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West Sacramento News Ledger

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Serving the West Sacramento Region Since 1964

MAY 31, 2024

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Fallen Officer Honored



Chief Robert Strange and Lt. Jason Winger thank West Sacramento officials for proclaiming May 12 to 18 as National Police Week and May 14 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day with a dual proclamation at the May 15 meeting.

*Story and photos
by Angela Underwood*

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - There is no greater gift than giving one's life for another. Mayor Martha Guerrero and Councilwoman Quirin Orozco honored the life of Officer James H. McKnight, who lost his life in the line of duty serving West Sacramento in 1990.

West Sacramento officials recognized May 12 to 18 as National Police Week and May 14 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day with a dual proclamation at the May 15 meeting, read by the mayor and councilwoman.

"He and the entire McKnight family will forever have our gratitude," Guerrero read.

Police Chief Robert Strange took the podium, thanking officials for the honor of serving since 2019 before admitting he was not going to speak, but "earlier comments inspired" him.

"For the first time in this setting of the history of this city, you are doing this proclamation today, and it is very significant to my team and us, who you see many of standing around here today," Chief Strange said.

McKnight is one of many losses, with Yolo County losing 12 community protectors since 1912.

"Since the first recorded death in 1786, there are nearly 24,000 law enforcement officers in the United States who have made the ultimate sacrifice and been killed in the line of duty while serving their communities," Orozco read,

adding, "In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation designating May 15 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day."

Being added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial this spring is 282 new names of fallen heroes, according to Orozco. There were 118 officers killed in the line of

duty in 2023 and 164 deaths in previous years.

Chief Strange said he will hand off the proclamation to Officer McKnight's son, Jim. Lt. Jason Winger shared his personal experience with Officer McKnight's death, saying "though I did not personally work with Officer McKnight, his death had a significant impact on my career."

On Friday, June 15, 1990, Officer McKnight was shot during a search warrant operation with the Yolo County Narcotic Enforcement Team, a multi-agency narcotics task force.

"Officer McKnight succumbed to his injuries on June 16, 1990. At this time, I was a 14-year-old Sheriff's cadet with the Yolo County Sheriff's Office, just starting the path to my law enforcement career," Lt. Winger said, adding his father, who worked for the Woodland Police Department

Continued on page 3

River City High Earns Gold Medal Again

**Academic Innovations
News Release**

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - River City High School has earned a Career Choices gold medal in recognition of their implementation of the nationally acclaimed Get Focused...Stay Focused!® curriculum.

The honor, awarded by curriculum publisher Academic Innovations, is reserved for the top schools in the country who are dedicated to promoting student success, college and career readiness, post-secondary completion and successful skilled entry into the workforce.

"We love recognizing hardworking and talented educators across the country, but the real winners are the students and their communities," said Mindy Bingham, author of the Career Choices series curriculum and CEO of Academic Innovations. "Thanks to the efforts of these dedicated teachers and administrators, students are set up for long-term success with meaningful 10-year plans to guide them toward achieving their career and life goals."

River City High is a shining example of student success, exceeding state averages and standards in test scores and graduation rate, according to the curriculum publisher.

"Utilizing the Career Choices curriculum in our Building Foundations for Success program has allowed us to empower our young people to reflect on who they are, empower them to decide on what they want, and guide them toward figuring out their plans on how to get it," said department chair for the program, Marlaina Spivey. "Winning this Gold Medal rewards the hard work and determination of the staff and students!"

This is River City High's eighth year achieving gold medal status. The school is at 1 Raider Lane in West Sacramento. ★

West Sacramento Community Academy Praised

By Angela Underwood

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - While many groups can say they graduated in 2024, only a few can claim they are the first graduating class of a select group.

According to West Sacramento Mayor Martha Guerrero, the 2024 West Sacramento Community Academy class is officially the first long-awaited group awarded a proclamation at the May 15 regular City Council meeting.

"Our council wants to come down and take a picture with the first class; this is a historic moment," Guerrero said after reading words of accolade to the class.

Trust in government is the most valuable lesson that Justin Pine learned, according to Pine, after the mayor officially



West Sacramento City Community Academy proudly poses with Mayor Martha Guerrero and City Council after being proclaimed the first graduating class of the long-awaited program. Photo courtesy of the City of West Sacramento

proclaimed the first graduating cohort of the West Sacramento City Community Academy.

"I am part of the first

cohort of the West Sacramento Community Academy; I just want to thank you for providing this community academy class," Pine said.

"I learned a lot about my city through this class, but more importantly, I gained a lot of trust in the people

Continued on page 3

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CalAnimals and More to Host First-Ever California Adopt-A-Pet Day On June 1

Will Reisman, Progress Public Affairs News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The California Animal Welfare Association (CalAnimals), the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SF SPCA), and the ASPCA (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) recently announced the first-ever California Adopt-a-Pet Day, taking place on Saturday, June 1.

The statewide adoption day will feature more than 150 California animal welfare sites offering free adoptions to find homes for 2,024 shelter pets. The ASPCA will be providing funds to cover the cost of free adoptions at participating shelters. California animal welfare groups that would like to take part in the event have until Friday, May 10 to register online at caadoptapetday.org.

“California shelters are facing enormous pressures due to overcrowding conditions, as the number of animals entering shelters is outpacing those leaving,” said Jill Tucker, CEO of CalAnimals. “By increasing adoption demand and encouraging pet-ready families to visit their local shelter first, we can make a change. This unprecedented and collaborative statewide effort can help reduce the number of animals in our shelters while also providing loving, caring families for our most vulnerable pets. There has never been a better time or better selection of incredible animals ready for new homes, and we know the



Hi there! Photo courtesy tatiavevasconcelos, Pixabay

people of California will rise to this challenge.”

The large influx of animals being brought into shelters in recent years is due to a severe nationwide shortage of veterinary professionals as well as a confluence of other factors, such as inflation and pet-friendly housing restrictions. Many communities in California do not have access to affordable veterinary care, including spay and neuter services.

“Shelters are such integral parts of our communities—we are where families find their next cat or dog or get treatment for their beloved pets—and now we are asking for the community’s help,” said Dr. Jennifer Scarlett, CEO of the SF SPCA. “By working together, we can find homes for thousands of animals throughout the state. Californians are famous for their compassion, empathy, and care. California Adopt-a-Pet Day is a perfect time to put those emotions into action.”

