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Mayoral Hopefuls Mingle



Past, present and wannabe mayors kick off the 2025 Honorary Mayoral race in Carmichael. Kerri Mandes, left, won her sash in 2023. The current mayor is Miranda Viani, second from right. The 2020/21 winner was Izzy DeLancey, right. Next year's candidates are, from second left, Mikhaila Freas, Celia Surridge, Dr. Kawanaa Carter, Tony Myers and Shelby Glass.

**Story and photo
by Susan Maxwell Skinner**

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Carmichael's annual race for honorary mayor has five wannabes vying for 2025 office.

The rivals, four women and a lone male, include a neurosurgeon, a private school staffer and three business owners. With all eyes on the winner's sash, candidates recently launched campaigns.

The mayoralty is a Carmichael Chamber of Commerce tradition that

carries much prestige but no civic power. Fought out annually, its victor undertakes a year of ribbon-cuttings, tree-plantings and community interaction. Promoting business interests, along with occasional trash clean-ups, are additional perks.

With no term limitations, the appointment fundraises for the Chamber of Commerce and for charitable causes. August to November campaigns test candidates' fundraising flair and each donated dollar is counted as a vote. Put bluntly:

with the most cash, the winner gets the chicken dinner and the sash. Nonprofit organizations this year receive 75 percent of donations.

Here are the 2025 candidates:

Celia Surridge founded Celia Rose Creative consulting company to help merchants and organizations with online marketing. Her campaign will benefit Joshua's House Hospice project in developing a facility where homeless patients can receive end-of-life care.

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SMUD's \$10 Million State Grant Advances Long-Duration Battery Storage Technology

SMUD News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - SMUD's long-duration battery storage project in partnership with ESS Tech, Inc. has been awarded a \$10 million grant from the California Energy Commission to demonstrate a groundbreaking 3.6-megawatt, eight-hour iron flow battery project and set the foundation for future large-scale battery deployments and manufacturing at energy centers in Sacramento.

The project aims to showcase the capability and reliability of iron flow battery technology, which complements renewable energy sources like wind and solar by storing energy and strategically dispatching it based on demand to support grid distribution and transmission systems as SMUD transitions to a carbon-free power portfolio by 2030.

"Thank you to California Energy Commission Chairman David Hochschild, fellow commissioners and staff for continuing to lead the way in policy development and investments that make California the leader for others to follow in the transition to a clean energy future," said SMUD's Chief Legal & Government Affairs Officer Laura Lewis. "The CEC's partnership and investment in clean technologies are critical to advancing and bringing them to scale, while helping SMUD keep its rates among the lowest in California."

SMUD continues to make great strides toward its goal to eliminate carbon emissions from its power supply by 2030 through investments in renewable energy projects, customer programs and cutting-edge technologies, such as its partnership with ESS to deliver and grow long-duration energy storage and other zero-carbon innovation. This technology not only captures and stores clean energy, ensuring it's available around the clock and maximizing the use of renewable resources, but it also enhances resource adequacy, especially during peak demand times, providing a stable, reliable and clean energy supply for its community.

"The California Energy Commission is proud to support this exciting long-duration energy storage project which will help drive this new clean energy industry into the mainstream," said California Energy Commission Chair

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NCOA Plays a Vital Local Role

By Ornella Rossi

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA), a military service organization established in 1960, plays a vital role in supporting members across all United States Armed Forces branches and their families from Rancho Cordova and the greater Sacramento area through programs and initiatives.

With a mission focused on enhancing quality of life and supporting the professional development of non-commissioned officers, the association operates under the motto "Strength in Unity." Throughout the year, the organization raises funds through various programs and allocates them to area veterans in need.

The Non Commissioned Officers Association also collaborates with the Rancho Cordova Area Chamber of Commerce to promote community recycling events, enhancing environmental sustainability efforts.

A cornerstone of the association's support is the partnership with Volunteers of America for the Sacramento Stand Down, a multi-day event providing



Retired Chief Master Sergeant Sullivan presents Noncommissioned Officers Association Vietnam Medallions. Photo courtesy of Tammy Sullivan

critical services such as legal aid and medical and psychological treatments to homeless veterans. The Non Commissioned Officers Association contributed more than 500 towels for veterans in need at the event.

"It's an opportunity to help those veterans to be cared for," said Non Commissioned Officers Association International Auxiliary President Tammy Sullivan. "It happens all over Sacramento. Some of our most recent locations include Placer County and Elk Grove."

Another significant program involves the

association's partnership with the Veterans Administration (VA), where representatives actively assist in securing homes and furniture for homeless veterans. The association operates four warehouses in Rancho Cordova for storing donated items. Members meticulously maintain a list of veterans' needs and available resources, ensuring functional matching and furnishing of homes with appliances and furniture. Additionally, they facilitate direct delivery of these essentials to veterans' residences, further enhancing their support efforts.

Association members also plan to increase outreach

efforts to connect with the Veterans Village residents in Sacramento.

The Non Commissioned Officers Association members had an informational booth June 20 at the annual Rancho Cordova Business Expo & Job Fair.

"As a result of the business expo, we were able to start a partnership with JumpKing to acquire used, yet functional beds and mattresses for donation," Sullivan said. "We see a huge demand for these items when it comes to this program."

