



# THE NEWS

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## Rio Linda High Undergoes Makeover



Construction of the new school entrance was completed Aug. 9. Photo courtesy of Diedre Barlow

By Annie Kerr

**RIO LINDA, CA (MPG)** - The end of summer isn't so bad when you have a newly-renovated school to attend.

On Aug. 15, the Twin Rivers Unified School District planned to celebrate the Rio Linda High School Beautification Project completion with a ribbon cutting at the school, after press time.

The project was completed Aug. 9, right in time for students to make their return to school on Aug. 20.

The beautification project, which began this past March, includes many upgrades for the high school. Most notably, the project includes a redesigned front entrance to the school. The new entrance will add scenic elements to the campus, such as newly-planted trees and benches to sit on.

Additionally, there is a redesigned cafeteria for the students to enjoy, according to Rio Linda High School Principal Diedre Barlow.



Rio Linda High School students will enjoy lunch in a newly renovated cafeteria. Photo courtesy of Diedre Barlow

A notable theme of the renovation is Knight Pride, which is emblazoned in big letters at the front entrance and on a banner in the cafeteria, honoring the school mascot.

According to Zenobia Gerald, Twin

Rivers Unified School District director of communications, the project cost the district a total of \$2,273,008 to complete. The district is funded by a combination of state, local and

*Continued on page 3*

## UC Davis Health Breaks Ground on 14-Story California Tower

UC Davis Health News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - UC Davis Health hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the medical center's California Tower on July 22. The expansion project includes a 14-story hospital tower and five-story pavilion that will deliver superior care for Northern Californians and adapt to meet the evolving needs of the community.

"The addition of the California Tower to UC Davis Medical Center is a testament to our innovative forward thinking across our health system and main campus," said UC Davis Chancellor Gary S. May. "This project will position our researchers, students, faculty and staff to meet and adapt to regional health care needs for the next 50 years."

May spoke to the construction zone to an energized audience of UC Regents, university leaders,



UC Davis representatives celebrate at the July 22 ceremony for the California Tower, expected to be ready in 2030. Photo courtesy of UC Davis

elected officials, project collaborators, and construction and facilities management workers.

### California Tower Construction

Approved by the UC Board of Regents in January 2022, the California Tower will be part of the region's most advanced medical center. The new hospital and pavilion will be in addition to the medical center's

existing University and Davis Towers.

The new tower will add nearly one million square feet of space to the eastern side of the existing medical center. It will include new operating rooms, an imaging center, leading edge facilities for pharmacy and burn care units, and about 334 private rooms for patients.

More than 250 of the rooms are being designed for greater flexibility in

the event of a patient surge such as a pandemic, massive wildfire or other disaster. These will easily convert into intensive-care-unit rooms with air isolation to treat patients of any level of hospitalization.

"With the California Tower, we are building a new paradigm of patient care, centered around how a health system can deliver tomorrow's health care

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## Re-Imagine North Watt Project Suggestions Open

Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento County has received thousands of comments and suggestions about how to improve the North Watt Avenue Corridor and they are looking for more before the end of August.

This spring, the Re-Imagine North Watt Corridor project began asking the public to submit their vision about how the corridor can be improved. Safety and better mobility for residents, students, commuters and visitors along the corridor are the project's main goals.

The public is encouraged to help develop a new vision to address the safety of travelers on the bike-way and sidewalks, safety enhancements at intersections, transit stop amenities and other improvements. The goal is to reduce an area experiencing high traffic volume and speeding, along with vehicle collisions involving pedestrians and bicyclists.

"The County was really happy to hear great ideas from so many people during the first phase of our public engagement process," said Project Manager Cameron Shew. "Now we're building on that effort with a newly updated comment map asking people to show us what types or improvements people would like to see along the corridor."

Thousands have visited the County's project website since it launched in March. Visitors can drop pins on locations along the boulevard to point out things they would like to see in terms of road design, pedestrian and bike access, transit services and even amenities like landscaping and street furnishing. The website has been updated with virtual stations that people can visit to learn more about potential solutions. Users can also select and rank options that they like, as well as leave comments about their vision of the corridor.

There are also seven virtual stations focused on specific topics like roadway design and landscaping. Visitors can select and rank concepts that they like and leave more detailed comments if desired.

"We hope people will take the time to help us

*Continued on page 3*

# Multi-Agency Child Predator Operation Leads to 14 Arrests



Two of the 14 suspects are being charged in Sacramento County. Photo courtesy Pixabay

## Yuba County Sheriff's Office News Release

**YUBA COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Fourteen men suspected of engaging in illegal and explicit conversations with children over social media have been arrested after a three-day undercover child predator operation led by the Yuba County Sheriff's Office and Yuba County District Attorney's Office, in partnership with the Sacramento Valley Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

The men suspected of these crimes were on several popular social media sites when they began some extremely suggestive conversations with who they believed to be young girls. Explicit messages were sent, and undercover arrangements were made for the suspects to allegedly engage in sexual acts with the juvenile.

Fortunately, instead of coming face-to-face with an innocent child, the suspects were met by agents from various regional departments and promptly arrested.

Of the 14 suspects listed, 12 have been charged in Yuba County Superior Court with various charges, including meeting a minor for lewd purposes, attempted lewd act upon a child and contact with a minor for sexual offense. The remaining two are being charged in Sacramento County.

"There are no safe places on the internet or in our community for child predators," Yuba County District Attorney Clint Curry said.

"Protecting the most vulnerable in our communities is our core responsibility. When it comes to those who would prey upon our children, there is nothing that we will not do within the parameters of the law to find you and hold you accountable for your actions," Yuba County Sheriff Wendell Anderson said. "I appreciate all our law enforcement partners and the efforts that they put forth each day to protect our citizens. This operation is an example of collaboration and commitment and shows that our State, Local and Federal partners prioritize the children and their safety."

