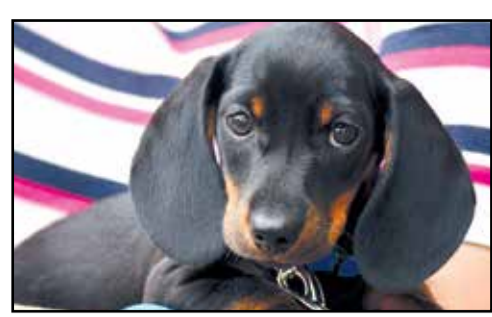




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West Sacramento News Ledger

VOLUME 60 • ISSUE 27

Serving the West Sacramento Region Since 1964

JULY 5, 2024

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Community Thanked During State of the City



Mayor Martha Guererro gave the 2024 State of the City Address on June 25, listing dozens of successful city measures accomplished throughout the year, including housing, business, transportation and more upgrades. Photo by Angela Underwood

By Angela Underwood

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - West Sacramento's State of the City address listed a litany of achievements, such as being home to a Major League Baseball team.

Mayor Martha Guererro began her 2024 address on June 25 at an afternoon brunch in the City Hall Galleria, thanking the West Sacramento Chamber of Commerce

for hosting the annual event "despite the challenge of the day with incredible grace and flawless execution."

After the mayor started with dozens of city goals met and ongoing, she began with the West Sacramento Community Academy, a 35-member resident group who attended a free seven-week course for citizen self-advocacy.

Next, the mayor detailed active projects for the fire and police

department, saying, "Our goal to increase public safety has always included the safety of our first responders and improving the conditions they work under."

Next, the mayor detailed citywide fire and police station upgrades for all first responders who "are a critical component contributing to the overall health and safety of the community," which makes the "rest and

Continued on page 3

Yolo County's Placard System Enhances Food Safety and Public Health

County of Yolo News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - The Yolo County Department of Community Services' Environmental Health Division held its inaugural Food Safety Forum on June 10, which was attended by dozens of food industry stakeholders, academics, non-profit organizations, and residents. The Forum provided updates on how the Environmental Health Division, in collaboration with its partners, is working to protect and enhance residents' quality of life by identifying, assessing, mitigating, and preventing environmental hazards.

To protect residents, Yolo County implemented a placard system in July 2017. This system, praised by residents and business owners alike for its simplicity and effectiveness at the recent forum, uses different colors to make safety inspection results easily identifiable and to highlight an establishment's level of accountability for patrons' wellbeing. The placards are posted in clear view of patrons entering a food facility. Inspection reports are accessible online at www.YoloCounty.org/InspectionReports or by scanning a QR code on the placards.

The color-coded placarding system communicates inspection results as follows:

Green (PASS) - No more than one major violation observed, which is mitigated or corrected during the inspection.

Yellow (CONDITIONAL PASS) - Two or more major violations observed and mitigated or corrected during the inspection, but inspectors will return for a follow-up.

Red (CLOSED) - Any major violation posing an imminent health hazard that cannot be mitigated or corrected during the inspection.

"Implementing a food

Continued on page 2

Decades-Long Development Continues

By Angela Underwood

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - They call it grand for a reason.

Nearly three decades in the making, the Grand Gateway Master Plan is a walkable, mixed-use destination that ties together the Bridge District, Washington District and West Capitol Avenue, the central business corridor.

Since acquiring the property in the early 1990s, beginning with the acquisition of nuisance and blighted uses, Economic Development and Housing Project Manager Mark Polhemus said West Sacramento has strategically redesigned surrounding roadways to create additional developable land from former State Route 275 right-of-way.



An aerial view of the portion of the Grand Gateway Development shows the large region in development continuously approved by elected officials for almost 30 years. Photo courtesy of the City of West Sacramento

"In 2013, the city has secured state and local grants to further the city's

vision for the project area," Polhemus said. Along with "conducted

design, planning and entitlement activities and

Continued on page 3

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California Capital Airshow Presents Aerial Awe



Italian jet team Frece Tricolori will headline the 2024 California Capital Airshow, as part of its first North American tour in more than 30 years. Courtesy photo

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The 18th annual California Capital Airshow, presented by Sacramento County in partnership with the City of Rancho Cordova, returns 3:30 to 9:30 p.m. July 13 and July 14 to Mather Airport in Sacramento.

The two-day event will feature an extraordinary lineup of performers, including the Italian jet team, Frece Tricolori, and the United States Air Force Thunderbirds, plus miles of ground attractions and the return of nighttime aerial performances. Both days conclude with a massive pyro-musical fireworks show.

"This year's show offers a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Darcy Brewer, California Capital Airshow executive director. "Our attendees will enjoy performances by two world-renowned jet teams, Frece Tricolori and the Thunderbirds, along with some of the most skilled pilots from around the globe, right here in Sacramento."

This unique show features four hours of nonstop aerial performances beginning at 5:30 p.m. both days. The United States Air Force Thunderbirds

will kick off the event followed by Frece Tricolori, U.S. Navy F-18 Super Hornet, U.S. Air Force F-35 Lightning and C-17 Globemaster demo teams and an impressive roster of highly skilled civilian performers including priceless vintage warbirds.

As the sun sets, the show will continue with maximum afterburner followed by aircraft lighting up the night sky with pyrotechnics, walls of fire, spectacular fireworks and a 500-drone show.

Discounted Airshow tickets are on sale now at CaliforniaCapitalAirshow.com. Adult General Admission tickets start at \$42.50 and each ticket includes free admission for up to six youth (age 15 and under) and free parking. A variety of upgraded tickets and experiences are also available for purchase. Tickets are available online only and will not be sold at the gate. Purchase tickets now before they sell out.

The California Capital Airshow "gives special thanks to our generous partners Sacramento County, the City of Rancho Cordova, Modern Aviation, Keurig Dr. Pepper Snapple Group, Visit Rancho Cordova, Folsom Lake Dodge, Donaghy Sales, SMUD, Thunder

Valley Casino Resort, Kaiser Permanente, Atlas Disposal, Sunbelt, Teichert, Elite Power, FOX 40, iHeart Media, and UPS."

In addition, the Airshow team "is grateful to its 1,000 passionate volunteers, a long list of committed community supporters, as well as the teams of law enforcement and emergency services that give their time and energy to keep everyone safe."

Tickets and more information can be found at CaliforniaCapitalAirshow.com.

