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AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

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JUNE 7, 2024

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Disabled Veteran Gets 'Best Buddy'



Veteran Dennis Deutscher, kneeling in the center, and pup, Lily, are joined by service dog sponsors, from left, Al Gonzalez, RRUFF Healing Heroes; Higher Purpose Foundation supporter Teri O'Sullivan; Foundation President Whitney Webb; Vicki Curtis, RRUFF Healing Heroes, All Stage Canine Development owner Miranda Viani; and Yvette Kroesing, Creme Brulee Goldens.

**Story and photos
by Susan Maxwell Skinner**

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - A four-legged friend has quadrupled happiness for a Mather veteran with PTSD syndrome. Former US Navy electrician Dennis Deutscher (55) recently took delivery of a service-puppy-in-training, golden retriever Lily.

"It's one of the brighter experiences of my life," says Deutscher. "For me and Lily, the sky is blue and the sky's the limit."

The adoption was made possible by a recent "Ride For Reason"

fundraiser for the Carmichael-based Higher Purpose Foundation. Fronted by Tesla rock band singer Jeff Keith, the nonprofit organization sponsored a 400-rider motorbike convoy from Folsom to Roseville.

Although the event collided with a rainstorm, Keith and friends hung tough and raised \$24,000. Proceeds will help youth in foster programs and have provided Deutscher with a golden-coated companion.

The veteran and pup introduction brought tears to many eyes. At All Stage Canine Development in Citrus Heights, the 12-week-old golden

retriever jumped from a trainer's arms, bounced past a dozen onlookers and claimed her future master.

"How did she know it was me?" marveled the vet. "It was like someone sprayed me with some magic dust. She was excited and kissing me. I could help but tear up."

Deutscher's military career ended in 1992. The aviation electrician serviced F 18 Fighters during Operation Desert Storm. At 19 years old, he was devastated by a 1989 explosion on board the supercarrier USS America.

"I was right by the explosion,"

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2024 DAR Community Service Awards Honors Three

**Story and photo
by Thomas J. Sullivan**

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Three community leaders were honored for their community service by members of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) General John A. Sutter Citrus Heights Chapter on May 11 for their many volunteer contributions to the local community.

Lorie Rheams, a resident of Orangevale and an active member of the Orangevale Rotary Club with her husband, Russ, were recognized for two volunteer activities in which they both made a difference in their community.

For the past 17 years, the Rheams have volunteered to distribute Christmas baskets to local families in need at Divine Savior Catholic Church in Orangevale. Some 43 such baskets were distributed at Divine Savior in December 2023.

"There's such an incredible need and so many ways in which all of us can help our community," she said modestly. Rheams acknowledged the support of her husband who is "always by my side," fellow church members at Divine Savior and her fellow Orangevale Rotarians in being able to "model and live a full life of service to others."

Rheams was also cited for leading a clothing collection program for the nonprofit Underground Clothing Connection store in the Citrus Heights Sunrise Mall for young adults and children in need.

"What the Underground needs now, besides clothing donations, is consistent volunteer support hours helping out in the store to better help it thrive," she said. "It's an important resource for so many people it serves," she said.

The free clothing store, exclusively for students and their families of San Juan Unified School District, by school referral only, is the product of a community partnership between the Citrus Heights Homeless Assistance Resource Team (HART), Sunrise Mall, San Juan Unified School District (SJUSD) and Sunrise MarketPlace (SMP).

To volunteer or make a clothing donation to the Underground Clothing Connection, call 916-952-9797 or email TheUnderground444@gmail.com.

The couple also own and operate Orangevale Copy Center at 9267 Greenback Lane, Suite C5, Orangevale

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Service Salutes Heroes



Veterans and supporters gather for a Memorial Day service at the Vietnam Monument, Carmichael. The edifice commemorates La Sierra High School alumni who died in Vietnam.

**Story and photos
by Susan Maxwell Skinner**

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Carmichael's Vietnam Monument was last weekend central to Memorial Day commemorations. Flags, flowers, and memories

were shared by more than 100 visitors. US Army Brigadier General Currier (retired) gave the address. "The vast amount of this country's success has come because of sacrifices made so we could have our freedoms," considered Currier. "This great nation did not

happen in a day; it took more than 200 years -- and the blood and toil of those who came before us.

"Heroes aren't found in sports arenas or movies," he continued. "They're found on battlefields. We all benefit

Continued on page 3

Fair Oaks Honors Fallen Heroes

By Elizabeth Ruygt

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - The 26th annual Memorial Day ceremony at the Fair Oaks Cemetery on Olive Street had an overflowing crowd honoring the country's fallen heroes on May 25.

The ceremony started off with bagpipers marching through the cemetery with the Avenue of Flags fluttering in the light breeze and every veteran's grave with a cross or Star of David topped with an American flag on it.

Fair Oaks Cemetery District Chairperson Pete Schroeder welcomed the attendees.

Mark Rice provided the invocation and benediction.

Soloist Anne Peter added to the ceremony, inviting the audience to sing along with her.

Dignitaries speaking for a few minutes were Deputy Chief of Staff Matt Ceccato representing U.S. Representative Ami Bera, M.D.; State Sen. Roger Niello; and Sacramento County Supervisor Rich Desmond.

Guest speaker Lily Rodriguez, a Troop 380 Eagle Scout, spoke on the ceremony's theme, "Women in a Time of War from the American Revolution to World War II," highlighting the contributions women made before they were allowed to be combat soldiers.

Boy Scouts of America Troop 380 members did a memorable flag ceremony as they retired the current flag flying on the Memorial Monument. The Scouts replaced it with a flag that had flown over the nation's



Boy Scouts of America Troop 380 on March 25 presents the colors for the raising of the flag donated by U.S. Representative Ami Bera, M.D. Courtesy photo



Above left: The 26th annual Memorial Day ceremony May 25 at the Fair Oaks Cemetery had an overflowing crowd. In the front row are event Chairperson Elizabeth Ruygt, guest speaker Lily Rodriguez and State Sen. Roger Niello. In the back row are Matt Ceccato (U.S. Representative Ami Bera's deputy chief of staff), Supervisor Rich Desmond and Fair Oaks Cemetery District Chairperson Pete Schroeder. Courtesy photo



Capitol donated by Bera as "Taps" were played by the bagpipers and drummer played "Amazing Grace."

The ceremony ended with a laying of the wreath

honoring those who sacrificed their lives for citizens' freedoms. After the service, attendees enjoyed homemade cookies, ice cream, fruit cups

and lemonade served by Barbara Roper and her volunteers.

American Legion 383 Auxiliary members, as they do every Memorial

Day ceremony, handed out poppies and explained to children and others that the poppy is a reminder of the sacrifices so many have made to keep this country

free. The poem, "Flanders Field," is the inspiration for this practice.