The Non Commissioned Officers Association also collaborates with Move

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Shenanigans Afoot!

NCOA Plays a Vital Local Role



Jen Holman (with scissors) slices the ribbon during opening celebrations at the new Madison Avenue bar and restaurant, Shenanigans. She is joined by customers, musicians and Carmichael Chamber of Commerce representatives.

Story and photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - With a snip of a ribbon, scores of burgers and gallons of adult beverages, Shenanigans Kitchen and Bar opened for business at the Madison and San Juan Avenue corner last weekend.

More than 200 customers packed the new hangout. In the glow of 10 large-screen TVs, dancers stomped to Carmichael rock group Wasted Space. Band principals are Shenanigans

manager Jen Holman's parents, Michelle and Johnny Barnes.

"It's a family affair," smiled Holman, 34, as her mother wailed "Me and Bobby McGee" from the stage. "Mom and dad have supported me in everything I do. It's great to have them play at our grand opening. Wasted Space always brings a crowd."

In addition to libations, Shenanigans Kitchen and Bar offers pizzas, burgers, designer baked potatoes, salads and snacks. The business is located at 7431 Madison Ave., Citrus Heights. ★

Continued from page 1

America Forward, a non-profit military charity based in Sacramento, to assemble and send care packages for troops overseas, showcasing the organization's commitment through practical, community-driven initiatives.

"I'm proud of our collaboration with the Veterans of Foreign Wars where we raise money to buy appliances such as grills and commercial toasters," said Scott Rodowick, the auxiliary chapter treasurer, reflecting on some of the association's initiatives. "These items are integral to our participation in barbecues, which serve as outreach programs aimed at keeping everybody connected."

Sullivan highlighted unique challenges faced by veterans in the region, including the need for stronger peer-to-peer connections due to the absence of active military bases nearby. To address this, the Non Commissioned Officers Association organizes events such as the Irreverent Warrior Silkie Hike, an annual veteran-only hiking event in Rancho Cordova, fostering camaraderie and support among veterans. Additionally, members emphasize support for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) treatment and aim to improve coordination among veterans' organizations for more effective outreach.

Area residents, businesses and volunteers interested in supporting the Non Commissioned Officers Association's mission can engage through volunteering opportunities listed on the association's website at ncoausa.org or by following its social media presence.



The Noncommissioned Officers Association sponsored a tee at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Cherry Island Golf Tournament for a membership drive. Photo courtesy of Tammy Sullivan

Sullivan emphasized the importance of community awareness and involvement in bolstering their efforts to assist veterans effectively.

"There are so many ways and varying levels of degrees to get involved," Rodowick said. "It's a great group of wonderful people and the greatest gift is when you are helping others. Especially those that put their lives on the line to give us the freedoms we enjoy today."

The Noncommissioned Officers Association meets regularly in Rancho Cordova and other locations throughout Sacramento, with monthly gatherings aimed at fostering community and support among members. Two local chapters include the Central Valley and the Spirit of Sacramento Auxiliary Chapters comprising about 90 members in the Sacramento area.

When asked why residents should join the Non Commissioned Officers Association, Sullivan emphasized the organization's responsibility to veterans and the community.

"We enjoy the freedoms of today because of those veterans and sometimes this

gets lost," Sullivan said. "We all have someone or know someone that has put that uniform on and that uniform represents this country and everything this country stands for. We should honor that."

Rodowick said that members do not have to be connected to the military to join. Anyone can be a part of the organization.

Active Noncommissioned Officers Association members are throughout the greater Sacramento region, according to Sullivan, including in Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights, Placerville, Lincoln, Plumas Lake and Elverta.

The Noncommissioned Officers Association Central Valley Chapter Number 1551 and Spirit of Sacramento Auxiliary Chapter Number 270 host meetings at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4647, 3300 U St. in Antelope. All are welcome to attend.

For more information on the Non-Commissioned Officers Association and how to get involved, visit its website at ncoausa.org. ★

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Local WWII Veteran to Celebrate 100th Birthday

By Annie Kerr

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - It's not every day that a figure in the community turns 100 years old, let alone a World War II veteran.

Barbara Brewer, a longtime area resident and World War II veteran, will turn 100 on Aug. 13, a feat that not many can say they have accomplished.

Messenger Publishing Group recently spoke with Brewer via FaceTime to learn more about her and the century she has lived through. Despite her age, Brewer, sharp and delightful, shows deep passion for her country.

Born in 1924 in Panguitch, Utah, Brewer battled a "tough" childhood that included being orphaned at age eight. But with gall and determination, Brewer persisted.

Shortly after graduating high school, Brewer and one of her good friends moved to Long Beach, California in 1942. She immediately took a job as a welder on the Liberty ships, which were used during the war.

"She was a real Rosie the Riveter," her daughter, Bev Hawkins, said.

Two years later, in 1944, Brewer joined the Army and was stationed in Fort Benning, Georgia.

"It was right at the time," Brewer said when asked why she joined. While in the Army, Brewer worked as a dental assistant and was also on the Army softball team.

"I had great officers," Brewer said.

