cause or a permit to remove a West Sacramento tree, those who do so will be subject to fines or tree mitigation.

West Sacramento will only service private trees for emergencies, including imminent threats, and does not inspect trees on residential property unless it is for a pruning or removal request. However, West Sacramento will prune city trees in front of resident homes for visibility. City officials prune mature trees on a two- to three-year cycle, and less mature trees are pruned for clear

visibility to ensure line-of-sight for signs, vehicles, pedestrians, and building clearance.

"Through continued collaboration with residents, businesses, and local organizations, West Sacramento seeks to ensure that West Sacramento remains a green and vibrant place to live, work, and play," Culbertson said.

Residents can request to be part of the Free Shade Program or request a permit by visiting [www.wsac.city/trees](http://www.wsac.city/trees).

"Trees act as natural air purifiers, help mitigate heat by providing shade, and play a crucial role in supporting wildlife by providing habitats and food sources for birds, insects, and other animals," Culbertson said. "So, by protecting the health of our trees, we're also enhancing our own quality of life." ★

# Committee Approves Sen. Dodd's Roadside Wildfire Safety Bill

Office of Senator Bill Dodd News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On April 3, legislation advanced from Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, that would help safeguard Californians from wildfires and protect the environment by streamlining the process for clearing combustible brush and trees alongside roads.

"Roadside ignitions are a significant source of wildfires when a spark from a passing vehicle, or cigarette comes into contact with dry brush and grass," Sen. Dodd said. "Vegetation management along roads is highly effective at limiting the spread of these ignitions and also decreases the potential for an existing wildfire to spread across a road."

Under current state law, brush clearing for fire-prevention purposes is exempt from provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act if it is



Bill Dodd

conducted within 30 feet of a structure. That distance can be extended to 100 feet of a structure if extra-hazardous fire conditions exist.

Sen. Dodd's new proposal, Senate Bill 1159, would require the Natural Resources Agency to consider granting a CEQA exemption to roadside vegetation management projects undertaken solely for wildfire risk reduction. Expediting these projects would reduce the possibility of roadside fires and improve evacuation routes, among other benefits. Also, eliminating red tape would decrease costs to treat roadside areas

that currently present a financial burden to small agencies and under-resourced communities.

SB 1159 cleared the Senate Environmental Quality committee on April 3 with unanimous support.

"Wildfire is a peril that threatens both lives and homes throughout," said Dave Winnacker, chief of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and member of the California Fire Chiefs Association. "Few areas are more critical than roadsides near populated areas. Commonsense legislation that streamlines the approval process to maintain these areas will allow more of our limited wildfire risk-reduction resources to be used for fuel mitigation work while reducing the time required for planning and approvals. We appreciate Sen. Dodd's continued leadership in this area and look forward to this legislation being enacted." ★



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# Working Together to Support Fire Stations Getting Facelifts

## Yolo County Residents

### County of Yolo News Release

**WOODLAND, CA (MPG)** - Yolo County proudly acknowledges the invaluable contributions of its community partner, Resources for Independent Living (RIL), in supporting the independence and well-being of local residents living with disabilities. Through its partnership with RIL, Yolo County is furthering its commitment to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for all residents, particularly those facing unique challenges related to aging and disabilities.

"The Yolo County Office of Emergency Services (OES), in close partnership with Resources for Independent Living (RIL), has found an ally in our shared mission to ensure the safety, accessibility, and overall welfare of Yolo County residents, particularly in times of crisis," stated Yolo County Chief of Emergency Services Kristin Weivoda. "By partnering with RIL, we're not only aligning our efforts but also committing to an approach that addresses the diverse needs of our community. Together, through initiatives like Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) to connect people to needed services, Assistive Technology, and Public

Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Support, we are reinforcing our dedication to fostering resilience and inclusivity in Yolo County."

This collaboration is happening at a crucial time as California begins implementing the Master Plan for Aging, which intends to create a California for All Ages by 2030. This visionary plan sets ambitious goals to improve the quality of life for all residents statewide, with a focus on supporting aging populations and individuals with disabilities. Yolo County's acknowledgment of RIL's contributions marks progress towards achieving this vision, demonstrating a proactive effort to ensure that all residents can access vital services and opportunities.

RIL's innovative initiatives, such as vaccination efforts at Rancho Yolo and the installation of home ramps for enhanced accessibility, exemplify how their core services directly benefit Yolo County residents. Whether it's through Employment Services, Housing Assistance, Independent Living Skills Training, Individual & Systems Advocacy, Information & Referral, Peer Counseling, Personal Care Assistance, Transition - Institutional Diversion, or Transition Youth Services, RIL's

collaboration with Yolo County strengthens the county's ability to provide essential services and support to individuals facing disabilities and aging-related challenges.

Through strategic partnerships with key stakeholders like the Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency and community partners like the Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance, RIL continues to pioneer new approaches to address the evolving needs of the community.

District 4 Supervisor Jim Provenza remarked, "As Yolo County looks towards the future, this partnership underscores the vital role of collective efforts in advocating for often overlooked aging and disability initiatives. It is important for us to highlight the work of Resources for Independent Living, as it allows Yolo County to reaffirm its commitment to building a resilient and inclusive community for future generations."

