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THE NEWS

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Serving Rio Linda, Elverta and Sacramento County

SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

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Oktoberfest Car and Boat Show is Back



A wide variety of classic cars will be available to view Oct. 5. Photo courtesy of Deanna Dyson Photography

By Annie Kerr

RIO LINDA, CA (MPG) - What better way to ring in October than to attend a car show that gives back to the community with a German flair?

The fall favorite Oktoberfest Car and Boat Show is back, thanks to the Rio Linda Lions Club. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 5, residents can view vintage cars, boats and motorcycles of all kinds.

The show will take place at the Dry Creek Ranch House, 6852 Dry Creek Road, Rio Linda with free admission. Those who want to show a car, boat or motorcycle must pay a \$25 pre-registration fee or a \$30 registration fee on the day of the event.

According to Rio Linda Lions



A 1957 Chevy Belair was on display at last year's event. Photo courtesy of Deanna Dyson Photography

Club Secretary Gene Kypke, the Orchard Elementary School after one Lions Club donated \$6,000 to

Continued on page 2

Brian Gross Named Head Baseball Coach at Rio Linda High School



The Rio Linda Knights baseball team will kick off their season in early 2025. Photo courtesy of Knights Baseball

Twin Rivers Unified School District News Release

RIO LINDA, CA (MPG) - Twin Rivers Unified is excited to announce that Brian Gross will serve as the new head baseball coach at Rio Linda High School. Gross, a 1990 graduate of Rio Linda High School, served as an assistant baseball coach for the past two years.

"I am honored and thrilled to be named the head baseball coach at Rio Linda High School," said Gross. "My love for the game, combined with my deep connection to this

community, fuels my passion for coaching. I look forward to working with our talented athletes and our families."

As a varsity athlete at Rio Linda High School, Gross excelled in both baseball and basketball, earning all-league honors and competing in the 1989 CIF Section, Division 2, baseball championship game. His standout high school career culminated in his selection for the Optimist All-Star baseball team in 1990.

Following graduation, Gross pursued professional baseball, playing



Brian Gross will serve as the new head baseball coach at Rio Linda High School. Photo courtesy of Twin Rivers Unified School District

in the independent league for the Montreal Expos organization in Roanoke, Virginia in 1991 and the Minnesota Twins organization in Elizabethton, Tennessee in 1992.

Gross is a lifelong resident of Rio Linda. ★

Guaranteed Income Pilot Applications Opening

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County's Department of Child, Family and Adult Services (DCFAS) has partnered with United Way California Capital Region for a new Guaranteed Income Pilot called the Family First Economic Support Pilot.

The pilot gives qualifying families guaranteed payments of \$725 a month for a year. Applications will open on Sept. 30. Two hundred applicants will be randomly selected from those who apply. United Way will contact those selected for the pilot to discuss the next steps and to verify eligibility.

To qualify, families must live in one of the following zip codes: 95815, 95821, 95823, 95825, 95828, and 95838. Applicants must be either the parent or legal guardian of a Black/African American, American Indian, or Alaska Native child and have a child who is between the ages of 0 and 5. Applicants must have an annual household income of less than 200% of the federal poverty line. To qualify, the families cannot be part of any other Guaranteed Income Pilot/Program.

Applications can be completed online at <https://ffesp.org>.

The purpose of the Family First Economic Support Pilot is to offer additional income to help eligible families in the focus zip codes. Data shows that African American/Black and American Indian/Alaska Native children experience higher rates of contact with the child welfare system compared to other ethnicities.

The Family First Economic Support Pilot is primarily funded through state grant money. Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services partnered with a research organization, MEF Associates, to evaluate how the guaranteed income impacts the selected families.

For more information, visit the Department of Child, Family and Adult Services website at <https://dcfas.saccounty.net/Admin/Pages/Family-First-Economic-Support-Pilot.aspx>. ★

**WE SUPPORT
OUR MILITARY**

Oktoberfest Car and Boat Show is Back



Car owners stand with their prized belongings at the 2023 Oktoberfest Car Show. Photo courtesy of Deanna Dyson Photography

Continued from page 1
of their previous car shows and the club is constantly hosting events and fundraisers to benefit the local community," Kypke said.

"The Lions Club's purpose is to make money to give it back to the community," Kypke said.

Kypke described Rio Linda as a "car-driven community," with "thousands of beautiful cars hidden within our town's garages." The cars that are presented are, according to Kypke, "one-off special vehicles, full blown, detailed to the nines, off the showroom floor beauties."

All car show proceeds will go toward local programs. According to the Lions Club, one of the beneficiaries is the Rio Linda High School Scholarship Program, where several students are awarded \$500 scholarships. Other beneficiaries include local FFA and 4-H programs, local elementary schools, Little League programs and White Cane Day.