Elizabeth Ruygt is the 26th annual Memorial Day ceremony chairperson. ★

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EUROPEAN DELI

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Disabled Veteran Gets 'Best Buddy' Service Salutes Heroes



Lincoln-based RRUFF Healing Heroes sponsors present a check contributing \$5,000 toward the cost of service dog Lily's training at All Stages Canine Development in Citrus Heights.

Continued from page 1
he recalled. "Two of my friends died. My PTSD came mostly from then. I fought things I'd seen, also the stress of long wartime hours. In my generation, we hid our feelings. I didn't know I had PTSD 'til a couple of years ago. It cost me jobs and ruined relationships. Substance abuse was the only way I could calm my brain."

After his troubled years and a spell of homelessness, Deutscher is now drug-free and lives in Veterans Village, Mather, where he's at last being treated for his emotional injuries.

"Lily is a game-changer," he said of his new friend. "I had dogs growing up. I knew a service dog would brighten my days and be a huge support for me."

Lily has not disappointed. "She's so good," Deutscher said. "She sleeps by me and doesn't move 'til I wake up. Then she puts her arms on my shoulders and kisses me to say good morning."

"From the moment I met her, it's been awesome," he said. "I feel my anxiety level has changed. She makes me calm. We go on walks and if people talk to her, she'll give them a few seconds, then come right back to me. She never leaves my side. she's my best buddy."

A Tesla fan since high school in Lodi, Deutscher connected with the Higher

Purpose Foundation, a cause his rockstar hero Keith supports, during the motorbike ride fundraiser.

Explained Foundation President Whitney Webb, a Carmichael resident: "We'd decided to use some of our funds for a dog for a veteran. When I met Dennis, we talked and both ended up in tears. I knew right away he was meant to receive this gift."

Bred by Crème Brulee Goldens, Sacramento, the dog's initial food, veterinary costs and training are covered by the gift. RRUFF Healing

Heroes, a Lincoln-based agency that sponsors service dog training for disabled veterans, also contributed \$5,000 to training costs.

"I don't see how Lily could be better than she already is," Deutscher said. "But we'll learn skills together. If it makes her a better dog, it'll make me a better person."

"I'd wanted a service dog for some time. Because of the cost, it just wasn't possible. Everyone involved in this gift has shown me love and compassion," Deutscher said. "It's truly a God thing that they found me and gave me this fantastic companion."

Learn about the Higher Purpose Foundation at www.higherpurposefoundation.org. ★



It's love at first sight. Veteran Dennis Deutscher meets his new friend, golden retriever Lily.

Continued from page 1

from these heroes, and from the pain shouldered by their families."

Reverend Kathleen Marie gave the invocation. The La Sierra High graduate is sister to Thomas Pigg, one of 15 Vietnam war dead commemorated by the steel monument. "My brother's death greatly affected our family," she recalled. "Though (most of the family) is gone now, they went bearing the pain of his loss."

A first-known monument to Vietnam War losses in California, Carmichael's memorial stands in Koobs Nature Area. Dedicated in 1972, it honors La Sierra

High School alumni who fell in the long conflict.

Those commemorated are Robert D. Anderson, Mark W. Burchard, Robert S. Byrnes, Jerry Cowser, Kenneth R. Escott, Gary R. Field, Herbert Frenzell, Frank Thornburg, Ralph Guarienti, Larry H. Morford, Thomas C. Pigg, Randall B. Rainville, Kim Richins, Jeffry Tharaldson and Robert A. Willis.

Koobs Nature Area is located at 5325 Engle Road, Carmichael. Access is available first Saturdays monthly, March through October. For information go to Koobs Nature Area's Facebook page. ★

Effie Gala Back June 9



Auctioneer Keith McLane coaxes auction bids during an Effie Yeaw Nature Center gala.

Story and photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Nature lovers will open their hearts and wallets for the Effie Yeaw Nature Center gala on June 9.

Dubbed Camp Effie Yeaw, the fundraiser has been reinvented as a glamorous camping experience with barbecue feasting and a S'mores buffet.

Supporters of the beloved Carmichael nonprofit organization will wine and dine in plein air and likely see wildlife within yards of their tables. The center's biggest fundraiser last year drew more than 150 guests.

Rio Americana High School musicians will provide a jazzy background as Good Day Sacramento host Molly Reihl emcees. Keith McLane will scare up auction bids. Much of the proceeds will fund programs for schools that could not otherwise afford nature experiences for students.

Gala fundraising includes raise-the-paddle opportunities and art sales. VIP donations this year include works from Carmichael painters Pat Mahony, Tom Sellas and the late Earl Boley. Most items are currently displayed for

preview at Sacramento Fine Arts Center in Carmichael.

The auction also offers immersive guided hikes, flight lessons, travel holidays and wildlife interactions. For theater lovers, tickets for the ballet "Dracula" and musicals "Hamilton" and "Tina Turner" will fall to the highest bidders.

Administered by the American River Natural History Association, Effie Yeaw Nature Center annually welcomes more than 100,000 visitors. An adjacent preserve is a protected home to wildlife. The facility, preserve and all its educational programs are supported entirely by public and corporate donations. The nature center is at Ancil Hoffman Park, 2850 San Lorenzo Way

Gala tickets are \$180 (\$165 for ARNHA members) per person.

Camp Effie Yeaw gala sponsors include Casino Mine Ranch, Rombauer and Vino Noceto wineries; River City Brewing Company; Kip and Illa Skidmore; cbec eco engineering. Catering is by Buckhorn Grill. For fundraiser information, visit www.sacnaturecenter.net.

Purchase tickets at <https://www.effie-yeawnature.org/feast-in-the-forest>. ★

Volunteer Now for California Capital Airshow



A group of California Capital Airshow volunteers pose in front of the Capital Club VIP area. Photo courtesy California Capital Airshow

Story by MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - California Capital Airshow, presented by Sacramento County in partnership with the City of Rancho Cordova, invites community members to sign up as airshow volunteers for the 2024 Airshow. This year's Airshow at

Mather Airport on July 13 and 14 features aerial performances by Italian Jet Team Frece Tricolori and the United States Air Force Thunderbirds Jet Demonstration Team.

More than 1,000 community members make up the corps of volunteers that help bring the California Capital Airshow to life each year. The Airshow is

looking for adults, age 18 and older, to volunteer their time on July 13 and July 14.

"Airshow volunteers play a vital role in supporting California Capital Airshow's mission to inspire the next generation through the wonder of flight," said Darcy Brewer, executive director of the California Capital

Airshow. "Their efforts make a huge impact for our nonprofit and they get to build a sense of community while enjoying the behind-the-scenes excitement of producing a truly spectacular event."

Volunteers will be fed and provided with water throughout the day, in addition to receiving a commemorative

"Airshow Crew" T-shirt, the opportunity to make new friends, and the Airshow team's deepest gratitude for supporting this nonprofit event.