About California Capital Airshow

Established in 2004, the nonprofit California Capital Airshow plans and operates the family-friendly annual event that honors the Sacramento region's rich aviation heritage and veterans while using the power and magic of flight to inspire young people.

California Capital Airshow gives back to the community through scholarships, charitable group donations and educational youth programming throughout the year. For more information about the airshow, performers and discount tickets, visit www.californiacapitalairshow.com ★

Yolo County's Placard System Enhances Food Safety and Public Health

Continued from page 1
placarding system ensures consistency and serves as an effective communication tool to inform the public about all food facilities in Yolo County," said Michelle Bilodeau, Environmental Health Program Coordinator. "This initiative empowers residents to make informed decisions and feel confident about the safety of their food choices."

These placards indicate the number of critical risk factor violations a food facility receives during health inspections. There are five major risk factors related to food safety practices within the retail food industry that contribute to foodborne illnesses:

Hygiene – Not washing hands or working while sick.
Food Temperatures

– Hot foods must be 135 degrees Fahrenheit or above, and cold foods must be held at 41 degrees Fahrenheit or less.

Inadequate Cooking – Undercooked foods.

Contamination – Washing and sanitizing utensils and food contact surfaces.

Unapproved Food Sources – Foods made in home and/or unpermitted kitchens.

There are a handful of retail food facility permit types that do not receive a color-coded placard. Cottage food operators (CFOs), who are allowed to make some non-perishable baked goods like cookies in a home kitchen, do not receive a placard. Similarly, food booths at temporary events do not receive color-coded placards

at this time. However, all permitted retail food facilities receive a paper permit, which consumers can always ask to see. The permit to operate should be posted in a visible area for consumer assurance. Knowing that a facility is permitted provides peace of mind, as it signifies that the establishment has undergone thorough inspection and complies with health and safety regulations. This permit underscores the hard work and diligence of our inspection team in ensuring food safety and protecting public health.

For more information, contact the Environmental Health Division at (530) 666-8646 or visit the Environmental Health Division's webpage at www.YoloCounty.org/EnvironmentalHealth ★

Governor Newsom Announces Appointments

Governor Press Office
News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Myriam Valdez-Singh, a public servant from West Sacramento, has been appointed Deputy Director of Legislation at the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation by Governor Gavin Newsom.

Valdez-Singh brings extensive experience, having most recently served as Deputy Appointments Secretary in Governor Newsom's office since 2021.

Her previous roles include Legislative Director for State Senator Melissa Hurtado and Legislative and Policy Advocate at Health Access California. Valdez-Singh holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from California State University, Bakersfield, and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California. The position, with a salary of \$141,732, does not require Senate confirmation. Valdez-Singh is affiliated with the Democratic Party. ★

Legendary Locomotive Makes 19 Whistle Stops

Big Boy No. 4014 Features Public Display Days in Roseville



Big Boy No. 4014 will stop in Roseville for two days and Oroville for 30 minutes. The public is invited to check out this historical icon. Photo courtesy of Union Pacific

By MPG Staff

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION (MPG) - Union Pacific's legendary Big Boy No. 4014, the world's largest operating steam locomotive built to conquer mountains, will make 19 whistle-stops in five states this summer during its 2024 Westward Bound Tour from Wyoming to California.

In addition, this mighty steam locomotive will be on public display for two days in Roseville (nearby Placer County) from July 12 to July 13. The display days offer an up-close look at the 1.2-million-pound marvel along with the "Experience the Union Pacific" rail car, a captivating walk-through exhibition that provides a unique glimpse into the rich history of railroading.

Northern California residents will also be able to see the steam locomotive in Oroville during a whistle stop on July 11, tentatively scheduled from 2:15 to 2:45 p.m. at Old Depot, 2181 High St., Oroville. (Check <https://www.up.com/heritage/steam/schedule/index.htm> to make sure the train is on time.)

Big Boy history

Twenty-five Big Boy locomotives were built for Union Pacific to haul freight over the steep grade of the Wasatch Mountain Range in Utah during World War II. Eight were preserved after the locomotives were retired six decades ago, but only Big Boy No. 4014 is still in operation.

During World War II Union Pacific operated some of the most modern and powerful steam locomotives ever built. Among them were the famous "Big Boys," the largest steam locomotives in the world. Working with them were the "800-class" high-speed passenger locomotives, as well as hundreds of older class steam engines. Union Pacific's steam legacy continues today with the preservation and operation

of its historic fleet – No. 844 and No. 4014.

Today, Union Pacific delivers goods in 23 western states. More information about Union Pacific is available at www.up.com.

Scheduled whistle-stops:

June 30 – Laramie, Wyoming
July 1 – Wamsutter, Wyoming
July 3 – Green River, Wyoming
July 4 – Morgan, Utah
July 6 – Wells, Nevada
July 8 – Carlin and Battle Mountain, Nevada
July 9 – Gerlach, Nevada
July 11 – Oroville, California
July 14 – Colfax and Truckee, California
July 16 – Lovelock, Nevada
July 17 – Carlin, Nevada
July 19 – Montello, Nevada
July 22 – Brigham City, Utah, and Soda Springs, Idaho
July 23 – Kemmerer, Wyoming
July 25 – Point of Rocks, Wyoming
July 26 – Medicine Bow, Wyoming

See the locomotive for free in Roseville

City of Roseville officials are excited to provide area residents with a historical opportunity to see Big Boy No. 4014, the world's largest steam locomotive, on July 12 and July 13 in downtown Roseville.

To honor Union Pacific's railroad legacy and celebrate the railroad's employees and communities it serves, the city of Roseville will offer additional festivities at Vernon Street Town Square, 311 Vernon St., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 13. Festivities for all ages will include live music, food trucks, Old West performances from the Black Flag Gang,

Vernon Street Town Square Spray Ground, Vernon Street Town Square Spray Ground and a Farmer's Market with a kids' zone.

The Carnegie Museum at 557 Lincoln St., Roseville will also be open July 13 with an exhibit featuring the history of the Big Boy and a kids' railroad activity.

"With the Roseville railyard being the largest rail facility on the West Coast, handling 98% of all rail traffic coming into Northern California, we are all excited to view and experience this rolling museum of rail history in Downtown Roseville," said Roseville City Councilmember Scott Alvord.