However, it was no easy task to be a woman in the military at the time. Brewer said women faced marriage discrimination, meaning the married men in the military had significantly more privileges than the married women did. But, Brewer emphasized,



Barbara Brewer, center, in blue, stands with some of her family. Photo courtesy of Bev Hawkins



Barbara Brewer joined the Army in 1944. Photo courtesy of Bev Hawkins

she thoroughly enjoyed her time in the Army and "liked what she did."

Brewer met her future husband, Bill, while in the Army, and they were married at Fort Benning.



Barbara Brewer, recently photographed, will turn 100 on Aug. 13. Photo courtesy of Bev Hawkins

"I would've stayed in the Army if I hadn't gotten married," Brewer said. "I loved it."

In 1952, Brewer and Bill had three sons and they relocated to Sacramento, where Bill worked as a civilian employee at McLellan Air Force Base. The couple later added a daughter and another son to their family and the Brewers raised their children in Citrus Heights.

In the 65 years she lived in Citrus Heights, Brewer immersed herself in the local community. She was a devoted Citrus Heights Women's Club member, bowled in a league at Fireside Lanes, and frequently played pinochle at Rush Park. She "loved" living in Citrus Heights and remarked how "friendly" the people there are.

Later, Brewer moved to Atria Carmichael Oaks, where she lived for the past three years before recently relocating to Colfax to be with family.

Now living with her son and daughter-in-law, Brewer is always surrounded by many of her family members.

With five children, 10 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren, Brewer has raised quite the brood. When asked how she plans to celebrate her 100th birthday, Brewer said her big family is coming into town and they plan to celebrate with her.

So are there any secrets to making it to 100?

Brewer kept it short and sweet and emphasized the importance of hygiene, saying, "Have good teeth and a healthy diet. And stay clean."

She made sure to leave some patriotic words of inspiration, especially to women: "All girls should go into the military," Brewer said. "Don't be afraid to join." ★

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Monster Jam Roars into Sacramento

Monster Jam News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- Experience big-time family fun at Monster Jam. An unexpected, unscripted and unforgettable motorsports experience for families and fans returns to Sacramento for an adrenaline-charged weekend at Golden 1 Center on Aug. 16 to Aug. 18.

At Monster Jam, world champion athletes and their 12,000-pound monster trucks tear up the dirt in wide-open competitions of speed and skill.

The excitement begins at the Monster Jam Pit Party held in Sacramento prior to the events on Saturday, Aug. 17 and Sunday, Aug. 18. Fans can see the massive trucks up close, meet their favorite drivers and crews, get autographs and take pictures. Activities include the Sand Box play area, UNOH tire demonstration, coloring and temporary tattoo station, and new photo ops, including the chance to take a photo with the Series trophy. This fun-filled experience is the only place that allows people to get up close access to the Monster Jam teams and get an insider's look at how these trucks are built to stand up to the competition.

Fans will be on the edge of their seats as the world's best drivers show off massive stunts, big air, backflips, crazy skills and all-out racing in fierce head-to-head battles for the Event Championship. Engineered to perfection, the 12,000-pound Monster Jam trucks push all limits in Freestyle, Skills and Racing competitions.

Fans are encouraged to get to their seats early to experience Monster Jam Trackside approximately one hour before the event start time. Featured festivities include competition previews, driver interviews, giveaways, opening ceremonies and power rush truck introductions.

Monster Jam drivers are



Driver Fernando Martinez returns to Monster Jam at Golden 1 Center as the El Toro Loco driver from Aug. 16 to 18. Photo courtesy of Monster Jam

trained, world-class male and female athletes. They have mastered the physical strength and mental stamina needed to compete, and the vital dexterity to control 12,000-pound machines capable of backflips, vertical two-wheel skills and racing at speeds up to 70 miles-per-hour to produce jaw-dropping, live motorsports action seen throughout the world.

Enjoy big-time family fun at Monster Jam. The competitions start at 7 p.m. Aug. 16, 7 p.m. Aug. 17 and 1 p.m. Aug. 18.

Also on Aug. 17 is a pit party from 4:30 to 6 p.m., which

requires an event ticket and pit pass for entry.

On Aug. 18, the pit party from 10:30 a.m. to noon requires an event ticket and pit pass for entry.

Golden 1 Center is at 500 David J Stern Walk, Sacramento.

Tickets are affordably priced for the whole family. Tickets and pit passes are available for purchase at the Monster Jam website at MonsterJam.com, which will direct you to Ticketmaster.com. If not sold out, tickets will be available at the door.

For more info about a Monster Jam event near you, follow Monster Jam on its social media

channels: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok. Subscribe to the Monster Jam YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/MonsterJam>.

About Monster Jam

Monster Jam features world-class athletes competing for championships on perfectly engineered dirt tracks that push these ever-evolving, state-of-the-art trucks to the limit. Beyond the 350 global live events each year, the Monster Jam brand extends off the track into the home through products, content and merchandise that keeps the

fun alive year-round. For more information, visit MonsterJam.com.

