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Showing Up for Success



Washington Unified School District's "Be Here! Don't Skip Out on Success" campaign encourages daily attendance through positive reinforcement. Photo courtesy of Washington Unified School District

By Angela Underwood

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - There is no better time for National Attendance Awareness Month than September.

"This is a perfect opportunity to renew our commitment to consistent school attendance and set a positive tone for the entire school year," said Washington Unified School District (WUSD) Communications executive director Giorgios Kazanis.

The National Center for Education

Statistics (NCES) asks why attendance matters, answering, "A missed school day is a lost opportunity for students to learn."

Kazanis concurs.

"Regular attendance is crucial for our students' success," Kazanis said. "When our students are physically, mentally and emotionally present, they benefit from the incredible support network we've built to help them reach their full potential."

Reaching that full potential meant creating a program that ensures

students show up, which is why Washington Unified School District implemented the "Be Here! Don't Skip Out on Success" campaign.

"It is a homegrown initiative developed by WUSD in response to our specific community needs," Kazanis said. "We didn't find this resource elsewhere; rather, we created it based on extensive data analysis, feedback from our school board meetings, internal communications, and community forums."

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West Nile Virus Risk Continues



The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District urges residents to prevent mosquito bites as West Nile virus is still a risk. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District

Sacramento Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - While Labor Day is the last holiday of the summer, mosquito activity and the risk of West Nile virus continue for all area residents.

On Aug. 30, the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District reminded the public to protect themselves from mosquitoes, especially as many would be at outdoor activities for the long holiday weekend.

"Mosquito samples and dead birds are still testing positive for West Nile virus," said District Manager Gary Goodman on Aug. 30. "While we have been enjoying the cooler weather, temperatures are expected to climb back up next week. This means mosquitoes will be out and there is still a possibility of being bitten and becoming sick with West Nile."

"Stay protected by always using an effective repellent when spending time outdoors," Goodman added.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends using an insect repellent that contains the active ingredients DEET, Picaridin, IR3535 or the plant-based Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Be sure to always follow label directions when applying repellent.

This season, virus activity has been steady and widespread in both Sacramento and Yolo counties.

"We still have a few weeks before the summer season officially ends so it's very important for everyone to do their part and protect themselves, especially as we head into the holiday weekend," Goodman said.

While West Nile virus
Continued on page 3

Moving Yolo Youth Forward

Story by Kristin Thébaud

WEST SACRAMENTO AREA, CA (MPG) - A decade ago, a small group of Davis residents teamed up to make sure that Yolo County's foster youth had the furnishings and household items they needed to create a home when they moved out on their own.

The nonprofit organization they created, Make It Happen for Yolo County, is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, serving under-resourced transition-age youth (approximately ages 16 to 24) who are aging out of the child welfare, mental health or juvenile justice systems.

In 2014, Make It Happen



Make It Happen for Yolo County team members cheer with volunteers from Discovery Christian Church in Davis, who helped clean and organize the nonprofit organization's storage units. Photo courtesy of Make It Happen for Yolo County.

for Yolo County served 12 youth. By the end of the group's first decade in

operation, more than 300 youth were served. "It's been really beautiful

to watch this community come together to support our
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Moving Yolo Youth Forward

Continued from page 1
local transition-age youth over the last 10 years," said Jan Judson, founder and board president. "Our small nonprofit has grown into an important resource and we know that's thanks to our volunteers, donors and partners who have placed their trust in us."

When a youth is referred to Make It Happen for Yolo County, the team begins by having the youth work with their referrer to fill out a checklist of desired household goods and furniture. Clients are then contacted to meet a Make It Happen volunteer at the group's storage units in Davis, where they can choose items they want. Make It Happen clients receive a move-in kit filled with a multi-purpose repair tool, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, tissues, gift cards and more. Gently-used furniture donated from the community and household items are provided for every room in their new home, including kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and living area.

"One of our clients recently said about our team, 'You thought of everything just like a mom would,'" Judson said. "I can think of no higher compliment."

Resources exist for other basic needs such as rent, food and clothing but no other Yolo County group offers furniture, appliances, household items and the resources needed to furnish a first apartment, according to Make It Happen for Yolo County members. Much of the furniture is donated by community members but household items such as beds, bedding, lighting, appliances, cleaning supplies and more are purchased new.

"Our unofficial motto is 'If you won't give it to

your kids, we won't give it to ours,'" Judson said. "We have seen that providing like-new furniture and new, unopened items is important to our clients and shows them they are valued members of our community."

Over the past few years, the team has focused on expanding outreach to other groups serving transition-age youth, especially high schools, community colleges and UC Davis. Make It Happen for Yolo County has a longstanding partnership with the University of California, Davis Guardian Scholars program for former foster youth who are students at the university and they recognized that working with schools is an effective way to reach more youth.

In the past couple of years, Make It Happen for Yolo County has worked closely with Washington Unified School District in West Sacramento to ensure high school foster youth know about their services when they graduate and prepare to move out on their own.

"When Make It Happen comes to present to our students about their services, I see the kids' faces light up," said Maria Munoz, families in transition and foster youth specialist with the McKinney Vento program at Washington Unified School District. "They don't expect this service to be available. It's always a proud moment for me when they graduate and reach out to me asking to be connected to Make It Happen. They remember and even connect their friends in other parts of the county. I make sure to talk about their services with every one of the kids I meet."

Munoz remembers a West Sacramento student in foster care who was working two

jobs while going to school. Four months after graduating, Munoz said, the student contacted her to be connected to Make It Happen.

"She really needed the service but said she didn't have transportation to get to Davis," Munoz said. "I spoke with the team at Make It Happen and they took care of everything. They helped her select items, loaded up a truck and helped her move everything in. They furnished her whole apartment within three days of her getting her keys. Now she has a full-time job and is going to community college."

Munoz hopes more Yolo County residents will consider donating funds or furniture to the nonprofit organization.

"These kids are coming with nothing," Munoz said. "I love that Make It Happen is there for them because they're students who don't have a lot of guidance."

Last year, Make It Happen expanded from an all-volunteer nonprofit organization and hired its first executive director, Cathi Schmidt. With Schmidt in place and rapidly increasing referral partnerships, the team plans to serve 53 youth this year and another 200 transition-age youth in the next five years.

"It was my goal and desire to work for a nonprofit that provides much needed services to the underserved youth of our community," Schmidt said. "I have found Make It Happen to be an organization that addresses needs in a way that is truly impactful. I'm excited to see how much more we can do over the next decade."

For more information or to make a financial or furniture donation, visit www.MIHYOlo.org ★

Showing Up for Success



Washington Unified School District teachers stress the importance of attendance daily with their students. Photo courtesy of Washington Unified School District

Continued from page 1
The National Center for Education Statistics reported that student learning and attendance studies are constantly evolving "in this era of increased accountability for states, districts and schools."

"As a result, education agencies are asked with increasing frequency to report attendance data in a standard manner to allow comparisons across

local students, teachers and community members create relatable content.

"Multilingual communication ensures we reach all demographics in our district," Kazanis said, adding, "Positive reinforcement messaging, rather than punitive measures, encourages attendance."

Improved attendance metrics prove the program's success with a

"We prioritize personalized support through our dedicated school counselors and social workers, who work closely with families to understand their unique circumstances and develop tailored solutions," Kazanis said, citing the Community Schools Initiative.

The program connects families with essential resources, including healthcare



Washington Unified School District's "Be Here! Don't Skip Out on Success" campaign encourages daily attendance through positive reinforcement. Photo courtesy of Washington Unified School District

organizations and jurisdictions," National Center for Education Statistics reported.

Washington Unified School District was one step ahead, studying figures for a while.

"With an all-time high of 30.83% chronic absenteeism in the 2021-2022 school year, the message was clear: something needed to address the disparity," Kazanis said. "The 'Be Here!' campaign was conceived, implemented and sustained through data-driven decision-making. The campaign uses a variety of creative elements to engage our diverse student population."

According to the communication director, motion graphics and animated text capture students' attention across digital platforms, and video stories featuring

2% increase in average daily attendance and a 5% decrease in chronic absenteeism in the 2023-2024 school year compared to 2022-2023.

According to the communication director, maintaining daily attendance creates a crucial monthly check-in date.

"Check-ins allow us to identify attendance issues early and intervene promptly while fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility for attendance," Kazanis said, adding regular communication keeps attendance at the forefront of everyone's mind.

"It enables us to adjust our strategies based on real-time data and feedback," Kazanis added.

Some feedback falls on the parents' lack of enforcement for various reasons.

and housing assistance, to address underlying issues that might affect attendance, among other challenges.

"We work hard to build positive relationships with guardians to encourage their involvement," Kazanis said, adding supportive home visits and before and after-school programs accommodate varying family schedules.

Now that children are back in school and summer is almost over, it's time to focus.

"Let's use the energy from our Labor Day break to start September strong. We encourage everyone to prioritize attendance and arrive at school on time, ready to learn," Kazanis said. "Every school day is an opportunity for growth, learning and connection, so let's make each day count." ★

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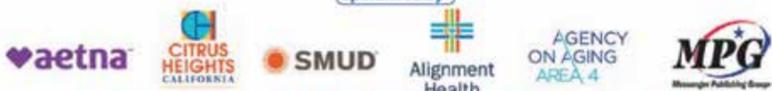


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Washington Unified School District students study together daily with the district's tailored attendance program, raising daily metrics. Photo courtesy of Washington Unified School District



West Nile Virus Risk Continues

Continued from page 1

is the main concern, the invasive mosquitoes, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* continue to spread throughout both counties. Invasive mosquitoes are a public health threat because they are capable of transmitting debilitating diseases such as Zika, dengue and chikungunya. Invasive mosquitoes were detected for the first time within district boundaries in 2019 and since then have been spreading quickly, according to the district.

To report a mosquito breeding source or for current information about any

treatments planned within Sacramento or Yolo counties, visit www.FIGHTtheBITE.net. Residents can also subscribe to mailing lists to receive email notifications for mosquito treatments by zip code at www.FIGHTtheBITE.net.

2024 West Nile virus activity update, as of Aug. 30

Sacramento County: 53 dead birds and 46 mosquito samples have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

Yolo County: 1 dead bird and 42 mosquito samples have tested positive for West Nile virus. ★

Consent Agenda Tackles Big Issues



City Manager Aaron Laurel explains that "agenda material" needed for consideration was unavailable at the Aug. 21 meeting. Photo courtesy of West Sacramento Ledger

By Angela Underwood

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - At every regularly scheduled City Council meeting, elected officials must give an overall blessing on the consent agenda.

If any official feels to pull a matter for discussion or clarification, the mayor and City Council halt. That was the case at the Aug. 21 meeting when Vice-Mayor Dawnte Early governed the dais with Mayor Martha Guerrero absent that evening.