What is White Cane Day?

Kypke explained that White Cane Day is an annual observance on Oct. 15 that celebrates the achievements of those with visual impairments.

"Throughout the world, the long white cane is used by people who are blind or visually impaired as a tool for safe and reliable navigation. The white cane is a symbol of the user's skills and talents, mobility and independence. It also allows the sighted person to recognize that the user is visually impaired," reads the Lions Club International website.

The Oktoberfest Car Show will also have a food and toy drive, which aims to benefit the Ruby's Christmas Basket program that the Lions Club has been doing for more than 60 years. During the holiday season, the Lions Club annually gives gift baskets abundant with food and toys to about 120 local families in need. Car show attendees are encouraged to bring food and/or toys to donate to the cause.

According to Kypke, there will be live music at the show, as well as multiple vendors. Attendees can expect to see Kypke and his fellow Lions clad in Oktoberfest fashion. There will not be a swap meet at this year's show.

For more information about the event and the Lions Club, visit <https://www.facebook.com/RioLindaLC>. ★



At the 2023 Oktoberfest Car Show, a couple shows off their classic boat. Photo courtesy of Deanna Dyson Photography



Attendees enjoy the ambiance of the Oktoberfest Car Show. Photo courtesy of Deanna Dyson Photography

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Blue Angels Headline California Capital Airshow Next March



The Blue Angels return to next year's California Capital Airshow at Mather Airport on March 22 and March 23. The renowned Blue Angels, pictured here, performed at the California Capital Airshow in 2019. Photos courtesy of Mark E. Loper Photography

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Capital Airshow, presented by Sacramento County in partnership with the City of Rancho Cordova, on Sept. 6 announced its 19th annual Airshow will return to Mather Airport on March 22 and March 23, 2025.

The two-day traditional event will be headlined by the U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels.

"We are so excited to have the Blue Angels back!" said California Capital Airshow Executive Director Darcy Brewer. "Their return to Sacramento has been highly anticipated and we're proud to be one

of the team's first steps following their winter training."

The Blue Angels last performance at the California Capital Airshow was in 2019. The team's performance at the 2025 Airshow marks their 79th season, during which they will perform 64 demonstrations at 32 locations across the country.

In addition to the Blue Angels, fans of all ages will enjoy a dynamic lineup of top military and civilian performers, plus miles of exhibits on the ground.

Become an Airshow Insider to save up to 50% on tickets, receive exclusive updates on performers and more. Sign up for free at CaliforniaCapitalAirshow.com. ★



Explore County Parks with Agents of Discovery

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Agents of Discovery, an interactive, augmented reality game, is now available at two Sacramento County Regional Parks: Gibson Ranch Regional Park and River Bend Park.

Gibson Ranch Regional Park is at 8556 Gibson Ranch Park Road, Elverta, and River Bend Park is at 2300 Rod Beaudry Drive, Sacramento.

The Agents of Discovery app

is available to park visitors, free of charge. While in participating parks, users will be encouraged to explore new areas to find "challenges" that will... well, challenge their knowledge of the parks.

"Our team has been diligently creating engaging challenges to ensure that visitors have an enjoyable and educational experience," said Liz Bellas, director of Regional Parks. "Agents of Discovery will provide valuable insights about our local parks and open spaces, showcasing

the many benefits of parks and recreation for people of all ages."

If you've ever played games such as Pokémon GO or Harry Potter Wizards Unite, you're likely familiar with augmented reality. This technology combines visuals and audio from the game with the user's actual environment in real-time.

When users enter the active park area, they will begin receiving tips through the app that will help them find and complete the challenges.

Agents of Discovery Tips and Disclaimers

While Agents of Discovery is best downloaded and played using WiFi, it is also accessible using cellular data.

Under "Missions," search for the park you plan on visiting, either "River Bend Park" or "Gibson Ranch Regional Park" and download mission prior to visiting.

Make sure that GPS is enabled. Be aware and cautious of possible traffic, other people and obstacles that could be in your

way when playing Agents of Discovery. Be sure to look around and be safe when playing.

Create an account to save your progress.

Agents of Discovery is fun for all ages. Children should get parental permission before downloading this app.

Parks are open from sunrise to sunset.

Download the app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and head to either Gibson Ranch Regional Park or River Bend Park and start playing. ★



Shred Day 2024

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Board Revises Approved 2024-25 Budget

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Sept. 4 to revise the Approved Budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

The \$9.2 billion Revised Recommended Budget included an increase of \$340 million in total appropriations from the \$8.8 billion Recommended Budget the Board approved in June. The increases included \$68 million in General Fund appropriations, \$272 million in other funds; \$249 million base budget changes resulting primarily from re-budgeting of capital projects and other contractual expenditures and \$23 million in non-General Fund growth.