About Feld Motor Sports

Feld Motor Sports, Inc. produces and presents specialized arena and stadium-based motorsports entertainment. Properties include Monster Jam, Monster Energy AMA Supercross and the SuperMotocross World Championship. Feld Motor Sports, Inc. is a subsidiary of Feld Entertainment, Inc. Visit monsterjam.com, SupercrossLIVE.com and feldentertainment.com for more information. ★

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Popp Talk

With Mary Jane Popp

Be a Dog with a Bone

You may not be the biggest or the prettiest dog in the pack, but if you want the secrets to success, fulfillment, and happiness, then Peggy McColl says you grab it all with gusto. Her bone is her dream, and you can have yours too with her book "Be A Dog With A Bone." Peggy says dogs can teach us a lot about reaching our goals, so roll over the following tips and find out how to grab your own goals and dreams and roll in the bliss of success and contentment.

1. What is your bone...your goal? A dog knows a good bone when he sees one and goes for it. Chomp on your goal, chew it over, then grab hold and ignore that little voice that says you can't.

2. Be a little dog with a big attitude. Don't think small. Dream big! Be excited about your goal, feel entitled to achieving it, and experience the feelings you'd feel if you'd already reached it. Think little lap dogs barking at a big German Shepard,

3. Get out of the dog house. Be courageous and believe in yourself. See challenging times as a terrific opportunity to leave behind the security of what you once knew and look again at what you might create for yourself.

4. Only ingest things that are good for you. A little poison, or negativity, can strongly affect you. If looking at all the obstacles facing you is making you sad, angry, or scared, stop!

5. Learn new tricks. We're always

having to learn something new. Stop thinking "it's too late" or "I'm too old."

6. Bark for what you want. Don't be shy. Speak up for yourself. If you want people to help you, approach them and ask.

7. Don't chase your tale. Let go of behaviors that are not serving you anymore. Take a look at your habits that are holding you back, and let go of them.

8. When you think you've reached the end of your leash, give yourself a little more leash to work with. Think positive thoughts and stretch past your comfort zone. Stop believing that your power to change your life is limited.

9. Wag your tale! The more you feel happiness and appreciation for what you have, the easier it will be to achieve your goal. Look at all that's working in your life already.

10. Keep your nose wet. Stay healthy. You'll need to feel good and have stamina if you want to reach your goals. Eat well, exercise, and get your rest. Even take a nap.

Peggy has a final thought for us. **Lap us your success.** Get excited and celebrate your successes! If you do, it will lead to more successes! A dog can be deliriously happy over a bowl of water, and he'll lap it up eagerly!

Check out Peggy and her dog Pablo on YouTube for some fun. Oh, and hang on to that bone with much relish and **WOOF to your SUCCESS!** ★

Hot Jazz Jubilee 2024 to Sizzle

MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The ninth annual Hot Jazz Jubilee will feature four days of music and entertainment over Labor Day weekend, Aug. 30 to Sept. 2, under one roof.

Five rooms will offer music, ranging from the large Grand Ballroom to the more intimate Garden Terrace and RJ's. Dancers will want to be in the three ballrooms that offer a dance floor.

The annual extravaganza will feature more than 20 bands and guest artists.

"We are excited to offer some new featured performers, plus some bands returning by popular demand," said Hot Jazz Jubilee festival director Pat Jones. "And the variety can't be beat. We have jazz, swing, zydeco, rock 'n' roll and R & B. Something for everyone."

Performers include Brian Casserly, Todd Morgan & The Emblems, San Lyon, Katie Cavera & the Lost Boys, and many more. Some exciting special sets are "Boogie Woogie Extravaganza" on Saturday, Aug. 31 and a "Back to the Future" Old Time Rock 'n' Roll set on Sunday, Sept. 1.

In addition, Shaymus Hanlin will present his "Tribute to Frank Sinatra" and High Street Band will honor Veterans with their "Salute to the '60s" on Friday, Aug. 30. There will be two gospel sets on Sunday, Sept. 1, one set with Yve Evans and Company, and the other set with High Street Band. Special guest pianist, Nicole Pesce will perform two sets, "Two Pianos, Six Hands," with



Brian Casserly is a regular featured All-Star at jazz festivals throughout the country; and a session musician for commercials, professional recordings and musicals in the U.S. and Canada. Photo courtesy of Hot Jazz Jubilee



High Street Band plays jazz, Motown, R&B, blues and funk tunes that bring their audiences to the dance floor. Photo courtesy of Hot Jazz Jubilee

Stephanie and Paolo.

For the full performance schedule, check online at hotjazzjubilee.com/venues-scheduled-events.

The family-friendly event is in air-conditioned comfort at the newly-remodeled DoubleTree by Hilton Sacramento at 2001 Point West Way. Admission is free for children 18 and under.

Sacramento Jazz Education Foundation will

sponsor Youth Clinics where young musicians can perform with the pros. Food and drink and a jazz vendor fair will also be on site.

Single-day tickets are \$65 for Aug. 30, \$85 for Aug. 31 or Sept. 1 and \$65 for Sept. 2. A four-day event pass is \$155. Tickets are available online at hotjazzjubilee.com/purchase-tickets. For special group rates, visit info@hotjazzjubilee.com. ★

Governor Newsom's Executive Order Leads to FAIR Plan Reforms

Office of Governor Gavin Newsom News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara announced a modernization of the state's FAIR Plan, also known as the "insurer of last resort," to strengthen the program for those who depend on this system for affordable and reliable coverage.

