



**Reclamation  
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Restoration**

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**Don't Let Fats,  
Oils, and Grease  
Ruin Your Holiday**

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# West Sacramento News Ledger

VOLUME 60 • ISSUE 49

Serving the West Sacramento Region Since 1964

DECEMBER 6, 2024

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OLDER DRIVER  
SAFETY**



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By V.G. Harris



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## What's Up for Christmas?



The City of Winters will hold its 10th annual Tractor Parade on Saturday, Dec. 7. Photo courtesy of City of Winters.

**MPG Staff**

**WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - As the holiday season descends upon the City of West Sacramento, cooler temps and fog shrouded mornings will give way to dazzling light displays and festive holiday events throughout December. Here are a few of the regional holiday events and offerings available to delight kids of all ages.

**West Sacramento Tree Lighting**

Join the City of West Sacramento and the West Sacramento Chamber of Commerce on Friday, Dec. 6, as they kick off the season with the annual Winter Wonderland Tree Lighting festivities in front of City Hall. The event is scheduled from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

The Chamber of Commerce website describes the event, "This is a FREE community event, so gather up your family, friends, and neighbors and join the community for an

evening of holiday fun! Enjoy live local musical performances, FREE pictures with Santa, hot cocoa and cookies for the kids, and other fun activities."

"No need to register, just show up in front of City Hall in your festive holiday outfit and plan on having tons of fun. Did we mention FREE pictures with Santa? Can't wait to see you all there."

The chamber is looking for  
*Continued on page 3*

## Yolo Community Foundation Celebrates Philanthropy Honorees

**Yolo Community Foundation News Release**

**YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The Yolo Community Foundation celebrated the honorees for the annual Yolo Philanthropy Awards, recognizing the extraordinary individuals and organizations who made a significant impact in Yolo County.

This year, more than 50 local nonprofit organizations came together to honor the volunteers and donors who generously contributed their time, talent and resources to better the community. This represented tremendous growth from the previous year, increasing from 32 honorees in 2023 to more than 50 in 2024.

The Yolo Philanthropy



More than 50 local nonprofit organizations came together to honor the volunteers and donors who generously contributed their time, talent and resources to better the community. Photo courtesy of Yolo Community Foundation

Awards took place on Nov. 19 at the California Agriculture Museum. Doors opened at 4 p.m.

followed by a celebration and reception. This event was made possible by title sponsor Nugget Markets,

and supporting sponsors Recology, Sutter Health, Edward Jones Office of  
*Continued on page 2*

## Dinos Alive Roars into West Sacramento



Visitors can learn about many different types of dinosaurs. Photo courtesy of Fever Up

**Fever Up News Release**

**WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Have you ever wished you could step back in time and explore the power, majesty and magic of a world filled with dinosaurs? Now you can at Dinos Alive: An Immersive Experience in the heart of West Sacramento that opened in November and runs through January.

Having opened its first exhibit in early 2024, this captivating exhibition uses more than 80 highly accurate animatronic dinosaur models, immersive projection technology, virtual reality, theatrical lighting, elaborate scenery and hands-on activities to create an unforgettable journey back to the Reign of the Dinosaurs that will thrill all ages.

Following on from its success in Los Angeles, Seattle, Washington, D.C., Raleigh, Seoul, Melbourne and Brussels, this global phenomenon will bring all the excitement of the Mesozoic era to West Sacramento.

Educational, immersive and interactive, Dinos Alive showcases some of the largest dinosaurs to ever walk the planet, including the iconic Tyrannosaurus rex, Apatosaurus and the fierce Spinosaurus. These are only a few of the scores of dinosaurs that visitors will discover in this unparalleled dinosaur experience, which was named a CNN Must See Attraction. Visitors can mix it up with the dinosaurs as well, coloring them every shade of the rainbow, racing a Velociraptor to see who's fastest, engaging in multiple selfie opportunities and even riding a dinosaur.

*Continued on page 3*



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REALTY OF AMERICA

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# Reclamation and DWR Celebrate Delta Restoration Project Launch



Here is an ariel photo showing the Prospect Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project area. Photo courtesy of Bureau of Reclamation

**Bureau of Reclamation News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - In November, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and Bureau of Reclamation broke ground on a habitat restoration project in the Delta that, when completed, will help endangered species such as Delta smelt and Chinook salmon while supporting the long-term operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project.

Led by the Department of Water Resources, the \$69.4-million Prospect Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project is located on 1,600 acres in Solano County. Reclamation is contributing \$46 million of the project's total cost.

The work happening at the site will enhance aquatic food web productivity, create and enhance habitats for many Delta-dependent fish and wildlife species, provide long-term resiliency with climate change, and provide other ecosystem benefits such as water quality and

carbon sequestration. A portion of the project acreage closes out the requirement for constructing 8,000 acres of new tidal habitat, with the additional acres supporting the Healthy Rivers and Landscape program.

"This project is an important steppingstone in the overall process of Delta ecosystem improvement and Reclamation is gratified to see it move to the groundbreaking stage," said California Great-Basin regional director Karl Stock. "It is emblematic of our

strong working relationship with DWR and represents the type of habitat work we continue to work on with the state and our local partners."

Said California Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth, "Prospect Island is a great project for the people and the environment of California. The newly restored tidal marsh will clean the water we drink and will help native fish, like salmon and Delta smelt, grow strong. The Department of Water Resources is grateful

to the Bureau of Reclamation for its partnership on Prospect Island and we look forward to future opportunities to work together for the benefit of all Californians."

Prospect Island will breach levees at two locations to return tidal-influenced flows to the project site. This project supplements the recent completion of the largest tidal wetland restoration project to date in the Delta. The Prospect Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project is expected to be complete in 2026. ★

## Yolo Community Foundation Celebrates Philanthropy Honorees

*Continued from page 1*

Matt Yancey, and the Evelyn & Walter Haas Jr. Fund.

"We were incredibly inspired by the honorees of the Yolo Philanthropy Awards," said Jessica Hubbard, executive director of the Yolo Community Foundation. "Their dedication uplifted our community and enabled nonprofit organizations to continue their impactful work for Yolo County. We were excited to celebrate these remarkable individuals who gave so much to improve the lives of others."

**2024 Yolo Philanthropy Awards Honorees:**

- All Leaders Must Serve: Julie Webb
- Clarksburg Samaritans: Will Middleton
- Cool Davis Foundation: Lynne Nittler
- Davis Community Meals and Housing: Doug Buzbee
- Davis Farm to School: Randii MacNear
- Davis Robotics Foundation: Brook Ostrom
- Davis Schools Foundation: Lori Duisenberg
- Explorit Science Center: Susan Douglas and Glen Lusebrink
- Fourth & Hope: Jeanette Berrong & Holy Rosary Church Stone Soup Ministry
- Friends of Meals on Wheels: Debbie Singh
- Friends of the Yolo County Archives: Bob Loessberg-Zahl
- Historical Society of Winters: Winters Japantown Monument Committee
- International House Davis: Victoria Whitworth & Chris Lujan
- Meals on Wheels Yolo

- County: Sutter Health
- Mercy Coalition of West Sacramento: Lee and Shellie Wallinder
- NAMI Yolo County: Leona Satterburg
- Osher Lifelong Learning at UC Davis (OLLI): Larry Lobre
- Pamela Trokanski Dance Theatre: PTDT Board of Directors Scholarship Committee
- Pence Gallery: Wil Uecker
- Putah Creek Council: Brian Bellamy
- Scouting Associates: Chris Jorgensen
- Short Term Emergency Aid Committee (STEAC): Barbara Heinsch
- Soroptimist International of Davis: Janice Labadie
- Team Davis: Ann Reiox
- The Davis Phoenix Coalition: Sandré Nelson
- The Friends of the 1883 Clarksburg Schoolhouse: Will Middleton
- Thriving Pink: Siv Winberg
- Tree Davis: Dr. Greg McPherson
- Tuleyome: Dr. Glen Holstein
- West Sacramento Foundation: Chris White
- Winters Community Corazón: Revalee Hemken
- Winters Education Foundation: Jill Aguiar
- Winters Farm to School: Cathleen Olsen
- Winters Friends of the Library: Mary Lou Linvill
- Winters Healthcare Foundation: Dr. Robert "Bob" Schultz
- Winters Participation Gallery: Valerie Whitworth
- Winters Youth Day: Michael J. Sebastian
- Woodland Food Closet: Romie Holland
- Woodland Opera House: Tom and Meg Stallard
- Woodland Recreation Foundation and the City

- of Woodland: Carole Pirruccello
  - Woodland Robotics Digital Minds: Mark Barichievich
  - Yolo Basin Foundation: Lindsay Weston
  - Yolo Community Foundation: Kate Stille
  - Yolo County CASA: Mary Patricia Whelan-Miille
  - Yolo County Children's Alliance: Rotary Club of Davis
  - Yolo County Historical Society: Kathy Harryman
  - Yolo Crisis Nursery: Bob Clark
  - Yolo Farm to Fork: Candice Stafford Banks
  - Yolo Food Bank: Chuck Cunningham
  - Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance: Stephanie "Stevie" Scoles
  - Yolo Land Trust: Lynnel Pollock
  - Woodland Community College and Yolo County's Independent Living Program: Roxanne Roman.
- These individuals and organizations were recognized for their exceptional contributions and their efforts were celebrated at the event.
- About the Yolo Community Foundation**
- The Yolo Community Foundation inspires and supports giving and provides philanthropic leadership in Yolo County. The organization offers donor-advised funds and other philanthropic vehicles, donates to local nonprofit organizations, fosters volunteerism and supports local giving.
- The Yolo Community Foundation currently has more than 100 philanthropic funds valued at nearly \$13 million and is an affiliate of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation. Visit [www.yolocf.org](http://www.yolocf.org) for more information. ★

## Board of Supervisors Seeking Applications for "At-Large" Planning Commissioner

**Yolo County News Release**

**YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The Yolo County Board of Supervisors is currently seeking applications for an upcoming vacancy on the Yolo County Planning Commission to fill an "at-large" position. This position is for a person who resides anywhere in the County.

Applications will be accepted until Dec. 20.