Early pulled Item 8: Lyons Security Services, Inc. provides guard services for West Sacramento's emergency homeless housing programs for nearly \$672,000.

A staff report attached to the matter offers a brief history, beginning with the city's acquisition of the 40-unit Rodeway Inn to house homeless individuals vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Three years later, West Sacramento bought the 21-unit Flamingo Motel to expand homeless emergency housing again. This year, officials acquired two more motel properties: the Pick Wick Motel at 1809 West Capitol Avenue and the El Tejon Motel at 1812 Merkle Avenue.

"These acquisitions support the initial expansion and longer-term operation of the homeless emergency housing

programs," according to the staff report, adding, "The programs at the former Rodeway Inn and Flamingo Motel are expected to conclude in December 2025 and June 2026, respectively."

Early asked City Manager Aaron Laurel to explain why she had to pull.

According to Laurel, paperwork problems moved the matter to a later date.

"The request from staff on item eight, there was a mix-up with the distribution of agenda materials for that item, and we are requesting this to continue it over to the September 18 Council meeting," Laurel said of all the facilities, which offer temporary housing for persons experiencing homelessness and transitional programs to permanent housing.

However, the staff report reads that ensuring staff and physical safety is critical for municipal facilities as they deliver various services.

"Security guards play a key role in this by acting as a liaison between staff and program participants, enforcing city rules and regulations to protect both staff and property," the staff report reads, noting the existing contract with another security service established in 2020 is ending at the end of September.

Officials did not have to vote for the matter to be delayed to September, and the matter was approved with all other consent agenda matters, including Item 10: approving a professional services contract with Lyons Security Service for city-wide mobile patrol services.

Speaking of city-wide, consent agenda item six approved a federal contract for Nomad Transit LLC to service Downtown Sacramento On-Demand Rideshare Program for a one-year pilot.

If successful, the "City Council may need to consider and approve additional funding for an expansion," according to the staff report, noting in June, officials approved the On-Demand Rideshare Program contract, totaling \$10,216,950 for Fiscal Year 2024-25 through Fiscal Year 2026-27.

The staff report states, "an estimated shortfall of \$1.05 million will likely affect the Program in FY26-27."

Another notable consent agenda item included approving a 13-month Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the city and the West Sacramento Firefighters' Association and a three-year MOU with the West Sacramento Stationary Engineers', Local 39. ★

Tree Ordinance Under Review



Resident Denise Katko tells city officials on Aug. 21 that they need to update the tree ordinance, which is two decades old, that she alleges does not distinguish between commercial and residential properties. Photo courtesy of the West Sacramento News Ledger

By Angela Underwood

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Taking down a tree is not as easy as it sounds here.

Resident Denise Kotko opened her short speech on Aug. 21 from the podium on the city's tree ordinance noting she had not approached the dais in 13 years on another matter. Kotko reminded officials that the ordinance established in 2004 still "doesn't make a distinction between what happens on a residential property and what happens on a commercial property" two decades later.

The problem for the resident was the "big old tree" in her yard, which was there when she moved in 47 years ago. Katko said when she applied to have the tree removed, she was not happy with the mandate.

"I would have to plant 38 trees in my front yard to replace that one tree," Kotko said of her minimally sized residential lot.

Public Information Officer (PIO) Paul Hosley said the present tree ordinance requires the mitigation for the removal of a healthy, protected tree to help compensate for the loss of canopy that would occur when the tree is removed.

"The West Sacramento Urban Forest helps cool our communities by up to seven degrees from the

urban heat island effect; it filters our air, sequesters carbon, provides shades to our homes, and helps slow stormwater runoff," Hosley said.

"Large mature trees do this at a rate 500 to 600 times more than newly planted trees, and the amount exponentially increases over time."

Katko said after talking to the city's "tree guy," she was told she could appeal.

"I asked my daughter to check on the appeal process, and she found a menagerie of whatever the person does with appeals, but it was a hoop I don't know how to jump through," Kotko said.

"I could appeal, plant the 38 trees, or pay the city \$12,000 to take a tree out of my front yard."

Hosley said the appeal process is pretty straightforward.

"One fills out an appeals request form, which can be found online, submits it to the City Manager's office, and a date is set up with the Appeals Court Judge for an appointment," Hosley said.

"The meeting typically lasts less than an hour for matters concerning trees, and participants can meet virtually or in person at City Hall."

Katko told officials that carpenter ants were found after trimming the tree "so we could take the tree out."

"But that does not help the next guy," Katko

said. "Why does a developer with 40 acres have to plant 38 trees for a residential lot, and my lot is probably only a quarter of an acre, so I have to plant 38 trees?"

Hosley said the City Tree Preservation Ordinance seeks to replace a portion of the canopy lost when a heritage tree is removed by planting new trees, a general practice throughout the industry and region.

"The ordinance requires a new tree to be planted for every diameter inch of healthy heritage tree removed," Hosley said. "For example, if a very large heritage tree had a diameter off 38 inches, then the mitigation would require 38 new trees be planted to help supplement the canopy loss."

Hosley said West Sacramento is in the process of reviewing and updating the Tree Preservation Ordinance.

"The ordinance as it stands is in line with ordinances from neighboring municipalities, though we seek to further adapt our ordinance to personalize it to West Sacramento's makeup," Hosley said.

The Public Information Officer added, "The major focus on equity is to see how best to differentiate the requirements for residents versus developers as well as look holistically at what other scenarios might occur within our city limits." ★

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Social Security Matters

For Advice on When to Claim Social Security



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

Dear Rusty: I could use some advice on whether or not I should start collecting my Social Security benefits now. I am 67 and 3 months old, and plan to continue working for at least for the next year or two. **Signed: Seeking Answers**

Dear Seeking: Deciding when to claim Social Security is, indeed, an important decision, as it will affect you for the rest of your life. Mainly, deciding when to claim your SS retirement benefit should consider your financial needs, but your life expectancy and marital status are equally important.

At your current age (past your full retirement age of 66 years & six months) you are already earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) at the rate of .677% higher benefit for each month you continue to delay. That adds up to an additional 8% benefit for each full year you

wait beyond your FRA to claim, and that growth will continue until you are 70 years old. At that point, your benefit will be 28% higher than it would have been at your full retirement age (FRA). If you expect to achieve about "average" life expectancy (about 84 for a man your current age), then waiting until 70 to claim will get you both a higher monthly amount and the most you can get in cumulative lifetime benefits. Waiting, however, only makes sense if you expect at least average longevity. If your health is poor and you have reason to believe you won't live to the "average," then claiming earlier makes more sense. FYI, you may find this tool helpful to determine your potential life expectancy: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/>.

You can, of course, simply delay claiming for as long as you are still working, and then file for benefits at that time. When your paychecks stop is frequently the best time to start your SS benefits (to supplement the lost work income). And, if you are married and your wife will be entitled to a survivor benefit from you, then waiting longer to claim enhances the benefit your surviving spouse receives

at your death (your surviving spouse would get your benefit amount, instead of her own smaller amount). If that is a consideration, then waiting – at least until you stop working (or age 70 if feasible) is often a prudent choice.

So, the choice is yours to make, considering your financial needs, life expectancy, and marital status. You no longer need to worry about Social Security's annual earnings test (for those collecting benefits before their FRA) but, if it is financially feasible, waiting still longer will mean a higher monthly benefit for the rest of your life.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★

Phone-Free Schools Act Clears Legislature

Office of Assemblyman Josh Hoover News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Aug. 29, the Legislature passed landmark legislation authored by Assemblymembers Josh Hoover (R-Folsom), Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance), Josh Lowenthal (D-Long Beach), and David Alvarez (D-San Diego) to limit the use of smartphones in schools. Assembly Bill 3216, also known as the Phone-Free Schools Act, requires school districts in California to adopt a policy no later than July 1, 2026, that limits or prohibits the use of smartphones by students during the school day.

"Today, the Legislature took meaningful action to support students and transform schools across California," said Assemblyman Josh Hoover. "As a parent and former school board member, I am incredibly grateful for this bipartisan effort to put kids first and improve their academic and mental health outcomes. I thank the Governor for his leadership on this issue and urge him to sign this bill to create phone-free schools across our state."

"Research continues to demonstrate the potential harms of smartphone use among children. The growing use of these devices in a child's everyday life can contribute to lower test scores, anxiety, depression, and even suicide. I am grateful for the Legislature's leadership on limiting the use of smartphones during the school day and I look forward to working with the Governor," Hoover added.

The bill now heads to Governor Gavin Newsom's desk for signature, who has signaled support for the legislation in recent weeks.

Many school districts have already limited or prohibited smartphone use in schools and have seen resounding success. Administrators have reported increased social interaction among peers, decreased

instances of bullying on campus, and improvements in academic outcomes. A 2016 study found that when smartphones were removed from classrooms standardized test scores increased by an average of six percent, with even greater improvements among low achieving students. The Phone-Free Schools Act will continue to build on this success by expanding limitations on smartphones statewide.

A piece published in The Atlantic earlier this year by NYU social psychologist Jonathan Haidt described a number of the potential harms that smartphone use is contributing to in children:

Grades suffer when learning is disrupted as a result of smartphone distractions in the classroom

Up to 15% of teenagers engage in "problematic social media use," which includes symptoms such as preoccupation, withdrawal symptoms, neglect of other areas of life, and lying to parents and friends about time spent on social media

The latest Gallup data found that American teenagers spend around five hours per day on social media platforms alone.

As smartphones have become ubiquitous since 2010, we have seen a 70% increase in the number of high school seniors expressing that "life often feels meaningless (now more than 1 in 5 seniors express this).

Rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide are on the rise among young people.

Poor mental health outcomes and smartphone use are most strongly correlated in kids under the age of 14.

Josh Hoover represents Assembly District 7, which includes the cities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, and Rancho Cordova and the unincorporated communities of Carmichael, Fair Oaks, Foothill Farms, Gold River, Mather, McClellan Park, North Highlands, Orangevale, and Rosemont. ★

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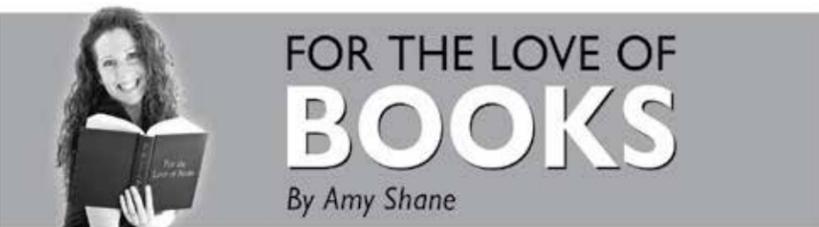
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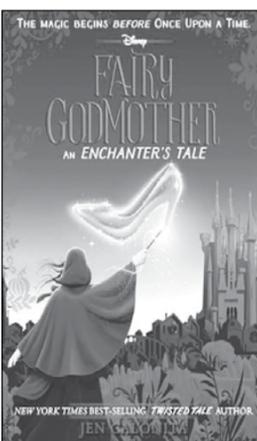
by Jen Calonita

Everyone remembers the story of Cinderella and her fairy godmother. But who was the fairy godmother, and how did she become just that?