“Shelters in California and around the country are facing an overcrowding crisis that requires the support and collaboration of national and local organizations working together with communities to help our

most vulnerable animals,” said Matt Bershadker, President & CEO, ASPCA. “The lifesaving impact of our collective efforts will be felt by the animals, the participating organizations, and communities across the state.”

California Adopt-a-Pet Day is being managed by CalAnimals, an organization that focuses on the success of California animal welfare and sheltering organizations in meeting the needs of animals and people in their communities.

The initiative is being generously supported by the SF SPCA, a nonprofit that works in San Francisco, the Central Valley, and across California to ensure that every companion animal has access to quality medical care, compassionate shelter, and a loving home, and the ASPCA, the longest-standing animal welfare organization in North America that works on the frontlines to save, transform, and protect the lives of millions of dogs, cats, equines, and farm animals in the fight against animal cruelty and homelessness.

To find a participating animal shelter in California Adopt-a-Pet Day, please visit <https://caadoptapetday.org> ★

Yolo County Seeks Community Partners for Home Energy Efficiency Programs

County of Yolo News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - The Yolo County Department of Community Services’ Sustainability Division is excited to announce they’re looking for community partners to support the engagement of residents with two essential household efficiency programs: the Home Energy Score (HES) Pilot Program and the Weatherization Program. These initiatives align with Yolo County’s goal, established by the Board of Supervisors in 2020, to achieve a carbon-negative footprint by 2030.

The County’s Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) serves as a strategic roadmap outlining Yolo County’s efforts to attain this ambitious goal, mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance the community’s resilience to climate-related challenges. Developed with extensive public engagement, the CAAP proposes actionable recommendations for emissions reduction, natural resource conservation, renewable energy adoption, and support for sustainable agricultural practices. It is structured to foster community well-being, equity, and resilience across all

phases and outcomes.

Building on the momentum generated by the CAAP, the County, in collaboration with the Yolo County Climate Action Commission (YCCAC), has identified Early Action Projects to accelerate progress towards becoming carbon negative. Among these initiatives, the Home Energy Score (HES) Pilot Program and the Weatherization Programs stand out for their potential to strengthen energy efficiency, lower energy expenditures, and enhance quality of life, particularly for rural and low-income residents.

The HES Pilot Program offers voluntary energy assessments conducted by trained technicians, furnishing homeowners with personalized efficiency scores and actionable recommendations. Supporting up to 50 homes, with a focus on low-income homeowners and multifamily properties, the program also offers complimentary DIY weatherization kits. These kits empower residents to independently enhance their homes’ energy efficiency through access to tools, resources, and educational materials.

To facilitate the successful implementation of these programs, the Sustainability

Division is seeking partnerships with three dedicated Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). Interested parties are invited to submit applications between May 24 and July 12, 2024. Selected partners will play a pivotal role in outreach, education, event coordination, feedback collection, and distribution support. Each chosen CBO will receive \$8,000 in compensation, provide representatives for monthly meetings (≈ 60 minutes), and provide additional coordination and event support between fall 2024 and winter 2026.

Qualified organizations are encouraged to submit a letter, not exceeding five pages, stating their endorsement of the HES and Weatherization Programs, detailing their experience in community outreach, event coordination, and provision of multilingual services. Applications should be sent to Sustainability@YoloCounty.org by Friday, July 12.

For more information regarding the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, please visit www.YoloCAAP.org. Additional details about the HES and Weatherization Programs can be found at www.YoloCounty.org/EfficiencyPrograms ★



Same-day care for your Summer needs.

It’s that time of year—warm evening walks, backyard BBQs, later bedtimes. But the need for same-day care can happen year-round. If you’re feeling under the weather, or you experience Summer-related medical conditions like excessive sunburn, heat stroke, bee stings, rashes, asthma, and more, Dignity Health Mercy Medical Group offers a variety of same-day care options. Schedule an in-person or video visit appointment with your doctor, or walk in to our Dignity Health same-day care centers in Midtown and now Roseville. We’ve even partnered with urgent care centers throughout Greater Sacramento to offer you care where you are, when you need it. Learn more about Mercy Medical Group’s same-day care options at dignityhealth.org/same-day.

 **Dignity Health**
Mercy Medical Group
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West Sacramento Community Academy Praised

Continued from page 1 running this city.”

When reading the proclamation, Guerrero paused before stating, “The diverse group of residents in the Community Academy embodies the spirit of inclusivity, unity and community, characteristics that define and distinguish the City of West Sacramento.”

“I just love looking at all of you while I say that,” Guerrero said, looking up from the proclamation. “Whereas participants in this year’s cohort of the Community Academy are now better prepared to participate actively in the city’s civic life.”

Creating an academy was not easy. In 2023, the council adopted a Strategic Plan Policy Agenda to create a community academy. The free program, held over seven-week sessions on Tuesday nights, gave students a three-hour look into their government.

From March 19 to May 15, participants saw staff-developed presentations, learned through games and activities and had behind-the-scenes West Sacramento tours. Every Tuesday, city department heads educated students on respective operations through hands-on activities for interactive learning.

The first goal was to increase participants’ understanding of local government, including council decisions, allocated fund processes and department operations.

The second goal was to promote civic engagement that encourages positive involvement and volunteerism.

The third goal of the academy, to promote future community leadership through shared knowledge, ties in with the final and fourth goal of providing networking opportunities with



Justin Pine, a West Sacramento City Community Academy member, thanks the mayor and council for creating a city class and program providing transparency and behind-the-scenes views into city government. Photo by Angela Underwood

West Sacramento city staff and residents.

“It was clear they put a lot of time and effort into the presentations they had for us,” Pine said of the program, adding a special thanks to city analyst Kaisa and administrative analyst Katie

Rogers, who led the program.

“They made me feel welcome and made the class exciting every Tuesday after a long day of work, and this would not have been the same program without them,” Pine added.

Guerrero thanked leaders and the hand-picked participants, who she said were selected through “a very careful process to make sure that we have the diversity and representation.”

“You did all the hard work behind the scenes; it was something the council has wanted to do for a while and I am glad it happened,” Guerrero said.

As the mayor calls it, the “peek behind the veil” allowed participants to see the staff, who are “forced behind the City Hall walls.”