A robust undercover operation like this is made possible with the assistance from participating agencies, who we thank for their cooperation: Marysville Police Department, Wheatland Police Department, Sutter County District Attorney's Office, Yuba City Police Department, Sutter County Sheriff's Office, Sutter County Probation, Sacramento Police Department, Citrus Heights Police Department, Sacramento County Sheriff's Office, Sacramento County District Attorney's Office, Turlock Police Department, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, California Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

For more information on the multi-agency child predator operation, go to <https://www.facebook.com/yubacounty-sheriff>.

# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Well Kings fans, the Olympics are over, and in no time fans will be talking about the start of training camp. Yes, in less than 60 days the hometown hoopsters will be back together, with a team composed of explosive offensive talents, and some question marks on the defensive side of the ball.

With the re-signing of Malik Monk, and the heralded signing of 6-time all-star DeMar DeRozan, the Kings have an offensive nightly threat that will rival any opposing team in the NBA. Don't forget, without DeRozan, the Kings led the NBA in scoring just 2 seasons ago, and with his addition to the lineup, players like Fox, Sabonis, Murray and Monk will have better looks on a nightly basis.

Without question, DeRozan will require a lot of defensive attention, and three-point shooters like Murray and Fox will benefit greatly by his presence on the court.

The Kings continue to look for the power forward to body-up alongside Domantas Sabonis, and last week sought after Lauri Markkanen who re-signed with the Utah Jazz for a reported \$238-million contract over five years. His signing after August 6 means that he cannot be traded for at least six months, after the 2025 trade deadline, and for all intents and purposes makes Mr. Markkanen a name to no longer discuss.

Color announcer Kyle Draper jumped in last week with his own thoughts as to who might be a good fit at power forward when he expressed his enthusiasm for another Utah Jazz standout, in big man John Collins. Collins showed a lot of promise last season putting up 15.1 points per game, while securing 8.5 rebounds. This while he only garnished 28 minutes of playing time per game. Collins is only 26 years of age and stands 6'9" with a 6'11" wingspan. Nice stats for a power forward with a bright future in the NBA, so perhaps Draper is working two jobs as scout and game announcer.

I like hearing from all quarters as it relates to players that might improve the Sacramento Kings front court, and as high as I am on Domantas Sabonis, I know this talented big man needs more help on the boards.

I am high and guardedly hopeful that the

recent signing of Orlando Robinson will pay dividends this season, and I applaud Monte McNair's search for a diamond in the rough.

Every year some player surfaces to the top and surprises everyone with a breakout year, and in many circumstances this occurs because they finally found a team to give them a true opportunity to shine.

Keon Ellis made significant strides last season because coach Brown built his confidence gradually throughout the season, even making him a starter for a lengthy stretch. Keon's best basketball is still in front of him, and that is after he endured a stint in the G league where he showcased his talents and worked his way up to the big club.

I believe that same confidence would do wonders for Trey Lyles, and like Ellis I am convinced we have not yet seen the top side of Mr. Lyles.

Keep your eyes on Boogie Ellis, who like his namesake Keon looked like a man among boys in the recent summer league games. The Ellis boys could potentially play significant minutes for the Kings this season, and like Keon, I like the defensive effort Boogie brings to the floor to go along with his three-point shooting.

Not to be overlooked is our top draft choice of two years ago Keegan Murray, who had an ambitious rookie season to be followed by his sophomore year that had mixed reviews. This former NCAA Division I leading scorer (822 points, 2021-22) in the nation may very well surprise everyone this year and propel himself into an all-star year. Keegan added a mid-range game last season that will undoubtedly play well alongside newcomer DeMar DeRozan.

I remain convinced that McNair is not through tinkering with this lineup, and when the Kings break training camp this season, look for at least one more power forward to join the group we have today.

The Sacramento Kings glass is half full, and I can't wait to see the upcoming season in full splendor.

If you're not thinking 50 wins-plus, take a closer look!

All the best Kings fans! ★  
Your thoughts are always welcome at [vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com](mailto:vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com)

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# Rio Linda High Undergoes Makeover



Students will have the option to eat their lunch partially outdoors. Photo courtesy of Diedre Barlow

Continued from page 1 federal funds, as well as bonds. The KYA Group, a construction company, was contracted for the project.

The project's purpose is "to create a welcoming and inviting entrance to the school that will foster a stronger sense of school pride, ownership and belonging among students, while creating a positive first and lasting impression for families and the community," Gerald said.

District officials expect the project to benefit students in many ways.

"A school's appearance sets the tone for everyone," Gerald said. "The new front entrance is designed to create a welcoming atmosphere and enhance the overall student experience, positively impacting families and the entire community. It's an inviting gateway to the school, creating positive first impressions and fostering a stronger sense of belonging and ownership among families and the community."

When asked what future



In front of the newly designed entrance, trees were planted. Photo courtesy of Diedre Barlow

projects Rio Linda High School can anticipate, Gerald mentioned several eventual renovations, which include athletics' audio/visual upgrades, building a shade structure over baseball/softball bleachers, card reader access, emergency lighting upgrades, exterior lighting upgrades, restroom refreshers, a staff lounge refresher, roofing replacement, gym bleacher replacement,

signage updates and fire alarm upgrades.

All Twin Rivers Unified School District schools will begin classes on Aug. 20.

For more information about Rio Linda High School, visit <https://rlhs.trusd.net>. A video rendering of the newly-renovated high school can be watched at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrvRsq-Ci-so&t=7s>. ★

# Twin Rivers Unified Receives Prestigious Award

Twin Rivers Unified School District News Release



SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Twin Rivers Unified is the only Sacramento area school district and one of six statewide to receive the prestigious 2024 Unity Latino Education Advancement and Distinction (LEAD) Award from the California Latino School Boards Association (CLSA). This distinguished award is a testament to the district's governance and administrative team for their outstanding leadership and commitment to educational equity.