The following prioritized General Fund growth identified in June is funded in the Revised Recommended Budget: \$20 million General Fund contribution to the Roads Fund for roadway rehabilitation and maintenance, approximately \$300,000 for upgrades to the County's Emergency Operations Center and approximately \$17,000 to reallocate a position within Animal Care Services.

Additional recommended growth in the Revised Recommended Budget included \$900,000 to the Sheriff's Office to fund four

Deputy Sheriff positions responsible for escorting inmates and medical staff to health appointments in compliance with the Mays consent decree, \$200,000 to Probation to restore one full-time equivalent position to maintain service levels in Treatment Courts, in compliance with the Mays consent decree, \$500,000 to restore positions in Probation and the Public Defender's office to maintain service levels associated with SB 823 Juvenile Justice Realignment and \$400,000 to Human Assistance to fund the County's required cost of the California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS).

The Board of Supervisors approved the following growth during the hearings: \$62,500 to Human Assistance to fund CalFresh operations at the Florin Certified Farmers' Market.

The Board is scheduled to formally adopt the Budget Recommended for Adoption on Sept. 24.

For details, read the Budget Letter to the Board of Supervisors or view all budget documents on the Office of Budget and Debt Management website at <https://bdm.sac-county.gov/FY2024-25BudgetInformation/Pages/default.aspx>. ★

Social Security Matters

Should my Husband File and then Suspend His Benefits?



By Russell Gloor,
AMAC Certified Social
Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: My financial advisor used a computer program which told my husband to take his SS at age 68, then suspend it after a few months. What I understood was if my husband started and then stopped taking distributions, he would earn delayed retirement credits and thus get more at age 70. I know waiting increases SS amounts, by 8% a year, but does purposely starting and then stopping SS increase distributions even more?

Signed: Confused

Dear Confused: Suspending receipt of one's SS benefits after their FRA (as in your husband's case) does result in him earning Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs), but the DRCs earned accumulate at the same rate as

if he simply waited longer to claim his SS benefit in the first place. DRCs are earned up to 70 years of age, at which point your husband's maximum SS benefit is attained (FYI, DRCs earn .667% of additional benefit for each month benefits are delayed or suspended, or 8% per year). But I see no advantage to your husband starting his benefits now (at 68) and then suspending them several months later to earn DRCs – the number of DRCs earned are the same in either case, so he could simply wait to apply for his Social Security benefits until he is 70 to get his maximum amount.

The only rationale I can think of to claim and then suspend after doing so is to get a few months of his benefit payments before suspending. But the few months he received benefits before suspending will be considered when he later unsuspends his benefit, so that his total payment amount will be a bit less at 70 than it would otherwise be if he simply waits longer to claim SS. And, just for information, he can't "file and suspend" his benefits so that you can receive a spousal benefit

from him. That option (to file and suspend, enabling a spouse to receive benefits) was eliminated by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 - while your husband's benefits are suspended, you cannot receive a spousal benefit from him.

So, frankly, I see no advantage to your husband claiming his benefit now and then suspending them a few months later. If his goal is to maximize his SS benefit, then the best way to do that is simply wait longer to claim.

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. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



For the true basketball fan this time of year is challenging. There are only so many reruns or NBA classics you can watch, and other sports can be a sober replacement if you're anticipating the upcoming Kings season.

With the acquisition of DeMar DeRozan, many fans are already drawing comparisons of this year's team from those of the past.

The 2001/2002 Sacramento Kings will never be forgotten, and many believe it was the best overall in Sacramento Kings history.

Names like Mike Bibby, Chris Webber and Vlade Divac come to mind and were the cornerstone players from a team that won a franchise record 61 games. Great players for sure, but how do the big three from that storied team compare with those from our current roster. Let's see if the stats can shed some light.

In the post, Vlade Divac, albeit a shade past his prime at age 32, turned in 30 minutes per game, scored 11.1 points, grabbed 8.3 rebounds and added 2.9 assists.

Our current big man is none other than Domantas Sabonis, in his prime at age 28. Domantas was on the hardwood for an average of 35 minutes per game, scored 19.4 points, led the NBA in rebounding with 13.7 boards per game, and added a team high 8.2 assists. All this is in addition to leading the league in double-double and triple-doubles for the season.

No comparison here. Sabonis wins in a landslide.

Chris Webber becomes the most difficult matchup for the current Kings as he represents the missing piece that the current team has been looking for, a true power forward.

Chris' stats are largely why the 2001/2002 team garnished 61 wins.