The enchanting backstory of the fairy everyone has come to know and love is here, along with her magical beginning. From human to fairy and all the magic in between, it's time to fall in love with the fairy godmother all over again.

Renee Dubois has always been fascinated with fairies and was determined to prove their existence. When she wasn't a governess to her cousins, she spent every moment studying books and fashioning fairy slippers to leave as offerings. Even though her life is a challenge, she loves caring for her cousins and singing her way through all the day's trials.

Then, one night, her young cousin slips out looking for fairies, and the unthinkable happens. At the moment, Renee thinks everything is lost, an unlikely duo saves her. Now thrown into the fae world, Renee quickly realizes that magic isn't what she thought it to be and is more dangerous than she could have ever imagine. Renee would do anything to return to the mortal realm to check on the children she left behind,



◆ Publisher: Disney Hyperion
◆ Intended Audience: Ages 12-18
◆ Release Date: Sept. 3, 2024

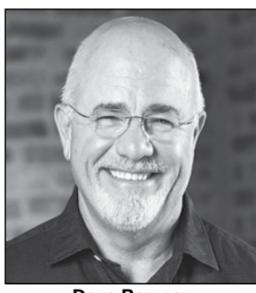
even for a moment, but time runs different in the two worlds, and the only ones allowed to cross the portal and work with humans were fairy godmother. So that's what she would be!

However, fae rules are strict, and the queen is even more stringent. After all, being half fae and half human was a fearsome combination. But Renee was out to prove them all wrong. With her errant magic and strong determination, Renee grew, and one day, she would finally have her moment. While all things happen as they should, sometimes a little fairy magic can change the course of time and grant the most desired of wishes. And sometimes one girl's determination,

is all that's needed for everything to all magically falling in line for one of the greatest fairy tasks of all time.

Grab your wands and look for a fairy circle of mushrooms. It's time to enter the magical world of Fae. While many might not have thought about Cinderella's fairy godmother past the stroke of midnight, her story is one to be cherished and celebrated because, without her, Cinderella would have never made it to the ball. This charming origin story answers all the questions: Why is she so old? Why is she so forgetful, and why are the magic words Bibbidi-bobbidi-boo?

Readers will Fall for the tragic and enchanting tale and root for Renee all along the way. With the promise of magic, wishes, and even fairy godmothers, many readers will be left wanting to leave a fairy gift amongst the forest edge. Jen Calonita once again delivers a strong and unique storyline with faint echoes of the original tale. Magical, powerful, and equally heartwarming, this magical tale will stick with its readers long past the last page and maybe spark the desire to carry a magical wish for their own fairy godmother. ★



Dave Ramsey

Dave Ramsey Says Don't Crack the Foundation

it's left me firmly convinced it's better to be the tortoise than the hare.

Think about this. When you sell a piece of your ownership to people who are looking for a return, instead of caring about your dream, you're creating the potential for a big mess. A lot of times, these folks will seem like silent partners—which is an oxymoron in small business. They might even present themselves that way in the beginning. But the truth is most people who've put money into your business won't keep silent. They're all going to have different opinions and ideas, and there's a strong possibility these are going to clash at some point with the vision you have for your company.

In short, I would not recommend a fledgling small business, even one that's doing well, to seek out investors. Period. Cash flow your growth, Trey. Cash flow your equipment purchases, and

the markets you enter, also. Does this mean you might miss a good opportunity here and there? Sure, it does. But it also means you'll be missing opportunities to fail. Too much success too soon is one of the biggest reasons why small businesses shut down. When you grow too quickly, you run the risk of outgrowing your financial resources, your infrastructure and your human resources.

Do what you can to ensure growth is steady, but play it smart. Don't grow so fast that you crack the foundation of your company.

— Dave
Dave Ramsey is a national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of *The Ramsey Show*, heard by more than 20 million listeners each week. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company, Ramsey Solutions. ★

Dear Dave,

Do you think it's a good idea for a small business, one that's very young but growing, to seek out investors?.

— Trey

Dear Trey,

My advice to someone in this position is to grow their business with organic cash. That may sound like a fancy phrase, but it just means you earn the money with which you'll grow. This may mean growing a little bit slower, and it might even mean passing on a few "big deals" you thought were going to be the best things ever to happen to you and your business. But you want to know something? That's okay. I've turned down plenty of deals like that over the years, and

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

Publish: August 23, 30, Sept 6, 13, 2024
RADIANT 9-13-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. F20240644

The following person(s) is doing business as:

DOLLAR GENERAL STORE #14552, 176 E. GRANT AVENUE WINTERS, CA 95694, County of YOLO.

Mailing Address: 100 MISSION RIDGE GOODLETTSVILLE, TN 37072

DOLGEN CALIFORNIA, LLC, 100 MISSION RIDGE GOODLETTSVILLE, TN 37072

This business is conducted by LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 1/31/2015

/s/ KELLY M. DILTS, CFO & SECRETARY
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 07/24/2024.

Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder

MBRAUN, Deputy
8/23, 8/30, 9/6, 9/13/24
CNS-3842674#

NEWS-LEDGER 9-13-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240712

The following person(s) is doing business as: Remember When Emporium, 606 Main Street, Woodland, CA 95695.

Cheryl Ann Bremer, 240 North College Street, Woodland, CA 95695. This business is conducted by An Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on August 21, 2012.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on August 20, 2024.

Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: August 30, Sept 6, 13, 20, 2024
REMEMBER 9-20-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240736

The following person(s) is doing business as: Bennett Building Company, 140 B Street, Suite 5, #235 Davis, CA 95616.

John Bennett Makela, 140 B Street, Suite 5, #235 Davis, CA 95616 . This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on August 27, 2024.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 08/27/2024.

Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: September 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024
BENNETT 9-27-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240735

The following person(s) is doing business as: Insight Coffee Roasters, 3650 Industrial Boulevard, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

Sun & Soil Health Co., LLC. This business is conducted by Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on February 7, 2023.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 08/27/2024.

Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: September 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024
INSIGHT 9-27-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240756

The following person(s) is doing business as: JPayne Trucking LLC/Payne Trucking LLC, 579 Ariel Court, Woodland, CA 95695.

Payne Trucking LLC, 579 Ariel Court, Woodland, CA 95695. This business is conducted by a

Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 08/27/2024.

Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: September 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024
JPAYNE 9-27-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240723

The following person(s) is doing business as: IE Construction, 3929 East Guasti Road, Suite F, Ontario, CA 91761.

Integrated Energy Group, LLC, 3929 East Guasti Road, Suite F, Ontario, CA 91761. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on August 15, 2024.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 08/23/2024.

Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: September 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024
IE 9-27-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240744

The following person(s) is doing business as: Haynes Studio Architects, 884 Graphite Lane, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

William Jude Haynes, 884 Graphite Lane, West Sacramento, CA 95691. This business is conducted by An Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on August 26, 2024.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 08/28/2024.

Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: September 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024
HAYNES 9-27-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240677

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

Wirth Candle Company, 515 Main Street, Woodland, CA 95695 County of YOLO

Mailing Address: 3830 Quinones Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95835

Ratchet Consulting, LLC, 3830 Quinones Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95835

This business is conducted by a limited liability company

The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A.

Ratchet Consulting, LLC S/ LACEY HILLIARD, OFFICER
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 08/08/2024.

Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder
ZHERNANDEZ, Deputy
9/6, 9/13, 9/20, 9/27/24
CNS-3842548#

NEWS-LEDGER 9-27-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240730

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as:

The Posh Bagel, 206 F St, Davis, CA 95616 County of YOLO

Mailing Address: 206 F St, Davis, CA 95616

VanLoc Enterprises, 206 F St, Davis, CA 95616

This business is conducted by a Corporation

The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on VanLoc Enterprises.

VanLoc Enterprises
S/ Van Kich Tran, CEO
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 08/26/2024.

Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder

corder
Klopez, Deputy
9/6, 9/13, 9/20, 9/27/24
CNS-3848076#
NEWS-LEDGER 9-27-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240707

The following person(s) is doing business as:

RAMOS OIL COMPANY, 1515 SOUTH RIVER ROAD WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691, County of YOLO.

EFUEL, LLC, 12 JOURNEY, SUITE 200, ALISO VIEJO, CA 92656

This business is conducted by LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A

/s/ JEREMY R. WHEELER, VICE PRESIDENT
EFUEL, LLC

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 08/19/2024.

Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder

ZHERNANDEZ, Deputy
9/6, 9/13, 9/20, 9/27/24
CNS-3845352#

NEWS-LEDGER 9-27-24

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF YOLO

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

#CV2024-1690

Marissa Delene Gamez has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Marissa Delene Gamez to Marissa Delene Teleyuev.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on September 11, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 14, located at 1000 Main Street Woodland, CA 95695 and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.

Dated: July 29, 2024

Samuel T. McAdam, Judge of the Superior Court

Publish: August 16, 23, 30, Sept 6, 2024

GAMEZ 9-6-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF YOLO

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

#CV2024-1918

Caim Ann Rodrigues has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Caim Ann Rodrigues to Nutmeg Andrew Jones.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on September 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 14, located at 1000 Main Street Woodland, CA 95695 and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.

Dated: August 19, 2024

Timothy L. Fall, Judge of the Superior Court

Publish: August 30, Sept 6, 13, 20, 2024

NAEEM 9-20-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF YOLO

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

#CV2024-2152

Divina Regalia has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Divina Regalia to Divina Fritz.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on October 9, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 14, located at 1000 Main Street Woodland, CA 95695 and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.

Dated: August 26, 2024

Samuel T. McAdam, Judge of the Superior Court

PUBLISH: September 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024
REGALLA 9-27-24

sons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on September 18, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 14, located at 1000 Main Street Woodland, CA 95695 and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.

Dated: August 1, 2024

Samuel T. McAdam, Judge of the Superior Court

Publish: August 16, 23, 30, Sept 6, 2024

RODRIGUES 9-6-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF YOLO

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

#CV2024-2075

Faiqa Ejaz and Zeeshan Naeem have filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Yousuf Zeeshan to Yusuf Zeeshan Naeem.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on October 1, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 11, located at 1000 Main Street Woodland, CA 95695 and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.

Dated: August 19, 2024

Timothy L. Fall, Judge of the Superior Court

Publish: August 30, Sept 6, 13, 20, 2024

NAEEM 9-20-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF YOLO

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

#CV2024-2152

Divina Regalia has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Divina Regalia to Divina Fritz.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on October 9, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 14, located at 1000 Main Street Woodland, CA 95695 and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.