The California Latino School Boards Association Unity Latino Education Advancement and Distinction Award recognizes California school districts that have demonstrated "exceptional unity in leadership, serving students and families through an equity lens, and going above and beyond the call of duty," according to the California Latino School Boards Association.

"We are honored to receive this award and of the progress we have made to provide the best possible educational outcomes for all students, ensuring they have equitable access to resources, opportunities and support," stated Basim Elkarr, President of the Twin Rivers Unified School District Board of Trustees.

"This award is not just about the governance team. It's also about the tireless efforts of our exceptional educators and dedicated support staff, our motivated students, and our supportive families. Our

shared commitment is real—to dismantle barriers and provide every student with an exceptional education that prepares them for a successful and fulfilling future."

"This award not only recognizes our collective accomplishments but also serves as a reminder that success is not achieved overnight. Staying laser-focused on the ongoing work ahead is crucial as we continue to create spaces of hope, unity and high expectations for all students, staff and community," said Twin Rivers Unified School District Superintendent Steve Martinez, Ed.D.

The official award ceremony took place at the California Latino School Boards Association's 2024 Unity Conference, Aug. 1 through Aug. 4 at the Monterey Conference Center in Monterey. Trustee Rebecca Sandoval (Area 6) attended the event and accepted the award on the district's behalf.

In addition to the Unity Latino Education Advancement and Distinction Award, Twin Rivers has been recognized for multiple awards and achievements over the past few years, further demonstrating the district's long-term vision and commitment to achieving academic excellence for each and every student. ★

# Re-Imagine North Watt Project Suggestions Open

Continued from page 1

make this corridor better for everyone," added Shew.

The public has until Aug. 30 to submit comments to the Re-Imagine North Watt

project team. After the comments have been gathered, a public meeting will be held for residents to hear about how the public envisions an improved North Watt Avenue corridor. ★

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# Social Security Matters

## Will My Wife Get a Spousal Benefit from Me?



**By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor**

**Dear Rusty:** I will be turning 70 (yikes) this coming November. I will begin taking my Social Security benefit at that time. My age 70 SS benefit will be approximately \$4,500 per month. My spouse (who is currently 74) began receiving her SS benefits about 10 years ago - before her FRA. She receives approximately \$1,900 per month.

My question is, based on my expected SS monthly benefit of approximately \$4,500, would my spouse be eligible for an increase in her monthly SS benefit? I've read some articles about this topic, but none of them seem to be on point - so I thought I'd reach out to you. **Signed: Seeking Answers**

**Dear Seeking:** Congratulations on choosing a claiming strategy

which will maximize your Social Security. Waiting until age 70 to claim guarantees you will get the most you can personally receive for the rest of your life, along with annual Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA). But the spouse benefits available to your wife when you claim are not based on your age 70 amount. Rather, spouse benefits are calculated using full retirement age (FRA) amounts. Here's what that means:

If your age 70 benefit will be about \$4,500 then your FRA amount was likely around \$3,450. If your wife claimed at, say, 64, then her FRA entitlement would probably have been around \$2,200. Your wife will only get a spousal boost if 50% of your FRA amount (not your age 70 amount) is more than her own FRA entitlement. From what you've shared, 50% of your FRA amount would be about \$1,750, which is less than your wife's FRA entitlement (and her current age 64 amount), which means that she would not be eligible for a spousal boost to her own amount from you.

Spouse benefits can be tricky, because they're based on FRA

entitlements, regardless of the age at which benefits are actually claimed. That is not so, however, for surviving spouse benefits. If you were to predecease your wife, her benefit would be your entire \$4,500 amount, instead of her own smaller current amount. Surviving spouse benefits are based on the amount each of you are currently receiving, not on your amounts at your full retirement age.

I hope this answers your question, but we're always here if you need any further assistance.

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# Texas Scores a Goal on California as Chevron Moves Headquarters to Houston



**By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org**

The war between Gov. Gavin Newsom and the state's once-immense oil industry entered a new phase a few days ago when Chevron, California's oldest and best known producer of gasoline and other petroleum products, announced it was moving its corporate headquarters to Texas.

Chevron, which dates its origins to the California Star Oil Works, which struck oil in the Santa Susana Mountains of Southern California in 1876, characterized the move from San Ramon to Houston as merely an ordinary managerial consolidation.

However, given its prominence, Newsom's recurrent vilification of the industry and his vow to end sales of gasoline-powered cars as a way of becoming carbon-neutral by 2045, the move's political aspects could not be ignored.

Initially, Newsom posted on social media a video denouncing oil industry "price gouging," including a melty-face emoji characterizing the industry's reaction to California's efforts to dampen gas prices.

But his office quickly took down the video and issued a statement saying Chevron's announcement "is the logical culmination of a long process that has repeatedly been foreshadowed by Chevron."

Predictably, Texas' Republican Gov. Greg

Abbott, a frequent foil for Newsom, immediately cast Chevron's move as a "snub" to California in a posting on X, formerly Twitter, calling Texas Chevron's "true home."

A more stinging rebuke came from the Bay Area Council, a business group that hews to a moderate political line and has often been supportive of Newsom.

"Chasing jobs and employers out of California is no way to run the economy," Jim Wunderman, the organization's president, said. "It's an embarrassment for California that we've lost so many global companies because of misguided policies that make it incredibly difficult to do business here. California's elected leaders need to take stock of the decisions they're making that affect millions of families and workers, impact the state budget and have grave consequences for the future economic health of this state."

Were Chevron's move an isolated event, it would be only temporarily interesting. However, California has seen a steady exodus of corporations, as the Bay Area Council noted, thus reinforcing its image of hostility to business.