For more information on the impactful work of Resources for Independent Living, please visit [www.RIL-Sacramento.org](http://www.RIL-Sacramento.org). To learn about Yolo County's initiatives and how we're preparing individuals in the community living with disabilities for emergencies, please visit [www.YoloCounty.org/OES](http://www.YoloCounty.org/OES). ★

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who said ensuring that equipment and resources are maintained and improved is essential to facilitating rapid and effective emergency response and prompt, effective mitigation of emergency incidents.

"Failing to maintain equipment and resources properly can cause delays in responses, where seconds can be critical and mean the difference between life and death," Binns said. "Furthermore, failing to maintain emergency equipment meticulously can lead to any number of downstream calamities, endanger the public and first responders, and imperil our ability to protect life, property, and the environment."

That is exactly the case with West Sacramento's oldest fire station, Fire Station 41, built in 1938. The station's lighting controller recently failed, leaving the facility in the dark. Ireland Electric was selected to perform the emergency repairs.

Fire Station 43, constructed in 1970, has a single restroom for personnel and the public that is not only inadequate but also fails to meet proper code restrictions. The aging infrastructure is evident through visible

wear and tear, moisture damage, ventilation inadequacies, and recurrent plumbing issues, which is why officials appropriated \$480,700 to TPM Construction Inc. and Indigo | Hammond + Playle Architects.

However, additional funding of \$460,812 is needed, so officials approved transferring \$350,000 and \$15,455.27 from the capital improvement projects and appropriating an extra \$95,356.73 from the General Facilities Fund.

Chief Binns said West Sacramento utilizes American Rescue Plan Act funds and routinely pursues FEMA grants and many other state and regional opportunities. In the meantime, Councilwoman Quirina Orozco agreed all improvements were necessary.

"I can speak for the entire council when I say we agree and thank you so much for taking the time. Thank you, Chief Binns, for providing that opportunity, which begets a different lens of issues facing our fire department," Orozco said.

Binns said proper upkeep of fire equipment is one of the most important tasks firefighters perform daily.

"Ensuring the

response-readiness of all emergency equipment enables us to have confidence that when community members call 9-1-1, we can respond quickly, safely, and operate with the highest degrees of effectiveness and efficiency in mitigating whatever the emergency may be," Binns said.

Speaking of timing, Sulpizio Hull said the fire department needs these improvements now.

"They have been waiting, and it's time," Sulpizio Hull said.

Chief Binns said his department is extremely grateful for the recent approval of the three Fire Department-related capital projects at the last City Council meeting.

"The approval of these items demonstrates the commitment that the city council and city manager's office have toward ensuring that the fire department is well-supported and has the resources it needs to protect life, property, and the environment," Binns said.

The chief also said he was thankful for the leadership and staff from the city's Capital Projects department.

"They are true professionals and the champions of moving important projects like these through," Binns said. ★

## Bill to Protect Road Safety, Trucking Jobs Passes Assembly Transportation Committee

### Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters) announced on April 16 that Assembly Bill 2886 (Aguiar-Curry, Friedman and Kalra) passed the Assembly Transportation Committee with a vote of 13-1.

AB 2886 requires that autonomous vehicles (AVs) over 10,000 pounds have a human safety operator present, during initial testing and deployment, to ensure the technology is working properly and to respond to any incidents and emergencies when the vehicles fail to operate properly on public roads.

"I'm proud to have passed the first hurdle in this year's process with another resounding bipartisan vote. This is an issue that impacts the safety and employment of tens of millions of Californians," said Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters). "I'm dumbfounded that the opposition makes the arguments that this bill limits the opportunity for them to cut 'costs.' Those 'costs' are humans in the trucking industry, and the price Californians public will pay for tech companies' mistakes is their families' safety. Our professional truck drivers are the stewards of our highways, not entries on a balance sheet. This is simply more proof that the industry cares more about profits than the safety of our constituents on public streets and highways."

Said Mike Fry, a professional truck driver of 27 years and a member



Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry

of Teamsters Local 2785, "AVs eliminate the spontaneity and adaptability that are critical to keeping our roads safe. I urge all California elected officials to please listen to professional drivers like me who operate this machinery every day. We know big trucks and we know California roads. Please, protect public safety and middle-class prosperity in California by supporting AB 2286."

"Tech companies pushing driverless big rigs are wreaking havoc on the livelihoods and safety of all Californians. There are hundreds of thousands of trucking jobs that will be lost due to automation in our state if we allow it," said Lorena Gonzalez, Chief Officer of the California Labor Federation, representing 1,300 unions and 2.3 million union members. "The Legislature has shown strong bipartisan support for this legislation because safety and good jobs are issues everyone can get behind."

"Driverless trucks/buses are dangerous and don't belong on California roads or highways. The risks of autonomous passenger vehicles are

well-documented, and the risks of heavy-duty autonomous vehicles would be even worse," said Louie Costa, Director of the California State Legislative Board for the SMART-Transportation Division. "Removing drivers would cost tens of thousands of working Californians their jobs and Livelihoods. We cannot allow tech companies to trade our safety and jobs for increased corporate profits. Public transportation ridership has been slow to recover post pandemic, safety concerns add to the longstanding issues that discourage people from using public transit. Imagine how safe the public would feel without a human operator on board. We will continue to fight to make sure that robots do not replace human operators and that technology is not used to destroy good jobs. The future of all workers is a stake!"