Those interested are encouraged to complete volunteer registration at californiacapitalairshow.com/become-a-volunteer. ★

Volunteers Honored with DOVIA Awards

By Omella Rossi,
photo by Bill Taylor

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

The nonprofit Directors of Volunteers in Agencies (DOVIA) honored 23 volunteers from communities throughout Sacramento County and Yolo County at its annual awards ceremony on May 16.

Since its inception in 1978, DOVIA Sacramento has played a crucial role in connecting professional volunteer managers and leaders. It serves as a hub for exchanging ideas and resources among those who oversee volunteers in different organizations. Additionally, it collaborates with various groups to raise awareness about the importance of volunteering in the community. By fostering communications between member agencies, institutions, and the public, it aims to create a more supportive environment for volunteerism to thrive.

"We are committed to honoring exceptional people in our community and training volunteer program managers from a variety of local service organizations," said DOVIA board member Twyla Teitzel.

DOVIA has a variety of agency members ranging from hospices to food banks and local government organizations. It covers Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, Yuba, El Dorado and Placer counties.

The May 16 reception held at the Girls Scout Heart of California office honored the 23 nominees and winners of the Youth Volunteer of the Year, the Individual Volunteer of the Year and Volunteer Manager of the Year awards.

"The DOVIA executive board focuses on executing events such as this awards ceremony," said communication chair Jacqueline Ramirez. "Volunteer events broaden the awareness of volunteerism and the critical role volunteers play in helping meet



Patty Estopinal, center, winner of the Individual Volunteer of the Year accepts her award alongside Miss Sacramento County, Helen Dang, left, and Miss Capitol City, Nicole Vicks.

local needs required for the community to function at its best."

Among the nominees, seven volunteers were nominated for Youth Volunteer of the Year, 13 were nominated for Individual Volunteer of the Year and three volunteer coordinators were nominated for Volunteer Manager of the Year. The evaluation was conducted by a panel of three judges: Barbara Fitzwater, retired volunteer manager at Kaiser Permanente; Tiffany Maese, volunteer coordinator at the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office; and Janice Wagaman, formerly associated with the Front Street Animal Shelter.

The Margaret Einspahr Youth Volunteer of the Year award acknowledges a youth volunteer under age 21 who has shown exceptional dedication to community service, having contributed a minimum of 25 hours of service between January and December 2023. Recipients of this award receive a \$500 scholarship funded by the Margaret Einspahr Memorial Fund to honor Margaret Einspahr's legacy as a dedicated leader in the field of volunteerism.

The 2024 winner of the Youth Volunteer award was Riya

Janardhan, a high school junior, nominated by WEAVE, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting safe and healthy relationships and support survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and sex trafficking in Sacramento. Janardhan was nominated for her dedication to advocating for women's rights and gender equality.

"Being a girl myself and having to experience different stereotypes, I don't want to have to experience this at such a young age," Janardhan said. "It's something I strive to want to fix."

Other nominees for this position included Kevin Leach, nominated by Meristem in Fair Oaks; Kai Nakaoka, nominated by Scouting America in Sacramento; Maximum Truong, nominated by the Sacramento Tree Foundation; and Kristy Yu, Flynn Ng, and Cara Taylor, nominated by the Sacramento Public Library.

The Individual Volunteer of the Year award is presented to a volunteer over age 21, who has dedicated a minimum of 25 hours of service. The award recipient receives a \$100 award for their organization.

The winner for this year's award was Patricia Estopinal, nominated

by Court Appointed Special Advocates Sacramento (CASA), an organization focused on ensuring support for children in the foster care system through volunteer advocates.

"This award means so much because for the past 14 years being able to have a relationship with foster youth, to have a relationship where you know that you're the one constant, no matter what is going on in their lives, it's just such a meaningful relationship," Estopinal said.

The nominees for the positions included Beatriz Bueno and Jane Shapiro, nominated by the Sacramento Medical Reserve Corps in McClellan; Anne Marie Christian, Daisey Maldonado and Karina Villanueva, nominated by Dignity Health Methodist Hospital in Sacramento; Mary Kay Edson, nominated by the Sacramento Public Library; Ron Hills, nominated by Vitalant in Mather; Marissa Honey-Plate, nominated by the Miss Sacramento County Scholarship Organization in Antelope; Rodney Horton, nominated by the American River Parkway Foundation in Carmichael; Nicky Smolter, nominated by the

Lavender Library in Sacramento; Matthew Tran, nominated by the Sacramento Tree Foundation in Folsom; and Kristy Venrick Mardon, nominated by Only Sunshine Sanctuary in Fair Oaks.

Volunteer Manager of the Year honors a volunteer manager who demonstrated outstanding leadership and dedication to supporting volunteers. The winner received a \$100 award for their organization, along with a one-year complimentary DOVIA Sacramento organization membership.

The 2024 winner was Marlene von Friederichs-Fitzwater nominated for her work with Joshua's House and Health Communication Research Institute located in Yolo County. She has spent the past decade building Joshuas House, a hospice facility for terminally-ill homeless individuals. Von Friederichs-Fitzwater has raised \$2.5 million and created a volunteer organization to provide high-quality care.

Other nominations included Marissa Honey-Plata nominated by Miss Sacramento County Scholarship Organization and Justin Rubio with Sacramento Tree Foundation.

During the ceremony, several guest speakers talked about the importance of volunteering and the work they have done throughout the years. Lynn Pesely, winner of the 2023 DOVIA Volunteer Manager award, talked about her work with the Sacramento Medical Reserve Corps. Helen Dang, Miss Sacramento County, and Nicole Vicks, Miss Capitol City, winners of the Miss Sacramento County Scholarship program, mentioned their work with advocacy and action for the houseless and Stomp Out Bullying respectively.

"One second, one minute, one action can change someone's life," Dang said. "All it takes is one good deed to build the foundation of lasting change." ★

2024 DAR Community Service Awards Honors Three

Continued from page 1
since February 1990.

Kaye Lynn and David Peterson of Sacramento were recognized for volunteering their time leading a non-partisan U.S. Constitution Discussion Group (CDG), which meets at Epic Bible College at 4330 Auburn Boulevard in Sacramento. Both received an award for their outstanding service to the community.

The couple lead a free eight-week course on the U.S. Constitution through Aug. 29 from 6 to 8 p.m. hosted at Epic Bible College with discussion topics including state sovereignty, nullification and taxation, unconstitutional powers, the Electoral College, and the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution prohibiting unreasonable search and seizures.

"We the people, no longer understand our relationship to, and our responsibilities under the Constitution," Kaye Lynn Peterson told the Daughters of the American



Shown are Dianne Poppert, Citrus Heights Daughters of the American Revolution Community Service Award chairperson, Kaye Lynn and David Peterson of Sacramento, leaders of the U.S. Constitution Study Group, and Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost.

Revolution members. "Our purpose is to help adults review, re-learn and discuss what a Constitutional Republic is, and review the documents left to us by the Founding

Fathers of our nation." The Sacramento U.S. Constitution Discussion Group, running for the past three years, is conducted in a seminar-style presentation, with

instruction followed by open discussion and questions. Kaye Lynn is the moderator and searches for material to cover, while David runs the video equipment used to present

audio-visual materials.