This follows Governor Newsom's call for swift regulatory action to build a stronger FAIR Plan, strengthen and stabilize California's marketplace with a focus on creating a better rate approval process, and accelerating the implementation of regulations.

"California's all-of-the-above strategy is addressing this decades-old crisis to get people the reliable and affordable insurance they need. Strengthening the state's FAIR Plan has been a key priority, and these upgrades will help stabilize the entire market while providing more stability for those who already depend on it," said Governor Newsom.

Modernizing the FAIR Plan

The FAIR Plan has agreed in a binding legal stipulation to issue a new Plan of Operation within 30 days that will implement Commissioner Lara's plan to offer homeowners, consumers, and business owners:

Expanded Coverage: Establishing a new "high-value" commercial coverage option with limits up to \$20 million per building, along with past increases for residential policies.

Financial Stability: Creating a sound financial formula to protect the market in extreme loss scenarios.

Improved Transparency: Requiring increased public reporting on FAIR Plan

activity and customer service metrics.

This is part of the Commissioner's Sustainable Insurance Strategy, a package of reforms to strengthen California's marketplace and maintain strong consumer protections.

The California FAIR Plan Association was established in statute in 1968 to meet the needs of California homeowners unable to find insurance in the traditional marketplace. The FAIR Plan is not a state agency, nor is it a public entity. There is no public or taxpayer funding. The FAIR Plan is a syndicated fire insurance pool comprised of all insurers licensed to conduct property/casualty business in California.

How we got here

In September of last year, Governor Newsom signed an executive order urging Insurance Commissioner Lara to take swift action to address issues with the insurance market and expand coverage options for consumers, while maintaining strong consumer protections and keeping plans affordable.

In May, the Newsom Administration released a proposal to increase the transparency and speed of rate change application approval timelines, while remaining consistent with Proposition 103's consumer protections from excessive, inadequate, and unfairly discriminatory insurance rates.

Insurance rates nationwide have been on the rise due to the impacts of the climate crisis. California rates have been below the national average and significantly less than some other states, with the average yearly cost for \$300,000 homes at:

California – \$1,405

National – \$2,601

Texas – \$3,851

Florida – \$4,419

★

SMUD's Grant Advances Long-Duration Battery Storage Technology

Continued from page 1

David Hochschild. "It's a technology that's needed to harness excess renewables for use during peak demand and overnight, especially as we work toward a goal of 100 percent clean electricity."

The partnership and technology offer several anticipated benefits, including accelerating the commercialization of iron flow batteries, improving the cost-competitiveness of non-lithium long-duration energy storage, bolstering grid reliability, complementing SMUD's renewables, and supporting workforce development and the local economy through clean energy jobs.

Currently, the ESS iron flow long-duration energy storage project is in its early phases at SMUD's Sacramento Power Academy. In September 2023, ESS commissioned six Energy Warehouse™ systems for SMUD as part of a 2-gigawatt-hour framework agreement. The existing 450 kilowatt / 2,400 kilowatt-hour Energy Warehouse system at SMUD's Sacramento Power Academy continues

to provide SMUD and ESS with valuable insights through risk and benefits analysis, use case studies and performance testing. These efforts will ultimately determine the optimal applications for iron flow battery technology, aiming to achieve cost and performance competitiveness relative to lithium-ion batteries for 8-hour durations and longer.

ESS will deliver up to 200 megawatts / 2 gigawatt-hours of iron flow long-duration energy storage systems. Once fully operational and paired with renewable energy, these systems are expected to eliminate approximately 284,000 metric tons of CO2 emissions per year from SMUD's grid.

Alongside the California Energy Commission's grant, SMUD is committing approximately \$19.5 million in cost-sharing for labor and material expenses for the combined 4-megawatt ESS Tech, Inc. long-duration energy storage project, which includes the existing 450-kilowatt installation and the newly grant-funded 3.6-megawatt addition. ★

Mayoral Hopefuls Mingle

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Chamber of Commerce director Tony Myers owns Hammerhead Games, Sacramento. His store provides for the youth market (and many young-at-heart adults) with table-top games. Myers nominates the San Juan Education Foundation to share his campaign war chest.

Shelby Glass is an advancement director for Victory Christian School, Carmichael. The former Victory student also found a husband in its classrooms and the Carmichael couple recently enrolled their daughter for kindergarten there. Glass pledges funds in support of the school.

Continuing a Michigan and California career in neurological research, Dr.

Kawanaa Carter now practices privately in Folsom. A Carmichael resident, the surgeon fundraises for Infinite Giving, her own non-profit organization that boosts multiple causes among disadvantaged people.

Mikhaila Freas runs the Freas Marketing Management company, specializing in social media promotion. Freas nominates Carmichael HART, a charity aiding Carmichael's homeless community, as campaign beneficiary.

All candidates plan fundraising events between August and November; anyone can support the race for victory. Results will be announced at a November event.