Alvord and his wife, Karen, previously owned a restaurant on Vernon Street, parallel to the Roseville train tracks, for 12 years.

"The railroad has always given Roseville character," he said, which is why they chose that restaurant location.

"I am excited for the many new families who moved to Roseville in recent years because they get to experience some of fun railroad history that Roseville was built on," added Karen Alvord, now a Roseville City Council candidate.

About the 2024 Westward Bound Tour

Union Pacific reminds all rail fans to keep safety top of mind and stay 25 feet back from the tracks when taking a picture or viewing this mammoth machine. That means never take a picture or video standing on the track or the ballast and never climb on the locomotive or equipment.

A steam tracking map showing No. 4014's location and route will be available at UPsteam.com.

Big Boy left its home base in Cheyenne, Wyoming, on June 30, traveling across Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and California. On its return trip to Wyoming, it will travel for a short stretch across southeast Idaho. ★

Community Thanked During State of the City



The 2024 State of the City Address in the City Hall Galleria drew out key city officials and stakeholders at the event hosted by the West Sacramento Chamber of Commerce. Photo courtesy of the City of West Sacramento

Continued from page 1
reset” improvements long overdue.

The Public Works Department also received upgrades, including relocating the Municipal Corporation Yard Facility from its current location on South River Road to West Capitol Avenue, which is on the city’s western edge.

“With this state-of-the-art facility, public works teams will have the increased capacity to maintain city infrastructure and to respond to increasingly severe weather events that threaten the safety of residents,” she said.

Speaking of threat, through a partnership with Sacramento Rebuilding Together, the West Sacramento Safe at Home program, seniors receive the free installation of safety supports such as grab bars, ramps, lighting and other necessities to feel secure.

Road improvements followed safety and quality of life, with the mayor saying conditions are a “deep frustration.”

Guerro said the city’s Neighborhood Pavement Preservation Program was created to preserve and maintain local residential roadways to extend their service life.

The mayor thanked Congresswoman Doris Matsui for her support, which helped secure \$2.6 million in funding for the Sacramento Avenue Complete Street Plan, which will improve the safety, walkability, and aesthetics of Sacramento Avenue as a fitting gateway to the Bryte and Broderick neighborhoods.

“Again, we owe Congresswoman Matsui a deep gratitude for her advocacy and support of improving our levee system,” Guerro said, noting more than \$210 million for flood protection and levee maintenance helps secure the city against more commonplace, severe

weather events.

Guerro’s detailed list of parks and trail projects took up much of her speech, with one upgrade more successful than the next.

“The \$7.8-million fully funded West Acre Park Project is currently in its final stages of concept design with construction set to begin this year,” Guerro said, adding that a new skate park, sports infrastructure, and reflexology and meditation paths are in the future.

While the audience offered light applause for transportation measures, including the Enterprise Bridge Project and VIA Downtown Transit Expansion, the mayor’s mention of the Oakland A’s earned the loudest applause.

“Now let’s talk about the excitement we all feel for the upcoming 2025 baseball season and a Major League team moving in,” she said. “The Athletics are excited to work with the River Cats and the A’s to guarantee fans from all over the region a great time will be had in West Sacramento.”

The A’ relocation means more business with local stores “gearing up for an expected influx of fans from all over the region to help mine and explore new opportunities on the economic front.”

According to Guerro, affordable housing will remain a top concern. The new Infill Impact Fee Reduction Program provides fee reductions for development projects that utilize the city’s urban infill areas.

“Depending on the project specifics, reductions can go as high as 60% for residential projects and 44% for all other use types,” Guerro said. “The fee reductions will launch as a three- to five-year pilot program to incentivize infill development.”

After nearly 16 years of

wading through economic downturn and recession, the Liberty Master-Plan Project will assist the community’s most vulnerable senior residents with apartments, townhomes, and attached and detached homes. Additionally, the mayor was “thrilled to announce a new Comcast agreement” offering a fiber-rich network to West Sacramento.

“This will be a game-changing investment beginning with the Broderick and Bryte neighborhoods,” Guerro said.

The mayor, citing a Bloomberg Philanthropies report, said the next generation of West Sacramento residents is key to the community.

“Up to 84% of youth around the globe are worried about the increasing impact of climate change,” Guerro said. “As one of 100 mayors across the globe to receive the \$50,000 micro-grant, we are partnering with Breath California to gather ideas to make the greatest impact.”

Youth are also prioritized with the Home Run program and paid internships, noting the hundreds of applicants and 36 local businesses and organizations that requested interns for 2024.

Guerro said that no success would have been possible without the “incredibly skilled, innovative and talented” city staff who helped make the council’s dreams come true.

As for her peers, Guerro said, she greatly appreciates the council’s “willingness to serve” and asked them to stand to be recognized. But most of all, the mayor said, it is the community that deserves recognition.

“Thank you most of all to the community for all you do to make West Sacramento a warm and welcoming place to live,” Guerro said. ★

Free or Low-Cost Home Repairs in the Bryte Broderick Neighborhood

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento has extended the deadline for applications for free or low-cost home repairs for homeowners in the Bryte Broderick neighborhood of West Sacramento. The new deadline to apply is 4 p.m. July 12.

Interested applicants can visit the organization’s website at habitatgreatersac.org/rockbrytebroderick

to determine eligibility and download an application (available in English, Spanish and Russian).

To reach more homeowners who might benefit from these opportunities, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento is asking that this information is shared with friends, family, and social media accounts. Additionally, informational fliers to share in your community can be downloaded from habitatgreatersac.org/rockbrytebroderick.

Do you have suggestions for community

investment projects or partnerships for this year’s Rock the Block? Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento wants to hear from you. Visit <https://habitatgreatersac.org/rock-the-block-bryte-broderick-community-investment-project-suggestions/> to fill out a Community Investment Project Suggestion form.

Questions about community investment projects? Contact Darnell Dumas at ddumas@habitatgreatersac.org or call 916.440.1215, extension 1109. ★

Decades-Long Development Continues



Community gardens are among many features in the mixed-use, affordable housing development. Photo courtesy of the City of West Sacramento

Continued from page 1
constructed pedestrian, cycling, transit and parking improvements,” the vision supported the development of 137 affordable housing units for West Gateway Place Phase 1 and 2.

Funds also made it possible to acquire the Old Town Inn and Rodeway Inn sites to provide interim supportive emergency housing services for residents experiencing homelessness.