The couple said a "thorough understanding and refresh of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship under the U.S. Constitution are an important part of an active civics education."

The public is also invited to bring a dish to share and attend a Memorial Day patriotic potluck from 6 to 8 p.m. May 30 hosted by the group on the main floor at Epic Bible College, 4330 Auburn Blvd.

The General John A. Sutter Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR or DAR), a nonprofit, non-political organization, meets at the Sylvan Community Center, 7521 Community Drive in Citrus Heights.

Women who are 18 years of age and older and descended from a parent who aided in achieving American independence between April 19, 1775, and Nov. 26, 1783, can apply for Daughters of the American Revolution membership. ★

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Students Illustrate the 1950s



Eleventh-graders present a skit about the typical life of a suburban family in the 1950s. Photo courtesy San Juan Unified School District

MPG Staff

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Mira Loma High School's fourth annual Pleasantville event was a rockin' good time!

On May 17, Mira Loma High School was transformed into a 1950s time capsule called Pleasantville, the annual culminating history project where 11th and 12th-grade students demonstrate the culture, innovations and historical events from 60-plus years ago through interactive presentations.

Nearly 700 visitors attended the Pleasantville morning event this year, including ninth- and 10th-graders, parents and community members.

Students were fully immersed in this time period, acting as key historical figures, according to San Juan Unified School District communication specialist Elyse Fresquez.

Two-hundred students presented their class projects



The Mira Loma High School choir performs "Blue Moon." Photo courtesy San Juan Unified School District

about the historical events and cultural innovations of this era in a variety of ways, including through interactive booths, scripted skits, and musical and dance performances.

Widespread historic events such as the Civil Rights Movement in the United States, the space race and the birth of rock'n'roll were creatively showcased throughout Pleasantville.

Local Sacramento history was also highlighted, including Fairytale Town's

opening day and the founding of the KCRA 3 news station in 1955. The Mira Loma Alumni Association organized a classic car show in front of the school.

"Congratulations to the students for hosting another successful Pleasantville event," said a San Juan Unified social media post.

Mira Loma High School, part of the San Juan Unified School District, has an enrollment of 1,700 students from Carmichael and Arden Arcade. ★

St. Francis Social Studies Department Chair Promoted to Assistant Principal

St. Francis Catholic High School News Release

EAST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - St. Francis Catholic High School is proud to announce Julie Van Houten as its new assistant principal. Van Houten, who holds a Master of Arts in education, is a member of the executive staff and has been serving as the social studies department chair for the past two years. She will assume her new role effective July 1.

"St. Francis is an amazing school that needs to be celebrated," said Van Houten. "As a current teacher and parent of a St. Francis student, I have a strong understanding of the academic, social and emotional needs of the key stakeholders: students, families and teachers."

"I am excited about the opportunity to continue working and collaborating in an environment where I can contribute to the quality of an all-girls faith-based education," she said.

Van Houten started



Julie Van Houten is the new St. Francis Catholic High School assistant principal. Photo by Bill Smith Photography

teaching in the Elk Grove Unified School District in 2001 and joined the staff at St. Francis Catholic High School in 2016 as a social studies teacher, including AP U.S. history and AP government and politics. Van Houten is also an Adjunct Professor at Sacramento State University where she teaches aspiring multiple subject and social science

teachers. "We are excited to have Julie take on this position of leadership at St. Francis," said Principal Elias Mendoza. "Her time as a faculty representative on our executive staff, her innovative approach to curriculum and instructional delivery, and her passion for the mission of St. Francis make her the perfect choice." ★

Sac County Caps Initial Water Development Fees

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Water Agency Board of Directors approved a new cap on Initial Water Development Fee Payments required at the Improvement Plan approval stage of the development process. The Development Fee Program pays for water infrastructure projects within the county's Zone 40 area.

The fees are paid by developers and have been set at \$21,399 per home being built. The Sacramento County Water Agency collects the fee during the development process. The initial payment is 15% of the total fee, with the remainder collected when the building permit is issued.

Zone 40 was formed nearly 40 years ago as a capital development fund. The funds help build new water systems and ensure there is an adequate water supply for development within Zone 40.



The cap on fees will bring down the cost of new homes in Sacramento County. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Changing this Sacramento County Water Agency section, known as Title 4, allows the water agency discretion to cap the initial payment of 15% to a maximum of \$200,000 per subdivision. Capping the fee will reduce one of the larger upfront costs typically financed by developers and help bring down the cost of building homes in Sacramento County.

The cap can be removed during an annual review if Sacramento County Water

Agency finds a potential reduction in cash flow. Less money would impact the water agency's ability to plan, design and construct new water supply facilities needed within Zone 40 for future development.

Sacramento County Water Agency has partnered with the Building Industry Association on these changes with a mutual goal of removing the barriers to building cost-effective housing in Sacramento County. ★

SMUD's Shine Program Accepting Applications

SMUD News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The SMUD Shine Awards' application period opened for nonprofit organizations June 1 and runs through July 31. The Shine Awards program is designed to improve and revitalize communities in the Sacramento region.

Proposals should focus on projects that support zero carbon workforce development, environmental justice and equity, inclusive economic development and STEM education. Shine projects align with SMUD's Clean Energy Vision, which is to eliminate all carbon emissions from the power supply by 2030.

Shine awards 1 range from \$5,000 to \$100,000 and are very competitive. Any incorporated nonprofit organization within SMUD's service area is eligible to apply. Shine awards are available at three funding levels: Spark (up to \$10,000), Amplifier (up to \$50,000) and Transformer (up to \$100,000). Applications will be accepted through July 31.

While SMUD will consider a broad variety of potential projects, it is primarily interested in proposals that promote the 2030 Clean Energy Vision. That includes utilizing clean energy solutions, advancing zero carbon workforce development and training, promoting energy efficiency,

energy conservation and greenhouse gas reduction particularly in diverse and under-resourced communities (environmental justice and equity), supporting inclusive economic development and involving clean energy education related to energy efficiency, renewable energy or related Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields.

SMUD will host multiple technical assistance webinar sessions about Shine and the application process. A registration link and application can be found on smud.org/Shine.

This past year, SMUD awarded more than \$583,000 in Shine funding to 29 local nonprofits. SMUD received a wide range of applications, and the selected projects were able to successfully demonstrate collaboration and the potential for broad community impact.

Each year, SMUD contributes approximately \$3 million in financial support and in-kind services to community-based organizations. SMUD will continue to support healthy, vibrant, and economically sustainable neighborhoods for all customers, with a special focus toward improving equity in the region through SMUD's Sustainable Communities program.