Just days earlier, Elon Musk, who had already moved his Tesla corporate headquarters to Texas, announced that X and SpaceX would follow.

Chevron's announcement also comes amid a flurry of layoffs and corporate retrenchments in the Bay Area's high-tech industry, which have contributed to the state's having the nation's highest unemployment rate.

Moreover, we may not have heard the last of Chevron's moves. The company had been warning California officials that it might close its

two refineries in the state, which are major producers of the state's unique gasoline blend.

Voters in Richmond, the site of one Chevron refinery, will decide in November whether to impose a special tax on the refinery, \$1 per barrel, and the company has accused Richmond's leaders of "playing chicken" with their largest taxpayer and employer.

Politico reported that Andy Walz, a top Chevron executive, warned in an interview about the potential consequences of the Richmond tax measure. "I'm not going to tell you that that's the death knell, but we're getting close," he said, adding, "if I can't invest there, and I can't get a return, we will move on."

Newsom and other California politicians openly intend to eventually shut down the oil industry to reduce the state's carbon footprint. But they want a gradual reduction so many millions of gasoline-powered cars still on the road can run until phased out.

Were Chevron and other producers to decide, as Walz warns, that continuing operations in a politically hostile California no longer pencils out, the state could see an abrupt and economically devastating fuel shortage.

*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. ★*

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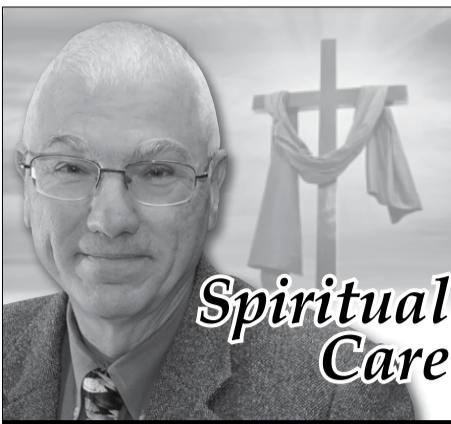
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# Christians Could Learn from Humanists



BY NORRIS BURKES

ethics didn't claim to be derived from a deity."

Wow. Except for that last sentence, the teaching sounds much like the lessons of the Golden Rule and the Good Samaritan parable I learned as a kid in a Baptist Sunday school.

Don't get me wrong. I happen to think that looking for your moral compass inside yourself is a good way to find yourself lost in a very deep forest. Nor am I endorsing a pot-luck belief system where you are free to believe a little of this and a little of that.

Nonetheless, I think humanists are right about some things.

A lifetime ago, I took a comparative religion class at Baylor University. My professor, while decidedly Christian, believed that each religion, even humanism, has something to teach the Christian.

For instance, the humanist teachings about our planet remind me that God loves all his creation. His creation is the center of his love. When religious people forget that, they become, as the saying goes, "So heavenly minded, they are no earthly good."

But if there is one lesson I hope the humanist and Christian alike can take away from the Christian Bible, it would be the story in Mark 9:14-29 about a father who brings his crazed teen to Jesus asking Jesus to help him if he can.

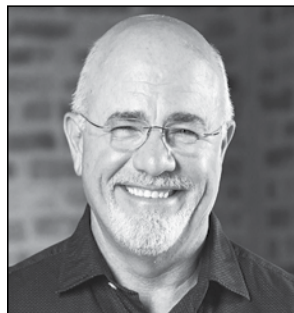
In the Norris paraphrase, Jesus responds incredulously. "What do you mean by, 'if I can?' Of course I can."

Or in Jesus' exact words, "Everything is possible for one who believes."

Then the boy's father immediately exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

Like this boy's father, we all need divine help overcoming our unbelief. Whether you are religious or atheist, we all struggle with our iAnd it's during those times of mistrust that it becomes easy to fall short of our goals and fail to do the most human thing – believe in each other.

That's why, at days end, we should be working together to make all things possible. And whether we be Christian or humanist or atheist – we can say together, "Help us all overcome our unbelief." ★



Dave Ramsey

# Dave Ramsey Says When You Know Better, Do Better

The late Maya Angelou once said, "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." That's the key for you, I think. Doing dumb things doesn't always mean you're a dumb person. Sometimes, we just don't have the knowledge or guidance we need to do things the right way. But once you learned a few things and saw there was a better way—a smarter way—you jumped in and made incredible things happen. You cleaned up your finances, and you changed your entire future for the better. I think that's pretty cool. And you know what else? It makes you a pretty smart lady.

I think part of your struggle may be the fact that you've spent more time making the wrong decisions with money than you've spent making the right ones. That's understandable. But time will help heal that struggle. It'll distance you emotionally from the old you until you're confident in the new you—not just in your actions, but in your heart and mind. I mean, think about it this way: If you violated trust with a friend, how would you rebuild it? First, it would take time. And second, it would take a series

of trustworthy actions. Let's say someone had a drinking problem for a long time, but they've been dry for three months. After three months, their spouse still might not trust them with the checkbook. I totally get that. It's a good start, but it's not like they haven't had a drink in three years. That's where time comes into play. The more time they demonstrate a solid pattern of not going back to the bottle, the more evidence they create for why others should trust them.

I think you've developed a pretty good track record of being smart with your money, Brea. So cut yourself some slack. If God is willing to forgive us for the really bad things we say and do, you need to be able to extend a little grace to yourself for the dumb things in your financial past.

– Dave

*Dave Ramsey is an eight-time 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.* ★

Dear Dave,

I've made a lot of stupid money mistakes in the past. Even though I finally paid off six figures in debt a few years ago and am in control of my finances for the first time in my life, I'm having a hard time forgiving myself for all the dumb things I did. I have an emergency fund and other savings set aside, and I'm almost ready to buy a house. But it seems like there's still a cloud hanging over my head from all my bad decisions. How do I stop obsessing over my past financial mistakes?