AB 2286 balances technological advancement and the public good. This bill allows the AV technology to continue expanding in California, but requires the presence of a human safety operator in any AV over 10,000 pounds that is driven on public roads. The operator must have any relevant state and federal certifications for operating the vehicle. This bill also requires that disengagements and collisions of heavy-duty AVs are reported to DMV.

Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry represents the 4th Assembly District, which includes all of Lake, Colusa, and part of Yolo Counties, and part of Sonoma County. ★

## Study Shows Yolo Ag Workers' Food Inequity



Study Details Food Inequity: From left, Yolo Food Bank Director of Development and Communications Maria Segoviano, Nugget Market CEO Greg Hill, Sutter Health Director of Community Health Kelly Brenk and California Association of Food Banks CEO Stacia Hill Levenfeld are on a panel during April 5's State of Food Insecurity in Yolo County event. Photo courtesy of Yolo Food Bank.

### By Gary Zavoral

**YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - A new Yolo County study unearthed an ironic trend: those who work hard to bring others their food are the ones who are most food-insecure.

That is one of the most alarming findings of the study made public April 5 during the inaugural State of Food Insecurity in Yolo County. The study details that nearly one-third of all Yolo County households have food insecurity, which is higher than the state average, and more than half of those food-insecure households - 53% - have an agricultural worker in the home.

To reach those households in the most need of fresh, healthy, culturally appropriate food, Sutter Health is providing a \$200,000 investment for the Yolo Food Bank's new "Cultivo" program, which launches this spring. Cultivo means "crop" or "I cultivate" in Spanish.

The Cultivo program will bring more equitable access to food directly to agricultural workers with monthly pop-up food distributions in their neighborhoods and their places of employment, such as fields, farms, packing

plants and canneries, said Sutter Health Community Health Director Kelly Brenk.

The program is in response to the study's findings, which also showed that 20% of those who reported living in a food-insecure household don't access food from charitable services, such as Yolo Food Bank.

"We learned that 27% don't think they qualify, nearly 21% don't know where to go and almost 17% of households state the food rarely or never meets their traditional, cultural, religious and nationality needs," said Yolo Food Bank director of programs Genevieve Pyeatt.

When announcing the investment at the State of Food Insecurity event, Sutter Health's Brenk said these Cultivo pop-up distributions will remove those barriers to appropriate food by bringing it directly to those who are food-insecure.

"In the healthcare community, we have been very forward-thinking in mobile medicine," Brenk said. "Now is the time for us to do the same with food access."

Sutter Health's own community health needs

assessments have shown that access to fresh, healthy food plays a role in preventing chronic diseases, such as diabetes and congestive heart failure, and also contributes to overall well-being and mental health.

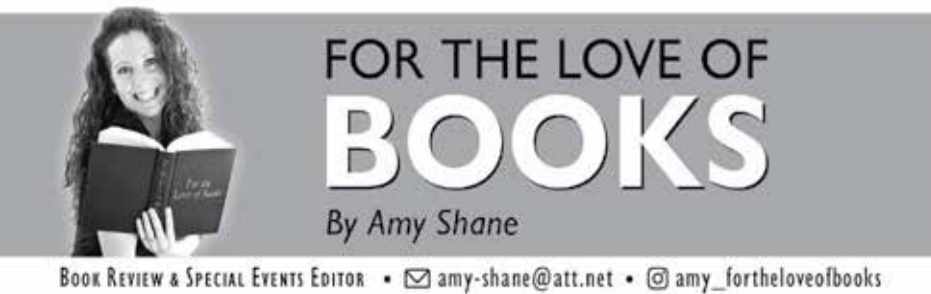
Brenk said that the county food-insecurity study went further by identifying "inequitable access" to fresh, healthy foods among food-service workers, particularly those in agriculture.

"It is incredibly eye-opening that the very people who are most food insecure are also the valuable members of our community who help our county grow and cultivate our crops," Brenk said. "It is an inequity that we cannot and will not ignore, because it is the right thing to help change that inequity."

The Institute of Social Research at California State University, Sacramento produced the study, which Sutter Health helped fund.

"We are excited about working with Yolo County and Yolo Food Bank to close this gap and provide equitable access to fresh, healthy food for all in the county," Brenk said. ★





## Local Author Spotlight

Local Dixon author delivers a new children's book filled with mystery, cats, mischief, and mayhem.

Recently, I had the opportunity to interview Marcy Savala about her author journey, story, and the inspiration behind her new book *The Mysterious Kitty Card Caper*. Marcy Savala lives in Dixon with her eight furry kitty capers, which are full of their own mischief and fun.

**FTLOB:** Hi Marcy, Thank you so much for taking the time to talk to readers about your new book, *The Mysterious Kitty Card Caper*. Please tell readers a little about your book.

**MS:** The Mysterious Kitty Card Caper is about a person recovering from surgery. What follows is a group of "get well" cards sent by the kitties, but were they really? The mystery is finding out who is sending all the cards and the trouble they get into.

**FTLOB:** Oh, Wow, how darling! This sounds like a fun and intriguing mystery. What age group is your story geared towards?

**MS:** The story is for ages nine and above.

**FTLOB:** Your story has a very interesting premise: cats sending get-well cards. What inspired you to write this story?