Chris was on the court each game for just over 38 minutes, scored 24.5 points, secured 10.1 rebounds, and added 4.8 assists. Seasons like this and gaudy stats like these would go on to put Chris Webber in the NBA hall of fame.

Without a true power forward, the current team would have to pose Keegan Murray as the comparison player.

In his second season Keegan logged just under 34 minutes per game. He averaged 15.2 points per game, 5.5 rebounds and 1.7 assists.

No contest here, Chris Webber wins

going away.

So, let's examine the point guards. From the past the 2001/2002 team was led by fan favorite Mike Bibby.

Mike turned in 33 minutes per game, scored 13.7 points on average each contest, secured 2.8 rebounds, and added five assists.

The current Sacramento Kings are led by De'Aaron Fox. Last season De'Aaron led the team in scoring with 26.6 points per game, pulled down a career high 4.6 rebounds, and dished out 5.6 assists per contest.

Not even close, and as much as I loved Mike Bibby, De'Aaron wins this comparison hands down.

It can be argued that the 2001/2002 team had one of the most potent benches of all-time, and few would argue that Bobby Jackson, Doug Christie and Scot Pollard represented a bench any coach would be proud of.

Their combined bench stats were 29.5 point per game, 14.8 rebounds, and 6.9 assists.

The current team would counter with Malik Monk, Trey Lyles, and Davion Mitchell.

The 2023/2024 team produced 27.9 points per game, 8.6 rebounds, and 8.2 assists per contest.

The edge goes to the 2001/2002 Kings team, but the stats were closer than I expected.

Last season Kevin Huerter was a starter, but with the addition of De'Mar De'Roza, it is likely that Kevin will be relegated to the bench where I expect to see him add some scoring power that will undoubtedly strengthen the bench overall.

I hope you enjoyed this walk down memory lane and comparing stats.

As much as I thoroughly enjoyed the team from yesteryear, I am excited beyond measure for what the Kings are about to present this season. Just a few short weeks from pre-season games and then the real fun begins.

As with every season, health will be a key component, but as you consider what the 2001/2002 team did in winning 61 games, we should all be imagining what the win total will look like this year!

All the best Kings fans!

Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

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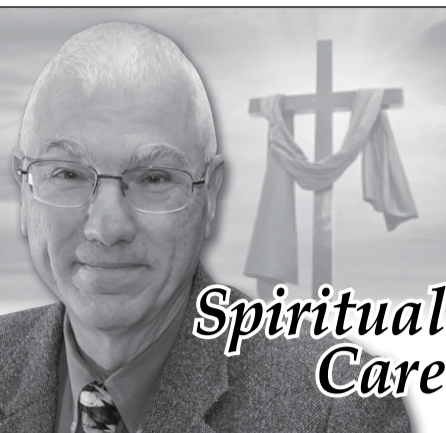
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Don't Try This Verse at Home



BY NORRIS BURKES

Christian marriage.

On our drive home to the parsonage, my young bride made a few declarations. "I hope you're not expecting our marriage to be like that. I'll be your wife, but I won't be your maid or your waitress."

Of course, this was no major development. On our wedding day, Becky veered away from traditional roles by refusing to be "given away" by her father. Instead, both our parents began the ceremony by announcing their affirmation of our marriage. After our wedding, Becky spent the next four years supporting us through my seminary education.

Now that she was ready to start her teaching career and plan our family, she wanted to be sure I knew that I was expected to do an equal share of home upkeep, diaper duty and cooking included.

Of course I wanted to keep this girl, so I always nodded in perfect agreement.

We remained with that church for 4½ years, just long enough to realize that Joanne wasn't the mousy subservient wife we first mistook her for. Their marriage wasn't so easily judged.

Actually, I was privileged to witness how they'd built a marriage of great love and mutual respect. I saw many moments in which Dan also submitted to Joanne's wishes and lavished her with every bit of love he could muster.

Bottom line was that their marriage worked for them and I had no call to judge that.

I met up with Dan and Joanne a few years back and I can tell you that Dan achieved a wonderful life — not by misusing the verse to domineer Joanne, but by cherishing her. Joanne achieved a wonderful marriage, not by losing who she was in Dan's shadow, but by honoring the man God made Dan to be.

Together, they found the secret that precedes the noisy verse about wives submitting. Ephesians 5:21 makes it clear that both the husband and wife must "submit to one another."

That simply means that couples must work it out. Usually, a good marriage involves the couple taking turns in leading in their relationship. Typically, healthy couples lead together.

Izmir was a very short tour of duty, just a temporary home. Fortunately, my assignment with Becky has been a permanent one.