The legal duties and responsibilities of the Planning Commission include:

- Review and recommend to the Board of Supervisors amendments to the County's General Plan and the other land use plans in the unincorporated parts of the County;
- Consider and recommend amendments to the County zoning code;
- Serve as the appellate body for discretionary staff decisions related to land use;

- Review and act upon referrals or appeals from the Floodplain Administrator;
- Act as the advisory agency on Tentative Subdivision and Parcel Maps;
- Review and act upon applications requiring public hearings, including applications for conditional use permits and variances;
- Act as the County Business License Appeal Board;
- Act as the County Historic Preservation Commission;
- Determine that there has been adequate environmental review under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act, of all matters the Planning Commission is considering;
- Perform such other functions as the Board of Supervisors may require.

There are no formal qualifications or prior experience necessary to apply for the position.

Candidates should have an interest in land use and zoning policy. The Planning Commission regularly meets monthly at 9 a.m. on the second Thursday of the month at the Board Chambers, 625 Court Street, in Woodland. Monthly meetings typically range from two to four hours but can be longer depending on the number and complexity of the matters on the Commission's agenda. In addition, Commissioners can spend a few hours per month reviewing staff materials in preparation for hearings and meetings with constituents and County staff.

Additional information and applications may be obtained by contacting the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Office at 625 Court Street, Room 204, Woodland, CA, 95695, by phone (530) 666-8195 or on our website at: [yolocounty.gov/government/board-of-supervisors/advisory-bodies](http://yolocounty.gov/government/board-of-supervisors/advisory-bodies) ★

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# What's Up for Christmas?



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## West Sacramento Tree Lighting

Friday, December 6th  
6:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.  
Civic Center District  
1110 West Capitol Ave, West Sacramento

- FREE photos with Santa!
- FREE Cookies + Hot Cocoa
- LIVE music & local talent

A fun time will be had by all at the West Sacramento Tree Lighting event on Friday, Dec. 6. Photo courtesy of West Sacramento Chamber of Commerce

*Continued from page 1*  
volunteers to support the annual tree lighting ceremony. Time slots available for set up, during event and breakdown. For more information, contact the chamber at 916-371-7042.

### 2024 Christmas Toy Drive is now accepting applications

Christmas is upon us and the West Sacramento Police Department's annual Toy Drive is accepting applications.

If you or a family you know is in need, complete and return an application to qualify for the program. Applications can be found online at [www.cityofwestsacramento.org](http://www.cityofwestsacramento.org) or at the police department lobby during regular business hours or from your Washington Unified School District Outreach Specialist.

If you have any questions, email [ashleyi@cityofwestsacramento.org](mailto:ashleyi@cityofwestsacramento.org) or call 916-617-4992.

### Woodland Holiday Parade

The Woodland Chamber of Commerce proudly announces the long-awaited return of the 57th annual Holiday Parade!

The parade will ride down Main Street on Dec. 14 this year, with the theme of "Making Spirits Bright." The City of Woodland and Waste Management of Woodland are sponsoring this event.

**Winters 10th Annual;** Tractor Parade and Festival This fun-filled two-day

event features a tree lighting ceremony at 6 p.m. Dec. 6, and a parade Dec. 7, also at 6 p.m. A holiday marketplace, food trucks and several kids activities will be available throughout the two-day event.

The event is located at Rotary Park and Main Street. ★



Holiday revelers meet Santa before last year's West Sacramento holiday tree lighting ceremony. Photo courtesy of West Sacramento Chamber of Commerce

## CHP Secures Federal Grant to Enhance Older Driver Safety



For more information on the "KEYS" program or to enroll in an upcoming "Age Well, Drive Smart" class, contact your local CHP office. Image by Pexels from Pixabay

### California Highway Patrol News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The California Highway Patrol (CHP), in partnership with the Office of Traffic Safety, announced the receipt of a \$225,000 federal grant to launch the "Keeping Everyone Safe" (KEYS) program.

This program is designed to enhance traffic education and health awareness for drivers aged 65 and older and aims to ensure older drivers remain safe, confident and informed on the road.

A vital feature of this program is the "Age Well, Drive Smart" class. This free, two-hour course addresses older drivers' unique challenges, such as age-related changes, crash risk factors, safe driving strategies and Department of Motor Vehicles licensing requirements. This class also provides helpful self-assessment resources.

Classes are offered at all CHP area offices and taught by experienced CHP public information officers (PIOs), who

bring the class directly to community locations for added convenience. In addition, public information officers will engage with older drivers at local events and community gatherings. "Ensuring the safety of California's older drivers is essential as they remain active on our roads. This federal grant allows us to provide targeted resources and support to help them drive confidently and safely," said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. "Our goal is to enhance their independence while reducing risks, making our state's roads safer for everyone."

The CHP is committed to supporting California's older drivers with the education and the resources they need to continue driving safely and confidently.

For more information on the "KEYS" program or to enroll in an upcoming "Age Well, Drive Smart" class, contact your local CHP office.

This program is funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. ★

## Dinos Alive Roars into West Sacramento

*Continued from page 1*

Along with its vast installation of animatronic dinosaurs that chronicle all three periods in the Mesozoic era, Dinos Alive boasts a 5,000-square-foot virtual aquarium where guests can dive into the deep sea and interact with Jurassic Sea giants in their natural habitat. The 75-minute experience also offers educators an opportunity to enrich their

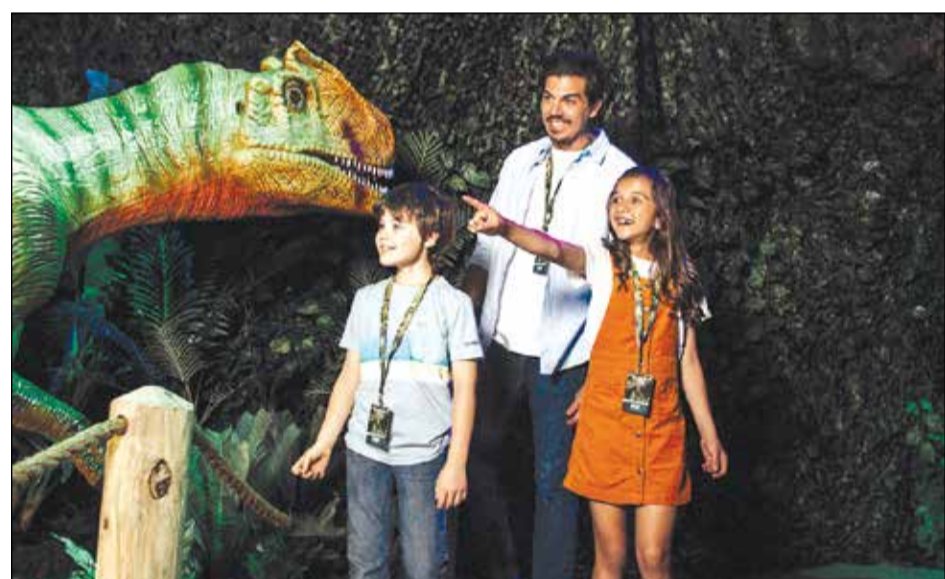
classes through K-12 educational materials aligned to state standards.

Dinos Alive is designed for all ages. Children can enjoy an interactive space where they play the role of a paleontologist and engage with iconic dinosaurs. Group discounts are available.

The exhibit is at 31 15th St., West Sacramento. The exhibition's duration of the exhibition is between

45 and 75 minutes. Open hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays and holidays.

Ticket prices start at \$18.90 and it is free for children under 2. For tickets and additional information, visit [dinosaliveexhibit.com/sacramento](http://dinosaliveexhibit.com/sacramento). ★



Residents of all ages can enjoy Dinos Alive. Photo courtesy of Fever Up



Dinosaurs come to life in this world-renowned exhibit. Photo courtesy of Fever Up

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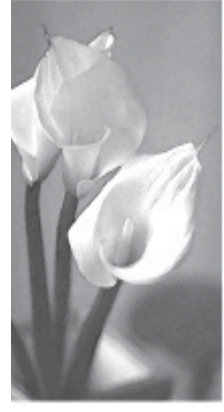
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# Yolo County Celebrates the Grand Opening of Knights Landing Park

## Yolo County News Release

### WOODLAND, CA (MPG) -

Yolo County is thrilled to announce the grand opening of the new Knights Landing Park, a transformative moment in the community's development and a testament to the collaborative efforts of residents and local leaders.

The official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was on Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 9600 Mill St. in Knights Landing.

This celebration marked the culmination of years of dedication and planning, initiated in 2018 through a community-driven process aimed at creating a vibrant recreational space for the residents of Knights Landing. The park, which spans over seven acres, will feature a variety of amenities, including soccer fields, a children's playground, walking paths and picnic areas, ensuring a welcoming environment for all ages.

The completion of Knights Landing Park reflects the community's and county's commitment to enhancing quality of life.

Yolo County Supervisor Angel Barajas, a champion for this initiative, stated, "We have converted an empty, desolate field into a beautiful, thriving park so our children, seniors, and working families can enjoy it for generations to come. It was a promise that my Board colleagues and I made to the Knights Landing community. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this vision a reality, especially those community members and partners who

participated."

"Parks are vital for our physical, emotional and mental health and well-being; the investment of county resources into this new park will enhance quality of life in the Knights Landing community," said Lucas Frerichs, Chair of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors. "I'm grateful to all those who contributed to make this new community gathering space a reality, and I hope that residents throughout Yolo County will take some time to enjoy our county's diverse park offerings."

Since 2018, Yolo County has led a community-centered planning process to realize the Knights Landing community's vision of transforming a long-vacant parcel into a vibrant recreational space. The county committed over \$3 million, providing the largest share of the project's funding through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds totaling \$2.28 million, a County Parks Development Impact Fee of \$362,000, a Cannabis Tax Allocation of \$228,000 and Proposition 68 per capita funds of \$260,000.

Complementing the county's substantial investment, other funding sources include a California State Parks grant of \$814,649, and State Budget Appropriations from Senator Bill Dodd and Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry totaling \$1.25 million, along with a contribution from the Knights Landing CSD Parks Fee of \$50,000. Together, these diverse resources demonstrate a collective commitment to revitalizing this essential

community space.

Dedicated to Yolo County through a 30-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Woodland Joint Unified School District (WJUSD), the project represents a lasting promise to the Knights Landing community.