**MS:** During my recovery



from an injury, I had the time and space to fulfill my dream of writing this book.

**FTLOB:** Your story emphasizes on many different points; which lesson do you want the readers to walk away with most?

**MS:** The lesson of love, companionship, and helping each other.

**FTLOB:** Since your story is based around kitties and the unique way they touch someone's life, Do you have a special Kitty moment in your life?

**MS:** The rescue of my special Kitty, Sweetpea. She was three weeks old when I rescued her, bottle-fed her & carried her around everywhere I went. She slept

under the covers next to me for all of her 26 years, and I miss her deeply.

**FTLOB:** Since writing and publishing your first book, what has been the best part of your writing journey?

**MS:** Developing the characters, the inspiration of the story line and utilizing all my furry friends.

**FTLOB:** Since this story is based on an intriguing mystery, do you have a favorite mystery book?

**MS:** Murder on the Orient Express.

**FTLOB:** I love that you have found a way to combine your love of cats with your dream of becoming an author. Where is this book available, and do you have a website where readers can learn more about you and your kitty capers?

**MB:** The book is available through Amazon or the publisher. My website is still in development.

**FTLOB:** Thank you so much, Marcy, for taking the time to speak to our readers.

For readers who would like to uncover the mystery of the kitty cat capers, this book is also available online at Barnes and Noble and [www.westbowpress.com](http://www.westbowpress.com). ★

## Social Security Matters Older Husband and Working Wife Seek Guidance



By Russell Gloor,  
AMAC Certified Social  
Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** I am 74 years old, retired and receiving Social Security. My wife will be 65 in January of 2025. Our hope was to start paying off some credit card expense by her receiving SS when she turns 65, however it appears there would be a substantial reduction to her benefits. Her work income is \$37,500 a year, and she wasn't planning on retiring from work at age 65. Because I am 11 years older, we felt it makes sense to use her Social Security as a means to lower our debt. We have \$27,000 in credit card debt, and I don't really want to use my 401(k) funds due to taxes. We pretty much live on my Social Security and pension. **Signed: Seeking Suggestions**

**Dear Seeking:** Your wife's full retirement age (FRA) for Social Security purposes is age 67. Because she will not yet have reached her FRA in January 2025 (when she is 65), if she claims SS to start at that time, not only will her monthly amount be reduced, but she will be subject to Social Security's annual earnings test. The earnings test sets a limit for how much can be earned by beneficiaries who claim SS before FRA.

The earnings limit for 2024 is \$22,320. The limit for next year is not yet published (it's based on changes to the national wage index) but will be a bit higher – likely about \$23,500. Thus, I can't provide the exact impact, but if your wife's 2025 earnings exceed next year's limit, Social Security will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit (half of the amount over the limit). So, if your wife earns \$37,500 per year, that will likely be about \$14,000 over the limit and Social Security will take back half of that (\$7,000). They "take back" by withholding future benefits, or you can repay them in a lump sum. So, you will have a choice – repay Social Security from your other assets, or they will withhold your wife's SS benefits for the number of months needed to offset her penalty for exceeding the earnings limit. The number of months they will withhold depends on how much is owed and what your wife's monthly SS benefit is. For example, if your wife's age-65 SS benefit is about average (\$1,900) and her penalty for exceeding the limit is \$7,000, Social Security would withhold your wife's benefit for 4 months to recover the penalty, but she would receive her full benefit for the remaining 8 months of the year.

Unless your wife tells them in advance that she will exceed the limit, Social Security will find out the following year (after you file your income taxes). But, in any case, your wife cannot avoid the annual earnings test

for working before reaching her full retirement age. The earnings test goes away when your wife reaches her FRA of 67. Until that time, if she continues working she will have a choice to have her benefits withheld for a portion of the year, or simply repay Social Security in a lump sum (in which case her benefits would continue uninterrupted).

FYI, there is a silver lining in this, because if your wife has benefits withheld because she exceeds the earnings limit before her FRA, after she reaches her full retirement age Social Security will give her time credit for the months when benefits were withheld, which will result in her monthly Social Security payment amount increasing somewhat at her full retirement age. Thus, over time, your wife may recover the benefits which were withheld for exceeding the annual earnings limit. But to get 100% of the benefit she's earned from a lifetime of working, and **be exempt** from Social Security's earnings limit, she would need to wait until she reaches her FRA to claim.

*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). To submit a question, visit our website ([amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).* ★



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## CHURCH DIRECTORY



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Sasa Andelkovic, Senior Pastor

2860 Jefferson Blvd., W. Sac.  
PO Box 447, W. Sac. 95691

Sat. Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.

Worship 11 a.m.

(916) 372-6570

#### Community Lutheran Church

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Sunday Service at 10 a.m.

920 Drever St.

(916) 317-8804

Facebook.com/

CommunityLutheranWestSacramento

#### New Seasons Church

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Pastor Ron Jackson

Sunday Service 9:30 a.m.