“Over time, the Grand Gateway Development area has expanded, providing the opportunity for a larger development with a greater range of opportunities,” Polhemus said.

According to Polhemus, West Sacramento is using state grant funding to update Grand Gateway’s planning and design policies to reflect current physical and policy conditions.

“This work will enable the city to streamline the development approval process so future developers can plan and build the site efficiently,” he said.

In the “grand” scheme, the development will include a mix of income-restricted affordable and market-rate units.

“This will be in addition to 137 affordable units currently existing or under construction in the West Gateway Place apartment developments, located on Tower Bridge Gateway,” Polhemus said. “The city anticipates the development team to add over 400 total units, with 25 percent of those designated

as affordable, with rent limits set at or below 80 percent of the Area Median Income.”

The project manager said the high-quality units with income-based rents reflect the city’s commitment to producing affordable and market-rate housing adjacent to job centers and high-quality public amenities, including the River Walk and expanding trails network.

“In this development area alone, the city has leveraged local funds to secure millions of dollars of state and regional grant funds to improve pedestrian, bicycling, and transit facilities and contribute towards the West Gateway Place affordable units,” Polhemus said.

It’s not just about the housing; streets constitute a significant part of the region.

“We’re continuously pursuing grants to improve our street network to remove barriers to alternative transportation modes, like walking or cycling,” Polhemus said. “Together, our housing and transportation network investments result in a more sustainable and equitable community.”

What makes the project unique is a new hotel.

“It will benefit from the growing list of regional, statewide and national attractions happening in the Greater Sacramento core, such as sporting and entertainment events at Sutter Health Park and the Golden1 Center, the Farm-to-Fork Festival, Ironman and more,” Polhemus said.

Another feature that makes the development even more grandiose is SKK Development’s eye for art.

“They are integrating public art and destination features into this project and expand on the city’s public art strategy and investments in the surrounding Bridge District and Washington District neighborhoods,” Polhemus said of the developer who created the Mansion Apartments and the Press @ Midtown Quarter.

“UrbanCore Development, the project’s affordable housing developer, also has a strong portfolio of high-density urban developments in Sacramento and the Bay Area,” Polhemus said. “Locally, they’ve developed the 180-unit Cannery Place and 118-unit Eviva Midtown projects in Sacramento.”

Among all the Grand Gateway Development construction over the years, what remains the same is the commitment of numerous City Council bodies to the long-term vision.

“These kinds of projects take a long time to materialize. We’ve acquired and cleaned up these properties to make them suitable for residential and experiential uses,” Polhemus said. “This site is an amazing opportunity for the city to expand the investments and developments happening in the Bridge and Washington Districts to West Capitol Avenue, which we hope will continue.” ★

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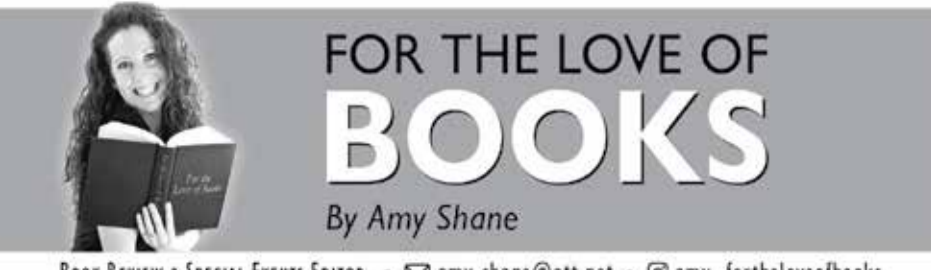
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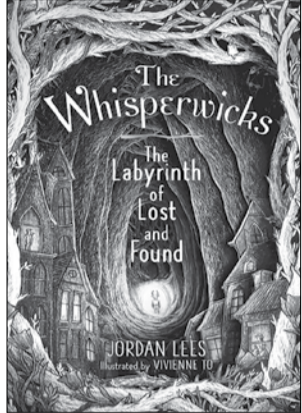
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FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS
By Amy Shane
BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • 📷 amy_fortheloveofbooks

Middle Grade Summer of Adventure!

Grab your flashlight and a notebook. It's time for two exciting summer adventures, perfect for the middle-grade reader.



Something Maybe Magnificent
by R.L. Toalson; Aladdin Books

After last summer, Victoria made the “No Fail Plan For The Perfect Summer Vacation.” This summer would end up differently than last summer. Her no-fail plan will definitely keep her busy between her goals to get published, read Sylvia Plath, start running, meet the cute boy in the neighborhood, and definitely forget all about her dad. The only problem is Kyle Moreland, her mom’s new boyfriend. He is now the guy who sticks around. And what’s even worse is that Kyle is now coming along on family outings and even cooking in their kitchen. There’s only one thing to do: add one more thing to the list- Get rid of Kyle.

Yet, once again, things don’t go as planned, and the more she focuses on getting Kyle out, the worse she feels. On top of that, her body keeps changing, along with her views of womanhood. But Victoria would do anything to protect her mom, even if that might mean reevaluating her plan.

Set out on a truly magnificent summer adventure. This coming-of-age story combines the themes of discovery, parents remarrying, body changes, and so many pre-teen emotions. Take a glimpse inside the mind of thirteen-year-old Victoria Reeves within the pages of her diary. Follow all the many confusing feelings, thoughts, plans, and lists of one determined girl. Readers will instantly fall for and even relate to Victoria, rooting for her and her perfect summer.

The Whisterwicks The Labyrinth of Lost And Found
by Jordan Less, illustrated by Vivienne To; Simon and Schuster Books For Young Readers

Benjaminah doesn’t believe in anything that cannot be proven logically. But he is forced to believe in the unbelievable when he is sent a mysterious gift—a magically transforming doll.

Instantly, Benjaminah is thrown into the world of Wreathenwold, where the city hides its dark secrets within its labyrinth maze . Now, Benjaminah and brilliant-minded Elizabella must outwit and outlast dangerous creatures and monsters that dwell within the labyrinth as they try to solve the disappearance of Elizabella’s missing brother. But even scarier, will Benjaminah be able to find his way out of the maze and back home or will he be stay forever lost?