For more information about the SMUD Shine program, including a list of previous winners, visit smud.org/Shine. ★

Controller Cohen Issues April Cash Report

California State Controller's Office News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On May 10, State Controller Malia M. Cohen released her monthly cash report covering the state's General Fund revenues, disbursements and actual cash balance for the fiscal year through April 30, 2024. The state ended April with \$95.8 billion in unused borrowable resources, while fiscal year-to-date receipts continue below estimates contained in the 2024-25 Governor's proposed budget.

The Governor's Budget estimated that the state would collect nearly \$16.3 billion in personal income taxes in April. As shown on the State Controller's Office April 2024 Personal Income Tax Tracker webpage, the state exceeded the revenue target by approximately \$150 million.

"With April personal income tax revenues just tracking with the most recent budget estimates, fiscal year-to-date revenues continue at lower-than-expected levels," said Controller Cohen. "The high level of borrowable resources is due in large part to the \$26 billion the state has prudently built up and reserved for rainy

days and economic uncertainties. Maintaining enough cash to cushion against economic downturns has been one of California's strengths in its credit ratings and ensures the state will continue to meet its payment obligations."

Fiscal year-to-date receipts through April were \$169.8 billion, nearly \$4.8 billion below the Governor's Budget estimates, or 2.7 percent. The state's cash position is \$7.6 billion better than expected with disbursements of \$184.9 billion for the fiscal year nearly \$12.4 billion, or 6.3 percent, less than proposed budget project New Measure Eligible for California's November 2024 Ballot tions.

As the chief fiscal officer of California, Controller Cohen is responsible for accountability and disbursement of the state's financial resources. The Controller has independent auditing authority over government agencies that spend state funds. She is a member of numerous financing authorities, and fiscal and financial oversight entities including the Franchise Tax Board. She also serves on the boards for the nation's two largest public pension funds. Follow the Controller on Twitter at @CACController and on Facebook at California State Controller's Office. ★

Patti LaBelle to Join the Toyota Concert Series on the Golden 1 Stage

California State Fair News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California State Fair is thrilled to announce that Philadelphia born, Patti LaBelle will be gracing the Golden 1 Stage as part of the Toyota Concert Series on Saturday, July 20.

For more than 60 years, Patti's resplendent voice has left an indelible mark all over the world. A solo artist since the 1970s, Patti has created timeless songs that have helped cement her place as a music icon and garnered



Patti LaBelle will be performing at the California State Fair in July. Photo courtesy of the California State Fair

her numerous honors, including GRAMMY Awards, American Music Awards, NAACP Image Awards, New York Times bestselling books

and more. Purchase tickets at <https://www.etix.com/ticket/p/39575839/patti-labelle-sacramento-california-state-fair>. ★

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. ★

Inflation Hits California Families Hardest. It's Shaping Their Views on The Economy



By Dan Walters,
CALMatters.org

On paper, the U.S. economy seems to be doing well with historically low unemployment. Yet most Americans have a sour view in recent polls, with stubborn inflation in living costs cited as the reason for that pessimism.

“As the 2024 general election begins in earnest, voters’ assessment of the economy and of the candidates’ ability to manage it will, as usual, have a strong impact on the outcome of the race,” Brookings Institute stated in a recent analysis of economic attitudes. “With little more than seven months until Election Day, the economy remains a key advantage for former President Donald Trump, and a drag on President Biden’s reelection prospects.”

Biden needn’t worry about losing California to Trump, but it has one of the nation’s highest rates of inflation, according to Moody’s Analytics, worsening its already outlandishly high costs of housing and other living expenses. It’s the biggest factor in California having the highest level of functional poverty of any state, 13.2% according to the U.S. Census Bureau, about 50% higher than the national rate.

The Public Policy Institute of California, using similar statistical methodology, has found that a quarter of Californians are either living in poverty or financially close. More recently, the PPIC has explored the impact of inflation, especially on California families which struggle to pay for housing, food and other necessities.

In 2018–19, PPIC reported, “these necessities cost California’s low-income households about \$26,000, on average; by 2024, these households would need to spend over \$32,000 on the same goods and services. By comparison, the top income group spent on average \$82,000 on these basics in 2018–19, which would now cost nearly \$100,000 in 2024.”

The PPIC has found that “prices have increased unevenly across goods and services – with varying effects across households at different income levels. Food prices are up 27% compared to April 2019, and gasoline is up 29%. While expenditures on these goods and services make up large portions of most household budgets, lower-income households spend almost all of their resources (83%) on food, housing, transportation (including gasoline), and health care.”

Obviously those on the lower rungs of the economic ladder have more difficulty adjusting to increases in living costs. It’s not hyperbole to say that inflation is a major reason why so many Californians cannot move up that ladder. Meanwhile, efforts to

curb inflation have a compounding effect. The Federal Reserve System maintains high interest rates to cool off the economy and bring down inflation, but those interest rates make home ownership more difficult and affect businesses, which often raise the prices of goods and services to maintain profits.

Inflation also hits the public sector, increasing the costs of providing services and wreaking havoc on state and local government budgets. It’s one of the reasons the state budget suffers from a massive deficit and why many cities, counties and school districts are struggling to balance their budgets.

By happenstance, the PPIC issued its report on inflation on the same day that BravoDeal, a website devoted to helping consumers find bargains, released its study of fast food prices, comparing four popular chains state-by-state.

Overall, fast food outlets in Mississippi had the lowest prices while those in Hawaii were the highest, followed by New York, New Jersey and California.

For example, a McDonald’s Big Mac costs an average of \$5.11 in California but just \$3.91 in Mississippi.

Dan Walters is one of most widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state’s political, economic, social and demographic trends. He began covering California politics in 1975, just as Jerry Brown began his first stint as governor, and began writing his column in 1981. He has been at CalMatters since 2017. ★

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Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty - About Social Security's Earnings Test and Cost of Living Adjustments



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: Is there a limit on earnings when you're fully retired? Also, should all retirees receive COLA or is there an exception? **Signed: Retired But Wondering**

Dear Retired: Your questions are fairly simple but, nevertheless, often perplexing to those wishing to apply for Social Security, because the SS rules are many (over 2,700 of them) and those about to apply for their benefits may be simply unsure and want to avoid a costly mistake. I'm happy to answer your questions and, hopefully, clarify any uncertainties you have on these topics.

Social Security imposes an earnings limit on anyone who collects Social Security before reaching their full retirement age (FRA). If you haven't yet reached your FRA (somewhere between 66 and 67, depending on the year you were born), and you continue to work, there is a limit to how much you can earn before they take away some of your benefits. So, the answer to your first question is, yes, there is an earnings

limit (\$22,320 for 2024) if you haven't yet reached your full retirement age. If the annual earnings limit is exceeded, Social Security will take away some of your benefits (\$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit, up to the year you attain FRA when the assessment is less). However, if you have already reached your full retirement age the earnings limit no longer applies, and you can earn as much as you like without consequence. And here's a nuance to be aware of: if you work and exceed the earnings limit, and have some benefits withheld as a result, when you reach your FRA, you will get time credit for any months you didn't get benefits, which will result in your monthly amount being a bit higher after your FRA.