2124 Michigan Blvd.,

West Sacramento, CA 95691

(916) 265-4025

[pastorron@newseasons.ws](mailto:pastorron@newseasons.ws)

[www.newseasons.ws](http://www.newseasons.ws)

#### Trinity Presbyterian Church

1500 Park Blvd. W. Sacramento

(916) 371-5875

[www.TrinityWestSac.org](http://www.TrinityWestSac.org)

[info@trinitywestsac.org](mailto:info@trinitywestsac.org)

Pastor Jamie Crook

Spanish Ministry Pastor: Miryam Osorio

Sunday Worship Services:

10 a.m. Blended/Traditional

Noon Spanish Language

#### 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

#### Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church

911 Park Blvd, West Sacramento

Office: (916) 371-4814

Fr. Mathew Rappu, Pastor

Mass: Mon, Tues, Wed 8:30 a.m.

Fri 8:30 a.m. at OLG school

during school year

Sat: 5:30 p.m. vigil, Sun: 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

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[www.csasacramento.org](http://www.csasacramento.org)

[revrick@csasacramento.org](mailto:revrick@csasacramento.org)

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## Californians are Worried About Crime, Setting the Stage for a Ballot Measure Showdown



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Democrats completely dominate California's state government, and one aspect of that hegemony is their ability to act without compunction.

When doing whatever they want to do, Democratic officeholders don't have to worry about competition from the state's shriveled-up Republican Party nor, for the most part, criticism from equally shrunken political media.

Thus, the Capitol has become an echo chamber rather than a forum for forthright debate about issues.

The syndrome explains why its leaders, including Gov. Gavin Newsom, ignored indications that as California emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, its law-abiding residents were becoming increasingly worried about crime. The concerns arose, even though voters had approved two ballot measures in the previous decade to lower penalties and in 2020 rejected a measure to get tougher on some crimes.

Democrats were committed to "criminal justice reform," which meant decreasing penalties for crime, reducing the numbers of offenders behind bars and implicitly viewing them more as victims of an unjust society rather than victimizers.

Post-pandemic worries about crime were fueled by videos depicting brazen carjackings, home robberies and smash

and grab assaults on stores. Just before the 2022 elections, the Public Policy Institute of California released a poll that confirmed the shift.

"Californians' perception of crime spiked during the pandemic – as did certain types of crime," PPIC found, adding, "nearly 2 in 3 Californians call violence and street crime in their local community a problem. This includes 31% who call them a big problem, a noticeable increase from February 2020 (24%)."

Changing attitudes are particularly evident in the traditionally liberal San Francisco Bay Area, where stores and restaurants have closed their doors after experiencing multiple crimes. San Francisco voters recalled their reform-minded district attorney. Across the bay, Alameda County's DA also faces a recall effort.

Facts bolster the sentiment. Last July, Attorney General Rob Bonta, a strong criminal justice reform advocate, released annual crime data, revealing that the state's violent crime rate increased by 6.1% in 2022, and property crime was up 6.2%. Homicides dipped, but robberies jumped by 10.2%.

The dissonance between the public's changing attitudes and the Capitol's unchanging commitment to softening criminal penalties reached a climax last year when the Assembly Public Safety Committee rejected legislation that would have reclassified human trafficking of a minor as a "serious felony," thereby increasing the punishment for committing it.

Similar legislation had repeatedly died in the Legislature but the 2023 rejection touched a nerve and became a media sensation. Newsom and legislative leaders sensed the backlash and quickly revived and enacted the bill.

Having finally gotten the message, Newsom and other Democratic figures began to recast themselves as crime fighters. The governor pledged to crack down on street crime and dispatched dozens of California Highway Patrol officers to bolster Bay Area policing. Legislative leaders now want to fine-tune criminal statutes to crack down on retail theft without materially changing the criminal justice reform measures that the Legislature and voters had enacted.

They also hope to head off a November ballot measure that would go further in undoing some of the previous softer-on-crime decrees. On Thursday, law enforcement groups, big city mayors and major retailers submitted 900,000 signatures for the measure, virtually guaranteeing it a place on the November ballot.

Its heavyweight proponents can easily spend the millions of dollars a full-fledged statewide campaign requires. In a statement, the coalition said "half-measures" are not good enough, an apparent reference to the legislative package.

A head-on collision over crime appears to loom, but it's also possible that the measure's backers and Democratic leaders, including Newsom, could reach a compromise that the Legislature would enact and the ballot measure would be withdrawn. It's happened before.

*Dan Walters has been a journalist for more than 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers. He began his professional career in 1960, at age 16, at the Humboldt Times in Eureka, while still attending high school, and turned down a National Merit scholarship to continue working as a journalist. ★*

## California Farm Bureau Responds to Governor's Updated Water Plan

California Farm Bureau News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass commented on the release of Gov. Gavin Newsom's updated California Water Plan.

"Farm Bureau congratulates Gov. Newsom and his administration on the update of California Water Plan 2023, the latest iteration of a long-term strategy that has guided our state's water management approach for nearly 70 years,"

Douglass said. "We're encouraged that the plan highlights infrastructure projects to capture, store and convey water supplies. We're also pleased that it seeks to reduce permitting burdens for projects that support water resilience, including through groundwater recharge and habitat restoration."

The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of more than 26,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of 5.8 million Farm Bureau members. ★

## Yolo County Food Bank Feeds Riverbank Elementary Students

Continued from page 1

times, we can help alleviate some of the financial burdens they face while ensuring that no child goes hungry," Kazanis said. "This support not only promotes physical well-being but also fosters a sense of community and support within our district."