Dated: August 26, 2024

Samuel T. McAdam, Judge of the Superior Court

PUBLISH: September 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024
REGALLA 9-27-24

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF CLARENCE E. WALKER CASE NO. PR2024-0208

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Clarence E.

Walker.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Eleanor Walker, in the Superior Court of California, County of Yolo, requesting Eleanor Walker be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: September 26, 2024, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 14. Superior Court of California, County of Yolo, 1000 Main Street, Woodland, CA 95695.

This matter is set for a court hearing/appearance using the Zoom application for the above referenced date and time. In order to participate in your Zoom hearing, you must either use a computer or smart device with internet access, and have downloaded the Zoom application. If you do not have compatible technology, then you can attend the hearing using a telephone and calling the designated toll free telephone conference line. You must appear by Zoom application or telephone using the designated department account referenced below at least 5 minutes before your scheduled hearing date and time; and wait for a court representative to take roll. Department 129 Zoom link: <https://saccourt.zoom.us/j/95695499> or toll free telephone conference line @ (888) 475-499, with meeting ID #689-534-3925

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of

West Sac News Ledger 9-6-2024

Notice of Public Review Period for the 2023 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

The draft City of West Sacramento CAPER summarizing goals accomplished with fiscal year 2023/2024 CDBG funding received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will be available for review and comment from September 6, 2024, through September 21, 2024. The CAPER will be made available to the public for review either electronically or by U.S. mail. Please submit your request by U.S. mail to the City of West Sacramento, Economic Development and Housing Department, 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691 or by email to isaaha@cityofwestsacramento.org. The CAPER can also be accessed online at the following website:

<https://www.cityofwestsacramento.org/residents/housing/community-development-block-grant>

Written comments may be submitted by September 21, 2024, to: Isaah Alford, Community Investment Planner, City of West Sacramento, 1110 West Capitol Ave., West Sacramento, CA 95691; by email to isaaha@cityofwestsacramento.org or by calling Isaah Alford at (916) 617-4555. Technical assistance is available to groups representing low-income residents that are interested in learning about CDBG funding for programs or projects. Questions or comments may be directed to Isaah Alford, Community Investment Planner, at (916) 617-4555 or by email to isaaha@cityofwestsacramento.org.

The City of West Sacramento promotes fair housing and makes all programs available to low- and moderate-income households regardless of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual preference, marital status or disability.

Aviso de Período de Revisión Pública para el Informe de Desempeño y Evaluación Anual Consolidado (CAPER) 2023 para el Programa de Subsidio de Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG)

El borrador del CAPER de la Ciudad de West Sacramento, que resume los objetivos alcanzados con la financiación del CDBG del año fiscal 2023/2024 recibida del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los EE.UU. (HUD), estará disponible para revisión y comentarios desde el 6 de septiembre de 2024 hasta el 21 de septiembre de 2024. El CAPER estará disponible para el público para su revisión tanto electrónicamente como por correo postal. Por favor, envíe su solicitud por correo postal a la Ciudad de West Sacramento, Departamento de Desarrollo Económico y Vivienda, 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691, o por correo electrónico a isaaha@cityofwestsacramento.org. El CAPER también puede ser consultado en línea en el siguiente sitio web: <https://www.cityofwestsacramento.org/residents/housing/community-development-block-grant>

Los comentarios escritos pueden enviarse antes del 21 de septiembre de 2024 a: Isaah Alford, Planificador de Inversión Comunitaria, Ciudad de West Sacramento, 1110 West Capitol Ave., West Sacramento, CA 95691; por correo electrónico a isaaha@cityofwestsacramento.org o llamando a Isaah Alford al (916) 617-4555. Se ofrece asistencia técnica a grupos que representan a residentes de bajos ingresos que están interesados en aprender sobre la financiación del CDBG para programas o proyectos. Las preguntas o comentarios pueden dirigirse a Isaah Alford, Planificador de Inversión Comunitaria, al (916) 617-4555 o por correo electrónico a isaaha@cityofwestsacramento.org.

La Ciudad de West Sacramento promueve la vivienda justa y pone todos los programas a disposición de los hogares de bajos y moderados ingresos, sin importar edad, raza, color, religión, sexo, origen nacional, preferencia sexual, estado civil o discapacidad.

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Fast Food Workers Got a \$20 Minimum Wage, But Is It Working? It's Debatable



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

to the franchise system. In return, the referendum was dropped.

The \$20 wage took effect last April, but only after a new squabble erupted over which sellers of food would be covered, colored by a Bloomberg article alleging that Newsom had demanded an exemption to benefit a campaign donor who owns two dozen Panera locations in California.

Newsom declared that the story was "absurd" and gave assurances that Panera and other similar businesses would be covered. The businessman, billionaire Greg Flynn, also said he would honor the \$20 wage.

End of fast food angst? Of course not.

Six months after the \$20 wage took effect there's a new debate in political, media and academic circles over its impact.

Fast food prices have been increasing, but how much higher wages are driving the rise and how fast food operations have changed are two new issues.

This month, Newsom declared that California fast food outlets had created 11,000 new jobs since the law was signed.

"What's good for workers is good for business, and as California's fast food industry continues booming every single month our workers are finally getting the pay they deserve," Newsom said. "Despite those who pedaled lies about how this would doom the industry, California's economy and workers are again proving them wrong."

The industry didn't agree.

"Every day you see headlines of restaurant closures, employee job losses and hours cut, and rising food

prices for consumers," the International Franchise Association said in a statement. "Local restaurant owners in California are already struggling to cope with the \$20/hour wage, as the Fast Food Council considers additional wage increases. All the while, workers and consumers are feeling the pinch."

Brooke Armour, president of the California Center for Jobs and the Economy, an adjunct of the Business Roundtable, criticized Newsom's declaration as reflecting just one month of preliminary data and concluding, "Despite what some are saying, the data are clear: newly passed fast food minimum wage laws are leading to job losses in California."

Christopher Thornberg, founding partner of Beacon Economics, also was critical in an analysis of the state's economic trends. "California's well-intended push to reduce income inequality via wage floors is beginning to have a significant negative impact on some of our most vulnerable workers — our youth, particularly those from lower income households," Thornberg wrote.

What California has wrought in the fast food industry could be the harbinger of more direct regulation of other industries, and not just in California, for better or worse. It's not surprising, therefore, that its effects will be debated ad nauseam.

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. ★

and do it alone, and he isn't expecting to!

De'Aaron Fox and Domantas Sabonis are not the only Kings that will vie for a spot on the all-star team this year, and I look for former NCAA scoring champ and three-point specialist Keegan Murray to put a stamp on his lofty #4 pick by the Kings two seasons ago.

Many were critical of Murray's selection, but a credible rookie season silenced most critics. Last season was a bit of a mixed bag, but I saw a young NBA player adding to his repertoire by developing his mid-range game and interior play significantly. Add to that rebounding at a higher clip and becoming more defensive minded, it makes me think Keegan is about to put it all together.

Everyone knows what we have in De'Aaron Fox and Domantas Sabonis, so while they consistently live up to expectations, have they reached their ceiling yet? I don't think so, but let's wait and see how much Mr. DeRozan can tip those scales.

Is there a number of wins that Kings fans are wanting, or even expecting? I hear the number 50 all the time and if that number is right, Sacramento fans are in for a real treat this year.

Recent acquisitions and trades have been tepid at best, but I am excited about the team assembled right now.

Little has been said about Orlando Robinson since he was acquired as a free agent, but at 6'10" and 235 lbs., I'll be watching intently as he interns under Mr. double-double Domantas Sabonis, and at the ripe old age of 24, Orlando has plenty of time to show Sacramento fans what his upside looks like.

Many players, some future hall-of-famers such as Kawhi Leonard, came into the league but took several seasons to find their stride, so I am hopeful that Orlando's time in Miami has been well spent, and what he needs now is a team that will give him the floor time he's looking for.

As always, stay tuned Kings fans. Training camp is less than 30 days away and the action is about to begin.

All the best! ★
Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com

Assembly OKs Sen. Dodd's Defensible Space Bill

Office of Senator Bill Dodd News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, announced on Aug. 29 that the California Assembly has approved his measure to enhance wildfire safety by improving standards for creation of defensible space.

"With more destructive and frequent wildfires, we must take every opportunity to protect ourselves and our communities," Dodd said. "One of the best things we can do is to clear the space around our homes of combustible brush and other flammable material. This bill will save lives by improving on my previous legislation on defensible

space." Dodd has long been a leader in wildfire legislation, authoring more than a dozen bills signed into law. This year, he continued with more bills, including Senate Bill 504. The proposal establishes more robust standards, especially for new construction and home upgrades, with the creation of an ember-resistant zone between five and 30 feet of a dwelling.

SB 504 was approved by overwhelming Assembly vote Aug. 28 and heads to Gov. Gavin Newsom for a signature following a Senate concurrence vote. The bill is supported by local government including the city of Santa Rosa.

"Local firefighters know that in an emergency, every inch of defensible space counts," Santa Rosa City Councilmember Chris Rogers said. "This bill prioritizes resources to cities like Santa Rosa that have set safety standards and helped homeowners protect their properties. I look forward to my community benefiting when this bill is signed into law."

Senator Bill Dodd represents Senate District 3, which includes all or portions of Napa, Yolo, Sonoma, Solano, Sacramento and Contra Costa counties. More information on Senator Bill Dodd can be found at www.senate.ca.gov/dodd. ★

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YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Petitioner is: Eleanor Walker, P.O. Box 1864, Pittsburg, CA 94565; 510-301-2113
Publish: September 6, 13, 20, 2024
WALKER 9-20-24

MPG

City Council Special Meeting
SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

WEST SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL AND WEST SACRAMENTO REDEVELOPMENT SUCCESSOR AGENCY & WEST SACRAMENTO FINANCING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

Please be advised that the September 12, 2024, West Sacramento City Council and West Sacramento Redevelopment Successor Agency & West Sacramento Financing Authority special meeting has been cancelled. The next regularly scheduled West Sacramento City Council and West Sacramento Redevelopment Successor Agency & West Sacramento Financing Authority will be September 18, 2024.

I, Jennifer Cusmir, City Clerk, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing cancellation notice for the September 12, 2024, special meeting of the West Sacramento City Council and West Sacramento Redevelopment Successor Agency & West Sacramento Financing Authority was posted on August 29, 2024, in the office of the City Clerk, 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA, and was available for public review.

Jennifer Cusmir

Jennifer Cusmir
City Clerk

West Sac News Ledger 9-6-2024

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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.