I don't think she'll tell you that our marriage has always been equal because I know it hasn't. But I also know that, as we near the 45-year mark, submitting to one another continues to work for us. ★

During the two years I was stationed in Izmir, Turkey, I made several visits to the nearby ancient ruins in the seaport of Ephesus. In the Christian world, this city is famous for the letter the Apostle Paul wrote to the fledgling church.

However, in all the years I've preached from this letter, I can tell you that there are no ruins more disastrous than when husbands misuse the words Paul wrote in the fifth chapter of that letter we call the book of Ephesians.

In fact, I suspect that there is no verse in the entire Bible that has given marriages more trouble than Ephesians 5:22. Spoken by a seemingly clueless bachelor, Paul urged, "Wives submit yourselves to your husbands."

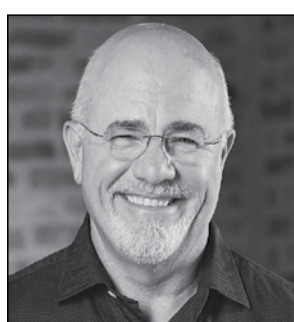
(Warning Husbands: DO NOT try this verse at home without chaplain supervision.)

My first run-in with the mandate came in the home of a deacon who'd invited his 26-year-old pastor and wife for dinner after church.

Our deacon, Dan, was a 40ish-year-old family man with three daughters who hung on his every word. But a few hours into our meal, it was his wife, Joanne, who was making the biggest impression on us.

Joanne was an incredibly personable woman who exuded confidence in everything she did. Nevertheless, with Dan she seemed almost subservient. She waited on him hand-and-foot, bringing him what he needed before he'd ask.

As Joanne served dessert, Becky dared a nervous laugh at how Joanne fawned over Dan. The deacon's wife responded to Becky's ribbing with the submission verse, telling us it was her Christian duty to serve Dan. With lips pursed, we nodded in feigned agreement, even though our first impressions told us that the arrangement seemed more like servile compliance than a



Dave Ramsey

Dave Ramsey Says

You've Already Paid for It

and your wife are having to deal with this kind of situation.

The Social Security system in this country is a mathematical failure. But that doesn't mean I'm not going to take my money when I deserve it. The government took it from me in the first place, so I don't have a problem with accepting something I've already paid into.

Now, I'll throw out a warning here. Sometimes when people start receiving unemployment benefits, it causes them to take their foot off the gas. The idea that "free" money is coming in can help them rationalize sitting at home on the couch, instead of working hard to find another job and being extra careful with their finances. I'm not hearing that kind of mentality from you, though. And it's obvious you and your wife have been pretty smart with your finances.

One more thing I'd suggest is making sure you look at your severance package as survival money only. Make a strict budget and stick to it. Cut out all excess spending. That means no eating out, vacations or anything like

that until you're working again and everything's back on solid ground. Right now, focus on covering your Four Walls. By that, I mean food, utilities, shelter and transportation. Feed your family, keep the electricity on, pay the mortgage and put enough gas in the car to get where you need to go.

Everyone hits a rough stretch of road in life from time to time, Brandt. But you two are in a position to handle it better than most. Just remember what got you to such a good place with your finances in the first place. The discipline muscle is already there, and it's strong. Just flex it, and it'll help get you through this and back on your feet again!

– 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,

We've been following your plan for a while. We're debt-free, except for our home, and we have six months of expenses set aside in our emergency fund. Recently, I lost my job. I'm luckier than some, because received a generous severance package from my previous employer, plus my wife still has a good job. My parents always raised me to take care of things myself and not rely on others. I suppose it's because of this I feel a little guilty about filing for unemployment compensation. Do you think there's anything morally wrong with accepting unemployment benefits?

– Brandt

Dear Brandt,

I really appreciate your self-sufficient attitude. I don't know what happened at your last job, but I've got a feeling you're a hard worker and a decent guy. I'm sorry you

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The Spats by Jeff Pickering

POPEYE BY FANDY FRANKLIND

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Ball is moved. 3. Whisker is missing. 4. Facemask is different. 5. Fence is not as high. 6. Hedge is lower.

Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas

GRIN THE BEAR IT by Dave T. Phipps

"Roscoe didn't ask for directions, but several drivers did tell him where to go."

TIGER by Bud Blake

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CLUES

ACROSS

- Port city in Japan
- *Team ride
- Nordic native
- Equipped with feathers
- Cigarette deposit
- *Arena, e.g.
- Not odds
- Hawaiian welcome wreath
- Bone hollows
- *NBA headquarters location
- *"Bill ___ NBA Finals Most Valuable Player award"
- "Roses ___ red ..."
- *NBA centers typically have long ones
- Tarzan the ___ Man
- Cry like a baby
- 3.26 light-years
- "Off The Wall" shoe
- Living quarters
- Shop ___ slogan
- "I'm ___ you!"
- Got some shuteye
- Comme ci, comme ça
- Brandish
- Ski hill ride
- Contractor's work order
- *Basketball blocking move
- Swedish shag rugs
- Member of a "benevolent and protective order"
- Kind of cola
- Thrice-repeated dance step
- *Power ___ position
- *NBA team with most championships
- Deprive of armor
- Genetic acronym
- Plural of ostium
- Junk yard stuff
- Geisha's sash
- *Nickname for 61 Across
- Coze
- *NBA Sixth ___ of the Year Award
- Type of leaf cabbage, pl.