"Knights Landing Park is a remarkable achievement that highlights the power of collaboration between Yolo County, WJUSD, and our community," said the Woodland Joint Unified School District Board President Rogelio Villagrana. "By working together, we've created a recreational space that meets the needs of our residents and provides a space for our youth to grow and develop. We are proud to be part of this effort to enhance the quality of life for Knights Landing families. This park is a testament to what we can achieve when we all work together for the benefit of our youth and our community as a whole."

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony included remarks from Yolo County Chair Lucas Frerichs and County Supervisor Angel Barajas, the Woodland Joint Unified School District Board President and community leaders, followed by light refreshments and an opportunity for residents to explore the new park facilities.

This initiative aligns with Yolo County's strategic plan for a Robust Economy and Thriving Residents by fostering community well-being and enhancing quality of life.

For more information about the event and the Knights Landing Park project, please visit [www.YoloCounty.gov](http://www.YoloCounty.gov). ★



## Cost of Thanksgiving Dinner Declines, Remains Higher Than Pre-Pandemic Levels

Cooking a Thanksgiving feast for your friends and family will cost less than last year but will still be more expensive than before the pandemic. The American Farm Bureau Federation's 39th annual Thanksgiving dinner survey provides a snapshot of the average cost of this year's classic holiday feast for 10, which is \$58.08 or about \$5.80 per person. This is a 5% decrease from 2023, which was 4.5% lower than 2022. Two years of declines don't erase dramatic increases that led to a record high cost of \$64.06 in 2022. The survey also notes that the cost varies by region, with the West significantly higher than the national average, at \$67.05 this year.

## Farmers Fought Fire as Insurance Crisis Left Homes at Risk

During the past three weeks, the Mountain Fire has burned some 20,000 acres and destroyed 243 structures, making it Southern California's third-most destructive fire in the past decade. The fire forced evacuations and burned around 12,000 acres of crops and rangeland, causing at least \$7 million in agricultural losses, according to Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner Korinne Bell. California's property insurance crisis, which has left many homes in areas with high fire risk uninsured, prompted some farmers to take it upon themselves to defend property from the blaze.

## California Reflects on SGMA 10 Years Later

California water officials, local water agencies and farmers have spent the past decade preparing for the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, or SGMA, a historic regulatory framework developed to bring over-drafted aquifers into balance by 2040. As SGMA implementation takes shape, state and local water officials, lawmakers, farmers and association leaders commemorated the 10th anniversary of SGMA last week at the California Natural Resources Agency in Sacramento. The daylong event featured panel discussions on the past, present and future of the regulation.

## Increased rodent activity on farms causes damage, losses

Rodents, particularly rats, have wreaked havoc in California orchards and vineyards this year, with some farmers reporting yield losses, damage to trees and destruction of irrigation lines, electrical wiring and other infrastructure. Farmers face soaring costs not only to replace what has been destroyed or damaged but to control populations of the pests. "Rodent damage, if ignored, can lead to substantial losses," said Roger Baldwin, a wildlife specialist at the University of California, Davis. "I think this year is just a good example of how being a little bit more proactive may be beneficial in the long run." ★



# Holiday Survival

It's fun, family and friends. That's what the holidays bring, but they also bring celebrations, shopping and stress. And, it takes a toll on the body. But Dr. Susan Smith-Jones gave me nine surefire tips to look and feel your best and emphasize the FUN factor. Dr. Jones has traveled the world and helped many celebs in Hollywood hold their own, and she's authored some 25 books on health. Soooooo:

1. **NUTRIFY YOUR SHOPPING.** Malls tempt wallets and taste buds, so bring healthy snacks like nuts, cut up veggies or fruit when shopping. Keeping your body fueled will help with long stressful checkout lines too.

2. **GET HANDS ON.** Give yourself a mini massage or ask your partner to give you one. Restore vitality even more with this Mediterranean secret. Combine extra-virgin olive oil with three to four drips of Olbas Oil and rub it all over your body or simply do a foot massage. You can take a clue from Chinese medicine and apply pressure to the fleshy place between your thumb and index finger for 30 seconds. It's been shown to reduce upper body stress.

3. **SLOW DOWN.** When you constantly direct your attention and energies outward, it's easy to lose your sense of inner wonder, calmness and happiness. Your body will relax and you will feel less bogged down.

4. **SET A POSITIVE TONE FOR THE DAY.** The first 40 minutes of each day sets the tone for your entire day. Choose to make the first few moments as peaceful, positive and uplifting as possible. Spend a few minutes in quiet meditation and prayer time.

5. **SLEEP LIKE A BABY.** Avoid nighttime calls and turn off your cell phone before going to bed. A study at University of Zurich found that exposing people to electromagnetic fields from cell phones altered their brain waves during sleep, which resulted in sleep disturbances.

6. **KEEPHYDRATED.** Our bodies are 70% water. Our cells and planet are 70% water. Drink eight glasses of purified water or more to maintain good health.

7. **BATHE IN LAVENDER.** The flowers of lavender are an age-old remedy for stress. Bathing by itself is calming, but a bath infused with lavender oil significantly reduced anger, frustration and negativity.

8. **REFRESH WITH HONEY.** Honey has been used for centuries to keep skin looking youthful. Apply raw, unfiltered honey on your face like a mask for 20 minutes and rinse with warm water afterwards. It moisturizes the skin and helps it to look taut and supple.

9. **BOOST YOUR MOOD WITH DARK CHOCOLATE.** Chocolate is a wonderful mood booster because it stimulates the production of endorphins, which are the chemicals in the brain that promote pleasure. Dark chocolate contains serotonin, which is a natural mood booster. Keep a small square with you at all times for emergencies.

**Dr. Jones** has a free monthly newsletter. Sign up at [www.susansmithjones.com](http://www.susansmithjones.com). You can get personally autographed copies of her books there like "A Hug in a Mug." I think we all need those HUGS! **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!** ★

# Social Security Matters

## Am I entitled to more Social Security from my Ex-husbands?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** I am 76 years old and a retired high school counselor/teacher. I was married to my first husband from 1968 until 1981. He is still living, and he remarried two more times and, I believe, he is currently divorced. He is 77 years old. His income was always much higher than mine. I was married to my second husband from May 1989 until we divorced in April 2017. My second husband died in June 2023. What I wonder is if I am entitled to receive Social Security benefits based upon the income of either of my ex-husbands? **Signed: Twice Divorced Spouse.**

**Dear Twice Divorced:** Divorced spouses are entitled to the same benefits as a current spouse if their marriage lasted at least 10 years which, in both cases, yours did. The other caveat is whether your own SS retirement benefit is less than you are entitled to

from either of your ex-husbands. If your own SS retirement benefit is less, then you will get an incremental amount on top of your own SS retirement to bring your total monthly benefit up to your spousal (or surviving spouse) entitlement.

Since your first husband is still living, it is likely that your best financial option is to claim a surviving ex-spouse benefit from your deceased 2nd husband. The reason is that survivor benefits from husband #2 are based on his actual benefit at his death, whereas benefits from a living ex-spouse (husband #1) are based upon his full retirement amount. In other words, it is likely that 100% of deceased husband #2's benefit at his death is more than 50% of living husband #1's current benefit at his full retirement age (FRA).

It is, of course, possible that 50% of your first husband's FRA entitlement is more than 100% of your second husband's benefit at death, in which case your ex-spouse benefit from your first husband could be more. The only way to sort this out is to contact Social Security (1.800-772-1213) to make an appointment to apply for surviving ex-spouse benefits from your deceased second husband. Explain that your first

ex-husband is still living, and that you are unsure of what your benefits are as your first husband's ex-spouse. Social Security will be able to determine from their records which one provides you with a higher benefit amount (provide each husband's Social Security number when you call). As I said, your best financial option will likely be to take your survivor benefit from your deceased second ex-husband (note, however, if your first ex-husband also dies before you, you can subsequently file for a survivor benefit from him, if that is more than you are getting from your second husband's record).

*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) 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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). ★*



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# Community Calendar

## December

**Turner Library**, located at 1212 Merkley Ave. has the following events this week:

**Friday, Dec. 6:** English Conversation Group, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 7:** Bilingual Russian story time, 10 to 11 a.m. Winter concert with Sacramento Philharmonic, 2 to 4 p.m.

**Monday, Dec. 9:** Family Storytime, 4 to 4:45 p.m.

**Tuesday, Dec. 10:** Hug-a-Bye Baby, 11 a.m. to noon.

**Wednesday, Dec. 11:** Wiggle Wednesday, 11:15 a.m. to noon, English conversation group, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and evening book club, 6 to 7 p.m.

**Thursday, Dec. 12:** Hora de Cuentos bilingual Spanish story time, 4 to 4:30 p.m. and yoga at the library, 6 to 7 p.m.

**Friday, Dec. 13:** English conversation group, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 14:** Bilingual Russian story time, 10 to 11 a.m. and printmaking workshop, 2 to 4 p.m.

Call 530-666-8005 for more information on any of these events.

**Yolo County Library and YoloWorks!** are partnering to support farm workers this winter with a blanket drive. Now through Dec. 13, the community is invited to drop off new blankets or throws at select Yolo County Library locations during open hours including Turner Library, 1212 Merkley Ave. Please contact Sue Billing at [sue.billing@yolocounty.gov](mailto:sue.billing@yolocounty.gov) or Rodrigo Lopez at [rodrigo.lopez@yolocounty.gov](mailto:rodrigo.lopez@yolocounty.gov) for more information, including other participating Yolo County libraries.

**Friday, Dec. 6:** West Sacramento Holiday Tree Lighting, 6 to 8 p.m. at City Hall, 1110 West Capitol Ave. The streets in front of City Hall will shut down and become a winter wonderland! Enjoy live music, local entertainment and a free picture with Santa. Shop local vendors and food trucks. Don't miss Santa Claus arriving on a fire truck before lighting the community holiday tree. All ages are welcome. For more information, contact Recreation Supervisor II Sam Brinkhuis: [samb@cityofwestsacramento.org](mailto:samb@cityofwestsacramento.org).