A truly magical adventure that will captivate any reader who dares to enter its pages. Jordan Lees will whisk his readers right into a dark and dangerous city filled with every creature that lurks in the night. Daring adventure meets the two best characters in a story that no one will forget. This book is sure to be the five-star magical adventure of the summer. The Whisperwicks The Labyrinth of the Lost and Found is refreshing in its storyline while also being a dark, mysterious, magical read. An artistic nod also goes to Vivienne To, whose artwork throughout the book delivers its own enchanting narrative.★



Not Just a Bump in the Road

Dear Dave,

I’m currently on Baby Step 2 of your plan, and I’m six months away from being debt-free, except for my home. Recently, I’ve run into an issue with my sister, who has a good job, but continually makes poor choices with money. Over the last six months, she has also asked to borrow money from me and others in our family several times, including again yesterday. I don’t want to be cruel, but the whole issue has gotten out of hand. How do you think I should approach her about this?

– James

Dear James

Handling issues like this can be complicated, especially when family or friends are involved. But honestly, I think you should just tell your sister the

Dave Ramsey Says

truth. Keep it simple. Let her know you’re trying to get out of debt and change the way you handle your finances, so you don’t have extra money sitting around. Explain to her, too, that part of this is you’re not playing around with debt anymore, and this means you won’t be loaning or borrowing money again.

Make sure you do this with a kind spirit, James. Most people in your sister’s position already know deep down that they’re making bad decisions. So, it’s important that you talk to her in a gentle, caring way. See if you can get her to talk about what’s really going on with her money. You could even let her know you might consider giving her some money as a gift if you had any extra lying around—and you knew she was in control financially. But you’re not really helping someone who’s financially incompetent, or just plain immature, when you give them cash or even loan them money.

You’re not helping someone if you participate in their misbehavior with

them, so you’ve got to look at the big picture in situations like this. Your sister hasn’t just hit a hard time, with lots of unexpected expenses or a job loss. Right now, her behavior with money isn’t just a bump in the road, it’s a lifestyle.

Sometimes you have to love someone enough to sit them down, and tell them the truth. Even if it’s family, that can also mean saying no and telling them it’s time to straighten up and start acting right.

– 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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pastorron@newseasons.ws.com
www.newseasons.ws.com

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Did Political Bias Actually Influence California Court Ruling on Anti-Tax Ballot Measure?



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

When the California Supreme Court unanimously declared a week ago that a highly controversial tax limitation measure could not appear on the November ballot, its proponents immediately cried foul.

They alleged that a court dominated by Democratic appointees had acted with political motives rather than legal reasoning, ruling that The Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act was a revision of the state constitution and could not be proposed through a citizen's initiative.

"Clearly, the state Supreme Court has now sent a signal that they are part of the progressive agenda in California, that we are a one-party state in California and there is no independent judiciary in California anymore," Rob Lapsley, president of the California Business Roundtable, a major sponsor of the measure, told reporters.

In a statement, Jon Coupal, president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Association — another sponsor — was equally critical, saying, "The seven justices of the Supreme Court yielded to the wishes of the political branches (and) put politics ahead of

the state Constitution.

"It is now obvious that all three branches of California's government — executive, legislative and judiciary — believe the government may decide how much money it needs and raise taxes accordingly, and the voters may not constrain them."

Given their backgrounds, it's reasonable to assume that most if not all of the justices may personally dislike a measure to redefine many fees as taxes and put very strict limits on state and local governments' ability to increase them. But did that cause them to block the measure and cloak their bias in a blizzard of legal language, as the sponsors claim?

The justices seemingly anticipated that its motives would be questioned, stressing "the limited nature of our inquiry" very early in their ruling.

"We do not consider or weigh the economic or social wisdom or general propriety of the initiative," Justice Goodwin Liu declared, adding, "The only question before us is whether the measure may be validly enacted by initiative."

A careful reading of the 51-page decision acquits Liu and his colleagues of alleged ideological bias. It's evident that in drafting the measure, proponents overreached by making very fundamental changes in California's governance system, amounting to a revision of the Constitution that can only be proposed by the Legislature or a constitutional convention.

The court said the measure's most obviously revisionist aspect

would have compelled the Legislature to submit any tax increases to voters for ratification, thereby impairing legislative taxation powers that have been part of the state's structure for its entire 174-year history.

"No speculation regarding potential future consequences is needed to conclude that the (Taxpayer Protection Act) is a revision on its face," Liu wrote. "The measure would fundamentally restructure the most basic of governmental powers. The TPA would exclude the levying of new taxes from the Legislature's control by requiring voter approval of all such measures."

Some critics have suggested that the current court would have invalidated Proposition 13, the iconic 1978 property tax limitation measure. But Liu also addressed that, writing that Prop. 13's changes "operate functionally within a relatively narrow range to accomplish a new system of taxation which may provide substantial tax relief for our citizens. We decline to hold that such a limited purpose cannot be achieved directly by the people through the initiative process."

In other words, had the Business Roundtable and Coupal's group proposed less sweeping changes in taxing authority, such a measure may have survived the legal challenge that Gov. Gavin Newsom, the Legislature and local governments mounted.

Given the legal uncertainty in California about who can levy what taxes on which activities, a clarifying ballot measure would be welcomed. ★

Durheim Joins California Farm Bureau as First Chief Operating Officer



Dan Durheim is the California Farm Bureau's new chief operating officer. Photo courtesy California Farm Bureau

California Farm Bureau News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Farm Bureau is pleased to announce Dan Durheim as its new chief operating officer. This is a newly created leadership role for the 105-year-old nonprofit organization.

Most recently, Durheim served as associate vice president of sponsor relations for Nationwide Insurance, building strong relationships with state Farm Bureaus, including the California Farm Bureau. He served a nearly 18-year tenure with the American Farm Bureau Federation in varying

roles, including executive director of industry affairs, foundation executive director and director of program development. His experience also includes working in leadership positions within the Minnesota Farm Bureau.

The Board of Directors for the California Farm Bureau selected Durheim for the role of COO from over 1,100 candidates following a comprehensive executive search led by Morrison, a top-tier business consulting firm.

"Dan has been a long-time champion for agriculture and for Farm Bureau, strongly believing in the work of this organization on behalf of farmers

and ranchers on the county, state and national level," said California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass. "Dan's deep experience with Farm Bureau, established relationships within the industry, selfless leadership style and focus on strategic service of our members makes him uniquely qualified to serve in this historic position for our organization."