“I don’t think they get enough credit and recognition from the community, and as our first class,

thank you for sharing those words and reflecting on what we see as council members,” Guerrero said. “We know sometimes staff get picked on a lot in the public or here in council and it is really unfair. They can’t speak up, and they can’t run up to the mic and defend themselves.”

The graduate said he was “extremely impressed with the professionalism, preparedness and poise that every department brings each week while pointing to some of the city staff in the audience.

“They were engaging, responsive to our many questions,” Pine said.

For an up-close look into the city’s government through the West Sacramento Community Academy, visit <https://www.cityofwestsacramento.org/government/departments/city-manager-s-office/west-sacramento-community-academy> ★

Fallen Officer Honored

Continued from page 1 at the time, befriended Officer McKnight.

“I experienced seeing my father lose a friend and co-worker,” Winger said. “The impact it had on our close Yolo County law enforcement community and the sorrow I felt for the McKnight family.”

Four years later, Winger joined the West Sacramento Police Department on the 10th anniversary of Officer McKnight’s death and began serving on the Yolo County Narcotic Enforcement team like McKnight.

“Each day, his sacrifice and memory are honored by our staff with a memorial inside our briefing room as we come

and go from the West Sacramento facility named in his honor,” Winger said.

Winger added that McKnight’s life reminds the West Sacramento law enforcers of the dangers they face protecting the community.

“The adoption of this proclamation, recognizing National Police Week and Police Officer Memorial Day, and the sacrifice of Officer James McKnight and his family, and that of all the fallen officers, is important to keep their memories alive,” Winger said.

Guerrero called up all the officers and their family members in the crowd for a photo to commemorate the occasion. ★

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MEMORIAL

THEODORE CHANDLER HOOD • 1/15/1953 - 10/5/2023

In loving memory of Theodore C. Hood, who passed away on October 5, 2023, at the age of 70. Theodore, born on January 15, 1953, in Palm Springs, California, was the cherished son of Theodore A. and Donna G. (Chandler) Hood.

A graduate of Ramona High School’s Class of 1971, Theodore pursued his passion for learning and achieved a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from California Polytechnic State University in 1977, later becoming a dedicated CPA. Throughout most of his career, he contributed his expertise to school finance before retiring from UCD Foundation.

In December of 1978, Theodore embarked on a beautiful journey of companionship, marrying Catherine Ann (Kenney) Hood, his devoted wife. He was a loving and proud father to three children: Ann Keen, married to Travis Keen, and grandchildren Samuel, Tristan, Braydon, and Rilynn Keen; Theodore R. Hood, with grandchildren Colleen Fulton, Melissa, Vanessa, Theodore Owen, and Zachary Hood; and Jonathan Hood, and grandson LCpl Jonathan Hood. His family was the source of immense pride and joy in his life.

Theodore found joy in exploring the world through travel and found solace and delight in constructing intricate Lego sets, showcasing his creativity and passion for detail, he loved fishing, bowling, his cars, Star Trek, family trips to Disneyland, and Christmas.

Theodore’s legacy as a devoted family man, a skilled professional, and a loving grandfather will forever live on in the hearts of those who knew him. His warm spirit, dedication, and love for his family leave an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A private family celebration will be held to honor Theodore in mid-2024. For those wishing to commemorate Theodore’s life, donations can be made to the American Heart Association or the Diabetes Association in his name. These contributions will honor his memory by supporting causes that were meaningful to him.

Rest in peace, Theodore. Your laughter, wisdom, and kindness will be dearly missed but fondly remembered as we carry your spirit within us.

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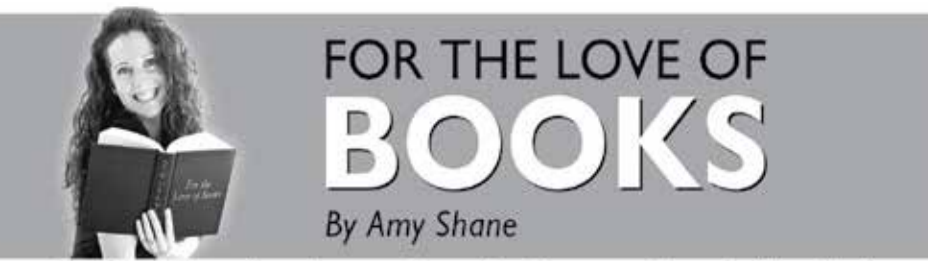
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Sweet Nightmare

by Markelle Grabo

Calder Academy is not your average Academy. Calder is reserved for rogue paranormals. The ones who can't control their gift or just don't want to. Which can get pretty scary when it happens to werewolves, dragons, sirens, witches, and dark fae.

Clementine doesn't fall in this category, but she is still trapped within the confines of the Academy grounds and has never left. That is because her mother happens to run the Academy, which is not the focus she wants on her, with rogue paranormals around every corner. To make matters worse, Clementine is on chrickler duty, which taking care of human biting little monsters is anything but fun. Now, if only she could avoid Jude, the boy who stole her heart three years ago, only to ghost her. Which is a whole other thing: ghosts. Unfortunately, to make things even worse, Clementine sees those around every corner as well.

As fate would have it, Clementine will finally get her wish when a strange and incredible storm threatens to hit the Academy. Now with everyone needing to evacuate Clementine will finally get to leave



- ◆ Publisher: Entangled Teen
- ◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
- ◆ Release Date: May 7, 2024

the school grounds, but the storm brings its own additional problems. This isn't a typical hurricane; it is a storm of magical proportions that causes chaos and nightmares, throwing her right into Jude's path.

Even worse, Jude keeps showing up to save the day, and Clementine, which brings its own title wave of emotions. Now, if Clementine can survive the storm and Jude, she can weather the nightmares surrounding every bend.

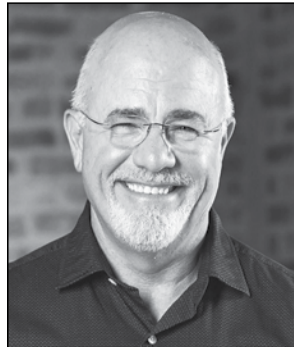
Grab your acceptance letter because it's time to enter the confines of Calder Academy. Fans of the Crave series will instantly fall for this new series set within the grounds of a whole

new academy. It's time for the rogue paranormals to have their story heard. Are they just misunderstood, or is there something more at play?