– Brea

Dear Brea

If you've had enough determination to pay off six figures' worth of debt and to build savings on top of that in the last few years, you're doing a phenomenal job! Most people would just make excuses or give up, but you educated yourself, put your head down and stomped out all that debt. I'm very proud of you, hon. What you've done speaks volumes about your character and self-discipline.

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## Sandie McGouran

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Sunday Worship  
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Worship Services  
11 a.m.

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Sacramento 95838  
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Worship: 11 a.m.  
Worship: 6 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Classes: 7 p.m.

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Tim Shaw-General Manager

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## Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

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To submit your articles, information, announcements or letters to the editor, please email a Microsoft Word file to: Publisher@mpg8.com. Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher". If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 991-3000 or (916) 773-1111.



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# COMICS & PUZZLES

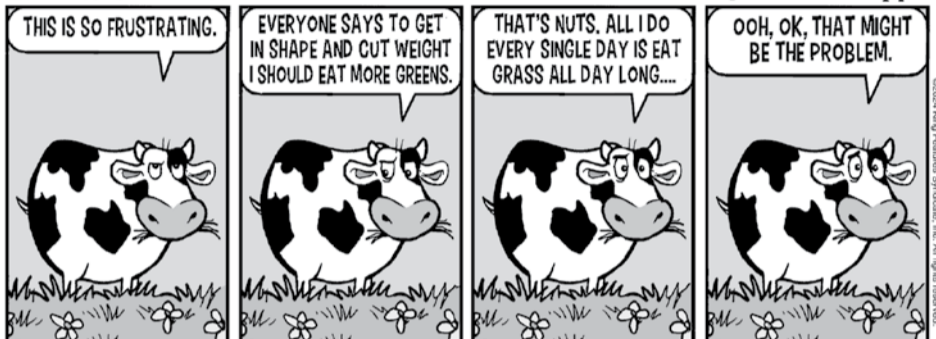
## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



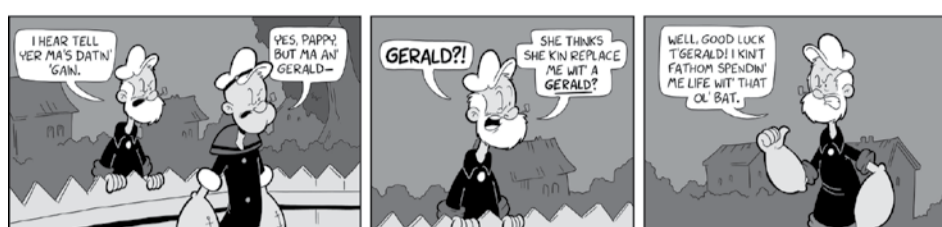
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



## TIGER

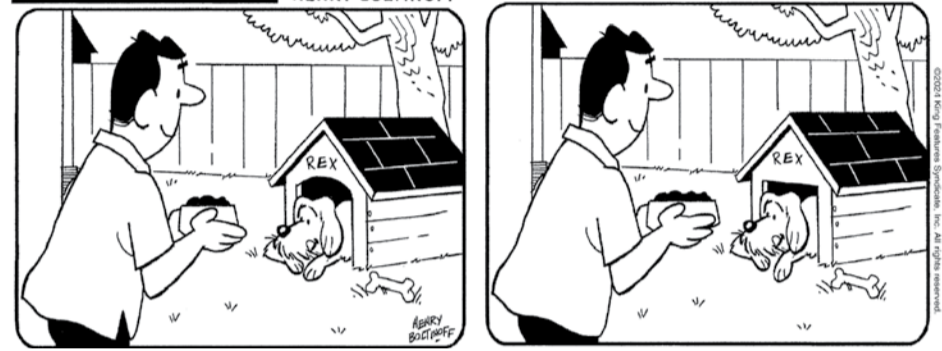
by BUD BLAKE



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Shingles are different. 2. Bowl is larger. 3. Doghouse opening is different. 4. Bottom of shirt is different. 5. Paw is moved. 6. Finger is moved.

## GRIN AND BEAR IT

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



S	P	E	A	K		T	E	G		S	A	S	H	
A	O	R	T	A		W	E	I		T	I	N	E	A
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C	R	O	W	S		I	R	E		A	D	D	T	O
K	E	G	S			C	A	W		N	E	S	T	S

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**CLUES**

**ACROSS**

- Command to Fido
- Sheep not yet sheared
- Cap and gown accessory
- Blood line
- Ancient Chinese dynasty
- Ringworm
- Driver's license notation
- Not outs
- Like Cheerios
- "Piece of football equipment required since 1943
- \*Peyton or Eli
- Napkin spot
- Eminem's 2002 hit "Yourself"
- Embargo
- Feed storage cylinder
- Like house from a kit
- Greek god of love
- Smokes
- \*Super Bowl I M.V.P. Bart
- Taj Mahal locale
- \*Career rushing yards record holder
- Equals squared
- Regretting
- \*Highest college football level: \_\_\_\_\_ Division I
- Extend credit
- \*Seventeen games in NFL
- Somewhat (2 words)
- \*Whatever Will Be, Will Be" singer
- Mare's baby
- Not a friend
- \*55 of them
- \*Home of the NFL Hall of Fame
- Hole-borer
- For every
- Color red on coat of arms
- Birds of ill omen
- Outrage
- \_\_\_\_\_ shopping cart
- Party barrels
- Sound from one of #69 Across
- Homes for #69 Across

**DOWN**

- Down in the dumps
- Cry of contempt
- Marine eagle
- Wake Island, e.g.
- Kizmet, pl.
- Foolish one
- Even, poetic
- Useful contraption
- Lamborghini model
- Unfavorable prefix
- "As \_\_\_\_\_ on TV"
- Suspend
- Astrigents
- "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey," e.g.
- Venomous Egyptian snake
- Deductible
- \*One of 2 NFL founding teams still in league
- Lock horns
- Waterwheel
- Outline
- Et alii, abbr.
- Got along
- \*Like indoor eight-men

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
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72				73		74							

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4	3	6	1	9	7	8	2	5
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6	5	1	8	2	4	7	3	9
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5	2	4	3	7	1	9	8	6
7	8	3	9	6	5	2	1	4

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		6		1		8		
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6	1		4					
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.