Regarding COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment), everyone, without exception, who has earned a Social Security benefit and reached eligibility age (62) receives the annual COLA increase whether they are already collecting their benefits or not. If you're not yet collecting, the COLA is added to your "primary insurance amount" or "PIA," on which your benefit will be based when you claim. If you are already collecting SS, COLA will be added to your gross monthly SS benefit amount. However, since there was a \$9.80 increase in the 2024 Medicare Part B premium, and since the Part

B premium is taken from everyone's SS benefit payment, Social Security recipients enrolled in Medicare Part B will not see the full 3.2% COLA in their net monthly Social Security payment. Everyone will receive the COLA increase, but no one enrolled in Medicare Part B will get the full COLA increase in their net SS payment because some of the COLA increase is used to pay their increased Medicare premium.

Social Security's rules are myriad and often confusing, but no question is too simple to be asked. The AMAC Foundation's Social Security Advisory Service is available, at no charge, to answer all your Social Security questions - SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org via email, or call 1.888.750.2622.

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That's a Pretty Good Deal

Dear Dave,

I'm in college full-time right now, and my parents have been generous enough to pay for some of my school expenses. In addition, they let me live at home while I complete my degree. I work some nights and most weekends so I can go to school debt-free, but I'm trying to figure out how to move out on my own and continue working, while remaining a full-time student and attending career-related campus events. The cost of living is high in our area, so I'm having trouble figuring out how to make it all work. Do you have some advice?

- Will

Dear Will

You sound like a very driven and mature young man. Congratulations on everything you've been able to accomplish so far. I'm glad you're working hard in school with

Dave Ramsey Says

an eye toward the future. First off, out of the three considerations you mentioned — school, work, and cost of living — I think you need to decide which is your number one priority. If I were in your shoes, school would come first.

Now, to go to school without borrowing money, you're going to have to keep working. But finishing school on time, while attending some of the extracurricular events that will move you toward your career, might pre-empt work. You'll have to work enough to pay for things, but if you can finish school and hit your academic and graduation goals while staying at home just a little bit longer? That sounds like a winner to me. It's a pretty nice deal your parents are offering, but I can understand your desire to be out on your own, too.

I want you to be out on your own as soon as you can, as well. But if you do that right now, you're going to have extra bills and be forced to work even more. That's going to throw your entire school process out of whack. Guess what your number one priority was in that

scenario? Right, moving out. If it's the tail that's wagging the dog, it has become the number one priority. If it's disrupting work, and thereby disrupting your academics, then in my mind you've put your focus on the wrong thing.

Your number one goal should be finishing school on time, while attending as many connected events as possible. Meanwhile, keep working enough so that you're able to continue doing all this debt-free. If that means you're staying at home a little bit longer to pull it off, I'd do it!

- Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time No. 1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 20 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS Mornings, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company, Ramsey Solutions. ★

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By V.G. Harris



Popp Talk

With Mary Jane Popp

Resilience

Are you stressed to the MAX? I'm not at all surprised. From jobs, relationships, health, and kids, I would be amazed if you weren't stressed out. But **Dr. Stephen Sideroff** says you don't have to stay mired in that stress. You can move forward, and he tells us how in "The 9 Pillars of Resilience:" the proven path to mastering stress, slow aging and increase vitality. The good doctor is an Associate Professor of psychiatry at UCLA's Geffen School of Medicine and he shared this synopsis of the 9 pillars with me on my "POPPTALK" radio show in search of truth.

1. RELATIONSHIP WITH SELF. This is the pillar that all others rest on, this is about how you feel about yourself and how you treat yourself. It's important to treat yourself with respect, love, compassion, support, acceptance and care. Despite childhood lessons, it's never constructive to put yourself down, or be hard on yourself. It only creates more tension and undermines confidence. This pillar is about developing a healthy internal voice.

2. RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS. This is the ability to communicate and establish close and intimate relationships, and to receive support. Friends and other relationships in which positive affect is expressed, enhance the sense of a safe world.

3. RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMETHING GREATER. This can have a spiritual emphasis or it can be involvement with community, charity or other forms of service. Involvement, meaning and belief in something greater than yourself, can include purpose and makes daily hassles less significant. It enhances a sense of security and hope.

4. PHYSICAL BALANCE AND

MASTERY. This is the ability to deeply relax and to quickly recover from stress. It is being able to keep your stress response in proportion to the demands of the specific situation and not over-react. And to fully utilize sleep for optimal recuperation.

5. COGNITIVE BALANCE AND MASTERY. This pillar is about having a positive attitude and positive expectations. It's also the ability to control your thoughts; to let go of thoughts and worry and move on, as well as to be focused and avoid distractions.

6. EMOTIONAL BALANCE AND MASTERY. Unexpressed emotions or emotions that you are unaware of make you more sensitive to hurts and inappropriate over reactions. They are accompanied by physical holding patterns, anxiety and stress.

7. PRESENCE. This component is about being fully in the moment, aware and in contact with your environment, and not distracted by thoughts, worry of other preoccupation.

8. FLEXIBILITY. This is the ability to adapt to changing circumstances and minimizes frustration, anger and tension.

9. POWER. He defines power as your ability to get things done. This includes courage to take action, persistence the face of obstacles and frustration, focus in keeping the goal in view, and assertiveness in making your desires known. It also involves the ability to make decisions as well as planning and being strategic. It enhances your sense of control, self-trust and confidence.

Check out **Dr. Sideroff** at www.drstephensideroff.com/resilience to stop stress from controlling you. **IT'S A WIN FOR LIFE!**

Spring has gone and summer is upon us, so what are Kings fans celebrating? I'm celebrating that Kings coach Mike Brown has agreed to a contract extension along with a raise. But even more, I'm celebrating that I don't have to read or hear about it anymore.

Am I the only fan that firmly believes that what a coach is being paid should be private behind closed doors? Is it true that some of you really want to hear about what coach Brown feels about his salary? I do not, and I am hopeful that moving forward Vivek Ranadive will conduct his contract negotiations with his coach behind the corporate doors. Please!

Moving on to real basketball, Kings fandom is waiting with bated breath to hear something encouraging about the future of Malik Monk in a Kings uniform.

I am convinced that the signing of Malik to a long-term contract is more important than any first-round draft choice the Kings might sign in the upcoming draft, and for one would love to hear that something fruitful is in the offing.

I hope as a Kings fan, each of you at every opportunity are letting the Kings know how much we all value Malik Monk, and I think it wouldn't hurt to shoot a quick email to Monte McNair with your cogent thoughts on the subject.

True Monte may have a good idea how you feel, but there's something about getting several thousand emails that puts an exclamation mark on the subject.

I will be forwarding my thoughts to Monte, just in case he's not reading Kings Korner.

While all this goes on, the NBA finals are looming, and it looks like we may be in for some real basketball.