Learn more about Carmichael's mayoral race at www.carmichaelchamber.com. ★

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Office Administration – We are seeking a full-time administrative support person for our newspaper group. This position works in the Carmichael office and works directly with the Office Manager. Work hours are between 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Previous office experience is required. Primary duties are working with customers and assisting with weekly legal advertising filings. We also have a part-time position available in West Sacramento available in August.

City Reporter - We are seeking a full-time City Reporter for our newspaper group. This position may be assigned to work in the Carmichael office or another area office and works directly with the Managing Editor. Work hours are flexible depending on assignments. Previous reporting experience is required.

Copy Editor - We are seeking a part-time copy editor for our newspaper group. This position works in the Carmichael office and works directly with the Managing Editor. Work hours are flexible between 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Previous editing experience is required.

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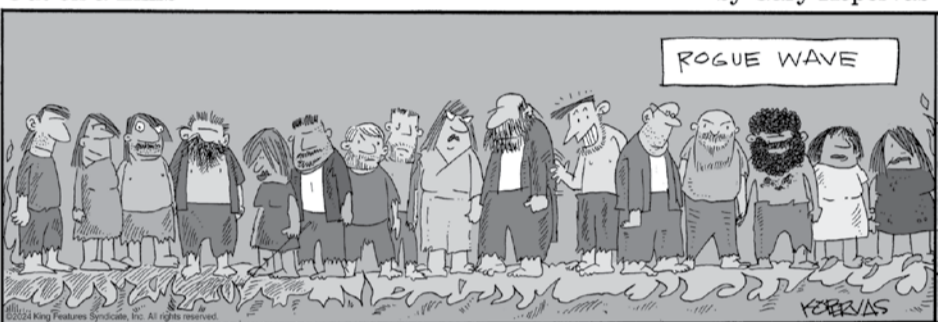
Amber Waves



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Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas



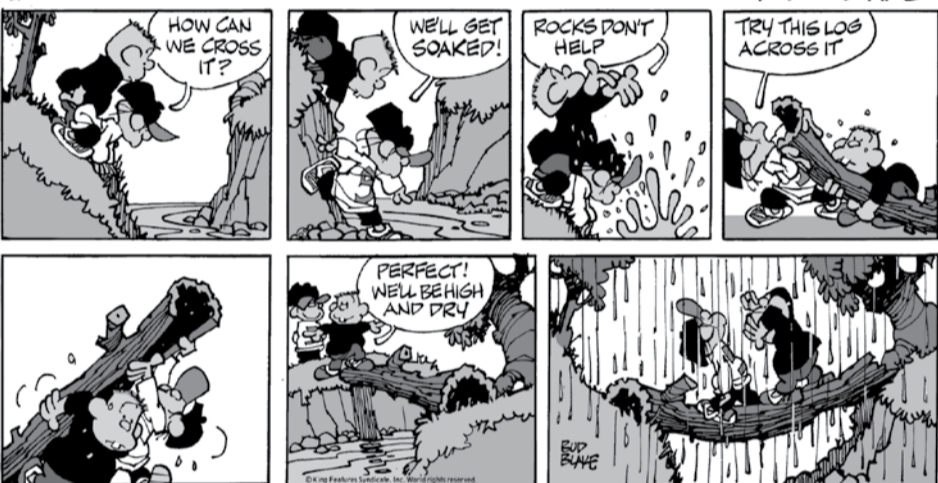
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



TIGER



by Bud Blake

GRIN & BEAR IT



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Soothing concoction
 - The Magic School ride
 - Mama's husband
 - Dwarf buffalo
 - Moneyed one
 - "M*A*S*H" extra
 - Soon, to Shakespeare
 - Sheltered, nautically
 - *Abacus user, e.g.
 - *School jacket-wearer
 - TV classic "Happy ..."
 - What hoarders do
 - Speech-preventing measure
 - *Pencil end
 - Deep regret
 - Indian restaurant staple
 - What cobblers often do
 - Mother Earth, to Ancient Greeks
 - Embedded design
 - ___ Khan
 - Contending
 - *Don't forget to cross them
 - Plural of flora
 - Rolodex abbr.
 - Sultry or carnal
 - *Rydell High School movie
 - Defensive one on the gridiron
 - Oodles
 - *Some PTA members?
 - *It involves elements
 - Cuban dance
 - Burkina Faso neighbor
 - Opera solo
 - Boot-shaped European country
 - Oil org.
 - Review a service
 - Say "No!"
 - Animal's nose
 - Perceives with an eye
- DOWN**
- Jezebel's idol
 - Beheaded Boleyn
 - Plunder
 - Certain rays
 - Plural of #1 Across
 - Part of an eye, pl.
 - Witnessed
 - *Field of education
 - ___ Walker, American
 - Girl doll
 - *Inspiration for circular charts, pl.
 - Acronym, abbr.
 - Zimbabwe's capital
 - Address to a woman
 - Nail salon file
 - Toothpaste type
 - *Marks in English
 - Hindu queen
 - "Hannah and Her Sisters" director
 - End of line
 - Yogurt-based dip
 - *Opposite side over hypotenuse, pl.
 - Bald symbol
 - *___ monitor
 - Bigheadedness
 - *All-school get-together
 - Giuseppe ___ of opera
 - fame
 - Temporary craze
 - Parthenogenetic
 - Recant or retract
 - *English homework, pl.
 - *Circle, e.g.
 - Paparazzi's target
 - Remote control option
 - Middle Eastern sultanate
 - "Follow me!"
 - Genealogy plant
 - Agitate
 - Puppy barks
 - Antonym of keep

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California Has Seen Many Towns Created, But as Population Drops a Big Project Has Stalled



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

When California emerged from its colonial beginnings nearly two centuries ago and began coalescing into a distinct society, its towns and villages tended to be located either on navigable rivers, such as Sacramento, or around the 21 missions that Spanish explorer priests had established, such as San Diego.