"I am delighted to join an organization that has such a renowned reputation serving and advocating for the most diversified agriculture industry in the nation," Durheim said. "California Farm Bureau has a talented team and highly engaged board, all dedicated to advocacy and service of its members. California Farm Bureau's efforts are instrumental in protecting the farmers and ranchers who make California the No. 1 agriculture state in the nation, and it is an honor to know I can share my experience and talents to continue to advance these incredible contributions."

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

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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 attorney or

appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: 6/17/2024 Prestige Default Services, LLC 1920 Old Tustin Ave. Santa Ana, California 92705 Questions: 949-427-2010 Sale Line: (877) 440-4460 Patricia Sanchez, Trustee Sale Officer Publish 6/28, 7/5, 7/12, 2024 NEWS LEDGER 7-12-24

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AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check payable at the time of sale in lawful money of the United States (payable to Attorney Lender Services, Inc.) will be held by the duly appointed Trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: ABDUL MUNIF AND MUBARAK B. MUNIF HUSBAND AND WIFE AS JOINT TENANTS Trustee: ATTORNEY LENDER SERVICES, INC. Recorded 05/16/2008 as Instrument No. 2008-0015159-00 in book --, at Page -- of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of YOLO County, California, pursuant to a Judgement Reforming Deed of Trust recorded 2/13/2022, as Instrument No. 2022-0027231. Date of Sale: 07/26/2024 at 12:45 PM Place of Sale: At the North entrance to the City Hall located at 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$202,248.04 estimated - as of date of first publication of this Notice of Sale The purported property address is: 620 -620 A MAPLE ST WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691 A.P.N.: 008-131-050 convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering

bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property 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. If the sale occurs after 1/1/2021, the sale may not be final until either 15 or 45 days after the sale date - see Notice to Tenant. Further, no TDUS can be issued until the sale is final. Your bid is subject to being over bid by the Tenant or "eligible bidder" after the sale and if your bid is over bid, your only remedy is to the refund of your actual bid amount without interest or payment of any other costs, expenses or funds of any kind or nature incurred by the initial successor bidder. 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 (916) 939-0772 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this Internet Website www.nationwideposting.com for information regarding the sale

of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, 22-0032. 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 Website. 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 and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (916) 939-0772, or visit this internet website www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 22-0032 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the 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 attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: 06/13/2024 ATTORNEY LENDER SERVICES, INC. KAREN TALAFUS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY 5120 E. La Palma Avenue, #209 Anaheim, CA 92807 Phone: 714-695-6637 This office is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. NPP0462200 To: NEWS LEDGER 07/05/2024, 07/12/2024, 07/19/2024 News Ledger 7-19-24

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The West Sacramento City Council will conduct five (5) public hearings on July 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as possible on the items listed below. The hearings will be held in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center, 1110 West Capitol Ave., West Sacramento. All interested persons are invited to attend the hearings and express opinions. Please note: The City does not transcribe its hearings; however, action minutes are prepared and are publicly available once approved by the hearing body.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk, at clerk@cityofwestsacramento.org, seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting to allow the City to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to this meeting.

Pursuant to Government Code Section § 38773.5 and West Sacramento Municipal Code 19.05.015.5,

PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 24-78 CERTIFYING THE LIST OF PAST DUE CODE ENFORCEMENT CHARGES, DIRECTING THAT A LIEN BE PLACED ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTIES AND REQUESTING THE INCLUSION OF THESE CHARGES ON THE SECURED TAX ROLL IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY BE COLLECTED IN THE SAME MANNER AS GENERAL TAXES

Pursuant to Government Code Section § 60018,

PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 24-24 CERTIFYING THE LIST OF WEED ABATEMENT CHARGES, DIRECTING THAT A LIEN BE PLACED ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTIES AND REQUESTING INCLUSION OF THESE CHARGES ON THE SECURED TAX ROLL IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY BE COLLECTED IN THE SAME MANNER AS GENERAL TAXES

Pursuant to Government Code Section § 54954.6 and State Highways Code 22556

PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 24-72 CONFIRMING THE DIAGRAM AND ASSESSMENT AND ORDERING IMPROVEMENTS (MAINTENANCE) TO BE MADE FOR THE LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING DISTRICT NO. 1

Pursuant to Government Code Section § 54954.6,

PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 24-73 CONFIRMING THE DIAGRAM AND ASSESSMENT AND ORDERING IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE STORM DRAIN MAINTENANCE DISTRICT NO. 1 (RALEY'S LANDING)

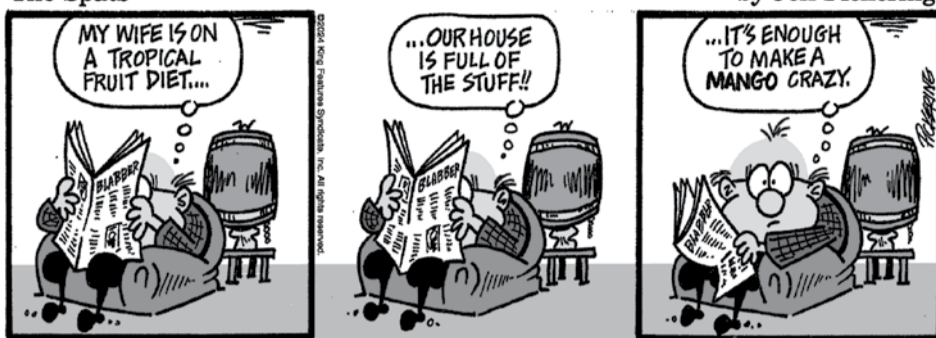
Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section § 12811

PUBLIC HEARING AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 24-XX CERTIFYING INCLUSION OF DELINQUENT CHARGES AND PENALTIES FOR WATER, SEWER AND REFUSE SERVICES ON THE SECURED TAX ROLL IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE GENERAL TAXES AND DIRECTING THAT A LIEN ALSO BE PLACED ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTIES

COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



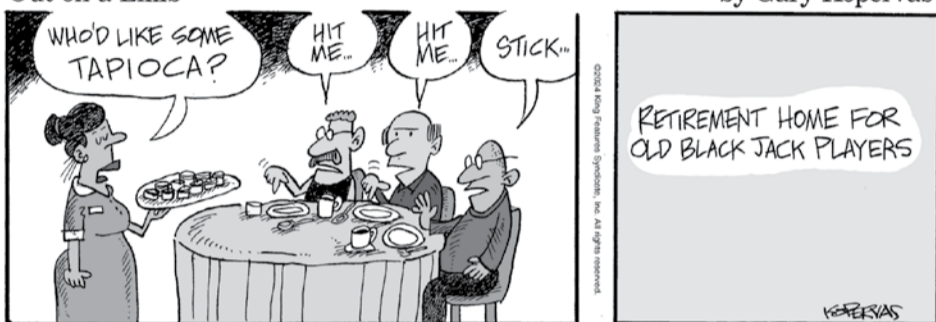
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