Tracy Wolff once again spins a wonderful paranormal world filled with manticores, dragons, sirens, witches, phoenixes, and more. This time exploring a whole new side within a world reader have already fallen in love with.

Buckle up; it's time to take off on a roller coaster of plot twists and emotions, where chaos awaits at every bend. But what would a story be without the tempting angst of desire and betrayal? Readers will fall for a whole new couple doomed by secrets, lie, and hidden truths.

Readers will finally be able to see more of Remy and Izzy, but this story also stands on its own, and prior knowledge of the world of Katmere Academy is not needed to enjoy this new series. Come for the adventure and the nightmares, but stay for found family, friendship, and, oddly enough, nightmares. Don't fall asleep; Sweet Nightmare is about to wrap you within its pages, unable to release you from its tempting clutch. ★



Compassion and Reasonable Boundaries

Dear Dave,

The fact that you're conflicted about this shows you have a good heart. Team members are individuals, not units of production. We all have unique hopes and dreams, and you should recognize and respect that. But it sounds like this particular employee also has a habit of making dumb mistakes where her time off is concerned.

I've experienced this kind of behavior from time to time as my company's grown. And as time's gone by, I've started listening to my gut to differentiate actual needs from stupidity. I try to treat other people the way I'd like to be treated, instead of just through the lens of what I want or what's good for Ramsey Solutions.

If a team member is going to make a series of bad choices, I'm going to assume at some point they don't really want to work

Dave Ramsey Says

here. You can be the nicest, sweetest person in the world and still do dumb things that make you unemployable. But holding someone accountable for their actions doesn't mean you lack compassion.

We've had situations at my company where someone runs through their PTO, then something comes up. We evaluate the situation, and we might extend some grace and give them extra paid time off. Sometimes we might give time off, but it's unpaid. Other times, it might be out of the question to give the time off (or for the person to keep their job at that point). Every situation's different, and we decide things like that on a case-by-case basis.

Now, there's absolutely nothing wrong with this lady's desire to have a family. I think that's a great thing. But she knew these treatments were in her future when she took the other PTO. You're showing great concern and compassion for your employee, Kate, but it's almost like you want her to win more than she wants to win.

God forbid, but let's pretend this lady's husband was in a bad car

wreck. She's going to need time off to help take care of him. Of course, she gets extra PTO. No question, that deserves some grace. And if any of your other employees don't understand that or like it, they can hit the road. But that's not the case, is it? This lady had a planned life event, and she messed up her time off situation all by herself.

I think in this situation, you probably let your compassion go a little too far, and now you're having a hard time with the consequences. If it were me, I'd give this lady a little extra PTO for the treatments, but I'd also have a gentle but firm talk with her about managing time off more wisely.

There's absolutely nothing wrong with putting reasonable boundaries on compassion.

— Dave

Leadership and small-business expert Dave Ramsey is the CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored eight national bestselling books, including "EntreLeadership," and he's a host of "The Ramsey Show" and "The EntreLeadership Podcast." ★

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Social Security Matters

I'm Working after age 65;

Why Aren't I Exempt from Medicare

Part B Premium?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: Why, as I continue to work after age 65 and have FICA taxes taken from my check, am I - or anyone - also compelled under the threat of penalties, rate increases, etc. to immediately take Medicare Part B? Am I not then effectively paying into the system twice? As more and more people over 65 continue to work, isn't that a consideration that should be evaluated by Congress - if one is working past 65, above a specific level of income and paying FICA taxes, the Medicare Part B premium is waived? **Signed: Working Senior**

Dear Working Senior: FYI, 6.2% of the FICA payroll taxes you pay while working goes to Social Security, and another 1.45% goes to fund Medicare Part A (hospitalization coverage, which is free to you). None of the FICA payroll tax you pay from your work earnings goes to fund Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient services), which is

the part of Medicare for which you must pay a premium.

Said another way, your FICA payroll taxes do fund Medicare Part A, which is free to you, but do not provide any funding for Medicare Part B. Part B is funded from two primary sources - the premiums paid by beneficiaries, and the federal government from the general Treasury. Premiums from enrollees pay for about 25% of Part B healthcare expenses and the remaining 75% of Part B operating expenses are paid from the general U.S. Treasury (not from Social Security money).

So, it's necessary to separate Part B from your thinking about the payroll taxes you pay while working - you're not paying anything to fund Part B through your FICA taxes. You aren't compelled to enroll in Part B (it's optional), but if you don't enroll during your initial enrollment period (3 months on either side of the month you turn 65) and don't have other equivalent "creditable" coverage from an employer, and you enroll in Part B later, a late enrollment penalty will apply (10% additional premium for each full year after age 65 you go without creditable healthcare coverage).

So, your premise in suggesting that Part B be free (the premium

waived) if you're working over a certain age or after an amount of time contributing to the program isn't valid, because no one contributes to Medicare Part B through FICA payroll taxes - Part B beneficiary contributions are only made through premiums paid by those enrolled in it. And you don't need to enroll in Part B if you have "creditable" healthcare coverage from an employer. The Part B non-enrollment penalty only applies if you enroll after your initial enrollment period has expired and didn't have "creditable" healthcare coverage after you turned 65. "Creditable" is a group plan with more than 20 participants.

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. ★

California Accounted for 71% of All States' Preschool Funding Increases in 2022-2023

National Institute for Early Education Research News Release

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (MPG) - A new national report released on April 18 ranks California 16th in the nation for preschool enrollment for four-year-olds and 15th for three-year-olds across both the California State Preschool Program (CSPP) and Transitional Kindergarten (TK).

The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) today released its annual State of Preschool report, which tracks preschool enrollment, funding, and quality across states. The 2023 State of Preschool Yearbook found that, in the 2022-2023 school year:

California served 38% of the state's four-year-olds and 9% of three-year-olds in state-funded preschool, for a total combined enrollment of 209,081 (an increase of 27,467 from the prior year).

State spending totaled \$2,989,941,651 and an additional \$210,393,445 in federal COVID-19 relief funds supported the program, up \$830,595,002 (35%), adjusted for inflation, since last year.

State spending per child (including COVID-19 relief dollars) averaged \$15,305 in 2022-2023, up \$2,258 from 2021-2022, adjusted for inflation.

California's TK met 3 of 10 research-based quality standards benchmarks for minimum quality recommended by NIEER and CSPP met 6 of 10.