DOWN

- Bun baker
- "___ me a seat"
- From square one
- Tanzania's northern neighbor
- Not absorb, nor repel
- Refuse to comply
- Wear and tear
- Bake an egg
- Sunglasses "glass"
- Casino chip
- Not knit
- Church sound
- Lord's subordinate
- Good ___ book lovers' app
- Strike caller
- High school math class
- Declares to be true
- Sweat-inducing attack
- Come in!
- *The Stilt's first name
- David Schwimmer on "Friends"
- Breadth
- Art support
- *Shot ___ NBA

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

Disorganization, City-County Feuds Impede California's Efforts to Reduce Homelessness



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Over the last five years, the state government has spent some \$24 billion to ameliorate homelessness, which, according to polls, is California's most troublesome issue.

Despite that immense financial commitment—and billions more in spending by local governments and philanthropic organizations—the number of homeless people continues to grow.

The latest federal homelessness count found 186,000 Californians living on the streets or in shelters, up 5,000 from the previous year and 36,000 since 2019, the year Gavin Newsom became governor. California has the highest homelessness rate of any state and more than a quarter of the nation's homeless population.

Despite the crisis, we have no hard data telling us how the money was spent, much less which programs, if any, have been successful. Not surprisingly, given the evident lack of results, official and private agencies that administer the programs are reluctant to disclose such information.

In fact, Calmatters.org and other groups have resorted to lawsuits to compel homelessness agencies to release information on what they have done with the funds.

Despite the shameful secrecy, it's apparent that one factor in the expanding crisis

is a lack of coordination and cooperation among the public and private agencies.

Earlier this year, State Auditor Grant Parks issued a sharply worded critique of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness, the Newsom administration's tool for coordinating homelessness programs.

"The state lacks current information on the ongoing costs and outcomes of its homelessness programs, because (the council) has not consistently tracked and evaluated the state's efforts to prevent and end homelessness," Parks wrote.

State-level disorganization is compounded by a structural choke point at the local level. Overwhelmingly, unsightly encampments of homeless people are located within cities, but the social and medical services central to closing those camps are administered by counties, and in highly politicized urban areas, city and county officials tend to be rivals rather than partners.

While Newsom periodically issues demands that local officials do a better job of eliminating the camps—notwithstanding disorganization in his own administration—the lack of local cooperation and coordination is a major impediment.

A situation in Sacramento, within earshot of the state Capitol and detailed by Sacramento Bee columnists Tom Philp and Robin Epley, illustrates the conflict.

Sacramento's city and county officials have feuded for years over homelessness, not only for the usual reasons but because the American River Parkway, which runs through the city and has been a favorite camping site for homeless people, is managed

by the county.

Two years ago, faced with a business-backed ballot measure to crack down on encampments, the city fashioned a less harsh alternative that anticipated an agreement with county officials to provide services for people losing their camping sites.

However, instead of joining the city, county officials banned camps in the parkway and ordered law enforcement to clear them.

City officials complained that people removed from the parkway simply set up new camps inside the city limits. When a local legislator, Assemblyman Kevin McCarty, obtained a \$25 million state grant to the county for homeless programs, county supervisors decided how to spend it, mostly on a few dozen shelter beds or housing slots, without agreement from city officials.

City Councilwoman Karina Talamantes showed up at a meeting of county supervisors to complain about their unilateral actions.

"All the people living on the American River Parkway moved across the street into our neighborhoods north of the river," Talamantes told the board. "I've been asking about these funds for the last two years."

Supervisors fired back in a press release accusing Talamantes of shading the facts about the situation. McCarty, now a candidate for mayor, is caught in the middle of the feud.