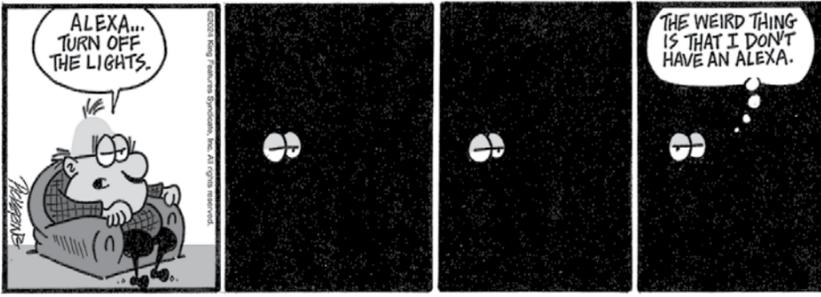
Newsstand Delivery Driver/Local - We are seeking a part-time Newsstand Deliver Driver for our newspaper group. This position works from the Carmichael office and delivers to our locations in the West Sacramento/Sacramento Region. Routes also available in Elk Grove, Pocket, East Sacramento, Arden Arcade. 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.

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COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Foot is moved. 3. Nose is smaller. 4. House is not as wide. 5. Leaves are missing. 6. Tree trunk is different.

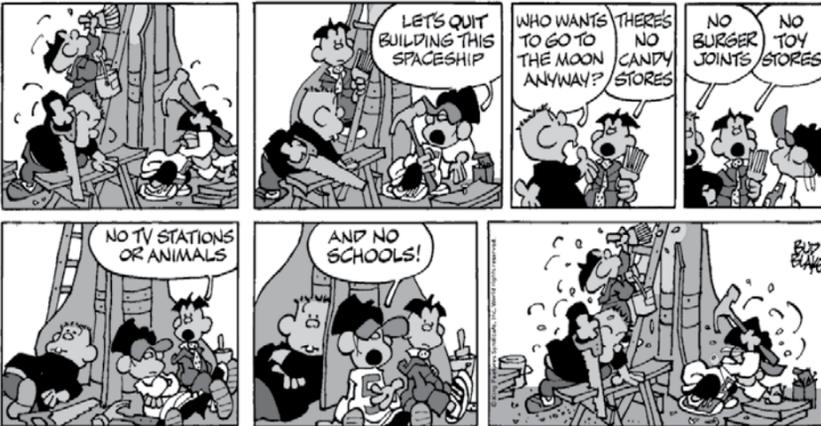
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by Gary Kopervas



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

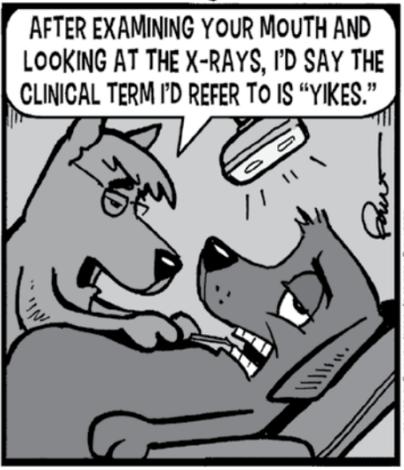


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by Dave T. Phipps



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 - Bro's sibling
 - "... there, done that"
 - T in Greek
 - FBI's cold one
 - Windschild ____, pl.
 - "The ____ for Red October"
 - Coach of Dallas Mavericks
 - Bow's partner
 - Black and white killer
 - Be in accord
 - First word in fairy tale
 - Formerly known as Pleasant Island
 - Long-lasting Steelers coach
 - TV's "man named Brady"
 - "GO in BOGO
 - French "place"
 - 6th sense
 - Adored one
 - What cruelty and crush have in common
 - *Dairy aisle package
 - *S&H Green ____
 - Non motorized vessel
 - I have
 - Nev.'s neighbor
 - Offspring, collectively
 - Rank above maj.
 - Visual
 - QBR in football, e.g.
 - Will Ferrell's Christmas classic
 - Like a gymnast
- DOWN**
- *What registers do
 - Nonclerical
 - Football legend Graham
 - Unborn vertebrate
 - *... of Cancer
 - *Like freezer aisle "Cuisine"
 - *... Robinson" by Simon & Garfunkel
 - California/Nevada lake
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 - Not written
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 - Pen juice
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 - Port city in Japan
 - Like marines in slogan
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West Sacramento to Host Cancer Champions Run



Jen Miramontes, far left, attends a Cancer Champions event with other representatives. Photo courtesy of Jen Miramontes

By Annie Kerr

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Paying homage to its roots, the non-profit Cancer Champions will hold its inaugural Run/Walk in West

said she saw her mother's appetite dramatically improve, as well as her overall quality of life.

Seeing this improvement, even for just a short time, planted the seed for Cancer

many factors: in the number of people served, in the depth of resources we are able to offer our community and in the actual size of our organization," Miramontes said.

matter where somebody is on their cancer journey, whether they are currently undergoing treatment, post-treatment or if they are a care partner for somebody battling cancer,

cancer," according to the Cancer Champions representative.

What is the run's purpose?

"The purpose of the run is threefold: to spread awareness, let the cancer community know that Cancer Champions exists and learn who we are and that we are here to support them," Miramontes said.

"I feel so fortunate to be able to positively impact people's lives in this way," she added, calling her role a "blessing and an honor."

Miramontes said the Cancer Champions has a goal of 1,000 attendees at the run but hopes to aim even higher. She encourages community members to participate and emphasized that any participation or donation will positively impact somebody with cancer.

"This is a major fundraiser and we hope to provide new memberships for people," she said. "Cancer can break people. We will never say no to helping someone on their cancer journey."

Memberships with Cancer Champions can be gifted and oftentimes are funded by grants. Membership funds go toward private coaching, cancer-fighting recipes, exercise videos, calls with coaches, nutrition plans and more.

According to Miramontes, there will be several restaurants

and breweries set up at the event to serve attendees. There will also be a band performing and several guest speakers, one of whom is a current stage 4 lymphoma patient who had his stomach and spleen removed but is still running the 10K.

"The community has been very welcoming and accommodating to host our first annual Walk-Run-Roll and the River Walk Park is a beautiful course for what will be a great day," Miramontes said.

Proceeds from the Cancer Champions Run/Walk will go to uplifting its current 200-plus members as well as providing resources to new members who seek out their support, according to Miramontes.

Registrants have the choice between completing a 1 mile, a 5K, 10K or virtual participation. The price to participate is \$48.70, and \$43.40 for those under 18.

Miramontes encourages participants to arrive between 7 and 7:30 a.m. Sept. 14 and expects the event to last until 11 a.m.

To donate or to register, go to <https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/WestSacramento/CancerChampions>. To learn more about the nonprofit and read member testimonials, visit <https://cancerchampions.org>. ★



Jen Miramontes, right, started Cancer Champions in 2015 in hope to improve the quality of life for cancer patients. Photo courtesy of Jen Miramontes

Sacramento.

Starting at 8:30 a.m. Sept. 14, the inaugural event will take place at River Walk Park, 651 2nd St., West Sacramento to raise money for Cancer Champions, a nonprofit organization that serves as a mentor and support system for those in any stage of their cancer journey.

Jen Miramontes, founder of Cancer Champions, spoke with Messenger Publishing Group about her story and how the run will benefit the cancer community and beyond.

Miramontes' life was touched by cancer when her mother battled terminal esophageal cancer 20 years ago.

"When she had cancer, my mom decided she wanted to hike the Grand Canyon," Miramontes said. "To prepare her, we started by going on short walks, then longer walks and so on." Through that process, Miramontes

Champions. In 2015, Miramontes founded Cancer Champions in Yolo County, which has been growing ever since.

"Since Cancer Champions started in 2015, we have seen tremendous growth across

She expects further growth following the Sept. 14 event.

Cancer Champions supports those impacted by cancer through personalized fitness, nutrition and mindset guidance. No

Cancer Champions is there to help, according to Miramontes.

"Research has proven time and again that exercise, nutrition, and a positive mindset can help improve quality of life for those battling



Jen Miramontes, center, stands with Cancer Champions. Photo courtesy of Jen Miramontes



Riley Reviews

US OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT ALWAYS
HOLDS SOME SURPRISES

A Special Article by Tim Riley

The annual two-week run of the US Open Tennis tournament consists of day and night sessions, and it stands to reason that the crowds pour in during the early rounds as 128 men and 128 women compete for their respective singles titles before eliminations thin the competitors.

The US Open is the final leg of the four major annual tournaments that begin with Australia during the first of the year before the early summer of the French Open and the mid-summer of London's Wimbledon.

The New York-based US Open keeps achieving attendance records as it caters to an upscale crowd that is most noticeable from the dining options to the type of popular world-class merchandise unlikely to be found at a major league baseball game or NFL game.

This year's opening day drew the biggest single-day crowd in event history of 76,641, with the day-session crowd of 42,886 being the second-highest day attendance in history, while the night-session crowd of 31,776 set an all-time night-session crowd.

What other sport has Ralph Lauren polo shirts for men and women priced at \$148? The US Open's polo shirts go for \$128, while their hoodies fetch \$168 and a nice canvas tote bag comes in at \$78. The wide selection of baseball caps priced at \$40 is a relative bargain.

Considering the standard fare at ballparks and stadiums, fine dining and high-end adult beverages stand out for the unique experience of enjoying tennis in its more refined environment.

Before the tournament got underway, the United States Tennis Association (USTA) announced a multi-year partnership with the iconic champagne house of Moët & Chandon as the Official Champagne of the US Open.

Moët & Chandon was available at locations across the grounds, including the Moët & Chandon Clubhouse bar, open to all attendees. The Moët & Chandon Imperial Brut was priced at \$32, an offering exclusive to the US Open.

Meanwhile, the Open's signature Honey Deuce cocktail, priced at \$23 and consisting of Grey Goose Vodka, raspberry liqueur, lemonade, and honeydew melon balls is so iconic that it earned its own baseball cap on sale this year.

Besides the fancy cocktails, what other sporting event features a star-studded line up of world-renowned celebrity chefs that reflect New York City's dazzling culinary scene?

Teaming up again in the Aces restaurant are Michelin-starred Chef Ed Brown, Iron Chef Masaharu Morimoto, and James Beard Award-winning Chef Kwame Onwuachi. The Aces seafood spot offers popular seasonal seafood specialties.

Michelin-starred and Iron Chef Alex Guarnaschelli returns for the fourth year, bringing dishes from her Mediterranean bistro, Fare. Also returning is Chef David Burke's popular Cuban-American fusion spot, Mojito by David Burke.

New to the Open is restaurateur Simon Kim with the Open debut of COQODAQ, where fans could enjoy signature dishes from the Korean-inspired Better Fried Chicken restaurant, including The Golden Nugget, an iconic chicken nugget and caviar pairing.

When the curtain went up on opening night, it wasn't a Broadway show, but the USTA and ESPN partnered with Alicia Keys' new hit Broadway musical "Hell's Kitchen" for a music collaboration that was aired around the world.

The star of "Hell's Kitchen," two-time Tony Award and Grammy nominee Shoshana Bean, performed the National Anthem, while

her fellow actress in the musical, Kecia Lewis, who won the Tony for Best Featured Actress in a Musical, narrated a video remix of songs from the show.