California made a big leap forward this year towards the state's ambitious goal of achieving universal preschool for 4-year-olds by 2025-2026. The state increased preschool funding by nearly \$1 billion and this increase accounted for 71% of the entire national increase in preschool spending. This additional funding increased access in both CSPP and TK.

"California remains fully committed to the expansion of Universal Transitional Kindergarten to give all families access to a free, high-quality preschool option," said Patricia Lozano, executive director of Early Learning advocacy organization Early Edge California. "We're excited by the opportunity to give more 4-year-olds access to this program in the coming year and to work with partners across the state to ensure that teachers, parents, and children are supported through the process."

"Universal preschool is a huge undertaking in the nation's most populous state, and California's efforts and commitment

are fundamentally changing education in the Golden State," said W. Steven Barnett, Ph.D., NIEER's senior co-director and founder. "To fulfill the promise of a better education for all children, California must ensure funding remains adequate to provide high-quality preschool, pay teachers well, ensure small class sizes, and full-day programs as programs are expanded to serve families."

Nationally, the report finds that this is a critical moment for preschool. The nation has emerged, albeit unevenly, from the COVID-19 Pandemic. States are poised to make new progress toward serving more three- and four-year-olds in high-quality, full-day preschool programs. How each state chooses to move forward - and whether the federal government helps - will determine how much real progress is made. Most states have not committed to serving all children and even those states that have often fallen short. Most states need to increase funding per child substantially to enable providers to meet minimal standards for a high-quality, effective program.

During the 2022-2023 school year, states enrolled over 1.63 million children in preschool, marking a 7% surge compared to the preceding year. Enrollment reached 35% of 4-year-olds and 7% of 3-year-olds, with state expenditures reaching \$11.73 billion—an 11% increase from 2021-2022 when adjusted for inflation. Notably, state spending per child surpassed \$7,000 for the first time. However, despite this notable progress, most states still fell short of their pre-pandemic preschool enrollment. While several states made strides towards achieving universal preschool access, six states persisted in not allocating any funding for preschool programs.

"With the pandemic in the rear view, it is time for states to make critical choices when it comes to quality preschool," said Allison Friedman-Krauss, Ph.D., the report's lead author. "Will states make the investments needed to ensure that programs are effective? Will states commit to serving three-year-olds as well as four-year-olds? Will states provide a full school-day option for all families who want it? Will states support an equitable mixed-delivery model for preschool incorporating both existing childcare programs and public schools? How will states recruit, support, and retain preschool teachers? These decisions will impact millions of children for years to come." ★

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Help Prevent Fentanyl Fatalities by Being Aware

By Carol Feineman

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The third annual "Fighting Fentanyl" Fentanyl Awareness event on June 1 is put on by a father who does not want other families to experience the loss of a loved one from fentanyl poisoning.

"Two years ago, my son, Mason Brazil, passed away from fentanyl poisoning at the age of 23," said event organizer Ricky Brazil. "We hold these events in honor of his memory and to help prevent future deaths in our community."

Mason Brazil's life was cut short way too soon.

"Mason was a very talented, funny, driven and caring young man," Brazil said. "He was a hard worker and very loyal to everyone close to him. Although he lived only 23 years, he lived life to its fullest."

The annual event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 1 will bring awareness of the increasing number of fentanyl poisoning deaths affecting residents, especially young adults.

Several community organizations and businesses are helping Brazil present this free event designed for all members of the family.

The June 1 event includes several car and truck clubs presenting a car show, complimentary Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) classes to show



Mason Brazil brought joy to many area residents in his short life. Now, in Mason Brazil's memory, his father is bringing awareness of the increase in deadly fentanyl poisonings through the annual fentanyl prevention event. Photo courtesy of Ricky Brazil

Drug-Induced Homicide, a nonprofit organization addressing the impact of drug-induced homicides on families and communities, a drug toxicity death occurs almost every seven minutes and illicit drugs are now the leading cause of death for Americans aged 18 to 45.

"Fentanyl is the single deadliest drug threatening our country," said Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reising on the Yolo County website at <https://www.yolofentanylcri->

street-purchased pills are counterfeit, 97% of those fake pills contain fentanyl and 52 people have died in Yolo County since 2020.

Concerned community members throughout the state are pushing for drug dealers to be convicted of homicide when someone dies as a result of buying their pills. Fair Oaks fentanyl dealer Arron Dare, 26, was found guilty in Placer County for selling a lethal amount of fentanyl to a young woman, Haleigh Yarbrough. On April 4, Dare received a 15-years-to-life sentence in a California prison.

Yarbrough's father said in his victim impact statement "With fentanyl being 50 to 100 times stronger than heroin, the defendant still chose to line his pockets with money. Instead of making an honest living, he chose a life of exploiting others."

Yarbrough's stepmother stated in her victim impact, "No more Mother's Days, no more Father's Days with Haleigh. Her sister is now left to make wedding plans without her sister. No more Christmas mornings, no more Easter; this is the devastation of this crisis."

While Brazil also wants to hold drug dealers accountable for their deadly actions, he wants to help prevent other victims from dying.

"We need to have more availability for rehabilitation, for individual's suffering from this addiction," Brazil said. "We also need more resources for mental health, for the families going through losing a loved one from this growing crisis."

The June 1 fentanyl prevention event is at Muscle Systems Gym, 922 Sac Ave., in West Sacramento. ★

Delta Counties Say Delta Conveyance Cost Benefit Analysis is Insufficient

Delta Counties Coalition News Release

DELTA COUNTIES, CA (MPG) - In response to Department of Water Resources' (DWR) cost estimate and benefit-cost analysis released for a proposed \$20.1 billion Delta Conveyance Project in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Patrick Hume, Chair of the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC), made the following statement on behalf of the five jurisdictions that would be most negatively impacted:

"Upon initial review, this analysis presents accurately neither the costs, nor the benefits of this last-century proposal. These reports are the latest attempt by the State to justify the Delta Conveyance Project and were conducted with the same preoccupation that the tunnel is the most desirable proposal, lacking acknowledgement of the more cost-effective and environmentally benign alternatives.

As with DWR's previous economic studies, this analysis includes a number of unreasonable assumptions, including overstating potential costs to water exporters associated with sea level rise and earthquakes. It also fails to fully account for the negative environmental, economic, recreational and societal impacts for the 4 million people who live and work in the Delta. Not to mention that their environmental analysis to date only examines construction

impacts, not operational impacts.