# As Scammers Target PG&E Customers, Here's What to Know to Not Fall Victim



## PG&E News Release

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, CA (MPG)** - Utility scams have continued at an alarming rate during 2024, with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) customers reporting over \$334,000 in losses to scammers. To stop this trend, PG&E is committed to helping customers recognize the signs of a scam and avoid falling victim.

A typical sign of a scam targeting a utility customer includes a caller claiming to be from PG&E and threatening disconnection if immediate payment is not made via a pre-paid debit card, digital payment mobile application, or other methods of money transfer. As a reminder, PG&E will never send a single notification to a customer within one hour of a service interruption and will never ask customers to make payments with a pre-paid debit card, gift card, any form of cryptocurrency, or instant mobile payment applications, like Zelle® or Venmo.

"Scammers seek to create a sense of panic, threatening disconnection of utility services if immediate payment is not made," said Matt Foley, lead customer scam investigator for PG&E. "If a phone call, visit to your home or email doesn't feel right, don't fall for it. Hang up, shut the door or delete it. Remember, PG&E will never ask for your financial information over the phone or via email, nor will we request payment via pre-paid debit cards or other methods of money transfer, including mobile applications."

During 2024, PG&E has received nearly 15,000 reports of scams targeting residential and business customers with customers reporting losses of over \$334,000. The average scam victim lost over

\$600, and over 500 customers have reported falling victim. This number is likely just the tip of the iceberg however, as many scams go unreported.

Business customers also are not immune from scam attempts. In fact, PG&E has received 528 reports of scams targeting small and medium-sized businesses this year, and these attempts frequently occur during busy business hours when scammers hope to catch unsuspecting victims while they are distracted or stressed.

Another recent scam trend involves scammers creating fake websites which provide a fraudulent phone number when you search services related to PGE such as "bill pay" or "start/stop" service. These sites and phone numbers often appear when a handheld device is used to search for and contact PGE. As a reminder, customers looking to contact PG&E should either call our customer service number, 800-743-5000 or by logging into your account at [www.pge.com](http://www.pge.com).

Scammers can be convincing and often target those who are most vulnerable, including senior citizens and low-income communities. They also aim their scams at small business owners during busy customer service hours. However, with the right information, customers can learn to detect and report these predatory scams by visiting [www.pge.com/scams](http://www.pge.com/scams) or by calling 1-833-500-SCAM.

Signs of a potential scam Threat to disconnect: Scammers may aggressively demand immediate payment for an alleged past due bill.

Request for immediate payment: Scammers may instruct the customer to purchase a prepaid card, then call them back

supposedly to make a bill payment.

Request for prepaid card: When the customer calls back, the caller asks the customer for the prepaid card's number, which grants the scammer instant access to the card's funds.

Refund or rebate offers: Scammers may say that your utility company over-billed you and owes you a refund, or that you are entitled to a rebate, and ask you for your personal financial information.

Scammers Impersonating Trusted Phone Numbers: Scammers are now able to create authentic looking 800 numbers which appear on your phone display. The numbers don't lead back to PG&E if called back, however, so if you have doubts, hang up and either log into your account at [pge.com](http://pge.com) to confirm your bill details or call PG&E at 1-833-500-SCAM. If customers ever feel that they are in physical danger, they should call 9-1-1.

How customers can protect themselves

Customers should never purchase a prepaid card to avoid service disconnection or shutoff. PG&E does not specify how customers should make a bill payment and offers a variety of ways to pay a bill, including accepting payments online, by phone, automatic bank draft, mail or in person.

If a scammer threatens immediate disconnection or shutoff of service without prior notification, customers should hang up the phone, delete the email, or shut the door. Customers with delinquent accounts receive an advance disconnection notification, typically by mail and included with their regular monthly bill.

Signing up for an online account at [pge.com](http://pge.com) is another safeguard. Not only can customers log in to check their balance and payment history, but they can also sign up for recurring payments, paperless billing and helpful alerts.

Customers who suspect that they have been victims of fraud, or who feel threatened during contact with one of these scammers, should contact local law enforcement. The Federal Trade Commission's website is also a good source of information about how to protect personal information.

For more information about scams, visit [pge.com/scams](http://pge.com/scams) or <https://consumer.ftc.gov/scams>. ★

# UC Regents Approve New Student Housing at UC Davis



Pictured here is a rendering of what the new student housing building will look like. Photo courtesy of Katherine E Kerlin

## By BreAnda Northcutt

**DAVIS, CA (MPG)** - UC Davis will break ground on a new residence hall next spring in the Segundo area, following approval this week by the UC Board of Regents. The \$100 million project aims to address the growing demand for on-campus housing and commitments the campus has made with the city of Davis.

The new complex, tentatively titled the "Segundo Infill Project," will span 118,000 square feet and feature 206 rooms, accommodating 494 students in double and triple occupancy configurations. The residence hall will stand five stories tall, offering students modern amenities, study nooks, social spaces and 600 bike spaces.

The university considered building higher than five floors, but in California, buildings six stories or higher fall under different building codes and incur significantly higher costs. Opting for a five-story structure helps manage expenses and ensure housing remains affordable, while still providing needed supply. The residence hall will feature a concrete podium and steel frame, ensuring durability, longevity and a quieter living environment.