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. ★



PoppTalk

With Mary Jane Popp

King

If you have ever met a celebrity, sometimes they are kind of uppity and maybe a bit snooty. I've met a few with decades of interviewing on Radio and TV. But I can truly say Perry King is not one of them. I'm sure you have run across some of his great works in movie and TV both. Remember the TV series "Riptide" and Cody Allen? How about "Slaughterhouse Five" and "The Lords of Flatbush" and I can go on and on. I've interviewed Perry multiple times on a variety of programs, and I am honored that I can call him good friend. He was on my POPPTALK Radio Show recently, and I always love talking to this man who has done so much and wants to really share his great experience and true caring with everyone he meets. One question I had at the top of my list was did he choose acting or did it choose him? He truly believes it can choose you. It began in high school when he had an almost silent part in "Caine Mutiny" as the stenographer. But he explained it as a monster out there that you can hear and feel and then the lights go down and it is quiet. Then the lights come up and you know this is it... this is what I want to do. People are paying attention to you and you fall in love with that feeling. Perhaps it goes back to wanting that attention as a kid, and then it all comes together on the stage as the au-

dience gives you that love. I can attest to that feeling. I was hooked from day one on stage and singing my heart out.

But, with all his successes, Perry had a dream. He was a cowboy at heart. He wanted to do a movie that really reached people in a heartfelt way. After decades of thinking about it came "The Divide." It was set in the 1970s on a ranch owned by a crusty old-timer who was developing Alzheimer's. Here's the great part of this story. Perry produced, directed and starred in "The Divide." It was actually filmed on his own 500 acre cattle ranch. He said it made it much easier not having to deal with another location owner, and he also financed it. He had offers to finance it, but with outside money came caveats, like adding steamy scenes and perhaps some skin. He said NO. This movie was going to be true to his dream, an emotional and loving story of what can happen as this condition takes over a life. I can tell you I personally was in tears when I saw the premier. It has won multiple awards for its deep feelings on life. It's the type of movie that stays with you long after you see it.



Mary Jane with her good friend Perry King.

I can go on with so many great stories I have heard from Perry. More to come. If you want to check out the movie info, go to www.thedividemotionpicture.com. Guaranteed...you'll love it! ★

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Nature Parades a Feast

New Home Sales in August Rebound to Second-Highest Level for Month Since 2004



Peregrine falcon Wek-Wek will be among animal ambassadors at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center's fall NatureFest. Handler is naturalist Kristen Angelini.

Story and photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Birds, reptiles and marsupials will be among educators during an open day at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center on Oct. 6. Staged annually, NatureFest is the center's largest educational event.

Visiting presenters are scheduled. Hundreds of TV and school presentations have featured rescued animals from Gabe Kerschner's Placer County sanctuary and some of these critters will take center stage at the Carmichael event. Kerschner's "Wild Things" cast includes an alligator, a lemur, a kangaroo and a kinkajou. Nature Fest visitors will also experience Kerschner's more regional menagerie.

Save the Snakes, a non-profit that champions one of nature's most misunderstood species, will offer slithering serpents for supervised handling. Volunteers from Sacramento Splash will detail microscopic species found in wetlands. Microscopes will be on hand for close examination.

Visiting "Mad Science" demonstrators will animate natural phenomenon like volcanic eruptions, cyclones and how hot air sends balloons up, up and away. They will also explain how optical illusions work;

they will create chemical reactions and launch model rockets. Cotton candy is the product of one of their demonstrations.

If serious hunger results, lunch and snacks will be available from food trucks.

Resident Nature Center animals, including Einstein the tortoise and crowd-pleasing raptors, will emerge for admiration. Hosted walks through the center's 100-acre preserve are certain to include deer, wild turkey and possibly even coyote sightings.

At the center is a hub for Native American studies. Maidu basketry and doll-making are among other NatureFest demonstrations. Hands-on activities will be offered at many exhibition booths. Event organizers welcome youth groups.

NatureFest runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 2850 Lorenzo Way (Ancil Hoffman Park). Adult reservations are \$10 (\$12 at the door); \$5 for children aged ages 4 to 11. Parking is free. Pre-sale tickets are available at www.effieyeawnature.org/events-calendar.

Sponsors include American River Natural History Association; William Walker Law Firm; SMUD; Save the American River Association; SavATree services; Randy Getz; Sacramento Audubon and California Native Plant Society. ★



Building Industry Association (BIA) members reported selling 605 homes during the month in the region. Image by Paul Brennan from Pixabay

North State Building Industry Association News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - New home sales in the greater Sacramento area rebounded sharply in August to the second-highest total in 20 years after a July lull likely caused in part by the historic heat wave that month, the North State Building Industry Association reported Sept. 11.

Building Industry Association (BIA) members reported selling 605 homes during the month in the region. That was up 40% from the 433 sales reported in July and 6% higher than the unusually high 573 homes sold in August 2023. The average number of sales for the month regionwide is just 406. This year's monthly sales were the most during an August since 633 sold during the pandemic year of 2020 and were the second highest since 874 were sold in 2004 during the height of the turn-of-the-century housing boom.