The offer of a community benefits program of about one percent of the project cost would not make our community whole and does nothing for our fisheries and flyways. The project would cause grave environmental and ecological damage in the Delta. It would also have negative economic, social, and security impacts on California residents in the Bay-Delta region and beyond – especially those in underserved communities where water quality and quantity are at stake.

Similar mega projects like the Bay Bridge or High-Speed Rail have doubled or tripled in cost from initial projections and take decades longer than expected to build. Today, the State admitted that the cost has risen at least 25% (\$4 billion) since the last estimate – there is no doubt that the ultimate cost would be significantly higher. And everyone should keep in mind that in the end ratepayers and taxpayers would need to foot the bill for this risky tunnel project. If we are going to accept costs of this magnitude, we should expect more far-reaching and sustainable benefits throughout the Delta and the State.

Even if the new cost projection is anywhere near correct, the tunnel would not provide a resilient and reliable statewide water supply nor address the reality of climate change and years of

extended droughts with sporadic flood events. This disastrous tunnel project would not provide any new source of water, it does not provide a single acre foot of new storage or address the fact that our water supplies are already overallocated.

The State's refusal to study tunnel alternatives or genuinely listen to Delta stakeholder concerns is disheartening and threatens to have irreparable impacts to all living things in the Delta. The State must re-focus their efforts on projects that will secure resilient, equitable, long-term water supplies while preserving natural resources for future generations. We can be more forward thinking and creative and do better, because Californians deserves better."

The Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) is an alliance of the California Counties of Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano and Yolo. The DCC works to give one voice to the Delta. The DCC has three goals: improve the Delta ecosystem, provide a more reliable water supply for the State, and protect and enhance Delta communities. The DCC works with local, state, and federal stakeholders to develop and implement solutions that address California's water issues in a comprehensive, sustainable manner. For more information about the DCC and its solutions to a Delta Tunnel, visit savethedelta.saccounty.gov ★

New Measure Eligible for California's November 2024 Ballot

Restricts Spending by Health Care Providers Meeting Specified Criteria

California Secretary of State News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D. announced that an initiative became eligible for the November 5 General Election ballot on May 21.

In order to become eligible for the ballot, the initiative needed 546,651 valid petition signatures, which is equal to five percent of the total votes cast for governor in the November 2022 General Election.

A measure can become eligible via random sampling of petition signatures if the sampling projects that the number of valid signatures is greater than 110 percent of the required number. The initiative needed at least 601,317 projected valid signatures to become eligible by random sampling, and it has exceeded that threshold today.

On June 27, the Secretary of State will certify the initiative as qualified for the November 5 General Election ballot, unless

it is withdrawn by the proponent prior to certification pursuant to Elections Code section 9604(b).

The Attorney General's official title and summary of the measure is as follows:

Restricts spending by health care providers meeting specified criteria. Initiative statute. Requires certain health care providers to spend 98% of revenues from the federal discount prescription drug program on direct patient care. Applies only to health care providers that: spent over \$100,000,000 in any ten-year period on anything other than direct patient care; and operated multifamily housing with over 500 high-severity health and safety violations. Penalizes non-compliance by revoking health care licenses and tax-exempt status. Permanently authorizes state to negotiate Medi-Cal drug prices on statewide basis. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Increased costs to state government, potentially up to the

millions of dollars annually, to review entities' compliance with the measure and enforce the measure's provisions. These costs would be paid for by fees created under the measure. Uncertain fiscal impacts to state and local government health programs, depending on how the affected entities respond to the measure's requirements. (23-0021A1.)

The Secretary of State's tracking number for this measure is 1963 and the Attorney General's tracking number is 23-0021A1.

The proponent of the measure is Thomas Bannon. They can be reached c/o Kurt R. Oneto, Nielsen Merksamer LLP, at (916) 446-6752 and koneto@nmgov-law.com. The address for Nielsen Merksamer LLP is 1415 L Street, Suite 1200, Sacramento, CA 95814.

For more information about how an initiative qualifies for the ballot in California, visit <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/how-qualify-initiative>. ★



Mixed martial arts classes will be offered during the June 1 fentanyl prevention event as a healthy activity for youth. The event is in memory of Mason Brazil, who trained and competed in mixed martial arts. Photo courtesy of Ricky Brazil

youth alternative activities to do, food trucks, a deejay and speakers.

Information booths will be staffed by Drug-Induced Homicide and Tribal People's Empowerment Project.

According to

sis.org. "We must come together to educate our communities in an effort to save lives."

Fentanyl is 100 times more deadly than morphine, according to the county website. The statistics are alarming: 97% of

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by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. All checks payable to Prestige Default Services, LLC. Notice To Property Owner: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date

for the sale of this property, you may call (800) 793-6107 or visit this Internet Website www.auction.com, using the file number assigned to this case 24-10439. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Notice To Tenant: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last

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address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an at-

torney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: 5/17/2024 Prestige Default Services, LLC 1920 Old Tustin Ave. Santa Ana, California 92705 Questions: 949-427-2010 Sale Line: (800) 793-6107 Patricia Sanchez, Trustee Sale Officer
Publish 5/31, 6/7, 6/14, 2024
News Ledger 6-14-24

PUBLIC HEARING

The Washington Middle College High School proposed 2024-25 Local Control and Accountability Plan will be available for public inspection at the District Office, 930 Westacre Road, West Sacramento, CA 95691, and at Washington Middle College High School, 637 Todhunter Ave, West Sacramento, CA 95605 starting at 5:30 p.m. on June 10th, 2024, through June 13th, 2024.