Teaching children on a full stomach is crucial for their academic success and overall well-being, according to the executive director of communication, noting when students are hungry, they may have difficulty concentrating, participating in class activities, and retaining information.

"By ensuring that students have access to nutritious meals, we can support their cognitive function and create an environment conducive to learning," Kazanis said. "A full stomach sets the stage for engaged and focused students, ultimately enhancing their educational experience."

And it's not just about feeding the mind through the stomach. Proper nutrition is also important to students' emotional and

mental growth. Kazanis said nutrient-rich foods provide essential vitamins and minerals that support brain function and development, helping students regulate their emotions, manage stress, and maintain positive mental health.

"In an academic environment, where students face various challenges and pressures, meeting their nutritional needs is paramount," Kazanis said. "By prioritizing proper nutrition, we can promote resilience, concentration, and overall mental wellness among students, laying the foundation for academic success and lifelong health."

Yolo Food Bank's FirstFruits Farms' Take a Bite Out of Hunger™ program recently saw a generous donation of 22,660 pounds of fresh apples from Raley's and aims to address food insecurity within West Sacramento. Kazanis said the impact of partnerships between WUSD, the Yolo Food Bank, and various community partners is significant.

"The recent donation of fresh apples not

only provides nutritious options for families but also highlights the ongoing need for access to fresh produce, especially during times of rising food prices," Kazanis said, adding the county food bank is committed to supporting families in need through onsite food pantries and the Student Farmers Market program at Riverbank Elementary School along with 18 other school sites in the county.

"Students are guided during or after-school to learn about, sample, and select their own fruits and vegetables using play money to simultaneously provide insight into the economic value of food and its impact upon the food system," according to the website.

The program also gives children 5-10 pounds of healthy produce to bring home to their families.

"By working together, we can ensure that every member of our community has access to the food resources they need to thrive," Kazanis said.

For more information on the Yolo Food Bank, visit [www.yolofoodbank.org](http://www.yolofoodbank.org) ★

## April is National Donate Life Month Join My Son, Joe, As an Organ Donor

By Jess Chairez

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - April is National Donate Life Month, when organ donor families, transplant recipients, and the entire organ donation community celebrate organ donors and call on everyone to register to donate life. It is a month to honor donor heroes who have given life to others, celebrate the lives that transplant recipients are fortunate to have, pray for those who still wait for a lifesaving organ, and encourage everyone to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor.

My family never imagined being part of this community when we faced the death of my beloved son, Joe.

No matter what I was doing – working in the yard, building something – Joe was always right there by my side. He was about to graduate from the Sacramento Police Academy, which just made me as proud as a peacock. Just two weeks before he graduated, Joe told me that, if the unthinkable happened to him and

he died while carrying out his duties in law enforcement, he wanted to donate his organs.

As much as I loved my son, I told him I could not allow that. My family wasn't familiar with organ donation at that time. I just wasn't comfortable with it.

Two weeks later, Joe suddenly collapsed on the job. My wife, Teresa, and I got the call that changes a parent's life forever: our Joe had suffered a brain aneurysm and had died.

A day later, Tim, an incredibly compassionate staff member with Sierra Donor Services, our local organ procurement organization (OPO) asked us if we wanted to donate Joe's organs. My mind flashed back to our conversation just days before. Initially, I said no, but as a man of faith, I asked God what I should do. He gave me an answer: I would honor my son by honoring his wishes and supporting him in leaving a lifesaving legacy.

I will never forget Teresa mouthing "Thank you" to me as she shook from head to toe, tears streaming down her face. All along, she had known what Joe

wanted. I am happy that I figured it out in time for him to save lives.

I have also never been happier in my life than to have had that change of heart. Through the work of Sierra Donor Services, Joe's heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, and pancreas saved the lives of five people. Teresa always says that's what life is for: to help others.

We lost Joe over 20 years ago, and I've spent the time since then sharing Joe's story. This Donate Life Month, I encourage everyone to register as an organ donor. More than 20,000 Californians are waiting today for the same type of gift that Joe gave to five people. Over 79% of those people waiting are people of color.

My family has found support and solace because in Joe's death, he saved lives. It has given us peace. My family has experienced that first-hand. Please think about how you can help someone who really needs your help.

Please visit [BeTheGiftToday.com](http://BeTheGiftToday.com) to register as an organ donor today.

## 100+ Women Who Care Yolo County to Host May 2024 Giving Circle

100+ Women Who Care Yolo County News Release

YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - 100+ Women Who Care Yolo County is a group of women making direct and positive impacts through collective giving. We meet, learn, vote, give, and repeat. 100 women x \$100 x 1 hour = \$10K Local Impact!

100+ Women Who Care Yolo County is an extraordinary group of women who make an immediate, direct, and positive impact on Yolo County through collective giving. Our members commit to giving \$100 each quarter to a nonprofit serving Yolo County that is selected by the members. Since our first meeting in November 2016, 100+ Women Who Care Yolo County has made 30 collective donations totaling over \$350,000 to 25 unique nonprofits. We've made a big impact using our simple model of giving together.

We meet just four times a year (February, May, August, and November), and each meeting includes a half hour of socializing followed by a one-hour meeting. We hear short presentations from three nonprofits, we vote, then everyone donates to the selected organization. Just like that, your \$100 donation can turn into a \$10,000 collective donation and make a big impact!