Constructed on what are currently parking lots 22 and 16, the site will also transform

its surroundings; parking will be restored in lot 16 after construction is completed.

"The UC Davis campus has added 6,500 beds since 2017 to meet demand given undergraduate housing guarantees and enrollment growth and to make progress toward Long-Range Development Plan goals and MOU commitments with the city of Davis," Chancellor Gary S. May said before the Board of Regents meeting. "We are pleased that the regents have approved this item so that UC Davis can continue to make considerable progress toward these important housing commitments and goals."

As of fall 2023, UC Davis provides on-campus housing for 38% of Davis-based undergraduate and graduate students. The new residence hall will help the university move closer to its goal of housing 48% of its Davis-based students on campus, as outlined in the Long-Range Development Plan (LRDP) and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the city of Davis.

The entire project will be 100% electric and will aim for a minimum LEED Gold certification, with a goal of obtaining LEED Platinum.

The residence hall is expected to be ready for occupancy by the fall quarter of 2027. ★



## Employment Opportunities

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## Opportunities at Messenger Publishing Group

Email your resume to [Publisher@MPG8.com](mailto:Publisher@MPG8.com)

**Circulation Manager** - We are seeking a full-time Circulation Manager to oversee our 18 local newspapers. Duties include managing the weekly reporting of distribution, preparation for weekly audits, managing and recruiting our carrier staff, preparing and reporting postal statements, customer service support, physical labor repairing and replacing newsstands, setting up new locations, and other related duties needed to run the circulation department. This position works primarily in Carmichael but will require some local travel to our other offices in the Sacramento region. The hours may vary but are flexible due to the nature of the duties.

**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.

**Delivery Driver** - Weekly Hauling to Marysville- We are seeking a part-time Delivery Driver for our newspaper group. This position would transport newspapers from our Carmichael office to our offices in Marysville and Gridley. Work hours are from 8:30 to 4:00 every Thursday. Must be able to lift and move bundles of newspapers without assistance. Must have your own reliable cargo van. This is an independent contractor position and pays a flat rate for your service.

**Newsstand Delivery Driver/Local** - We are seeking a part-time Newsstand Deliver Driver for our newspaper group. This position works from the Carmichael office and delivers to our locations in the West Sacramento/Sacramento Region. Routes also available in Elk Grove, Pocket, East Sacramento, Arden Arcade. Work hours are from 8:30 to 5:00 Thursday and/or Friday. Must be able to lift and move bundles of newspapers without assistance. You must have a reliable vehicle. This is an independent contractor position. Previous experience preferred.

To find out more or to apply:

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# California Seizes More Than \$120 Million in Illegal Cannabis Since January

Office of Governor Gavin Newsom News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In strong support of California's legal cannabis market, Governor Gavin Newsom announced that since January, California's Unified Cannabis Enforcement Task Force (UCETF) has seized more than \$120 million worth of illegal cannabis, destroyed nearly 37 tons of unlicensed cannabis, including 122,914 illegal plants. As part of these operations, state law enforcement officials have also seized 22 firearms.

"The legal cannabis market brings billions of dollars to our state's economy, helping to sustain California's position as the fifth largest economy in the world. We will not tolerate illegal operations that threaten our economy and the health and well-being of California communities," Governor Gavin Newsom said.

In recent months, the task force conducted operations in 11 California counties, including Mendocino, Tuolumne, Shasta,

Orange, Kern, Alameda, Yuba, Trinity, Los Angeles, Butte and Humboldt.

"UCETF's efforts are continuing to break new ground in unlicensed cannabis enforcement by leveraging the expertise and knowledge of its diverse group of partners to disrupt the unlicensed market," said Bill Jones, Chief of the Law Enforcement Division with the Department of Cannabis Control.

### Taking Down Illicit Cannabis

Governor Newsom has directed state agencies to aggressively target the organized criminal enterprises involved in the illicit cannabis market. These illegal schemes not only threaten California's legal cannabis market, but the use of illegal pesticides and unregulated practices harm California's environment and water quality. California is also focused on ending the exploitation of vulnerable workers at these sites, who are often victims of labor violations and human trafficking.

"The continued success of UCETF is a testament to the collaboration between its partner agencies. Due to the high level of engagement from each of the agencies involved, we are able to move swiftly against those who choose to continue to grow cannabis illegally," said Nathaniel Arnold, Chief of the Law Enforcement Division with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and co-lead of the Unified Cannabis Enforcement Task Force.

"We will continue to rely on the individual and combined strengths of these agencies to support those who are cultivating legally in a manner that is safe for the consumer, the general public, and the environment."

### A Unified Strategy Across California

In 2022, Governor Newsom created the Unified Cannabis Enforcement Task Force to further align state efforts and increase cannabis enforcement coordination between state, local, and federal partners.



Unified Cannabis Enforcement Task Force officers find illegally grown cannabis. Photo courtesy of the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom

The enforcement actions protect consumer and public safety, safeguard the environment, and deprive illegal cannabis operators and transnational criminal organizations of illicit revenue that harms consumers and undercuts the regulated cannabis market in California.

Since its inception, the Unified Cannabis Enforcement Task

Force has seized over \$465 million in unlicensed cannabis by serving 309 search warrants. The taskforce has also eradicated 470,435 illegal cannabis plants, seized 150 illegal firearms, and arrested 38 individuals.

To learn more about the legal California cannabis market, state licenses, and laws, visit cannabis.ca.gov. ★

# UC Davis Health Breaks Ground on 14-Story California Tower

Continued from page 1

today," said David Lubarsky, CEO of UC Davis Health. "We are building into this new tower some of the lessons we learned from the recent pandemic. As an example, three out of four of the rooms in this new tower can be easily converted to fully functional ICUs if needed, tripling our ICU capacity."