The show that Kyrie Irving and Luka Doncic put on in thrashing the Timberwolves vaunted #1 defense was impressive to say the least, and make no mistake about it, the Mavericks have

other players besides Kyrie and Luka.

I don't want to take anything away from the Celtics, who bring to the floor one of the most balanced attacks the NBA has seen in years, but unless Boston can do something that Minnesota couldn't do, I fear the Celtics may be in for some tough sledding.

This will be entertaining to say the least, and for those of you that like three-point shooting, hold onto your hats.

Stephen Curry may have set the standard, but Luka wants to be noticed, and his long range arsenal is truly impressive.

I know the time will come that I won't close my eyes and envision Luka in a purple uniform with a Kings logo, so let's all collectively hope that this year's draft allows Monte McNair to strut his stuff.

Remember, Klay Thompson was drafted 11th overall in 2011, and the Kings are only 2 picks away at #13. I believe magical things can happen at #13, and with the influx of players coming from leagues all over the world, any pick in the first round can be a difference maker for a team.

I'm excited to see some good basketball starting Thursday night, and even more excited to see what home-work Monte McNair will show us on Wednesday, June 26!

Stay tuned Kings fans, because I can feel in my bones that the lineup you see today is about to make changes that will be more than cosmetic.

If we can sign Malik, you will see him every night in the starting lineup and look for Harrison Barnes to take a seat on the bench along with Kevin Huerter.

Don't opine all you Huerter fans; he might just score more points coming off the bench than he does in the starting lineup!

Enjoy the upcoming NBA finals Kings fans, and, once in a while, close your eyes and imagine it's the Kings you're watching. It might just come true! ★

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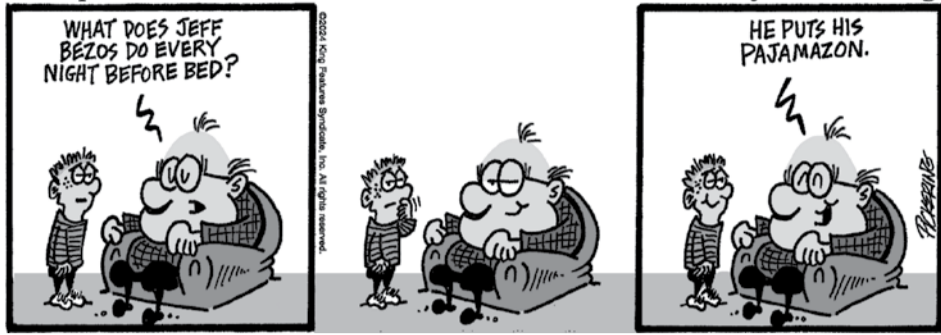
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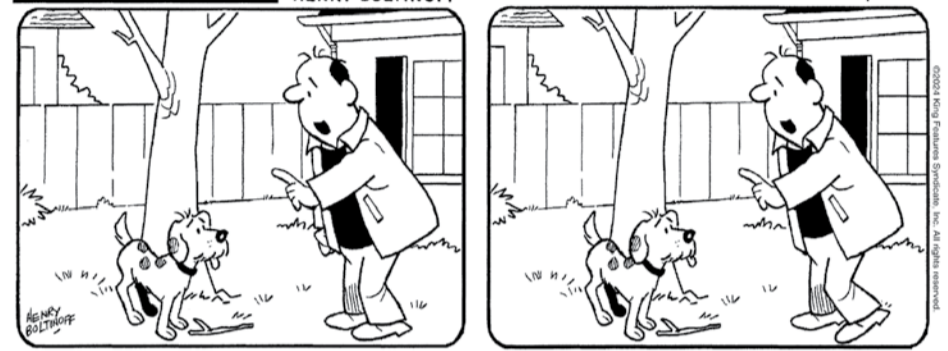
by Dave T. Phipps



HOCUS-FOCUS

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Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Arm is not showing. 2. Dog's tongue is moved. 3. Leg is moved. 4. Far is moved. 5. Tree limb is shorter. 6. Sweater is shorter.

Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

GRIN & BEAR IT



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- House pest
 - Emergency responder, acr.
 - Meme dance moves
 - Below, prefix
 - Swimmer's distance
 - Not urban
 - Take a base
 - Grazing spot
 - Stressful or unnerving
 - *Clint Eastwood's "Space ____"
 - *First U.S. space station
 - Salty dog's domain
 - Fail to mention
 - Spermatozoa counterpart
 - Ukrainian person, e.g.
 - State of submission
 - Network of nerves
 - Muscle or strength
 - ____ Mara, Africa
 - Shapeless form
 - Cliffside dwelling
 - *Saturn's environs, sing.
 - Poetic feet
 - Darn a sock, e.g.
 - Per person
 - Rendezvouses
 - Mine entrance
 - After-tax amount
 - Litter's littiest
 - French vineyard
 - *"Sun's outer layer, not beer brand
 - *Second S in ISS
 - Ancient Celtic priest
 - Sun kiss
 - "Mea ____," or "my fault"
 - *"From the Earth to the Moon" author
 - In the past
 - Judge
 - Education station
 - Order's partner
 - Food between meals
- DOWN**
- Reduced Instruction Set Computer
 - "I'm ____ you!"
 - Not many (2 words)
 - Dungeness and snow, e.g.
 - *Circles of light around sun and moon
 - 90-degree pipes, e.g.
 - *Jamison, the first African-American woman in space
 - Tetanus symptom
 - Two-fold
 - Divi's solo
 - Pickle on a wire
 - Sylvester Stallone's nickname
 - Johnny Cash's "Get ____"
 - Churchill/Roosevelt/Stalin meeting site
 - Model-builder's purchase
 - Gorge oneself
 - *Planet's path
 - Type of consonant
 - Skeleton, archaic
 - Attention-getting interjection
 - Like pink steak
 - Of the Orient
 - Jousting pole
 - * ____-year
 - Opposite of flows
 - *Solar ____, sun's emission
 - Authoritative proclamation
 - Walked with long steps
 - *Solar System center
 - Parcels
 - Birth-related
 - One-eighty
 - Manitoba native
 - Couple's pronoun
 - Dorothy Hamill's turf
 - Jon of "Game of Thrones"
 - Pelvic parts
 - Petroleum-exporting grp.
 - Police informer
 - VHS successor
 - Palindromic title

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Caitlin Clark and the Gender Gap

By Dr. Gary Scott Smith

Social media has been abuzz since it became known that Iowa superstar Caitlin Clark, the number one draft pick in the WNBA, will make only \$76,535 this year playing with the Indiana Fever. By contrast, the NBA's most recent No. 1 pick, San Antonio Spurs center Victor Wembanyama, will make almost \$12.2 million, 161 times as much. Moreover, Wembanyama will earn \$55 million during the next four years, while Clark's salary for this period will be \$338,056. This disparity is leading many commentators to criticize the gender inequities that continue to plague most professional and collegiate sports.