Celebrities in attendance at the US Open include regulars like fashion designer Vera Wang and actors Alec Baldwin, Ben Stiller and Taye Diggs, along with models that remain unknown to me unless Claudia Schiffer drops in.

Opening night found Andy Roddick, the last American to win the men's US Open title in 2003, sitting with Lin-Manuel Miranda, songwriter and actor best known as the creator and titular star of the Broadway hit musical sensation "Hamilton."

It would be nice if Andy Roddick's presence could bring fortune to any number of American men who are among the top-seeded players in the tournament, including Frances Tiafoe, Taylor Fritz, Ben Shelton, Tommy Paul, and Sebastian Korda.

The main stage of the US Open is the Arthur Ashe Stadium, which most fortunately has a retractable roof to handle inclement weather, which came in handy on Wednesday night as thunderstorms hit the venue.

Opening day at Arthur Ashe featured defending US Open women's champion, American Coco Gauff, who as the third-seeded player and fueled by the energy of the raucous New York fan base, easily dispatched France's Varvara Gracheva in two straight sets.

The headliner for opening night was second-seeded Serbian Novak Djokovic, the defending men's US Open champion, who cruised to three straight set wins over Moldovan Radu Albot.

In his quest to win a record-breaking 25 Grand Slam victories, Djokovic came up short in the third round by losing to Australian Alexei Popyrin, while managing only to win one set to his opponent's three sets.

Upsets can occur in the first round, and probably the most noticeable one happened on opening night at Arthur Ashe Stadium, when American Sloane Stephens annihilated Clara Burel of France in a shutout in the first set, only to drop the next deciding sets at 5-7 and 5-7.

At the age of 31, Stephens is no longer a youngster, and winning the women's US Open title in 2017 seems almost a distant memory. However, give Stephens her due for achieving a career-best world ranking of number 3 after Wimbledon in 2018.

Billed in the local press as the "Homecoming Queen," Japan's Naomi Osaka, formerly ranked number one in the world, returned to defeat tenth-seeded Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia, to pick up her first top-10 victory in four years. But Osaka's run ended in the second round.

As it turns out in the round of 16, Coco Gauff, who has not won a tournament this year, found herself once again losing to fellow American Emma Navarro as she did last July at Wimbledon in the very same fourth round.

After a good start on opening day, Coco Gauff, at 20-years-old, has a long career ahead of her that bears watching, along with other young American players like Taylor Fritz and Ben Shelton.

Being young is not necessarily the key to success in tennis. Just ask Spain's third-seeded 21-year-old Carlos Alcaraz, the winner already of four Grand Slams, who lost in the second round in three straight sets to Dutchman Botic van de Zandschulp.

Like everything in sports, the best players may rebound from losses and return to fight another day, and we hope to see them again at the US Open in 2025. ★

California Museum to Host 11th Annual Día de los Muertos Fiesta Oct. 12



Aztec dancers wow the crowd in 2023. Photo courtesy of the California Museum

California Museum News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Tickets are now available for the California Museum's highly anticipated Día de los Muertos Fiesta on Saturday, Oct. 12. The annual event will honor the rich Mexican tradition of the "Day of the Dead" and celebrate the grand opening of the California Museum's new exhibit, "Arte de Inspiración: Día de los Muertos 2024."

"We've been honored to be part of Sacramento's Día de los Muertos celebrations for over a decade now," said California Museum Executive Director Amanda Meeker. "Each year we strive to provide a space for visitors to not only learn about Día de los Muertos but experience its traditions firsthand at the Fiesta through art, music, food and crafts."

Fiesta attendees will enjoy food and drinks for sale by local Mexican restaurant Mayahuel; a ceremonial blessing by Maquilli Tonatiuh Aztec Dancers; live music by Latin tribute band Maya; dancing by Ballet Folklórico Sacramento; Mercado de los Muertos (Market of the Dead) featuring unique items for sale by local vendors and artists; sugar skull decorating workshops; and hands-on crafts for children ages three and up.

In addition to celebrating Mexican culture and tradition, the Fiesta will also commemorate the grand opening of the Museum's newest temporary exhibit. A journey through life, love and death, "Arte de Inspiración: Día de los Muertos 2024" (Inspirational Art: Day of the Dead 2024) will feature original art and altars by California artists John Hancock and Juan Ramos, Adrian Arias and RAH Azul. Their work will explore the Mexican cultural tradition of honoring deceased loved ones each year by displaying altares de muertos (altars of the dead) and ofrendas (offerings), which have evolved from the Aztecs to modern-day Mexico and California. Members of the public are invited to pay tribute to lost loved ones at a Community Altar through the end of the exhibit on Sunday, Nov. 17.

Fiesta tickets are \$10 and must be purchased in advance. For the first time, the California Museum is also offering a limited quantity of VIP Terrace add-on tickets for \$25. The VIP Terrace includes an elevated view of the festivities, shorter lines for entry and food and drink tickets, access to indoor dining seating, and more. Fiesta tickets are required to purchase VIP Terrace tickets. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [Fiesta2024.eventbrite.com](https://www.Fiesta2024.eventbrite.com). ★



California Fig Sector Hopes to Raise Profile of the Fruit

Figs are in peak season, and California growers say they have a quality crop this year that more retailers should promote for fresh eating, even if most of their production still ends up going to make dried fruit. They have been trying to change that for years by promoting fresh figs while they're in season and educating consumers, who may know the fruit only as a filling for a certain cookie. "We're really trying to liberate the fig from the Newton," said Karla Stockli, CEO of the California Fresh Fig Growers Association and the California Fig Advisory Board.

Imperial Valley Farmers Reduce Forage Crop Production to Save Water

Irrigators cut off water to a huge portion of the Imperial Valley's half-million acres of farmland earlier this month after the federal government approved a long-awaited program designed to bolster water levels on the Colorado River. The conservation agreement, authorized Aug. 12 by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Imperial Irrigation District, pays farmers to stop irrigating forage crops such as alfalfa for a period during the summer. Farmers participating in the "deficit irrigation" program will be compensated to sacrifice one or two hay cuttings.

Water-right Hearing Could Advance Long-planned Sites Reservoir

The plan to build California's first new major reservoir in decades is advancing as the state considers whether to issue a water-right permit for the proposed Sites Reservoir, an off-stream water storage project that could store up to 1.5 million acre-feet of annually. The California State Water Resources Control Board last week began a public hearing process on the project's water-right permit application. Representatives of agriculture, water districts and government agencies are urging the state water board to approve the water-right permit to advance the project.

UC Davis, Other Institutions to Study Seaweed as 'Sustainable' Specialty Crop

A multi-state grant has been awarded to help develop Pacific dulse seaweed as "a sustainable, nutritious specialty crop," the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced last week. The project is being undertaken by University of California, Davis, Oregon State University, University of Alaska Fairbanks and Kelp Line LLC. The effort is one of 65 projects to share in \$82.3 million in funding from the USDA's Specialty Crop Multi-State Grant Program. More than \$23.3 million in funding was awarded for specialty crop programs in California. ★

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Yolo Classic Car and Truck Show Announces Winners

Yolo County News Release

YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Despite an early morning drizzle and an afternoon downpour, more than 800 attendees enjoyed the seventh annual "Cruisin' into the Next Chapter" Classic Car and Truck Show on Saturday, Aug. 24, in Yolo. This family-friendly event was presented by the Friends of the Yolo Branch Library and the Yolo County Library.

The event featured more than 120 classic cars and trucks, which lined the streets of Yolo. Michael Sandoval received the Best of Show award for his 1956 Ford Country Sedan. David Arriaga's 1959 Chevrolet El Camino was honored with the Fire Chiefs' Hot Pick award, selected by representatives from local fire departments. Additionally, 12 other awards were presented in the following categories:

Stock Car 1900-1959: Stanley Borba, 1959 Bianchina Trasformabile

Stock Car 1960-1999: Ken & Scott Price, 1966 Pontiac GTO

Modified Car 1900-1959: George Corbin, 1947 Lincoln Continental Convertible

Modified Car 1960-1999: William Hardisty, 1965 Ford Mustang

Stock Truck 1900-1999: David Arriaga, 1959 Chevrolet El Camino

Modified Truck 1900-1959: Rudy Rodriguez, 1957 Chevrolet Truck

Modified Truck 1960-1999: Tom Barrios, 1971 GMC 1500 Super Custom

Rat Rod 1900-1999: Clint

Wolff, 1930 Ford Model A
Best Upholstery: David Arriaga, 1963 Chevrolet Impala SS Convertible

Among the six entries, Dominic Quezada, age 15 from Robbins, was awarded the Yolo County Sheriff's Office Pick, while Jorge

First Place – Emiliano Solorzano, age 12, Knights Landing; Second Place – Dominic Quezada, age 15, Robbins

gratitude to the community for making this event a success. Over 80 volunteers, along with the County of Yolo, Yolo Fire



A young show-goer learns about a 1923 Ford T Bucket. Photo by Mike Heon

Best Motor: William Hardisty, 1965 Ford Mustang

Best Paint Job: Dana Rounds, 1956 Ford F100

Best Chrome: Chris Morris, 1953 Chevrolet Pickup

This year's event also included a Youth Lowrider Bike Show.

Alvendo, age 16 from Woodland, received the Librarian's Choice. An additional six awards were given in the following categories:

Best 16" Street Lowrider Bike: First Place – Alex Solorzano, age 10, Knights Landing

Best 20" Stock Lowrider Bike:

Best 20" Street Lowrider Bike: First and Second Places – Jorge Alvarado, age 16, Woodland

Best 26" Lowrider Bike: First Place – Salvador Solorzano, age 15, Knights Landing

The Friends of the Yolo Branch Library extend their

Protection District, Yolo Welding & Fabrication, Yolo Market, Cache Creek High School, VC Upholstery, O'Reilly's Auto Parts and numerous other generous businesses collaborated with the Friends and Yolo County Library to create a memorable experience.

Families enjoyed viewing classic cars and trucks, listening to music by Rockwell Sound & Lighting with special guest DJs, exploring antique firetrucks from the Yolo Fire Department, admiring a display of antique tractors and gas engines and learning about recycling from Yolo County Integrated Waste Management. Children also delighted in free balloon twisting, receiving free books, and participating in activities at the Yolo Branch Library.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the Friends of the Yolo Branch Library, supporting library programs and services for the communities of Yolo, Zamora, Dunnigan, and surrounding areas.

For more information about the Friends of the Yolo Branch Library, visit www.friendsofyolo-library.org or connect with them on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/FriendsofYoloLibrary.