In the late 19th century, with California having experienced a massive population boom during the Gold Rush and become a state, entirely new communities sprung up. These settlements were often carved out of farm and ranch land by developers and railroads, the small San Joaquin Valley city of Hanford being one of the latter.

For example, the small villages south of San Francisco, such as Hillsborough, were designed as refuges for the wealthy from the noise, pollution and violence of San Francisco — and eventually led to the formation of San Mateo County as a protective bulwark.

The creation of new towns continued for most of the 20th century. In Orange County, the descendants of 19th century ranchers converted chunks of their vast holdings into new towns to absorb the region's massive post-World War II population growth.

The most spectacular example was — and still is — the City of Irvine, named for a

ranching family, and home to a quarter-million people and a major University of California campus. Dick O'Neill, heir to a huge Orange County cattle ranch, created two cities — Mission Viejo and Rancho Santa Margarita.

On the outskirts of Sacramento, along the Cosumnes River, another ranching family successfully created a stand-alone community called Rancho Murieta.

Creating new towns can be a risky endeavor. Developers can spend millions to plan their new communities and install infrastructure but may wait decades to see a profit.

California City, in the Antelope Valley 100 miles north of Los Angeles, was founded in 1958, but its remote location and somewhat inhospitable terrain and climate made attracting residents difficult. It's still there and has about 15,000 residents, but that's way short of the original ambition.

Mountain House, created three decades ago in a corner of San Joaquin County to attract commuters to Bay Area jobs, also struggled, particularly during the collapse of the housing market during the Great Recession. However, it survived: Today it has about 25,000 residents and on July 1 became an incorporated city.

The Tejon Ranch, an immense cattle ranch in the Tehachapi Mountains, has been trying for decades to create a new residential community, but it has faced massive opposition from environmental groups. It is finally beginning construction on an apartment complex.

That brings us to California's latest effort to carve out a new community, this one in a rural portion of Solano County.

California Forever, a

company backed by Silicon Valley billionaires, quietly — even sneakily — bought more than 50,000 acres of ranchland, after which it finally revealed plans for a new community that would eventually have 400,000 residents.

The secrecy and scope of the project generated immediate opposition, particularly after the company said it would seek approval via a November election ballot measure, bypassing hurdles such as the California Environmental Quality Act.

With approval by Solano County voters in doubt, California Forever has shelved its ballot measure. Company officials say they now will strive to gain popular support before proceeding.

The explosive growth that California experienced in the first 170 years of its existence as a state has now abated, probably for good. California has been losing population in recent years and at best it will probably see population stagnation in the future.

That said, California still has a housing shortage, and state policy is to encourage infill projects in or near cities rather than developing open spaces, which California Forever would do.

The chances for California Forever to join the ranks of new town developers are slim at best.

Dan Walters is one of most decorated and 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. ★

Social Security Matters Does Congress Pay Into Social Security?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I've been told that members of Congress do not have Social Security deducted from their pay; Additionally, that their retirement dollars come from the Social Security Administration purse even if they only serve as a member of Congress for a short number of terms. Also, if this is true, are there other individuals that enjoy these advantages?

Thank you in advance for your service as a Social Security Advisor. **Signed: Concerned Senior**

Dear Concerned Senior: I'm afraid this is one of those "urban legend" kind of rumors that just seems to keep popping up, especially when the issues surrounding Social Security's financial problems come up. In addition to being untrue, it often is used to display the public's animosity toward elected officials and the feeling that Congress—and other elected officials—are

above the fray, so to speak, and therefore not affected by the implications of Social Security's looming insolvency problem.

Here's the reality. Since January 1, 1984, all members of Congress, the President and Vice President, Federal judges, and most political appointees, are covered under the Social Security program. The rumor that these elected officials do not pay Social Security tax most likely is attributable to the fact that from 1920 to 1983, they were participants in the Civil Service Retirement System — CSRS — the federal retirement plan federal workers used even before the Social Security Act was passed. CSRS provided a pension for federal employees, so they were exempted from contributing to or collecting from the new Social Security program.

In 1987, then, the federal government officially changed over to FERS — the Federal Employee Retirement System — and all employees hired from that point forward are now covered under FERS. There are multiple parts to FERS, and one of them is mandatory FICA contributions. So, all federal employees—including members of Congress—are subject to the 6.2% FICA tax, are eligible for Social

Security retirement benefits, and are governed by the multitude of rules and regulations associated with Social Security. But other than standard SS benefits which they may normally be entitled, no Social Security funds are used to supplement Congressional retirement.