**Saturday, Dec. 7:** "Dickens in the Valley" Home Tour, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Woodland. Sponsored by Friends of Meals on Wheels Yolo, this annual tradition features docent-led tours and open houses at five local residences uniquely adorned for the holidays, featuring seasonal treats and experiences. Tickets are \$30 presale and \$40 on the day of the event. More information at the website: <https://friendsofmowyolo.org>.

**Saturday, Dec. 7:** Native Plant-athon at Putah Creek Fishing Access, 9 a.m. to noon. Join us to plant a variety of native species that help support local pollinators and other wildlife. This is a collaborative project between Putah Creek Council and Yolo Resource Conservation District. All necessary equipment, water, and snacks will be provided. No previous experience is necessary, and all community members are welcome. Children under the age of 13 are recommended to have an adult accompany them. All volunteers must sign a waiver, and those under the age of 18 will need a guardian's signature. See website at <https://putahcreekcouncil.org/event/native-plant-a-thon-at-putah-creek-fishing-access/> to find the location and the required waiver.

**Saturday, Dec. 7:** Holy Virgin Mary Antiochian Church holds their second annual Multicultural Bake Sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., 3060 Jefferson Blvd. Items offered include spanakopita, Irish apple loaf, sausage rolls, holiday cookies and more. For more information, call 916-533-3848.

**Sunday, Dec. 8:** West Sac Kids Give Back 10th annual cheer pack celebration, 4 p.m. at the Civic Center Galleria, 1110 West Capitol Ave. Join local businesses, community members, and parent organizations in helping West Sacramento children learn the importance of helping others and giving back to the community in a safe, kid-friendly environment. Activities include meeting Santa, enjoying cookies, face painting and assembling care packages for those in need. More information at <https://www.facebook.com/westsackidsgiveback>.

**Friday, Dec. 13:** Kids Night Out, 6 to 9 p.m. at the West Sacramento Community Center, 1075 West Capitol Ave. Kids enjoy three hours of games, and activities like crafts and dancing,

along with dinner and a movie. Tickets are not sold at the door. Register online at: [https://westsacfun.activityreg.com/selectactivity\\_t2.wcs](https://westsacfun.activityreg.com/selectactivity_t2.wcs) or in-person at the Community or Recreation Center. For more information, contact Lucy Ramos at [LucyR@cityofwestsacramento.org](mailto:LucyR@cityofwestsacramento.org).

**Saturday, Dec. 14:** Woodland Chamber Holiday Magic Parade, 4 to 7 p.m. Main Street, Woodland. The 57th annual Holiday Parade themed "Making Spirits Bright" will ride down Main Street from West Street, east to Sixth Street. For more information, contact the Woodland Chamber of Commerce at 530-662-7327.

**Saturday, Dec. 14:** Family Holiday Festival sponsored by Winters Friends of the Library from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Winters Community Center, 201 Railroad Ave. Enjoy musical performances, crafts to make and buy, visits with Santa, delicious food from Mrs. Claus' kitchen and quality used adult and children's books for sale. Information available at: <https://wfol.org/what-we-do/cultural-community/family-holiday-festival>.

**Saturday, Dec. 14:** Kids' Free Workshop: Spinning Snowflakes. Mini builders are invited to craft their own snowflake ornaments. Spark creativity assembling this enchanting decoration that captures the spirit of the season. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Lowe's, 2250 Lake Washington Blvd. Registration is required. For more information or to register, see website at <https://www.lowes.com/events/register/spinning-snowflake>.

**Sunday, Dec. 15:** Holiday Home Tour & Boutique, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., benefiting the University Farm Circle Scholarship Program. Tour five gorgeous Davis homes all decked out for the holiday season. Start your tour with a visit to the Stonegate Country Club, 919 Lake Blvd., Davis, where beautiful baskets will be for sale. Tickets on sale now through Dec. 13 at the Pence Gallery, 212 D St., Davis or from Embellish Décor, 540 Main St., Woodland, or day of the event at the Stonegate Boutique.

**Sunday, Dec. 15:** Gingerbread Workshops for the whole family, 2 to 4 p.m. Create cherished holiday memories at this festive workshop. Perfect for families, this heartwarming experience combines creativity, storytelling, and sweet holiday treats. All supplies are provided. For times, location and registration visit [www.thewondergrove.org](http://www.thewondergrove.org).

**Saturday, Dec. 21:** The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Master Gardeners will be available to answer your gardening questions at their West Sacramento Gardening Q&A Desk. It will be open from 10 a.m. to noon at Lowe's, 2250 Lake Washington Blvd. This desk is held on the first and third Saturdays of every month, free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Jennifer Baumbach at [jmbaumbach@ucnar.edu](mailto:jmbaumbach@ucnar.edu) or call the Yolo County Master Gardeners hotline at 530-666-8736.

**Pence Gallery Holiday Market** is now open and runs daily from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Dec. 24 (with a few holiday exceptions). This Market is a treasure trove of hand-crafted items created by regional artists and artisans, perfect for holiday gift-giving. Visitors can enjoy selecting from cozy knit scarves, unique bags, jewelry, ceramics, paintings, and more, with over 50 artists participating this year. Free gift bag wrapping is available on request. The Gallery is located at 212 D St. in Davis. More information is available at 530-758-3370.

**Woodland Volunteer Bureau Food Closet "Season of Caring" November** through January 2025. Donations may be made by check mailed to Woodland Food Closet, PO Box 803 Woodland, CA 95776 or via QR-code available for online subscribers to the Daily Democrat newspaper. Call 530-662-7020 for more information.

## Upcoming – January

**Saturday, Jan. 4:** The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Master Gardeners will be available to answer your gardening questions at their West Sacramento Gardening Q&A Desk. It will be open from 10 a.m. to noon at Lowe's, 2250 Lake Washington Blvd. This desk is held on the first and third Saturdays of every month, free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Jennifer Baumbach at [jmbaumbach@ucnar.edu](mailto:jmbaumbach@ucnar.edu) or call the Yolo

County Master Gardeners hotline at 530-666-8736.

**Saturday, Jan. 11:** Zumba Heroes versus Villains Dance Party, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the West Sacramento Community Center, 1075 West Capitol Ave. Come dressed as your favorite hero or villain. There will be a costume contest and dance battle – bring your best moves! Youth and adults of all fitness levels are welcome. Registration in advance is required; tickets will not be sold at the door. Select this special event on the following website to register: [https://westsacfun.activityreg.com/selectactivity\\_t2.wcs](https://westsacfun.activityreg.com/selectactivity_t2.wcs) or in-person at the Community or Recreation Center. For more information, contact Lucy Ramos at [LucyR@cityofwestsacramento.org](mailto:LucyR@cityofwestsacramento.org).

## Ongoing Activities

(Current as of publication, please verify schedule with the organization):

**Café Yolo Social Dining** meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in the West Sacramento Community Center, 1075 West Capitol Ave. Seniors over age 60 are invited to mingle and dine for free, sponsored by Meals on Wheels. Reservations required 24 hours in advance at 530-662-7035 or email [welcome@mowyolo.org](mailto:welcome@mowyolo.org).

**Cub Scout Pack 0049** – Meets first Monday of each month at Our Lady

of Grace School, 1990 Linden Road, West Sacramento. For more information, including how to become a Cub Scout, contact [westsacramento-pack49@gmail.com](mailto:westsacramento-pack49@gmail.com).

**Mighty Rotary Club of West Sacramento** meets on Fridays at noon at Jackrabbit Brewing Company, 1323 Terminal St., West Sacramento. See <https://rotaryclubofwestsacramento.org/> for more information, including how to join the Rotary.

**West Sacramento Chamber of Commerce** holds an Economic and Government Affairs Forum on the second Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom. This is a benefit for Chamber members. Contact <https://www.westsacramento-chamber.com/> for more information including membership. Next Forum will be on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

**West Sacramento City Council** meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at City Hall, 1110 West Capitol Ave., second floor, also viewable on Astound Cable channel 20 and AT&T channel 99. More information, including how to participate and Committee meeting schedules, can be found at: <https://www.cityofwestsacramento.org/government/city-council/city-council-meetings-agendas> The next council meeting will be on Wednesday, Dec. 18. ★

## Crime Reports WEST SACRAMENTO



### ARREST REPORTS

**Vincent Granadoz, Sr**, 51, was arrested Thursday, Nov. 21 in Yolo County by Davis Police for warrants or holds only.

**Michael Irwin Wright**, 54, was arrested Thursday, Nov. 21 in Yolo County by Yolo County Sheriff for receiving or concealing stolen property, altering / changing a vehicle identification number and warrants or holds only.

**Marvin Yohalmo Ramirez**, 40, was arrested Saturday, Nov. 23 on Evergreen Circle for bench warrant / failure to appear on felony charge and possession of a controlled substance. Officer responded to a call regarding a vehicle burglary and observed a male wearing an orange ski mask rummaging through a white Mercedes Benz. Suspect was detained and identified to have a felony warrant for his arrest out of Yolo County. While conducting a search, officers located a clear plastic baggy containing a white crystalline substance that was tested and has presumptive positive for Methamphetamine. Ramirez was arrested and transported to the Yolo County Jail without incident.

**Timothy Dawone Cox, Jr**, 32, was arrested Saturday, Nov. 23 in Placer County by Placer County Sheriff for conspiracy to commit a crime, robbery and warrants or holds only.

**Samuel Andrey Jidkov**, 21, was arrested Saturday, Nov. 23 in Placer County by Placer County Sheriff for DUI alcohol / drugs and DUI with blood alcohol concentration >.08

**Jacob Isaiah Rangel**, 31, was arrested Saturday, Nov. 23 on Folsom Boulevard, Folsom by Sacramento County Sheriff for warrants or holds only.

**Alondra Garciazavazquez**, 23, was arrested Sunday, Nov. 24 at 19th Street and V Street, Sacramento by Sacramento County Sheriff for DUI alcohol / drugs and DUI with blood alcohol concentration >.08

**Seatay Roberson**, 30, was arrested Monday, Nov. 25 in Yuba County by Sacramento County Sheriff for warrants or holds only.

**Victoria Lynne Macroberts**, 28, was arrested Tuesday, Nov. 26 on Front Street in Sacramento by Sacramento County Sheriff for battery on spouse / cohabitant, former spouse.