A public hearing will be held on the proposed 2024-25 Local Control and Accountability Plan and budget on June 13th, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. at West Sacramento City Hall, 1110 W Capitol Ave, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb



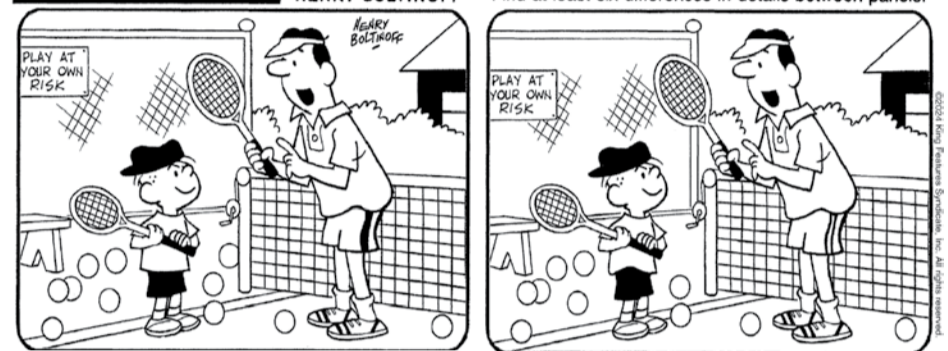
by Gary Kopervas



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Ball is missing. 2. Racket is longer. 3. Stripe on shorts is different. 4. Fence is not as wide. 5. Sign on fence is lower. 6. Bottom of shirt is different.

TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

GRIN & BEAR IT



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



M	A	L	T	S		L	E	K		A	R	I	D	
A	F	I	R	E		E	R	A		I	R	O	N	Y
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A	N	D	Y			T	U	T		R	E	S	E	T

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 - Albanian money
 - Desertlike
 - Like Bananas Foster
 - Paleozoic
 - O. Henry's specialty
 - Printer brand
 - Always, to a poet
 - Extended family member
 - "Breaking Bad" father
 - "The Lion King" father
 - Unit of length of yarn
 - "___ Me Maybe"
 - *___ Anderson, he knew best?
 - The Supremes, e.g.
 - Subject matter, pl.
 - Same as ayah
 - Plural of #14 Across
 - Like less processed grain
 - Kind of shark
 - U.S. Airline
 - Short for "and elsewhere"
 - Opposite of digest
 - Flabbegast
 - Like Gulf Stream
 - Most achy
 - Not much (2 words)
 - Reggae's cousin
 - Rapunzel's abundance
 - Maintenance closet staple
 - *___ Rock of "Everybody Hates Chris"
 - "Finding Nemo" father
 - Golfer's sun protection
 - Aloha prop
 - Only daughter of Michael Jackson
 - Not active
 - Emergency Medical Services
 - In the cooler (2 words)
 - "Opie's father"
 - Egyptian boy king, for short
 - Button on electrical outlet
- DOWN**
- Nth degree
 - Not many
 - Turkish money
 - Online troublemaker
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 - Before, in the olden days
 - Culture Club 1983 hit "___ Chameleon"
 - Solo at LaScala
 - Fish eggs, pl.
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 - Stream of revenue
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 - Final, abbr.
 - Medicated shampoo ingredient (2 words)
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Honoring General Bud Anderson

Aerospace Museum of California News Release

MCCELLAN, CA (MPG) - On May 17 at 5:29 p.m., World War II Triple Ace Brigadier General Clarence E "Bud" Anderson passed away in his home peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by his family. He was 102.

Brigadier General Anderson, a true American hero, achieved more than 16 victories in aerial combat during World War II while flying his P-51 Mustang, Old Crow. Through his distinguished military career, Anderson flew three different models of the P-51 Mustang, all proudly bearing the name and paint scheme of "Old Crow."

The Aerospace Museum of California "extends heartfelt condolences for the passing of this remarkable U.S. Air Force pilot. His bravery and dedication to our



A young Bud Anderson is happy to serve his country. Photo courtesy of the Aerospace Museum of California



Bud Anderson stands in front of his beloved Old Crow plane. Photo courtesy of the Aerospace Museum of California

country's freedom will forever be honored and remembered at the Aerospace Museum of California.

Our world is a better place because of him and the incredible legacy that he leaves behind. Always a kind gentleman and a true friend of the museum, Bud graciously signed autographs, answered any questions, and offered a firm handshake

accompanied by his warm Anderson smile. He generously shared his incredible stories and personal artifacts with the public and his contributions have enriched our understanding of history and inspired countless individuals.

A hero, legend, fighter ace, role model, and American icon,

may he forever fly in blue skies. General Bud, you will always be remembered."

Learn all about his legacy and more at <https://toflyandfight.com/>.

Honor General Bud with a donation to the Brigadier General Bud Anderson STEM Education Fund. Triple Ace General Bud Anderson

has made many incredible contributions to aviation, and he will continue to inspire future generations to explore STEM careers. His love and passion for education are at the heart of the museum's mission to "honor the past and inspire the future through STEM education." ★

Crime Reports WEST SACRAMENTO

April 26, 2023 - May 17, 2023



- May 3: Ricky Ernesto Oblia arrested for burglary: first degree, pc obstruct/resist/etc. public/peace officer/emergency, possess/etc. burglary tools, felony bench warrant, misdemeanor bench warrant.
- May 3: Michael Dirk Elliot Lopez arrested for felony bench warrant.
- May 3: Quincy Alexander Barnett arrested for vandalism (\$400 or more).
- May 4: Damian Quintero Regalado arrested for DUI alcohol, DUI alcohol/0.08 percent.
- May 6: Daniel John Pope arrested for felony bench warrant.
- May 6: Nivek Fernando Barber arrested for felony bench warrants.
- May 18: Vavy Ros arrested for trespassing.
- May 14: Thomas Wayne Hensley arrested for battery, possess controlled substance, misdemeanor bench warrant.
- May 15: Tanashia May Mcowens arrested for disorderly conduct: under influence of drug.
- May 15: Gerald Paul Mollet arrested for felony bench warrants, misdemeanor bench warrant.
- May 16: Askari Collins arrested for carjacking, threaten crime with intent to terrorize.
- May 20: Graham Michael Leek Trujillo arrested for pc obstruct/resist/etc. public/peace officer/emergency, misdemeanor bench warrant, give false ID to police officer.