In other words, the rumor that Congress didn't pay into Social Security was actually true prior to 1984, but today it is a misstatement of fact. And the federal employee retirement plans (both the prior CSRS plan and the current FERS plan) are totally independent of Social Security and do not negatively affect program solvency.

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Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

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EUROPEAN DELI

Columbus Pan Roasted Turkey Breast \$11.99 /ea	Olive Medley \$4.99 /ea
Kretschmar Ham of the Boar \$6.19 /ea	Stiehlman Style Olives \$5.99 /ea

Advised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE AUGUST 07 - AUGUST 13, 2024.

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Help Your Pets Beat the Heat

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Extreme heat waves continue to affect Sacramento County and it's crucial for pet owners to ensure their furry friends stay safe and comfortable. When temperatures rise, pets face increased risks of heat-related illnesses. Here are some essential tips to help your pets beat the heat:

Never leave pets in parked cars: Even on mild days, the temperature inside a parked car can rise rapidly, turning it into a deadly trap. Leaving pets unattended in cars is both dangerous and illegal in California.

Hydrate: Always provide fresh water for your pets to keep them hydrated. If your pet is experiencing a heat-related illness, never give them cold water to drink or soak in. This could shock their system.

Avoid peak heat hours: Schedule walks and outdoor activities during cooler parts of the day, such as early mornings or evenings. Hot asphalt and concrete can burn your pet's paw pads, so test the surface with your hand first.

Provide shade and cool environments: Ensure outdoor pets have access to shaded areas and fresh water. Indoors, keep them in air-conditioned rooms or use fans to



Be cautious with swimming: Supervise pets when swimming in pools or natural bodies of water. Use life jackets and avoid swimming in strong currents or water that is too cold. Image by Joshua Choate from Pixabay

improve air circulation.

Use sunscreen: Pets with light skin or fur are susceptible to sunburn. Apply pet-safe sunscreen to sensitive areas like their ears and nose.

Be cautious with swimming: Supervise pets when swimming in pools or natural bodies of water. Use life jackets and avoid swimming in strong currents or water that is too cold.

Recognize heatstroke symptoms: Watch for signs like excessive panting, drooling, glazed eyes, rapid pulse, lethargy, vomiting and collapse. If you suspect heatstroke, move your pet to a cool area and seek immediate veterinary attention. Gradual cooling helps stabilize their

internal temperature without causing additional stress or shock to their system.

For more hot weather pet tips and to learn how to spot heat-related illnesses in pets, visit the Animal Care Services website at <https://animalcare.sacramento.gov/Pages/default.aspx>.

Looking to adopt a pet? Visit the shelter at 3839 Bradshaw Rd. in Sacramento, open Tuesday through Sunday noon to 5 p.m., and Wednesday noon to 6 p.m.

For a list of available animal care services, including walk-in licensing and how to report a lost or found pet, visit the Animal Care Services website. ★

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Carmichael
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in the Park

A Music Filled Gourmet Dinner, Auction and Fund A Need For Youth Scholarships and Park Beautification

Join us for Carmichael's Premier Event!

Jensen Botanical Garden
Saturday, September 7th / 5pm

\$150 per person
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Start With a Wine and Beer Reception
At Sutter Community Garden with the Henry Robinett Trio.

Stroll The Tree-lined Trail To The Charles Jensen Botanical Garden and Enjoy 3 Additional Musical Groups.

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SCAN TO PURCHASE TICKETS AND FOR MORE INFORMATION!

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Welcome home to this charming 4 bedroom, 4 bath gem in Sacramento! Enjoy fantastic curb appeal with a beautifully maintained front yard and an inviting exterior. The open floor plan is filled with natural light, boasting bright, airy, spacious living areas. This clean and well-maintained home is move-in ready, and ideal for a growing family, an investment opportunity, or potentially a care home. The backyard features mature trees, separate patio areas, an inviting spa, a green lawn, and two tool sheds for your hobbies. The primary bedroom includes a HUGE walk-in closet! The garage has been converted into a living space with a full bathroom. Plus, there's an underground wine cellar for enthusiasts. This wonderful home offers comfort, style, and plenty of space. The fenced front yard provides security and there is ample room for parking. Located centrally to freeways, this home combines convenience with charm. Must see!

Craig Diez
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CalRE #01019930
916.425.5884
Realtor®/Owner CraigDiezProperties.com

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BEST OF CARMICHAEL 2023

The accuracy of all information contained herein regardless of source including, but not limited to square footage and lot size, is deemed reliable but is not guaranteed by RE/MAX Gold and should be independently verified by the appropriate professionals. Source: MetroList. CA DRE 01215931.

DiezandSiggGroup.com | [f/DiezandSiggGroup](https://www.facebook.com/DiezandSiggGroup) | [i/DiezandSiggGroup](https://www.instagram.com/DiezandSiggGroup)

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Begin the afternoon by mingling with residents, as they are the spirit of our thriving community. Then get an exclusive sneak-peek into their lives as they open their doors to showcase their beautifully decorated homes. Light refreshments and drinks will be provided.

Thursday, August 22, from 12 – 2 p.m.

Space is Limited, RSVP Today! 916-900-1211 • eskaton.org/openhouse



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