**Dmitriy L. Svirgun**, 33, was arrested Tuesday, Nov. 26 on Lighthouse Drive for bench warrant / failure to appear on felony charge. Officers conducted a traffic enforcement stop for failure to stop, and a records / warrants check revealed an active / confirmed felony warrant out of Sacramento County for his arrest. Svirgun was placed under arrest and transported / booked into Yolo County Jail without incident.

**Elexus Thomas**, 31, was arrested Wednesday, Nov. 27 in Placer County by Placer County Sheriff for warrants or holds only.

**Isaiah Jeffrey White**, 29, was arrested Friday, Nov. 29 on Florin Road in Sacramento by Sacramento County Sheriff for battery on spouse / cohabitant / former spouse.

**Frank Deleon**, 64, was arrested Sunday, Dec. 1 at Grantline Road and Waterman Road in Elk Grove by Sacramento County Sheriff for possession of narcotic controlled substance, possession of controlled substance for sale, possession of cocaine base for sale and transporting / selling a narcotic controlled substance.

### INCIDENT/CRIME REPORTS

**Sunday, Nov. 17** – unknown suspect forced a locked door open at a motel on West Capitol Avenue and stole the occupant's belongings. Loss estimated at \$3,000.

**Monday, Nov. 18** – a Magnum electric bicycle in a brand-new box was stolen off the victim's front porch on Driftwood Court. Loss estimated at \$2,500.

**Wednesday, Nov. 20** – a vehicle burglary was reported at a residential facility on Hart Avenue. Among items taken was a coin necklace. Loss estimated at \$3,055.

**Saturday, Nov. 23** – an assault with a deadly weapon was reported on F Street. The reporting party reported that his friend was hit in the head with a hammer. Officers arrived on scene and observed a male victim inside of a tent with critical wounds to his face and head. He was still alive and later transported to UC Davis Medical Center. Officers located a hammer next to the victim. Suspect is still outstanding at time report was filed.

**Sunday, Nov. 24** – an unknown suspect damaged the front door of a restaurant on Lake Washington Boulevard. Vandalism was reported – the front glass door was completely shattered, valued at \$1,500.

**Sunday, Nov. 24** – suspect was found shoplifting at a grocery store / supermarket on Riverpoint Court. Household goods including clothing and hygiene items valued at \$378 were recovered.

**Sunday, Nov. 24** – victim reports the grand theft of four tires from a Toyota Camry in a parking lot / garage on Douglas Street. Loss estimated at \$4,000.

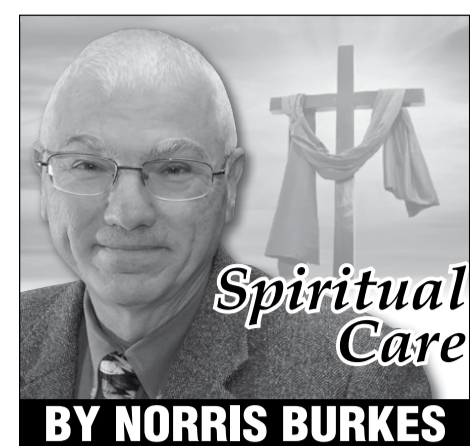
**Monday, Nov. 25** – unknown suspects pried open mailboxes and took mail from apartments on Savannah Lane. Loss value unknown.

**Wednesday, Nov. 27** – unknown suspect broke the window of a residence on Mountain Meadows Lane. A sliding glass door pane valued at \$1,100 was damaged.





# Fishy Story Suggests Catastrophic Ending



**Spiritual Care**

**BY NORRIS BURKES**

If you've been watching the news, then you know that the world is going to end soon.

No, I'm not talking about the recent election. I'm referring to the elusive deep-water oarfish.

Superstitious sailors have long considered the spotting of this rare fish a harbinger of bad news. And this past week, on the shores of Encinitas, California, it's been spotted again. This makes three times this year in California and only 22 times in the past century.

Japanese mythology recounts the doom fish as a precursor to earthquakes and tsunamis. More than a dozen were found on Japan's coastline just before Japan's 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami, their largest recorded earthquake.

These kind of scary indicators aren't new. Televangelists have been capitalizing on them for years as they expounded on their version of catastrophic and world-ending predictions.

If you were born before 1960, you'll likely remember that Hal Lindsey co-authored a 1970 best seller with Carole C. Carlson titled "The Late, Great Planet Earth."

Some of us just laughed at him, while others tried to ignore him.

However, when the Yom Kippur War of 1973 sent gas prices soaring, we wondered if the Lindsey scenario was creeping into the nonfiction section. Many began taking Lindsey so seriously that they ran scared into the baptismal waters.

Had we been a little smarter, I'm wondering if we might have seen how religious

history was on a repeating track with Lindsey's approach. He was using the scare-the-hell-out-of-you technique used by centuries of religious thought.

It's a thought expressed on the old bumper sticker: "The good news is, Jesus is coming back. The bad news is, He's ticked." (OK, the sticker doesn't say "ticked" but this is a family newspaper.)

The real problem with Lindsey and people like him is that they characterize the Christian faith as a war between good and evil. Indeed, they demand that the faithful make a choice between spending eternity in a bottomless pit of eternal fire or going to church three times a week.

The fault in this thinking is that it forces faith into an all-or-nothing proposition. Faith isn't that way at all. Real faith is relationship-based, not fear-based.

Faith is more like this: When I met my wife at a Southern Baptist Conference Center, I didn't introduce myself by saying, "Marry me or you'll burn." If I had, she might have hit me with a flame thrower.

God doesn't use that approach either. He doesn't need to scare us into loving him. That's because God is not trying to save us from this world. After all, he created this world for us.

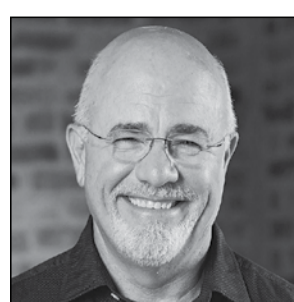
Jesus made the same point quite well, saying, "God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help" (John 3:17, The Message Paraphrase).

God is all about helping us make it through our times of hurt and pain. He's not about inventing painful situations just so he can play the superhero.

I suppose there'll always be fortunes to be made by capitalizing on demise, death and destruction, but I will continue to place my faith in my relationship with our creator.

The Lindsey star eventually faded. The counterculture of the 1960s never became the main culture, and Lindsey's predictions crumbled with the Berlin Wall.

These days, Lindsey is 94 years old, living in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He's still doing video, but now he's predicting the final jihad that will come any day now. Same scared-as-hell program, just a different station. ★



Dave Ramsey

# Dave Ramsey Says

**My Best Piece of Advice?  
The Unexpected is Always Lurking**

you, and anyone else finding themselves in this kind of situation, Bethany, it goes something like this. Stop using credit cards!

– Dave

Dear Dave,

Dear Dave,  
One of my credit card bills was turned over to a collection agency, because I was late making payments several times. The agency has offered me two or three different payment options I can afford. If I agree to one of these, does the original creditor get paid, as well?

– Bethany

Dear Bethany,

You're facing one of two possibilities. The collection agency is either directly representing the credit card company, or it owns the debt outright. Neither way of handling it is unusual when someone has defaulted on a loan.

Here's the deal. You've already got a mark against you on your credit report for the bill being turned over to collections. So, at this point settling on a credit card you've defaulted on is really no big deal. Unless you have the cash on hand right now to make good on the debt outright, I'd accept whichever deal makes the most sense for you financially at the moment.

But if you want my very best piece of advice for

When I leave my job in two or three years, I'll still have a good income of around \$80,000 thanks to my pension. I talked with my wife recently about us not needing an emergency fund with a continuing steady income like this, but she thinks we should still have money set aside strictly for emergencies. I think we would be fine with my pension and our other investments, but she says a fund set aside strictly for the unexpected would make her feel safer. What are your thoughts?

– Barrett

Dear Barrett,

I always recommend folks have an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses. Put it in a good money market account with check writing privileges and a decent interest rate. That way, your money will work for you a little bit until it's needed.

I know a good pension can feel really solid. But there's always the possi-

bility of lost income or very large, unexpected expenses. Life can take a big financial chunk out of you at any time. What if one, or both of you, have a major medical event? Even with the other investments you mentioned, you should have an emergency fund. Period.

In your case, you could probably lean toward three months of expenses in your emergency fund. If it were me, I'd go ahead and make it a full six months of expenses. Trust me, a fully funded emergency fund will make both of you feel better. It can turn a disaster into nothing more than an inconvenience.

– 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. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS Mornings, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company, Ramsey Solutions. ★*

# Did I Really Say That?

Dr. James L. Snyder

I was working on my computer when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage walked in and said, "Are you ready to go?" She caught me by surprise.

I looked up from my computer and, staring at her, said, "What are you talking about?"

"You remember what you said this morning? That we can go to get our blood drawn for the doctor?"

I looked at her, not knowing what she was talking about, and said, "What doctor are you talking about?"

"Don't tell me you don't remember me telling you about our appointment this afternoon?"

Not knowing what else to do, I got up, followed her out to the car, and we went to have our blood drawn.

When I'm doing some work on my computer, I can hear what's going on around me, but I don't understand, and I'm not really listening to it. I'm afraid I say "yes," not knowing what I am "yessing" to. That can get me into a lot of trouble. Believe me it has.

The Gracious Mistress

of the Parsonage recently approached me while I was working and said, "I'll take that \$50 you promised me to get groceries."

I looked at her and said, "I don't know what you're talking about."

"You know, I ask you this morning if you could give me \$50 to get groceries this afternoon. You said you would."

I pulled out my wallet; all I had was \$50. I handed it to her, and then I thought about it. Is it a coincidence that she asked for \$50, and all I had in my wallet was \$50? Did she really ask me that morning for \$50?

If I only paid attention, maybe I could figure some of these things out. I don't remember telling her that I would give her \$50 for groceries, but after all, I am not going to infer to her that she is lying to me.

While she was going to get the groceries, I pondered this subject for a while. Then, I had a wonderful thought that maybe I could get even with her. I thought about it, put it together very nicely, and was ready to put it together when she walked in.

She came home from shopping and put the bags

on the table, so I went to the kitchen, looked at her, and said, "Can I have the Apple Fritter that you promised me now?" I was laughing on the inside and trying to keep it from coming to the outside. There was no way she was going to get out of this one.