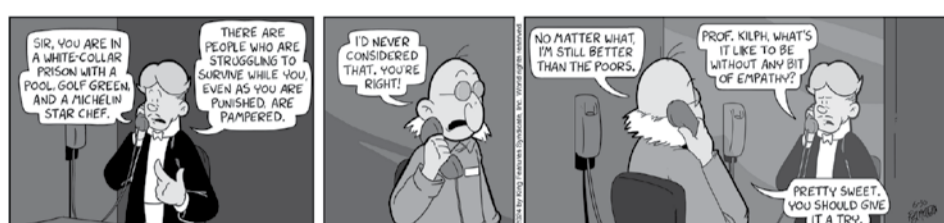
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Wheel is different. 3. Fence is not as wide. 4. Sleeve is added. 5. Release lever is missing. 6. Hair is not different.

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CLUES

- ACROSS**
- UPS competitor
 - Banking convenience
 - Shape with an axe
 - Arctic floater
 - Court bargain
 - Dashboard window
 - *Claude Monet's "Water Lilies," e.g.
 - Petri dish gel
 - Noble gas
 - *Post-1919 drinking establishment
 - Not hit
 - More than a scuffle
 - "That is to say"
 - Jewish village
 - One's full DNA sequence, pl.
 - Interesting person, acr.
 - Cord made from animal intestines
 - Type of tide
 - No such thing as a free one?
 - Credit card rate
 - Boatload
 - St. Louis' Gateway, e.g.
 - Cast-off skin
 - U.N. working-conditions agcy.
 - **"Unsinkable"?
 - Violent protester
 - Golfer's goal
 - Puts behind bars
 - Samoan money
 - *Armed conflict (3 words)
 - *Famous Bolshevik
 - Storm centers
 - Lake ___ of boxing world
 - Neural transmitters
 - High school breakout
 - Speech defect
 - 1968 hit "Harper Valley ___"
 - Grassland
 - Trousers
- DOWN**
- They're often described as disc-shaped
 - Freudian error
 - *Roald Amundsen's southern destination
 - The Muppets' street
 - Lake scum
 - Razz
 - * ___ Pickford, "America's Sweetheart" of silent film era
 - Comforting gestures
 - Prima donna problems
 - Skin cyst
 - Saffron-flavored rice dish
 - Street urchin
 - *48th State
 - Sailing vessel with two masts
 - Animal doctor, for short
 - Water balloon sound
 - Alluring maiden
 - Add a touch of color
 - Spiritual leader
 - *"Boy Scout's ___" badge
 - Two under par on a hole
 - Animal trail
 - After-bath powder
 - General Post Office
 - *"Little Tramp" portrayal
 - Chef Julia ___
 - Address for a man

CROSSWORD											
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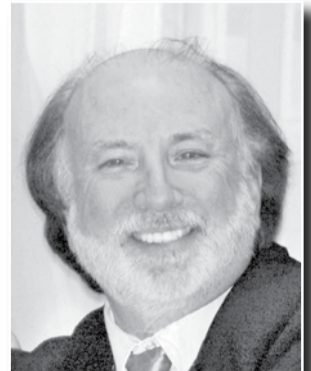
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First-Ever California Adopt-a-Pet Day Finds Homes for 3,609 Pets

CalAnimals News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - 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) announced the results of the first-ever California Adopt-a-Pet Day, with 3,609 pets adopted into loving homes on June 1. The day-long event included more than 170 animal welfare organizations across the state working collaboratively to nearly double the original goal of finding homes for 2,024 pets. The ASPCA provided funds to cover the cost of the adoptions at participating shelters so that they were free to the public.

Of the 3,609 total pets adopted on California Adopt-a-Pet Day, there were 1,977 cats, 1,541 dogs, and 91 others, including rabbits, guinea pigs, and other small animals.

One of the pets matched with a loving family was a dog named Nelly, a 3.5-year-old mastiff mix, who had been in the care of Friends of the Alameda Animal Shelter (FAAS) for 1.5 years after originally arriving at the shelter as a stray. Described by shelter staff as being sweet and shy, Nelly was finally matched with an adopter on California Adopt-a-Pet Day after San Ramon resident, Sahiba Singh, traveled 40 minutes to meet Nelly after seeing her on the shelter's social media. Within a couple of minutes of meeting, Nelly, who normally takes a long time to warm up to strangers, was sitting on Singh's feet.

Nelly, now nicknamed Nelly Bean, was quickly adopted by Singh and is happily settling in to her new home.

"Her little lopsided face is perfect. She jumped out at me immediately. I read that she was shy and needed a quiet home. We have that. I had to meet her," said Singh. "She's so happy here, and we love her so much. We're going to give her a lifetime of reasons to wag."

"I'm overwhelmed with gratitude by the number of Californians that visited their local shelter on June 1, and am thrilled to find that for many, this was their very first time adopting a shelter pet," said Jill Tucker, CEO of CalAnimals. "Our shelters are overcrowded with a variety of wonderful animals just waiting for people to come and meet them, and it is our greatest hope that members of the public will visit shelters first when they are ready for a new pet. I want to thank all the shelters for participating in this wonderful event to promote adoptions and extend my sincere gratitude to the ASPCA and San Francisco SPCA for making this event possible. We have illustrated that by working together, we can truly make a difference."

In recent years, California shelters have faced a large influx of animals as the result of ongoing challenges facing pet owners, including economic hardships, the difficulties of accessing pet-friendly housing and the lack of affordable veterinary care due to the shortage of veterinarians. These challenges often force families to have to make the difficult choice to part with their pets and have prevented many families from adopting new pets. California has one of the highest rates of renters in the



3,609 pets were adopted into loving homes on June 1 at California Adopt-a-Pet Day. Image by congerdesign from Pixabay

country, and housing is one of the largest barriers for families being able to keep or adopt a pet.