For more information about the Yolo County Library, visit www.yolocountylibrary.org or connect with the Library on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/YoloCountyLibrary. ★



A classic Volkswagen van was brought to the show. Photo by Mike Heon

Yolo County Welcomes New Director of Human Resources

Yolo County News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - Yolo County announced the appointment Aug. 29 of Kamaljit Pannu as its new director of human resources. In this pivotal role, Pannu will manage centralized human resources, risk management, and payroll operations, while championing employee engagement and retention strategies. As director, Pannu will also be instrumental in organizational development and supporting the county's public servants in meeting the objectives of the Board of

Supervisors' new 2024-2028 Strategic Plan.

Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Lucas Frerichs expressed his enthusiasm for the appointment, stating, "The essential role of the human resources function cannot be underestimated. Kamaljit's appointment follows a nationwide search with over 60 applicants and we are confident that his broad range of expertise will make a significant and positive impact in our county's human resources operations."

Chief Administrative Officer Gerardo Pinedo added, "We are thrilled

to welcome Kamaljit Pannu to Yolo County. His extensive experience and proven success in human resources will be pivotal in advancing our mission to enhance the quality of life for all Yolo County residents. Kamaljit's leadership will be key in supporting and developing our dedicated public servants."

With more than 25 years of experience in the public sector, Pannu brings extensive expertise to Yolo County. His distinguished career includes leading human resources for the Washington Unified School District in Yolo County, along with various

other leadership roles in education. Throughout his career, Pannu has achieved notable success in strategic human resources initiatives, managing collective bargaining agreements and advancing workforce development programs.

A first-generation American who grew up in the Central Valley and worked as an agricultural worker, Pannu's background fuels his passion for giving back to Yolo County's diverse community. He is particularly enthusiastic about empowering Yolo County's 16 departments to achieve the objectives outlined in the Board of Supervisors new

Strategic Plan. Pannu's leadership will ensure that Yolo County's more than 1,800 public servants receive the support they need to effectively contribute toward the community's quality of life.

Pannu's impressive track record includes successfully negotiating multi-year collective bargaining agreements, spearheading strategic planning initiatives, and introducing innovative human resources practices. His deep expertise in leveraging technology, ensuring legal compliance and promoting equitable resource allocation will be instrumental in advancing

Yolo County's human resources objectives.

"I am deeply grateful to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors for this opportunity," Pannu said. "I look forward to supporting my colleagues and contributing to our shared mission of making a difference by enhancing the quality of life in our community."

Yolo County's Human Resources Department is comprised of a dedicated team committed to delivering exceptional service. This commitment reflects Yolo County's dedication to nurturing a healthy and productive workplace for all its employees, according to the news release. ★

Potential Water Losses Due to Climate Crisis, Actions to Boost Supplies

California Department of Water Resources News Release

CALIFORNIA (MPG) - On July 31, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) released its final 2023 State Water Project (SWP) Delivery Capability Report, which presents a new and enhanced analysis of current and future expectations for the State Water Project water supply if no new adaptation actions are taken. According to the report, State Water Project delivery capability and reliability could be reduced as much as 23 percent in 20 years due to changing flow patterns and extreme weather shifts – underscoring the need for California to continue addressing the impacts of climate change and upgrading infrastructure.

A 23 percent decline would be equivalent to about 496,000 acre-feet a year, enough to supply 1,736,000 homes for a year. This reinforces the serious need for California to boost water supplies to account for any State Water Project losses in the coming years, including the Delta Conveyance Project, Sites Reservoir, desalination projects, and more.

“The analysis released today underscores the need to modernize and upgrade our aging infrastructure so we can capture water supplies when it’s wet,” said Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth.

“The State Water Project service area amounts to the world’s eighth-largest economy and includes more than 8 million Californians living in disadvantaged communities. Modernizing the State Water Project is critical to delivering on the human right to water in California.”

Built in 1960, the State Water Project spans more than 700 miles throughout California and consists of canals, dams, reservoirs, pumping plants, and power plants that provide water to 27 million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland. Several factors impact the State Water Project’s water delivery capability including California’s population, state legislation, environmental requirements, and potential changing climate resulting in varying hydrologic conditions.

“The SWP was designed for the climate of the 20th century when our precipitation fell as snow more reliably between October and May and we could capture that water effectively for future use,” said State Water Project Deputy Director John Yarbrough.

“We need to continue to adapt and invest in the SWP, so that we can add flexibility and resilience for 21st century conditions and we can avoid these losses in reliability.”

The 2023 Delivery Capability Report introduces two new innovative approaches to characterize current climate change conditions and emphasizes the uncertainty in future climate change projections. The first is an approach to account for changes in operations from the climate change that has already occurred. The second is an approach for developing a range of future climate scenarios. Both additions have undergone independent peer review and are considered significant improvements over previous methods.

The Delivery Capability Report is used widely both within and outside the State Water Project for water supply planning. The information in these reports is a key component of the drought planning done by the SWP and is fundamental to the drought planning done by the public water agencies that receive State Water Project and Central Valley Project water. The report provides the information needed by these agencies to develop and manage their own water supply portfolios and is an important input for Sustainable Groundwater Management Plans, Urban Water Management Plans, Agricultural Water Management Plans, and Integrated Regional Water Management Plans.

These decreases in the availability of surface water deliveries can lead to supply shortages, an increase in groundwater demand, and reductions in available supplies to support groundwater replenishment. The Department of Water Resources’ Sustainable Groundwater Management Office will use the information in the report to update its existing climate change data and guidance that many Groundwater Sustainability Agencies used for their initial Plans. Similarly, the Department of Water Resources’ Water Use Efficiency Branch will be advising urban and agricultural water agencies to update their water budget assumptions based on these new assessments.

For more information, view the report at https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/finaldcr2023/resource/92356681-957a-48ee-97c4-529d25b9dbb2?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery. ★

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Yolo County Office of Education Launches School Resiliency and Sustainability Project

It is the first County Office of Education in the U.S. to move forward with the operation of its own independent microgrid

Yolo County Office of Education News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - The Yolo County Office of Education (Yolo COE) launched its groundbreaking Schools Resiliency and Sustainability Project, marking a significant milestone in sustainable education practices. After five years of planning, Yolo County Office of Education became the first County Office of Education in the United States to advance a plan to operate its own independent microgrid. The move reaffirms its commitment to fostering resilience and sustainability in schools.

On Friday, Aug. 23, the Yolo County Office of Education held a groundbreaking event to mark the official launch of the estimated \$4.8 million project. The project will be implemented at six locations and involves a comprehensive plan with 12 significant energy conservation measures and improvements. By implementing these innovative solutions, the Yolo County Office of Education seeks to ensure an uninterrupted power supply, reduce its carbon footprint, and provide valuable learning opportunities for students about renewable energy and environmental stewardship.

"This project will not only move our County Office of Education toward complete sustainability in how we consume energy, but it will also save us millions of dollars in the long term," said Garth Lewis, Yolo County Superintendent. "The project aligns with our vision to be a model of excellence in educational service, innovation, and impact."

Once completed, the Yolo County Office of Education estimates the sustainability project will generate net savings in energy costs of more than \$7 million over 20 years and nearly \$10 million over the life of the system. The project is projected to be completed by 2026.

Central to the project is the construction of an independent microgrid, a small-scale power grid that can operate independently or in conjunction with the main grid. Once completed, the independent microgrid will enhance energy resilience by providing backup power during outages, reduce electricity



Members of the Yolo County Board of Education, County Superintendent Garth Lewis, Supervisor Angel Barajas, and staff pose during the groundbreaking for the Schools Resiliency and Sustainability Project at the Yolo County Office of Education in Woodland. Photo courtesy of the Yolo County Office of Education



From left are Deputy Superintendent Maria Arvizu-Espinoza, former Trustee Carol Souza Cole, Project Manager Ray Lippincott, County Superintendent Garth Lewis, Director of Support Operations Services Matthew Juchniewicz, Vice President Armando Salud Ambriz, Associate Superintendent Veronica Coronado, Yolo County Supervisor Angel Barajas, Syserco Energy Solutions Vice President Scott Meinzen. Photo courtesy of the Yolo County Office of Education

costs through optimized energy management, and promote environmental sustainability by integrating renewable energy sources such as solar power.

To complete the project, the Yolo County Office of Education partnered with Syserco Energy Solutions to design a microgrid system that includes renewable solar energy, a battery energy storage system, and advanced energy management technology, tailored to meet the unique needs of Yolo County Office of Education's facilities.

"We are excited to collaborate with the Yolo County Office of Education on this innovative

project," said Scott Meinzen, Vice President at Syserco Energy Solutions. "This microgrid will not only provide reliable, clean energy but will also set a precedent for other educational institutions across the state and beyond."

"It is a testament to Yolo COE's leadership in adopting innovative solutions that benefit both the environment and the community," Meinzen continued. "Together, we are creating a model for how educational facilities can achieve energy independence and sustainability, thus paving the way for a greener future."

The project also includes the

installation of state-of-the-art solar arrays at three designated sites in Yolo County, including the Santa Anita administrative building located in Woodland. The project also includes the installation of four electric vehicle charging stations at the county office of education.

Once completed, the project will ensure uninterrupted power supply to Yolo County Office of Education's various facilities and school sites and moves the agency toward net-zero energy usage for its buildings.

"Our sustainability project encapsulates more than just an upgrade; it's a leap into the

future of energy efficiency and a greener world," said Matthew Juchniewicz, Yolo County Office of Education's director of support operations services. "By extending the life of HVAC systems and preparing for the shift to electric vehicles, we ensure that our facilities remain cutting-edge and sustainable."

Juchniewicz stated, "Our commitment to electrification is about more than just energy – it's about setting a standard for operational excellence and anticipating the needs of tomorrow."

In addition to the microgrid installation, the Schools Resiliency and Sustainability Project includes 12 measures to significantly improve Yolo County Office of Education's energy infrastructure, including the replacement and electrification of HVAC units that would be powered through the microgrid output, automated energy systems and controls, and technology designed to improve indoor environments including the installation of Carbon dioxide (CO2) sensors to improve classroom air quality.

"The Yolo County Office of Education is the very first county office of education in the state and country to leverage tax credits from the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to transition to sustainable, resilient, efficient, cost-effective infrastructure," said Stephanie Seidmon, Program Director for UndauntedK12, a national nonprofit supporting climate action in public schools. "We believe that their innovation and leadership will inspire more schools to use this uncapped, noncompetitive funding source to drive sea change and are excited about the cascading benefits this project will bring to Yolo County and beyond."

"It is staggering to think that this sustainability project could result in the reduction of greenhouse gas emission that is equivalent to saving 560 acres of U.S. forestland in just one year," said Lewis. "I am immensely proud of the positive impact this will have on students, educators, and our broader community."

For more information about the Schools Resiliency and Sustainability Project and other initiatives by the Yolo County Office of Education, please visit www.ycoe.org. ★

Yolo County Board of Supervisors Recognizes Women's Equality Day

Yolo County News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - The Yolo County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution at their Aug. 27 meeting, designating Aug. 26 as Women's Equality Day in Yolo County. This resolution serves as a significant acknowledgment of the progress made toward gender equality and highlights the ongoing efforts required to achieve true equity.