Looking at me seriously, she said, "Oh, my dear. I got that Apple Fritter, and it smelled so good that I'm afraid I ate it on the way home."

Thinking about this I was reminded of a special verse of scripture. My spiritual life is based on my hearing the "word of God."

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God," Romans 10:17.

I can read the Bible but not really hear what God is saying to me. If I don't hear what God is saying how can I live a life that is pleasing unto the Lord. Daily I need to so surrender to God's word that I understand what He really wants of me.

*Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnyderministries.com ★*

## CHURCH DIRECTORY



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pastorron@newseasonsws.com www.newseasonsws.com

### West Sacramento Baptist Church

Sun. School - 9:30 a.m.

Sun. Worship - 11 a.m.

Wed. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

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Facebook.com/CommunityLutheranWestSacramento

### Trinity Presbyterian Church

1500 Park Blvd. W. Sacramento

(916) 371-5875

www.TrinityWestSac.org

info@trinitywestsac.org

Pastor Jamie Crook

Spanish Ministry Pastor: Miryam Osorio

Sunday Worship Services:

10 a.m. Blended/Traditional

Noon Spanish Language

### Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church

911 Park Blvd. West Sacramento

Office: (916) 371-4814

Fr. Mathew Rappu, Pastor

Mass: Mon, Tues, Wed 8:30 a.m.

Fri 8:30 a.m. at OLG school

during school year

Sat: 5:30 p.m. vigil, Sun: 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

### Lighthouse Church of West Sacramento

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 Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional discount loans

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# Don't Let Fats, Oils, and Grease Ruin Your Holiday Cheer

## Sacramento Area Sewer District News Release

**WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - As the holiday season approaches, the Sacramento Area Sewer District is urging residents to help prevent sewer backups, a common yet costly and disruptive issue that peaks during this time of year. Improper disposal of fats, oils and grease (F.O.G.) often leads to blockages, which can result in unpleasant sewer backups that disrupt holiday gatherings. To help keep festivities running smoothly, Sacramento Area Sewer District reminds the community to follow two simple steps for safe F.O.G. disposal.

Can it. Once cooled, put hardened fats, oils and grease into a sturdy container—like a leftover soup can. Then, put the container in the garbage.

Scrape it. Scrape all food scraps including fatty and greasy leftovers into the organics cart, NOT down the drain.

When F.O.G.-containing items from holiday cooking—like food scraps, gravies and oils—go down kitchen sink drains and garbage disposals, they can cause

blockages in sewer pipes that lead to overflows. F.O.G. cools and solidifies, sticking to the sewer pipes. Over time, F.O.G. restricts sewage flow and can cause a sewer backup into customers' homes and businesses.

For large amounts of cooking oil—like what's needed for deep-fried turkeys—pour the cooled liquid oil back into gallon jugs and make sure the lid is screwed on or taped shut. Check with your local waste service provider to determine the proper disposal method or visit SacSewer.com/sactown-clog-squad for a listing of local F.O.G. recycling sites.

For more tips on proper F.O.G. disposal, visit sacsewer.com/stop-clog. Are you experiencing a sewer problem—like a slow drain or backup? Call the Sacramento Area Sewer District 24 hours a day, 7 days a week—even on holidays—at (916) 875-6730.

*Editor's Note: The Sacramento Area Sewer District is the Sacramento region's sewage collection, treatment, and resource recovery utility—providing service to more than 1.6 million people including the City of West Sacramento.*



Keep your holidays and the sewer system running smoothly by properly disposing of fats, oils and grease. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Area Sewer District

## LEGAL ADVERTISING

News-Ledger Adjudicated For and By the County of Yolo, Adjudication No. CV PT 09-1432 – September 4, 2009

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### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240937**  
The following person(s) is doing business as: Arkidsup, 1421 Oak Avenue, Davis, CA 95616. Yakamoz LLC, 1421 Oak Avenue, Davis, CA 95616. 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 11/4/2024.  
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy  
Publish: Nov 15, 22, 29, Dec 6, 2024  
ARKIDSUP 12-6-24

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240946**  
The following person(s) is doing business as: Epic Love Stories, 2937 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691. Epic Love Stories LLC, 2937 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691. 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 10/03/2024.  
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy  
Publish: Nov 15, 22, 29, Dec 6, 2024  
EPIC 12-6-24

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240912**  
The following person(s) is doing business as: Nationwide Real Estate/RentPros Property Management/CGA Property Management, 730 Sunrise Avenue, Suite 140, Roseville, CA 95661. RentPros, Inc., 730 Sunrise Avenue, Suite 140, Roseville, CA 95661. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on December 1, 2019.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 10/25/2024.  
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy  
Publish: Nov 15, 22, 29, Dec 6, 2024  
RENTPROS 12-6-24

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240892**  
The following person(s) is doing business as: Tiger Ranches Property Management, 049-110-035-000 Road 86A, Esparto CA 95627.

Tiger Ranches Incorporated, 8543 Brackenwood Court, Roseville, CA 95747. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on October 18, 2024.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 10/18/2024.  
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy  
Publish: Nov 15, 22, 29, Dec 6, 2024  
TIGER 12-6-24

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240946**  
The following person(s) is doing business as: Your Landscape Guide, 2728 Sweeney Drive, Woodland, CA 95776. Gabrielle Fandelle, 2728, Sweeney Drive, Woodland, CA 95776. This business is conducted by an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on November 9, 2024.

This statement was filed with the

County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/12/2024.  
By: Morgan Braun, Deputy  
Publish: Nov 22, 29, Dec 6, 13, 2024  
YOUR 12-13-24

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240930**  
The following person(s) is doing business as: Honeybee Hair Salon, 327 College Street, Woodland, CA 95695.

Melissa Lynn Paulucci, 327 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 November 1, 2024.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/4/2024.  
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy  
Publish: Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, 20, 2024  
HONEYBEE 12-20-24

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240975**  
The following person(s) is doing business as: Serenity Now Behavioral Health/Serenity Now – Salem/Serenity Now, 417 Mace Boulevard, Suite J-102, Davis, CA 95618.

Serenity Now Behavioral Health LLC, 417 Mace Boulevard, Suite J-102, Davis, CA 95618. 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 5, 2024.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/20/2024.  
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy  
Publish: Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, 20, 2024  
SERENITY 12-20-24

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240940**  
The following person(s) is doing business as: Waters Above, 1897 E Gibson Road, Suite 1C, Woodland, CA 95776.

Erto, Inc., 1897 E Gibson Road, Suite 1C, Woodland, CA 95776. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on April 28, 2015.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/6/2024.  
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy  
Publish: Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, 20, 2024  
WATERS 12-20-24

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240971**  
The following person(s) is doing business as: Jannette Hunt for WUSD School Board 2024, 3775 Industrial Boulevard 980121, West Sacramento, CA 95798.

Mari Jannette Hunt, 3775 Industrial Boulevard 980121, West Sacramento, CA 95798. 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 11/20/2024.  
By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy  
Publish: December 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024  
HUNT 12-27-24

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF YOLO  
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME  
#CV2024-2798

Jesus Eleseo Ledesma Jr has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s)

of Jesus Eleseo Ledesma Jr to Jesus Chavez Ledesma.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on January 8, 2025, 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: November 13, 2024

Samuel T. McAdam, Judge of the Superior Court  
Publish: Nov 22, 29, Dec 6, 13, 2024  
JESUS 12-13-24

### SUMMONS

DISTRICT COURT  
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA  
CASE NO.: A-24-894928-C  
DEPT NO.: 29

MICHELLE OSTER, individually, Plaintiff, vs. KILEIGH RAELYNN EMERY, individually; ANDREW NEWMAN, individually; CARMAX AUTO SUPERSTORES, INC, a Delaware corporation d/b/a CARMAX; DOES I–X, and ROE CORPORATIONS I–X, inclusive, Defendants.

SUMMONS NOTICE! YOU HAVE BEEN SUED, THE COURT MAY DECIDE AGAINST YOU WITHOUT YOUR BEING HEARD UNLESS YOU RESPOND WITHIN 21 DAYS, READ THE INFORMATION BELOW. TO THE DEFENDANT: ANDREW NEWMAN. A civil Complaint has been filed by the Plaintiff(s) against you for the relief set forth in the Complaint.

1. If you intend to defend this lawsuit, within 21 days after this Summons is served on you, exclusive of the day of service, you must do the following: a. File with the Clerk of this Court, whose address is shown below, a formal written response to the Complaint in accordance with the rules of the Court, with the appropriate filing fee. b. Serve a copy of your response upon the attorney whose name and address is shown below. 2. Unless you respond, your default will be entered upon application of the Plaintiff(s) and this Court may enter a judgment against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint, which could result in the taking of money or property or other relief requested in the Complaint. 3. If you intend to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your response may be filed on time.

4. The State of Nevada, its political subdivisions, agencies, officers, employees, board members, commission members and legislators, each have 45 days after service of this summons within which to file an answer or other responsive pleading to the complaint.