North State President and CEO Tim Murphy said the rebound in sales was due to the continued demand for new homes, the continued scarcity of resale homes and the fact mortgage interest rates have been trending lower in anticipation that the

Federal Reserve will begin cutting interest rates later this month.

"Mortgage rates last week dropped to their lowest levels since April 2023 and continue to inch down," Murphy noted. "As there are signs of a cooling national economy, it could well be that the Fed might cut the Fed Fund rates by a full half-point when they meet again next week."

"And while the number of resale homes on the local market is increasing, it's still well below normal levels, meaning that new homes continue to provide the widest selection along with the latest features. With 180 new home communities in the region, there's a new home that meets virtually every need."

Sacramento County again saw the most sales (372) followed by Placer County with 151. Sales in Roseville rebounded nicely to 114 from just 62 the previous month to regain the lead. Rancho Cordova was just behind at 112, followed by Elk Grove (77), Sacramento (74) and Folsom (56).

Building Industry Association statistics include sales by members in Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties. ★

KP International MARKET
 FOOD COURT NOW OPEN
 10971 Olson Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
 916.853.8000
 Market: 7 Days, 8am - 9pm
 Food Court: 7 Days, 11am - 3:00pm
 Korean / Mex / Viet: 7:30pm last call
 Chinese / Japanese: 7:00pm last call

NOW OPEN
 ENJOY OUR FRESHLY BAKED BREAD & CAKE
 10971 OLSON DR. RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Assi Frozen Croaker 850 g REG. \$19.99/ea \$10.99/ea	Frozen Squid Whole Cleaned 340 g REG. \$5.99/ea \$2.99/ea
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WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS

Beef Rump Bottom Round Roast - Brls \$4.99/lb	Beef T-Bone Steak \$5.99/lb	Beef Porterhouse Steak \$6.49/lb
Chicken Leg Quarters 99c/lb	Pork St. Louis Ribs - Single Pack \$3.99/lb	Pork Loin Roast Boneless \$2.99/lb
Pork Loin Chops Boneless \$3.49/lb		

FRESH PRODUCE

Russet Potato 10 lbs \$2.29	Mini Sweet Pepper 1 lb \$3.29	Whole Baby Bello Mushroom 8 oz \$1.99	Green Papaya 99c/lb
Kabocha 89c/lb	Red Potato 99c/lb	Seafood Mushroom 150 g 3 for \$2	Mushroom Medley 14 oz \$2.99

AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY

Kingsford Matchlight Charcoal 12 lbs \$14.99	VS Curry Juice 46 Ltr \$2.29	EED Honey Graham Crackers 14.4 oz \$2.99	Maggi Instant Noodle Soup Mix 5 pack 400 g \$4.99	Charmin Mega Ultra Soft Tissues 9 ct \$15.99
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ASIAN GROCERY

Exellent Biben Rice Sticks 16 oz \$3.99	Iodized Natural Sea Salt 26 oz \$3.99	Taco Coconut Water with Pulp 16.9 Ltr 99c	Knorr Gashi Tamari Sauce 14 oz \$1.79	MD Hawaiian Fruit Beverages 12 Ltr \$2.99
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EUROPEAN GROCERY

Safal 100% Pure Avocado Oil 2 liters \$17.99	Safal Special Blend Tea with Cardamom 16 oz \$12.99	Buraka Roasted & Salted Melon Seeds 350 gr \$4.99	Safal Mediterranean Sea Salt Grinder 330 gr \$2.99	Safal Pink Himalayan Salt Grinder 390 gr \$3.99
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KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY

Seamless Seaweed 60 g \$2.49	Buldak Hot Sauce 200 g 99c	Seol Special Gift Set 2.15 kg \$19.99	Korean Traditional Rice Cookies 230 g \$3.99
Roasted Liver 100 g \$6.99	Low Cholesterol Meat 340 g \$2.99	Korean Red Ginseng 20 x 50 ml \$15.99	Mochiko Rice Flour 454 g \$2.49
Shirakiku Tonkatsu & Sushi Sauce 510 g \$3.99	Seaweed Snack 3 kinds 40 g \$2.49		

HOUSEWARES

BIGEN SPEEDY HAIR COLOR (REFILL ONLY) \$5.99	ELECTRIC BBQ GRILL \$39.99	ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (4 CUP) \$49.99	ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (3 CUP) \$54.99	ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (1.5 CUP) \$59.99
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FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Long Legged Octopus Cut 453 g \$6.99	Turkey Breast \$11.99	Peppered Turkey Breast \$12.49
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EUROPEAN DELI

Columbus Pan Roasted Turkey Breast \$11.99	Green Cracked Olives \$4.59	Pined Olives & Garlic Salad \$5.79
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Advertised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 01, 2024.

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