When the California Tower is open for patients in 2030, Lubarsky added, it will continue the hospital's 150-year legacy of "caring for those who need it most, delivering superior patient outcomes while becoming more sustainable, and keeping our focus on improving health outcomes and equity."

The \$3.74 billion tower will replace parts of the hospital that must close due to state seismic regulations. Hospitals across

California are in the process of upgrading their existing facilities or constructing new buildings that can withstand major earthquakes.

The current, 646-bed hospital, the largest in the Sacramento region, will have a total of 675 to 700 inpatient beds when the project is expected to be completed in 2030.

### Supporting the Community

The California Tower project is expected to create hundreds of construction jobs and thousands of new health care positions for the surrounding community. It's one of many benefits of being home to an anchor institution such as UC Davis Medical Center.

Anchor institutions are place-based, mission-driven entities such as universities and hospitals that leverage economic power

alongside human and intellectual resources to improve the long-term health and social welfare of surrounding communities.

"The hospital tower we're breaking ground on today represents another pivotal investment in our city by UC Davis," said Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg. "Both this tower and the new Aggie Square innovation campus will create thousands of new, high-quality jobs and expand our ability to meet the health care needs of our residents."

UC Davis Health plans to help fuel the economic health and overall wellbeing of the neighborhoods surrounding its Sacramento campus by hiring and developing local workforce talent, purchasing more goods and services from local vendors, investing in local projects that support vulnerable communities and engaging employees to volunteer in local

neighborhoods.

"This project further harnesses the advantages of UC Davis Medical Center being Sacramento's No. 1 hospital and delivering nationally-ranked care," Lubarsky said. "UC Davis Health is Sacramento County's second-largest employer and we're making sure we are bringing not only health care but jobs and community wealth-building to our surrounding neighborhoods."

"I am so grateful for the collaborative planning effort that has spanned years and required so much hard work and coordination to bring us to this point of breaking ground for this new hospital tower," Lubarsky said.

Learn more about the California Tower project by visiting the Vision 2030 website at <https://health.ucdavis.edu/facilities/vision-2030>. ★

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**WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS**

Beef London Broil/Top Round Roast Pulpa Para Hornear Roast sin Hueso <b>\$4.99/lb</b>	Beef T-Bone Steaks Filete Chuletón de Ternera <b>\$5.99/lb</b>	Beef Porterhouse Steak Filete Biseca de Ternera <b>\$6.49/lb</b>
Boneless/Skinless Chicken Breasts <b>\$2.49/lb</b>	Pork Loin Chops Bone In <b>\$2.99/lb</b>	Pork Cushion Meat - Boneless Carne de Cerdo Barbacoa <b>\$2.99/lb</b>

**AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY**

Hidden Valley Ranch Dressing 16 Lbs <b>\$4.99/ea</b>	Bona Laundry Detergent Powder 5 lbs <b>\$13.99/ea</b>	Best Foods Real Mayonnaise 30 Lbs <b>\$5.99/ea</b>	Argo 100% Pure Corn Starch 16 oz <b>\$2.99/ea</b>	Copps Sun Fruit Drinks 10 x 6 Lbs <b>\$2.99/ea</b>
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**FRESH PRODUCE**

Italian Squash Fancy <b>79¢/lb</b>	Red Grape Premium <b>\$2.49/lb</b>	Russet Potato 10 lbs <b>\$1.79/box</b>	Mexican Papaya <b>99¢/lb</b>
Red Seedless Watermelon <b>\$5.99/ea</b>	Hami Melon 2 lbs for \$1	Ginger <b>\$1.29/lb</b>	Fairytale Pumpkin <b>99¢/lb</b>

**ASIAN GROCERY**

Super Q Bihon 16 oz <b>\$1.49/ea</b>	Kinoko Mushroom Seasoning 17.6 oz <b>\$5.79/ea</b>	Hikiman Fish Sauce 6.8 Lbs <b>\$1.99/ea</b>	Lucia Mung Bean 14 oz <b>\$1.59/ea</b>	Kopiko L.A. Coffee 10 x 25 g <b>\$2.99/ea</b>
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**EUROPEAN GROCERY**

Beveler Cucumber Salad 900 gr <b>\$2.69/ea</b>	Bapchev Sweetened Condensed Milk 6.5% 360 g <b>\$2.99/ea</b>	Monte Pellino Wafers 3 Flavors 275 g <b>\$3.49/ea</b>	Elje Vita Sugar Free Cookies 150 gr <b>\$2.49/ea</b>	Golden Plate 100% Grapeseed Oil 1 liter <b>\$7.99/ea</b>
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**KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY**

Premium Sushi Rice 2.4 Lbs <b>\$6.99/ea</b>	Haitai Apple Juice 1.5 Liters <b>\$3.99/ea</b>	Hongkong Glass Noodles 1 kg <b>\$5.99/ea</b>	Canned Silk Worm 130 g <b>99¢/ea</b>	Wheat Flour 2.5 lbs <b>\$4.99/ea</b>	Wang Mak Jui-Soo 5 lbs <b>\$3.99/ea</b>
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**HOUSEWARES**

BIGEN SPEEDY HAIR COLOR (REFILL ONLY) <b>\$5.99/ea</b>	ELECTRIC BBQ GRILL <b>39.99</b>	ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (4 CUPS) <b>\$49.99</b>	ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (6 CUPS) <b>\$54.99</b>	ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (8 CUPS) <b>\$59.99</b>
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**FROZEN & FISH DEPT**

Dried Cod Fish 500 g <b>\$12.99/ea</b>	Columbus Pan Roasted Turkey Breast Kretschmar Ham off the Bone <b>\$11.99/ea</b>	Olive Medley Sicilian Style Olives <b>\$4.99/lb</b>
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