CLERK OF THE COURT, s/ Demond Palmer, Deputy Clerk, date 6/11/2024, 200 Lewis Avenue, 5th floor, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155-1601, issued at the direction of Joseph F. Schmitt, Esq., Nevada Bar No. 9681, Lerner & Rowe Injury Attorneys, 4795 S. Durango Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada 89147, (702) 877-1500, jschmitt@lernerandrowe.com, Attorneys for Plaintiff.  
Publish: Nov 22, 29, Dec 6, 13, 2024  
NEWMAN 12-13-24

### TRUSTEE SALE

Trustee Sale No. 132588-1 Loan No. XXXX2537/NORTH CENTER Title Order No. 95314043 APN 043-272-019-000; 043-272-021-000 TRA No. NOTICE

OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 07/20/2017. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. MORTGAGE LENDER SERVICES as the duly appointed Trustee WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state) all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, described as follows: Trustor(s): SHARON R. PEREZ, TRUSTEE OF THE PEREZ FAMILY 1991 REVOCABLE TRUST DATED DECEMBER 24, 1991; OWNERSHIP VESTED AS SHARON R. PEREZ, SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE OF THE JOHN PEREZ FAMILY 1991 REVOCABLE TRUST DATED DECEMBER 24, 1991 Deed of Trust: recorded on 08/02/2017 as Document No. 2017-0019744-00; modified by document recorded on 05/15/2018 as Document No. 2018-0011384-00; modified by document recorded on 07/05/2018 as Document No. 2018-0015751-00 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Yolo County, California, Date of Trustee's Sale: 12/19/2024 at 12:45 PM Trustee's Sale Location: At the North entrance to the City Hall located at 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691 The property situated in said County, California describing the land therein: ALL THAT PORTION OF LOTS 4, 5, 6 AND 7, BLOCK B, AS SAID LOTS AND BLOCK ARE SHOWN ON THE "OFFICIAL PLAT OF HOLLAND LAND COMPANY SUBDIVISION NO. 10 A", RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF YOLO COUNTY IN BOOK 3 OF MAPS AT PAGES 50 AND 51, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A REINFORCING BAR TAGGED "R.E. 20213", MARKING THE MOST WESTERLY CORNER OF SAID LOT 4; THENCE FROM SAID POINT OF BEGINNING ALONG THE NORTH-WESTERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID LOT 4 NORTH 62°03'00" EAST 113.85 FEET TO A REINFORCING BAR TAGGED "R.E. 20213"; THENCE SOUTH 25°53'02" EAST 150.95 FEET TO A REINFORCING BAR TAGGED "L.S. 3185"; THENCE SOUTH 62°25'00" WEST 108.41 FEET TO A CROSS CUT IN CONCRETE LOCATED ON THE SOUTHWESTERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID LOT 7; THENCE ALONG THE SOUTHWESTERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID LOTS 7, 6, 5 AND 4 NORTH 27°57'00" WEST 150.16 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. APN: 043-272-019-000 // 043-272-021-000 The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to

be: 36167-36185 NORTH CENTER STREET & ADJACENT LOT(S), CLARKSBURG, CA 95612. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit: \$6,561,567.79 (Estimated)\*. Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. The Beneficiary may elect to bid less than the full credit bid. \*SAID NOTE(S) ARE SECURED BY THE FOLLOWING DEEDS OF TRUST: RECORDED ON 12/03/2013 AS DOCUMENT NO. 20131203 PAGE 0629 OFFICIAL RECORDS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY; RECORDED ON 12/03/2013 AS DOCUMENT NO. 2013-148719 OFFICIAL RECORDS OF SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY; RECORDED ON 08/02/2017 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 201708020484 OFFICIAL RECORDS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made avail-

able to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (916) 939-0772 or visit this internet website www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 132588-1. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. IF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY CONTAINS FROM ONE TO FOUR SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCES, THE FOLLOWING WILL APPLY: NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer", you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder", you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (916) 939-0772, or visit this internet website www.nationwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 132588-1 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid, by remitting the funds and affidavit described in Section 2924m(c) of the Civil Code, so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder", you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: November 6, 2024 MORTGAGE LENDER SERVICES 7844 Madison Ave., Suite 145 Fair Oaks, CA 95628 (916) 962-3453 Sale Information Line: 916-939-0772 or www.nationwideposting.com Marsha Townsend, Executive Vice President MORTGAGE LENDER SERVICES MAY BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NPP0467411 To: NEWS LEDGER 11/29/2024, 12/06/2024, 12/13/2024 NEWS LEDGER 12-13-24

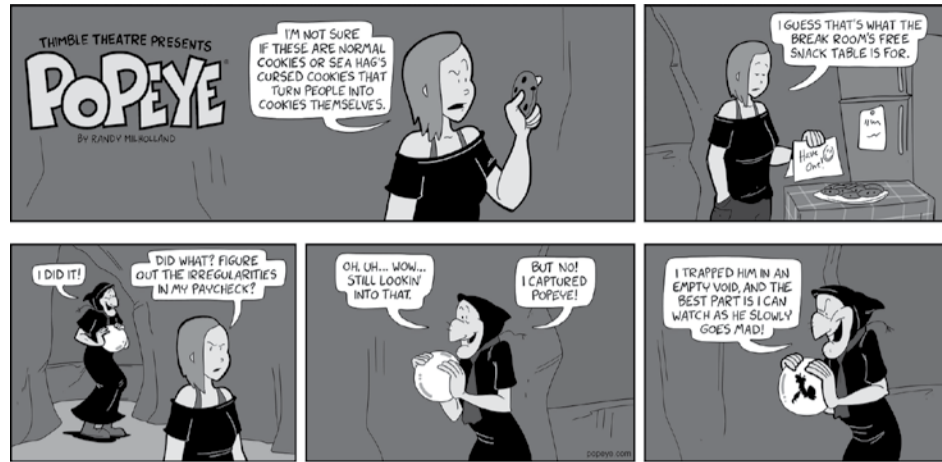
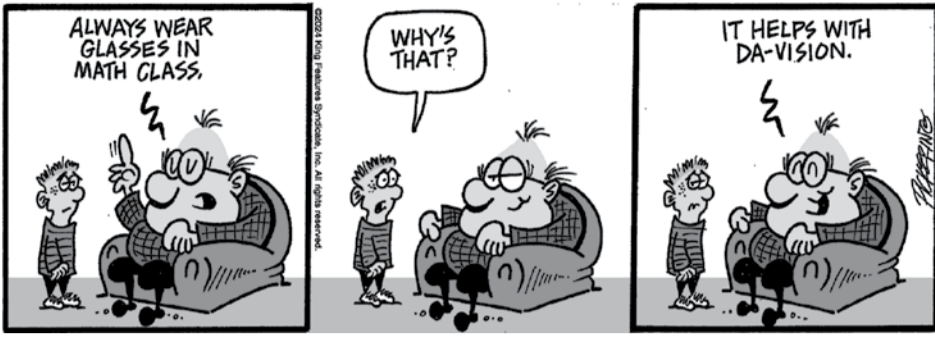
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# COMICS & PUZZLES

**The Spats**

by Jeff Pickering



**Amber Waves**

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**Out on a Limb**

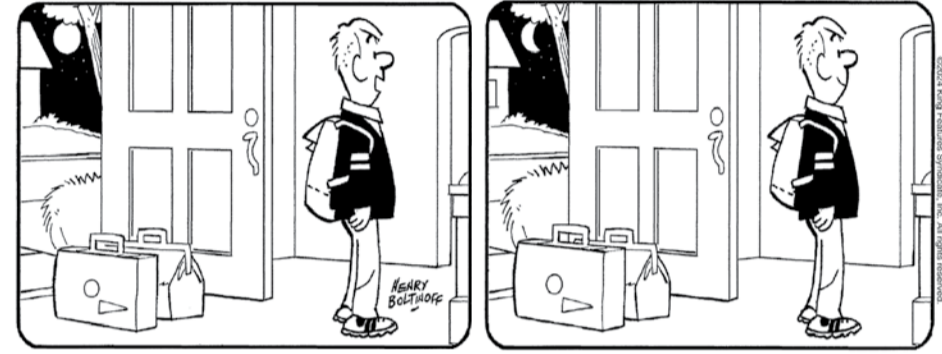
by Gary Kopervas



**HOCUS-FOCUS**

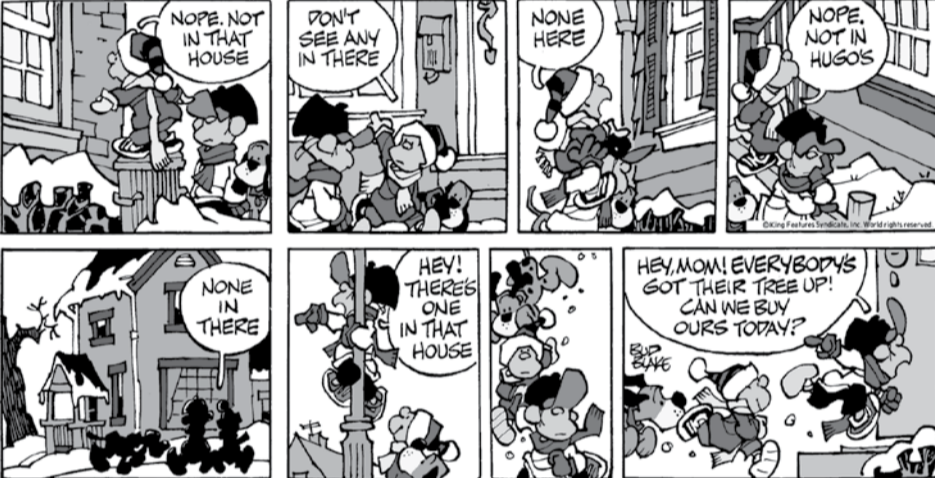
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



**TIGER**

by BUD BLAKE



**GRIN THE BEAR IT**



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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**STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Unit of electrical capacity
  - \*Buche de Noël, e.g.
  - What influencers do?
  - Yemeni's neighbor
  - Another word for Tokyo
  - Singer Ross of "Where Did Our Love Go" fame
  - Laundry room fire hazard, pl.
  - Much of it about nothing?
  - Furnish with a fund
  - \*"A Bad Moms Christmas" actress Bell
  - \*Tiny Tim creator
  - Tibetan ox
  - Khrushchev's domain
  - \*Goo on real Christmas tree
  - Sketch
  - \*Poinsettia's motherland
  - "\_\_\_\_\_ Good Men", movie
  - Brussels' org.
  - Plant fungus
  - Reluctant
  - Klutzy
  - \*"It's beginning to look \_\_\_\_\_ like..."
  - Domains
  - Bog down
  - Oxen connector
  - Under epidermis
  - Mums' mums
  - Over, poetically
  - Alleviate
  - Mahal
  - \*Tanne in "O Tannenbaum" (2 words)
  - "It is feliz to Feliciano
  - Radioshow host: "Hello, you're \_\_\_\_\_"
  - Knot-tying vow (2 words)
  - Dispatch boat
  - Carthage's ancient neighbor
  - "Egg\_\_\_\_\_"
  - Oil lamp dweller
  - Fishing poles
  - Bigheadedness
  - Painter Degas
- DOWN**
- Lore people
  - Mideast ruler
  - Hindu princess
  - Jittery
  - Farthest from point of origin
  - Ground beef description
  - Like Lemmon and Matthau together
  - Merchandise
  - Swim's alternative
  - Dwyane, once of Miami Heat
  - Any day now, to Shakespeare
  - Swerves
  - King's order
  - Increasing
  - Philosophy ending
  - Undo, as in strings
  - Green side
  - Before, in the olden days
  - J.M. Barrie's Pan
  - "Howdy, \_\_\_\_\_!"
  - Internal picture
  - Meltable home
  - Singer Sam of "Twistin' the Night Away" fame
  - Weasel's aquatic cousin
  - \*"Last Christmas" band, with!
  - Edible pod
  - Busybody, in Yiddish
  - Mountain range
  - Certain fraternity house letters
  - Cruel
  - Île de la Cité river
  - Tripped the light fantastic
  - \*Number of ghosts in "A Christmas Carol"
  - \*"He's Just Not That You", movie
  - Police's surprise
  - Habitual twitches
  - Not happening (2 words)
  - Minor bumper damage
  - "Heat of the Moment" band
  - Opposite of talker?
  - \*The Grinch's Max

**CROSSWORD**

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# Athletics Ditch Synthetic Turf for Sod

Story and photo by  
Daniel Canfield

**WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - When Major League Baseball's (MLB) Athletics take the field next year at Sutter Health Park in West Sacramento, they will be treading on a natural sod playing surface as opposed to the synthetic turf as originally planned.