INCIDENT/CRIME REPORTS

- March 19: Suspect stole from Lowe's. \$5,650 loss. Burglary.
- April 18: A first-degree burglary resulted in \$1,530 loss. Grand theft: money/labor/property. Vandalism: deface property.
- April 24: A mailbox was broken into. Commit mail theft.
- April 26: Vehicle burglary with a \$4,000 loss was reported when victim followed from South Sacramento to West Sacramento where incident occurred.
- April 27: Reported was mail theft. Commit mail theft.
- May 2: Unknown suspect(s) entered the locked victim business and stole a checkbook. Burglary.
- May 2: Suspect allegedly smashed a car window with a baseball bat and then hit the victim with the bat approximately 20 times and drew a gun. Suspect was gone on arrival. Assault with deadly weapon: not firearm.
- May 3: Officers received a call for service regarding subjects breaking car windows. \$1,400 loss. Burglary. Vandalism less than \$400.
- May 3: Female suspect passed final points of sale with items that she did not pay for. The loss prevention associate confronted her at the doors to the business and she threatened to use physical force on him. \$246 loss. Robbery.
- May 4: Reporting party dropped wallet on the floor. \$56 loss. Theft of personal property.
- May 4: Theft of purse from unattended shopping cart. \$1,000 loss. Grand theft: money/labor/property.
- May 5: Unknown subject threw a concrete item through vehicle rear window. \$300 loss. Vandalism: deface property.
- May 5: Unknown subject accessed Post Office box with key. \$1 loss. Commit mail theft.
- May 7: Unknown suspect took wallet off the ground and used the cards in it. \$30 loss. Petty theft. Use access card account data without consent.
- May 11: Victim had all four wheels stolen off of his vehicle, which was parked on the street by an unknown suspect. Victim wants to press charges. \$8200 loss. Grand theft: money/labor/property. Vandalism: damage property.
- May 12: Two unknown suspects broke into the location and stole multiple items. Victim wants to press charges and the incident was recorded on video. One partial fingerprint was collected, which could possibly belong to a suspect. \$16,085 loss. Burglary. Vandalism: damage property.
- May 14: Forged check used to collect approximately \$3,920.85 by an unknown suspect from the business victim. Victim wants to press charges. Forgery: false checks/records/certificates/etc.
- May 14: Package taken from porch with \$160 loss. Petty theft.
- May 15: Unknown suspect attempted to rob business by passing a note. Suspect fled the scene without any money. Bank/etc. robbery.
- May 15: Unknown subject(s) forced entry into a building suite. Burglary.
- May 15: Unknown subjects assaulted the victim and took his wallet and truck keys. Robbery. Battery with serious bodily injury.
- May 18: Vehicle was broken into overnight with attempt to take gas. Window was broken and the gas tank door was taken. \$401 loss. Vandalism: damage property.
- May 20: Unknown subject broke the door lock to a vacant house. No suspect information. \$700 loss. Vandalism: damage property.

Aguiar-Curry Bill Expanding Telehealth Under Medi-Cal Passes

Office of Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters) announced today that her Assembly Bill 2339 passed the Assembly Floor with a resounding bipartisan vote. AB 2339 will expand telehealth access to sensitive services, including sexual and reproductive health care, for Medi-Cal beneficiaries.

Asynchronous telehealth, like app-based services, allows for remote communication between providers and patients, reducing waiting times and facilitating faster access to patient-centered care. Studies have shown high rates of safety, effectiveness, and patient acceptability for asynchronous care, comparable to approval rates for in-person care. Asynchronous care can alleviate technological barriers, scheduling constraints, and privacy concerns. Today, Californians who have private insurance benefit from using convenient apps because these asynchronous telehealth options

are covered under private health plans. However, beneficiaries of Medi-Cal are barred from accessing the same telehealth options.

"In 2022, I authored AB 32, the most far-reaching telehealth legislation in the country, to expand access to telehealth services for all Californians. My intention was clear: Medi-Cal was to expand on the telehealth options available to Medi-Cal Patients," said Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters). "Policies that treat Medi-Cal patients as second-class Californians are wrong, and we owe it to them to provide the same access to care enjoyed by their privately insured neighbors. These apps will result in healthier patients, allowing working Californians, who can ill-afford to miss work to care for themselves or their children, to access their care in the most convenient possible way."

"Medi-Cal patients across California—including the more than one million seen by Planned Parenthood providers each year—must have equitable access to essential health care services via telehealth," said Molly

Robson, Vice President of Government Affairs for Planned Parenthood. "PPAC is proud to co-sponsor AB 2339 to help improve Medi-Cal patients' access to typically out-of-reach care, preserve their right to choose how they access care, and ensure consistency in state law with existing policies for other telehealth services."

AB 2339 would expand access to sensitive health services provided using asynchronous modalities, like apps, for Medi-Cal beneficiaries. The bill also authorizes a healthcare provider to establish a new patient relationship using asynchronous telehealth when patients request sensitive services. Allowing Medi-Cal beneficiaries to access this form of care will provide equal access to asynchronous telehealth services and give Medi-Cal beneficiaries the same convenient care as their peers with private insurance.

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

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California Increases Groundwater Supply

Office of Governor Gavin Newsom News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - For the first time since 2019, California's groundwater storage has increased – a direct result of state and local actions to capture and store more water underground during last year's historic wet season. California achieved 4.1 million acre-feet of managed groundwater recharge in 2023, with an overall increase in groundwater storage of 8.7 million acre-feet – equivalent to 26.1 million households' usage

over an entire year. Governor Gavin Newsom and the state took action to help local communities during last year's wet season, expanding groundwater recharge by 1.6 million acre-feet.

Executive orders and legislation to capture more water. Governor Newsom signed executive orders to expand groundwater recharge by 400,000 acre-feet, as well as signing legislation to build more infrastructure.

Fast-tracking groundwater recharge projects. The state streamlined groundwater

recharge permits to allow for 1.2 million acre-feet of groundwater recharge, as well as investing in groundwater recharge projects.

Maximizing stormwater capture. Investing millions for 67 stormwater projects to take advantage of major storm events.

Ambitious goals. Setting the statewide goal to expand average annual groundwater recharge by at least 500,000 acre-feet as outlined in the Water Supply Strategy.

However, there is still a lot of work to do, as long-term

groundwater storage remains in a deficit of nearly 40 million acre-feet over the past two decades.

Recharging groundwater is key to California's strategy for expanding water supplies and defending against hotter and drier conditions. Last month, Governor Newsom highlighted the state's plans to protect water supplies for all Californians.

California's other actions to boost future water supplies include billions of dollars in water investments over the last three years (track water projects in your community at build.

ca.gov), expanded water supply and storage through groundwater recharge and other projects by over 400 billion gallons, and streamlining projects and limiting litigation delays to spur new and improved water infrastructure.

More is needed to expand California's water supplies. During this year's storms alone, the Delta Conveyance Project could've captured enough water to supply 9.6 million people; the streamlined Sites Reservoir Project could hold enough water for 32 million households' yearly usage. ★