On May 16, we will consider: Center for

Land-Based Learning, Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance, and Yolo Food Bank.

This year, we are pleased to be partnering with our local Sudwerk Brewing Company to make our meetings fun and festive as we come together to support nonprofits working in our local community. We'll start with time to mingle from 7pm-7:30pm so you can connect with each other, meet representatives from the nonprofits, and ask any questions you may have. The meetings begin promptly at 7:30pm where we'll hear from three nonprofits and then vote to decide who will be the recipient of our collective gift. We'll also hear from previous recipients about the impact of our gifts and randomly select the nonprofits to invite to the next meeting.

Everyone is welcome. No RSVP or reservation is required to attend. Only members can vote, but you don't have to be a member to attend. New members are welcome anytime and commit to donating \$100 per quarter for at least one year. If you are interested in joining as a member prior to the meeting, please visit our website.

The May 2024 Giving Circle event will be on Thursday, May 16 from 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at Sudwerk Brewing Company Event Room, 2001 2nd Street, Davis, CA 95618. ★

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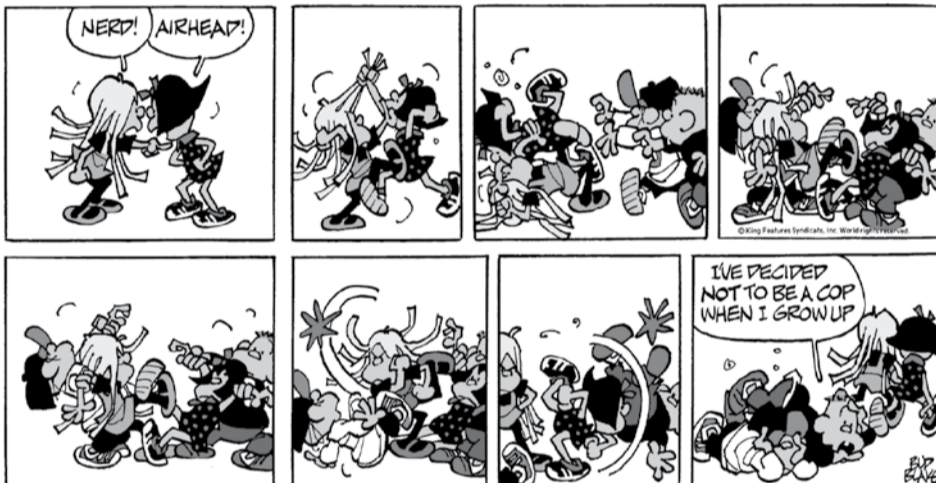
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Paper is missing. 2. Foot is missing. 3. Collar is standing straighter. 4. Phone is moved. 5. Desk legs are longer. 6. Man is added. 7. Phone is moved. 8. Collar is standing straighter.

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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**CLUES**

**ACROSS**

- Bars
- Escape or flee
- Green gemstone or Heather Graham in "The Hangover"
- Turning point
- 34th U.S. Pres
- Actress Sophia \_\_\_\_\_
- Each and all
- Lake, in France
- Roof overhangs
- "Lovable mother of seven in "Harry Potter" Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_
- "Mother in "The Terminator," Sarah \_\_\_\_\_
- Not safe, in baseball
- "Hold on!"
- Uno \_\_\_\_\_, in Mexico
- Iranian monarch
- Be a go-between
- Kind of cuckoos
- Passing mention
- Dwelted
- TV show "\_\_\_\_ 911!"
- "Beloved" mother
- Like a tennis skirt
- Scottish kinship groups
- Spare in car
- Email folder
- Vertical dimension
- Turf alternative
- Morse Code dash
- Hippocratic \_\_\_\_\_
- Thre, to Caesar
- "Margaret White's telekinetic daughter
- "Elizabeth Zott of "\_\_\_\_ in Chemistry"
- Vernacular
- R&R hot spot
- Capital of Vietnam
- Yours is as good as mine?
- Tennis retry
- Cause anxiety (2 words)
- Bookie's quote
- Well-kept secret, for some
- Teatime treat

**DOWN**

- Do like volcano
- Honey home
- Iris holder
- Human trunk
- iPad "pen"
- "Matriarch, \_\_\_\_\_ Munster of "The Munsters"
- "Nadezhda of "The Americans," \_\_\_\_\_ Elizabeth Jennings, acr.
- Muhammad's birthplace
- Melissa Rivers' mom
- Australian slang for afternoon
- Widely hunted ruminant
- Follow ems
- A particular legume
- Not paths
- Second 0 in EV00
- Kinda white
- "Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_, a.k.a. Marmee
- Anoint
- Red Sea peninsula
- Drive a getaway car, e.g.
- Goals
- Like a Harvard building?
- Plant-based laxative
- \_\_\_\_ Bunker, mom to Gloria in "All in the Family"
- Dance partner
- Drive-\_\_\_\_, for short
- Like a haunted house
- Daisy dukes, e.g.
- \_\_\_\_ chi
- Cast's a line
- Popular electric car
- Newton's first name
- Foul substance
- Matured
- Bob of "The Joy of Painting" fame
- On top of never?
- On top of
- "High" time
- Cosine's counterpart
- In the past
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# Media Icon Joey Mitchell Leaves a Legacy of Laughter

By Mary Jane Popp

After 50 plus years on the air, an icon in radio signs off for his final journey. But I'm sure if there is a microphone in the clouds, Joey Mitchell will be at the helm with his joyous voice that always made his fans feel that he truly cared about each and every one.