California Adopt-a-Pet Day was managed by CalAnimals, which focuses on the success of California animal welfare and sheltering organizations in meeting the needs of animals and people in their communities. The initiative was 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 across the country to save, transform, and protect the lives of millions of dogs, cats, equines, and farm animals in the fight against animal cruelty and homelessness. The next annual California Adopt-a-Pet Day will take place in June 2025. For those interested in adopting or fostering an animal, visit [ASPCA.org/TheRescueEffect](https://www.aspcanet.org/TheRescueEffect) to learn more. ★

First Mosquito Sample Tests Positive for West Nile Virus in Yolo County

Sacramento Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District

YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District announced on June 26 that the first mosquito sample of the season has tested positive for West Nile virus in Yolo County. The mosquito sample was collected near the town of Dunnigan and follows the detection of a dead bird that also tested positive for the disease in Woodland in June.

"This is a clear sign that West Nile virus activity is spreading," said Gary Goodman, district manager. "At the same time, West Nile

virus activity continues to gradually increase as more dead birds and mosquito samples collected from Land Park and other areas throughout the city of Sacramento also tested positive the same week. With the warmer temperatures we've seen recently, West Nile virus activity is steadily rising. We are heading into one of the hottest months of the year and it's extremely important that residents continue taking proper precautions to protect themselves from mosquitoes."

Last year in California, there were 433 confirmed human cases of the disease, including 19 fatalities.

2024 West Nile virus activity update, as of June 26

Sacramento County:
17 dead birds and 10 mosquito samples have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

Yolo County:
1 dead bird and 1 mosquito sample have tested positive for West Nile virus.

In response to the recent findings, the district will continue to monitor all West Nile virus activity through widespread mosquito trapping and testing as well as perform ground treatments in areas where positive mosquitoes have been found to quickly decrease populations and protect public health.

Another ongoing concern is the spread of invasive mosquitoes throughout the district. *Aedes aegypti* were detected for the first time within district boundaries in 2019 and *Aedes albopictus* were first found in 2022. This year, invasive mosquitoes have already been found in different areas throughout

the district. Invasive mosquitoes aggressively bite during the day and pose a significant health threat because they can transmit dangerous viruses including Zika, dengue fever and chikungunya.

To see a complete map of the West Nile virus findings and for current information about district activities, visit online <https://www.fightthebite.net/media/wnv-activity-map>

Residents can also subscribe to mailing lists to receive email notifications for upcoming mosquito treatments by zip code. To sign up, go to [Spray Notifications](https://www.fightthebite.net) on the website at [www.FIGHTtheBITE.net](https://www.fightthebite.net). ★

Could AI Reject Your Resume? California Tries to Prevent a New Kind of Discrimination

By Khari Johnson CALMatters.org

California regulators are moving to restrict how employers can use artificial intelligence to screen workers and job applicants — warning that using AI to measure tone of voice, facial expressions and reaction times may run afoul of the law.

The draft regulations say that if companies use automated systems to limit or prioritize applicants based on pregnancy, national origin, religion or criminal history, that's discrimination.

Members of the public have until July 18 to comment on the proposed rules. After that, regulators in the California Civil Rights Department may amend and will eventually approve them, subject to final review by an administrative law judge, capping off a process that began three years ago.

The rules govern so-called "automated decision systems" — artificial intelligence and other computerized processes, including quizzes, games, resume screening, and even advertising placement. The regulations say using such systems to analyze physical characteristics or reaction times may constitute illegal discrimination. The systems may



Illustration by Adriana Heldiz, CalMatters; iStock

not be used at all, the new rules say, if they have an "adverse impact" on candidates based on certain protected characteristics.

The draft rules also require companies that sell predictive services to employers to keep records for four years in order to respond to discrimination claims.

A crackdown is necessary in part because while businesses want to automate parts of the hiring process, "this new technology can obscure responsibility and make it harder to discern who's responsible when a person is subjected to discriminatory decision-making," said Ken Wang, a policy associate with the

California Employment Lawyers Association.

The draft regulations make it clear that third-party service providers are agents of the employer and hold employers responsible.

The California Civil Rights Department started exploring how algorithms, a type of automated decision system, can impact job opportunities and automate discrimination in the workplace in April 2021. Back then, Autistic People of Color Fund founder Lydia X. Z. Brown warned the agency about the harm that hiring algorithms can inflict on people with disabilities. Brown told CalMatters that whether the new draft rules will

offer meaningful protection depends on how they're put in place and enforced.

Researchers, advocates and journalists have amassed a body of evidence that AI models can automate discrimination, including in the workplace. Last month, the American Civil Liberties Union filed a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission alleging that resume screening software made by the company Aon discriminates against people based on race and disability despite the company's claim that its AI is "bias free." An evaluation of leading artificial intelligence firm OpenAI's GPT-3.5 technology found that the large language

model can exhibit racial bias when used to automatically sift through the resumes of job applicants. Though the company uses filters to prevent the language model from producing toxic language, internal tests of GPT-3 also surfaced race, gender, and religious bias.

Protecting people from automated bias understandably attracts a lot of attention, but sometimes hiring software that's marketed as smart makes dumb decisions. Wearing glasses or a headscarf or having a bookshelf in the background of a video job interview can skew personality predictions, according to an investigative report by German public broadcast station Bayerischer Rundfunk. So can the font a job applicant chooses when submitting a resume, according to researchers at New York University.

California's proposed regulations are the latest in a series of initiatives aimed at protecting workers against businesses using harmful forms of AI.

In 2021, New York City lawmakers passed a law to protect job applicants from algorithmic discrimination in hiring, although researchers from Cornell University and Consumer Reports recently concluded that the law has been ineffective. And in 2022,

the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the U.S. Justice Department clarified that employers must comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act when using automation during hiring.

The California Privacy Protection Agency, meanwhile, is considering draft rules that, among other things, define what information employers can collect on contractors, job applicants, and workers, allowing them to see what data employers collect and to opt-out from such collection or request human review.

Pending legislation would further empower the source of the draft revisions, the California Civil Rights Department. Assembly Bill 2930 would allow the department to demand impact assessments from businesses and state agencies that use AI in order to protect against automated discrimination.

Outside of government, union leaders now increasingly argue that rank-and-file workers should be able to weigh in on the effectiveness and harms of AI in order to protect the public. Labor representatives have had conversations with California officials about specific projects as they experiment with how to use AI. ★