"It's an honor to recognize Women's Equality Day and celebrate how far we have come in achieving gender equity," stated Chair of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors Lucas Frerichs. "Our work is not complete; together we can create a county culture that promotes and sustains the well-being and equality of women throughout Yolo County."

Generations of women in the United States have fought tirelessly for equal rights, culminating in the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, which granted women the right to vote. This landmark achievement, celebrated annually on Aug. 26, serves as a reminder of both the progress made and the work

still needed to ensure equal rights for women.

In presenting the proclamation on behalf of the Board, Yolo County District 3 Supervisor Dr. Mary Vixie Sandy emphasized the importance of recognizing Women's Equality Day as a time to celebrate the contributions of women across various fields and to highlight the disparities that persist.

Despite making up 51% of the U.S. population, women continue to face significant challenges, including economic inequalities, underrepresentation in political and corporate spheres, and ongoing struggles for bodily autonomy and healthcare. The Board's resolution not only commemorates the historic achievements of the women's suffrage movement but also calls for continued efforts to address these disparities and promote gender equality.

Joining the Board in this commemoration were Lisa Shelley, past proprietor, and Kristina Beggs, who currently owns and operates Yolo County's Corner Drug, a historic community landmark and pharmacy. Established in the 1890s and operated by women since its acquisition by Lisa Shelley,



The Yolo County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution designating Aug. 26 as Women's Equality Day in Yolo County. Photo courtesy of Yolo County

Corner Drug is now owned by her daughters, Sara Daniells and Kristina Beggs. They exemplify the vital role women play in shaping and sustaining local businesses and communities. Corner Drug has become a cornerstone of Woodland's historic

downtown, reflecting the enduring spirit of community and service.

"Women's Equality Day reminds us to reflect on the enormous contributions and resilience of women throughout history and in our lives today. Progress is being made,

but there's still much work to do to ensure women's voices are equally heard and that women and girls are not only empowered but thrive," said Sandy.

The Yolo County Board of Supervisors' resolution serves as a reminder

of both the achievements and the ongoing challenges in the pursuit of gender equality. It is a call to action for all to reflect on the progress made, celebrate the contributions of women, and recommit to the work needed to achieve true equality. ★

Opinion: Californians Will Have to Use Less Water Under State Board's New Rules

By Kerry Jackson

PACIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE

- It's been said in different ways by a variety of people, but there's more than just a grain of truth in it: If the federal bureaucracy or a socialist regime were ever put in charge of the Sahara Desert, there would eventually be a shortage of sand. This helps explain why there is such a scarcity of water in California that permanent use restrictions have been, for the first time in the state's history, set.

On July 3, the California State Water Resources Control Board approved the rules for "Making Conservation a California Way of Life." Under this framework, retail water suppliers are going to have to figure out how to meet the imposed "water use objective," which "is 70%

or less of the supplier's average annual water use" in 2024-26 by July 2040.

The rules will apply to about 400 water agencies that together deliver water to 95% of the state's population. Beginning on Jan. 1, 2025, and on every Jan. 1 thereafter, these agencies will have to "submit to the Department and the Board" their "actual urban water use for the previous state fiscal year."

It will be up to the local agencies as to how they meet the requirements — though it seems that the water board could take action if it chose to. The agencies can impose outright water-use restrictions. Or they could pressure customers into adopting water-saving fixtures and appliances, such as low-flow shower heads, which will do little more than

extend shower times for most people, and high-efficiency dishwashers and washing machines that cost more and need to run longer to do their jobs.

The agencies can even raise rates, which wouldn't be an unappealing idea if they were actually market rates and not those some bureaucracy or board believes are the "right" rates.

Edward Ring, director of water and energy policy for the California Policy Center, calls the new rules an "insane policy" that "will end investment in more water supply projects and spiral our cities into increasingly restrictive rationing."

And if California needs anything, it needs investment in projects that will yield water abundance.

Much of California is arid land. A great deal of the

state, about 38%, is even desert. But that doesn't mean there's not enough water to meet the demand. If policymakers would take the "all of the above" approach recommended by PRI Free Cities Center director Steven Greenhut, there would be no need for the state to order agencies to cut use.

In his 2020 book "Winning the Water Wars," Greenhut explains the "many ways to feed more water into our state's 'plumbing' systems." He admits "some are more politically feasible or cost-effective than others." Nevertheless, policymakers are obliged to enact policies that promote water abundance "through a multiplicity of approaches."

The myriad options in an "all of the above" approach include new infrastructure

(little has been built in the way of new or expanded water storage facilities over the last 40 years); desalination (there's an immense source of water just to the west of the state); and wastewater recycling — all of which Gov. Gavin Newsom supports.

The first two are politically difficult. A pair of long-planned large storage projects recently held some promise, but one has been slow to take shape, and the other is on hold.

Meanwhile, the Claude "Bud" Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Plant in Carlsbad has been a success. It now provides 10% of the drinking water in the San Diego area. But it was no easy task getting it built. Desalination facilities might as well be nuclear plants, given the resistance they have encountered.

While opponents of water abundance argue and protest and block projects, billions that should have been put to use have been idled. Proposition 1, approved by voters 67-33 in 2014, authorized \$7.12 billion in general obligation bonds, with \$2.7 billion set aside to build storage, dam and reservoir projects. Yet a decade later, drawing boards have been busier than construction sites.

Even though California is mostly dry by nature, previous generations were able to obtain enough water to ensure a continuous state of growth. Today we live instead in the "won't do, can't do" era brought on by policymakers, central planners and a coastal elite whose ideological motivations and incompetence are holding California back. ★

California's Water Workforce Is Aging, Promoting The Next Generation of Workers Is Essential

Commentary
by Travis Hinkle
CALMatters.org

A career building and maintaining California's water and wastewater treatment systems may be unglamorous, failing to spring to mind — at least it did for me — when young people contemplate their future careers.

However, the state faces a looming shortage of workers in these critical roles. It is imperative to support local, state and federal policies that help fill them.

Some 17 million workers will be retiring from infrastructure jobs during the next 10 years, taking their skills and institutional knowledge with them, as the workforce ages. According to a US Water Alliance report, approximately one-third of water utility operators are eligible to retire during the next decade. In 2018, Brookings projected that water utilities must fill 9,200 water treatment positions annually.

While President Biden and Congress agreed to spend \$1 trillion on thousands of infrastructure projects, including \$50 billion alone on water resilience projects in the West, California needs to ensure that there are enough workers equipped with the know-how and sweat equity to build and



Environmental scientist Mackenzie Miner, from the California Department of Water Resources Division of Integrated Science and Engineering Aquatic Ecology and Estuarine Science and Synthesis teams, performs routine water sampling on the Sacramento River in Yolo County on June 18. Photo by Andrew Nixon, California Department of Water Resources

operate these projects.

These are jobs that get your hands dirty. It's work that makes a difference. It typically requires less formal education than many other jobs, but can offer a lifelong career, good pay and solid opportunities for advancement.

Infrastructure work pays 30% more to lower-income workers and those just starting their careers, relative to all jobs nationally.

I got my own start after high school by joining my brother's remodeling business — kitchens, bathrooms and the like — in San Jose, where I grew up. But a friend in Sacramento stumbled

into wastewater collections for Sacramento County and encouraged me to visit his plant. There I discovered the range of jobs available: electricians, control technicians and treatment and distribution operators.

Even though I pursued online specialty courses, it took a few years for my first job in the water industry to come together.

My work requires lots of on-the-job training, but all of it is teachable and learnable. Once hired, workers can bid through labor unions for other available positions they're qualified for. Even if they decide to go elsewhere, they'll leave the

department knowing how a water distribution system works.

I have noticed that more attention is being paid these days to proactively recruit water industry workers, helping them understand the training and skills needed to grow in the industry. Last fall, I even told my story to a joint session of the California Public Utilities Commission and the California Workforce Development Board, as the state seeks to widen doors to infrastructure jobs, especially for disadvantaged workers.

When I entered this field, serendipity was my guide. Today, there are resources such as the EPA

report "Making Water a Career of Choice," with case studies of utility-worker pathways to encourage more people to consider working in water systems. In the years ahead, tens of thousands more workers will be needed to meet California's water delivery and other infrastructure needs, and more effort required to attract new talent into this crucial industry.

While work in the water industry may seem obscure, it is rewarding, meaningful and essential for the wellbeing of communities throughout our state. Promoting community college, state university, private sector and state and federal programs designed to inspire and train the next generation of water infrastructure leaders is vital for California's future.

Encouraging more young people to enter this career field will not only help California meet its mushrooming needs, but will provide important, well-paying work for those who don't mind rolling up their sleeves to keep California's water pipelines flowing.

Financial support for this story was provided by the Smidt Foundation and The James Irvine Foundation. Travis Hinkle is a distribution system supervisor for San Jose Water. He has worked in the water industry for 13 years. ★

RE-ELECT NORMA ALCALA TO CITY COUNCIL FOR BRODERICK/BRYTE

When Broderick/Bryte Needed Sidewalks to Protect Families, Kids, and Seniors, Norma Alcala Successfully Brought in Millions

Proven Leadership, Experience, Trustworthy

Under Norma Alcala's leadership, Broderick/Bryte has seen substantial successful advancements. Norma Alcala has the ten years of experience in elected positions needed to represent Broderick/Bryte. As the former President of the WUSD School Board, she won the battle for single member districts so Broderick/Bryte would always be represented on the School Board, and the City Council. She brought millions for sidewalks to protect our kids and seniors and is bringing a community pool to Broderick/Bryte. It is dangerous for our kids to bicycle on Jefferson Blvd to the pool across town. She has advocated for tiny homes to provide alternative housing at far cheaper costs.



"Norma Alcala succeeded in bringing millions for sidewalks in Broderick and Byte. Sidewalks are necessary to protect our families with children on bicycles from traffic, our seniors from uneven ground where they could fall, and our disabled who need to live independently. Finally, we have someone looking out for Broderick and Bryte. That is why I am voting for Norma Alcala for City Council in District 1."

—Virginia Coffey, President of the Washington Unified School District Board.

Proudly endorsed by:

Dolores Huerta, co-founder United Farm Workers; Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis; Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Reyes; Senate Majority Leader Richard Polanco (ret.); Yolo County Supervisor: Supervisor Mary Sandy, Supervisor Angel Barrajas, Supervisor Jim Provenza; Martha Guerrero, Mayor West Sacramento; Gloria Partida, Mayor Davis (ret.); Woody Fridae Mayor Winters (ret.); Tanya Garcia Cadena Mayor Woodland (ret.); School Board President Virginia Coffey, School Board member elect Vanessa Castro; Sacramento Labor Council represents 90 unions and 470,000 workers; Sierra Building and Trades Council represents 15,000 workers.

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