What can I say about Joey that hasn't already been said... talented, dedicated, award-winning personality, a great sense of humor, total love of family and what meant so much to me was that he was genuinely a really nice guy and gentleman. He greeted everyone he met with a big smile and you felt he knew you forever.

Joey was the first on-air radio guy I worked with when I first came to Sacramento in 1977. It was at the hit country music station, KRAK Radio. I would pop in with the news updates, and truly, I never knew what to expect. There were times I would go into the studio and no Joey...until he popped up from under the board trying to scare me with that silly grin on his face. But it was always in fun. He would try to break me up on the air but little did he know I came from doing a television show in Indianapolis with a crew that did all they could to break me up with antics behind the guests so only I could see. But I loved the friendship Joey shared with everyone, including me, for all these many years.

I think I admired Joey most for his caring about the community, especially when we would host telethons to raise money for so many worthy charities from Easter Seals to the Children's Miracle Network and more. Back in the '80s, there were eight or nine telethons on the air and they were the 24-hour ones. But Joey's energy level never waned. Always professional yes, but with a fun competitive spirit as we would compete for on-camera time, with the ultimate goal of raising as much money as we could for charity. Joey was always game for fun too, like when we were asked to host an event for, I believe, the Opera Association. So we dressed in silly opera garb, and we laughed our way through the event, always ready for anything we could do to help the community.

Stories about Joey were so many I had to limit them, or I would need several pages to tell them all. But I had to share this one from Ken Knoll who did lots of film work in Sacramento. When Joey was named Country Music D.J. of the year and hosted names such as Freddy Fender, Loretta Lynn and Merle Haggard at the Lonesome Armadillo in Roseville, he would do TV funny skits to promote his show. Ken still laughs at this one. Wait until you hear what happened. Ken and Joey came up with the idea to do a skit at the Folsom Zoo in the tiger cage, and yes, with a real tiger. The idea was for Joey to first dress up in lady garb, moustache, and all, and pretend that the tiger was going to attack her/him. Then Joey would change back into guy clothes, and with the magic of television editing, come to her rescue. Funny, right? The trainer assured Joey that the tiger was tame and not to worry. To be honest, Joey



was rather nervous and began sweating some. But being the trooper he was, Joey got into the enclosure. Ken was not sure but perhaps the tiger sensed Joey's fear and began to growl and started to get too close for comfort. It was too close for Joey and he began to shout "please get me out of here." But it was hard to hear him above the laughter of the crew. Suffice to say, Joey was not going into a

wild critter space alone for a long time.

Here's one that will give you a laugh but I'm not sure Joey laughed. Ken told me about the time President Clinton came to town on Air Force One, and we don't know how Joey did it but he planted a bumper sticker on the back of Air Force One promoting the Joey Mitchell Show. Sounds funny now but the Secret Service was not amused, and

he actually got arrested. Don't know if he had to spend time in the pokey but leave it to Joey to come up with this stunt and look for more to do.

Another side of Joey was always wanting to help others in the business. Jennifer Steele, executive producer of the morning news at KFBK, had fond memories of him. She worked with Joey at FM 101.5 for 10 years and knew him more than

30 years. Despite his being a celebrity, she said, he was always a real human being, a mentor, teacher and nice to all.

And Big Jim Hall worked with Joey at KRAK Radio for many years. That's where I met them both. Jim and Joey both began working at KRAK Radio together. One did the morning, and one did the afternoon, and their friendship grew over the many years. Jim said he was always fearless and always wanted to support organizations to help the community. Fondly, Jim said, Joey was an incredible co-worker and friend for 40 years, along with having a caring heart and always being super funny. Jim said he was a joy to work with and to know.

There are many stories to tell and perhaps some of the pictures can tell the Joey Mitchell life and his work, but I asked his son, Joe Jr., who sent me so many wonderful pictures to choose of his dad, if he could tell me his fondest memories of "Dad" Joey. I could not end this piece any better. Here is Joe Jr and his heartfelt thoughts about his dad in his own words.

"My dad was just my dad to me, and I never really appreciated all he had accomplished until I grew older. Many people didn't know he had severe and painful scoliosis that would keep him up nights. Getting up at 3 a.m. was a chore for anyone, but for him, it was a daily struggle to get ready for his radio show. Even though he was in pain, he always had a smile on his face and wanted to make people laugh. It wasn't an act, it was who he was. He truly was an amazing man, husband, father, friend and radio legend who will leave a huge void in our hearts. I strive to be like him. He was my HERO!"

What more can be said about this icon and truly good human being?

And so the memory of Joey Mitchell goes on and I'm sure he is wowing them up there behind the mic with his wit and big smile. We will miss you Joey, but our memories will always be with us. Rest in peace, good friend.

*Editor's note: Joey Mitchell died March 24 after a battle with a lung condition and pneumonia. Photos provided by Joey's family.* ★



Joey ready and eager for retirement.



Joey with the KRAK radio team.



Joey (far right) with Mary Jane Popp (next to him) worked together on local on-air fundraisers to raise money for local causes.



Joey always had a smile and a joke, even if it was on him.