Even President Joe Biden joined the fray. On X, he argued that the pay gap between the NBA and the WNBA reflects the differing opportunities of men and women. Even the best women athletes, he asserted, "are not paid their fair share." He added that "women in sports continue to push new boundaries and inspire us all."

Although Clark helped attract record-breaking TV audiences to Iowa's regular season and March Madness games and sell-out crowds to arenas throughout the nation, she will earn a meager salary compared with her NBA counterparts. Moreover, in 2023, the highest-paid WNBA player earned \$242,000, while Steph Curry earned \$55.7 million, and the NBA minimum salary was more than one million dollars. Defenders of these differential salaries stress that the NBA has existed 50 years longer than the WNBA, that it has more than twice as many teams, and that its revenue is \$10 billion a year, while that of the WNBA is only \$200 million. However, NBA players receive 50 percent of their league's revenue, while WNBA players get only 10 percent of



Iowa Hawkeyes guard Caitlin Clark (22) smiles following a game between the Iowa Hawkeyes and the Michigan Wolverines in Iowa City, Iowa, on Thursday, February 15, 2024. The Hawkeyes defeated the Wolverines 106-89. (Nick Rohlman/The Gazette)

their league's proceeds. "We are not asking to get paid what the men get paid. We're asking to get paid the same percentage of revenue shared," Las Vegas Aces star Kelsey Plum declared in 2022.

Clark, of course, will make millions from endorsing various products. Her sponsorship deals with companies including State Farm and Gatorade are valued at \$3 million. Nike will reportedly sign a deal with her worth more than \$20 million that will feature a signature sneaker. Clark, who also earned several million dollars through NIL (name, image, and likeness) while at Iowa, however, is the exception. Far fewer female collegiate athletes than their male counterparts earn large amounts through endorsements.

The low salaries WNBA players, even the league's greatest stars, earn prompt many of them to play almost year-round by suiting up for teams in Russia, Turkey, and other international venues. Many of them have played in the EuroLeague, where they earned salaries 10 times higher than those they receive in the United States. The pay of the WNBA's all-time league scorer Diana Taurasi ranged from \$500,000 to \$1.5 million

while playing overseas, while the WNBA's current maximum salary is \$242,000.

While playing abroad, WNBA athletes enjoy additional perks including living in fancy villas equipped with indoor pools and saunas, cooks, chauffeurs, cash bonuses, diamond jewelry, catered lunches, shopping sprees in Paris and Venice, stays at seven-star hotels, and travel by private jets. Compared with playing in Russia, Taurasi ironically noted, playing in the WNBA was like living in nations under communist governments before the fall of the Soviet Union. Playing overseas, though, can involve risks. Remember that Brittany Griner went to play in Russia during the WNBA's off-season in 2022 where she was arrested and wrongly detained for ten months.

This wage inequality also exists in golf, soccer, and tennis where male professional athletes make anywhere from 15 percent to almost 100 percent more than female athletes. In 2023, the total prize purse for men's golf was about \$450 million compared to the \$100 million total for women's golf. The current minimum salary in Major League Soccer (MLS) is \$85,444, while

in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) it is \$46,500. In 2022, soccer star Lionel Messi, the male athlete with the highest earnings (\$130 million), made 87 percent more than tennis star Naomi Osaka, the highest-grossing female athlete (\$51.1 million). Tennis is somewhat of an outlier as the prize money at its four major tournaments is the same for men and women, but the purse at many other events is less for women. Moreover, the total compensation female collegiate athletes are receiving through NIL pales compared with their male counterparts.

Although the large disparities in men's and women's salaries in numerous professional sports is deplorable, the bigger issue is the gender gap across all work platforms. American women still earn less than men for doing the same work and are underrepresented in management positions. They also hold far fewer political positions than men, and they often face numerous sexist barriers when they run for office and engage in political decision-making. Meanwhile, laws still discriminate against women in the areas of divorce, inheritance, and domestic violence.

In the past two decades, the gender pay gap has hardly narrowed in the United States. In 1982, women earned only 65 cents for each dollar men earned. By 2002, the situation had improved, as women made 80 cents for each dollar men received. In the next 20 years, however, little progress was made. In 2022, American women brought home 82 cents for every dollar men grossed. This gender pay gap persists even though since 1981 more women have graduated annually from college than men and today about 57 percent of college graduates are women.

Certainly, the types of jobs women hold and their giving birth to and rearing children contribute to women earning less than men, but sexual stereotyping and discrimination also play a major role. Perhaps the heated conversation about the disparity in the salaries of professional male and female athletes can inspire us to increase our efforts to end all differences in hiring and earnings based on gender.

Gary Scott Smith is the author of recently published "The Greatest of All-Time: Fifteen Fantastic Athletes." Gary Scott Smith is Professor of History Emeritus at Grove City College and is a fellow for faith and politics with the Institute for Faith and Freedom. He is the author of "Strength for the Fight: The Life and Faith of Jackie Robinson" (2022), "Duty and Destiny: The Life and Faith of Winston Churchill" (January 2021), "A History of Christianity in Pittsburgh" (2019), "Suffer the Children" (2017), "Religion in the Oval Office" (Oxford University Press, 2015), "Faith and the Presidency From George Washington to George W. Bush" (Oxford University Press, 2009), "Religion in the Oval Office" and "Heaven in the American Imagination" (Oxford University Press, 2011). ★

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. Throughout 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

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



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

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." ★

Four-Legged Seasonal Help Brought in To Fight Flooding

Sacramento County Department of Water Resources News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Department of Water Resources (DWR) is continuing its annual eco-friendly program to combat overgrowth in detention basins to prevent the potential for flooding in the unincorporated parts of the County. Starting on May 21, Billy Goat Gruff and hundreds of his hungriest friends will converge on five separate locations over the next five weeks to help reduce the flood threat from overgrown grass and weeds.

Most of the County's flood prevention efforts occur during the spring and summer months before the rains fall again. Left unattended overgrowth could block water flow from heavy rains, resulting in street flooding. This is the twelfth year these contractors have been utilized as an effective force to ensure the creeks and

detention basins are clear for the upcoming storm season. This year, 300 goats and sheep will be casually dining as they rotate through five different locations.

The areas chosen for the contractor's dining experience will include Arcade Creek at Evergreen Estates: Winding Way at Auburn Blvd - 4.4 Acres, Arcade Creek at Kenneth Avenue: N/O Burl Way - 3.4 Acres, Arcade Creek at White Fir Way: E/O Garfield Ave - 2 Acres, Attoman Hills Detention Basin: Main Avenue at Wiltshire Way - .7 Acres, and Strawberry Creek at Calvine Road: East & West of Auberry Drive - 7.7 Acres.

Residents near the projects received postcards letting them know about the cost-effective approach to flood prevention work. An onsite herder and trained dogs accompany the dining party 24-hours a day to ensure they are cared for, kept on task, don't wander off, and offer Thousand Island or Blue Cheese, if requested. ★

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