The official announcement came from Major League Baseball in October and was accompanied by a statement. "Based on feedback from players, as well as guidance from Major League Baseball's long-time field expert, MLB, the Athletics and Sutter Health Park have decided to maintain a natural grass field," an MLB spokesperson said.

"In light of the players' clear preference for natural grass, and after weighing with the MLB players association the potential

risks and benefits of maintaining natural grass versus replacing the playing surface with synthetic turf, all the parties are aligned in moving forward with a natural grass field for Opening Day 2025," explained the MLB spokesperson.

This was a much different story from the official news coming out of the MLB and the Athletics back in July 2004. At that point in time, it was reported that the MLB, the Athletics and the River Cats agreed to converting the playing surface at Sutter Health Park to synthetic turf. In July, MLB's commissioner Rob Manfred, commented on the playing surface situation and the need for a hydration element to battle the hash Sacramento summer heat while speaking to the Baseball Writers Association in July 2024.

"We think that's the best that we can do in terms

of playing surface in the heat," Manfred reported referring to the switching to synthetic turf. "The vast, vast majority of the games can be played at night when it's cooler," Manfred continued. "We picked the playing surface in consultation with the MLBPA... and it has a specific hydration component to it in terms of water being added to cool the surface."

Whatever the reason for the switch back to sod, baseball players and fans alike will appreciate the natural playing surface over synthetic turf.

Messenger Publishing Group reached out to Sutter Health Park officials regarding the status of the new sod install, noting that the River Cats are scheduled to host the San Francisco Giants in an exhibition game on March 23. A response had not been received by press time.



Photo of Sutter Health Park in West Sacramento from October 2024 with construction activities evident.

## Sac Republic FC to Host Open Tryouts

**Sacramento Republic Football Club News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Ahead of the 2025 USL Championship season, Republic FC is hosting its annual Open Tryout, giving the region's top players a chance to impress the technical staff and earn an invitation to training camp.

The 2025 Open Tryout will take place on Saturday, Jan. 18 and Sunday, Jan. 19 at Bartholomew Sports Park in Elk Grove, and is open to players aged 18 and older. Players are encouraged to sign up early to secure their spot and take advantage of Early Bird Pricing – a \$50 discount – through December 31. At least one participant will be invited to join the club for its 2025 training camp ahead of the season.

Tryouts have been an important part of Republic FC's roster development since 2014. In total, six attendees have gone on to sign professional contracts with the club, as well as others who have earned a spot in the youth academy. In 2023,

Aldair Sanchez attended the Open Tryout and earned an invitation to training camp, where he would compete in preseason friendlies against USL Championship and MLS clubs and go on to sign his first professional contract with the Indomitable Club. He appeared in 30 appearances in his rookie season and in 2024 was one of five players to appear in every game.

Tryouts are open to eligible males, 18 years or older. Registration fees apply and are non-refundable. In addition to registration fees, each trialist is solely responsible for all accommodation bookings and costs. Players must come prepared for the tryouts with their own boots, socks, shorts, gloves, shin guards or any other equipment related to their position. Republic FC's athletic training and medical services personnel will be onsite throughout tryouts.

For more information on tryout registration and requirements, visit [SacRepublicFC.com/Tryouts](http://SacRepublicFC.com/Tryouts) or e-mail [Tryouts@SacRepublicFC.com](mailto:Tryouts@SacRepublicFC.com). ★



## Hornet Volleyball Standouts Named All-Big Sky



Hornet senior Bridgette Smith is the first four-time first team all-Big Sky selection in Hornet program history (2021-24). Photos courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics



Sacramento State senior Caitlin Volkman has tallied double figures in kills on 24 occasions in the 2024 season, and 71 times during her career as a Hornet.



Hornet senior rightside hitter Ellie Tisko named second team all-Big Sky for the second straight season.

**Sacramento State Athletics News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Three Hornet seniors were named all-Big Sky Conference on Nov. 26, including outside hitters Bridgette Smith and Caitlin Volkman being named to the first team, and rightside hitter Ellie Tisko named second team.

The Hornets received three all-league honors after finishing the regular season with an 18-11 overall record and 11-5 conference mark. Sacramento State finished in a tie for second place in the conference

standings and will be the No. 3 seed at the Big Sky Tournament at the Nest.

Smith was named to the first team for the fourth straight year, becoming the first player in program history to be named first team on four occasions. Counting her pandemic season of 2020 when she was named to the second team, Smith is also the first player in school history to receive all-conference accolades on five occasions.

Volkman was named to the first team for the first time in her career, and Tisko received second team honors for the second consecutive season. ★

## Sacramento State Women's Basketball Finishes Third

**Sacramento State University Athletics News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Senior Katie Peneueta finished with a career-high tying 20 points to go with nine rebounds while three other Hornets finished in double figures on Sunday Dec. 1, helping push the Sacramento State women's basketball team past Wagner, 73-34, to finish third at the FIU Thanksgiving Classic in Miami.

The Hornets snapped their three-game skid, improving to 5-3 overall on the year, while the Seahawks fell to 1-6 overall with the result. The 39-point victory was the largest of the year and the largest against a Division I opponent since a 48-point triumph over Portland State on Jan. 23, 2016.

Sunday's 34 points allowed are the fewest in the program's Division I history and the fewest since

defeating Concordia College, 78-29, on Nov. 22, 1990. Sacramento State limited Wagner to just 15 first-half points — the lowest scoring first half by a Hornet opponent since Northern Colorado trailed, 24-15, at the break on Jan. 6, 2007.

Overall, from the field, the Hornets stifled the Seahawks to the tune of a .245 (12-for-49) field goal percentage for the game, which is the lowest by an opponent since Pacific Union shot the same percentage on Dec. 19, 2019.

In only her second game back after missing the first six games of the season due to injury, Peneueta came off the bench to finish 7-of-10 from the field and 5-of-7 from long distance in 29 minutes, matching her career high set at Northern Arizona on Feb. 3, 2022, and tied against Montana State just over a year later on Feb. 23, 2023.

Her nine rebounds were also two shy of her career high of 11 set

against Idaho on Jan. 5, 2023.

She was followed closely by sophomore Lina Falk, who finished with 15 points on 6-of-13 from the field and added six rebounds, three assists, and three steals. Senior Jaydia Martin chipped in 12 points on 5-of-11 from the field, adding four rebounds and six assists, while freshman Sofia Alonso finished with 11 points, five rebounds, and six assists.

Freshman Brooklyn Taylor also blocked four shots on the day, the most since Summah Hanson had four against Eastern Washington on Dec. 30, 2023.

The Hornets surrendered the first basket of the game, but it was all Sacramento State from that point on, outscoring Wagner by a 21-2 count the rest of the quarter — including a 14-0 run to close the period. The run grew to 17-0 with the first three points of the second quarter as the Hornets led by as many as 27 points

in the first half en route to the 41-15 halftime advantage.

Sacramento State limited the Seahawks to four points in both the first and third quarters — tied for the fewest in a single quarter this season along with the four-point fourth quarter at Cal State Fullerton back on Nov. 14 — and tallied the fourth and fifth single-digit quarters defensively this year.

Meanwhile, the offense was clicking, finishing the day shooting 49 percent from the field overall (26-of-53) — its second-highest single-game shooting performance of the year behind only the 55 percent against Lincoln University on Nov. 10. The Hornets were also 11-of-25 (.440) from behind the arc as a team, setting season highs for both makes and percentages and the best in both categories since hitting 13-of-24 from three-point range against Idaho State at last year's Big Sky Conference Tournament.

Sacramento State opened the second half on a 9-0 run, holding Wagner to without a point for the first six minutes of the period and to without a field goal until the final 30 seconds of the period. The Hornets led by as many as 46 points with two minutes to play in the fourth quarter and led nearly the entire game save for the 15 seconds that the Seahawks went in front to start the day and the 3:55 during which the contest was tied.


Following three straight games away from home, Sacramento State returns to The Nest this coming week, hosting Kansas City to open the second-annual Big Sky-Summit Challenge on Wednesday, Dec. 4, at 6:30 p.m. The Hornets then travel to Nebraska to take on Omaha on Saturday, Dec. 7, at Noon PT prior to the start of final exams. Both games are scheduled after press time. ★

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By Amy Shane  
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# The Holidays Are Here!

The Holiday gift-giving guide returns with a delightful new array of Children's books. Our favorite publishers have curated their top picks for the holiday season and their most beloved reads this year. This week, Simon and Schuster share the Holiday magic, inviting you to embark on a journey of discovery and joy.



The Holiday Break is the perfect time to get lost in a young-adult rom-com with Lynn Painter's stand-alone novels *Nothing Like the Movies*, *Betting on You*, and *The Do-Over*. These stories will whisk readers right into their favorite rom-com trope with lighthearted and fast-to-fall-for characters, separate or altogether. These books are the perfect gift for the romance reader and hallmark movie fan on your list.

For the beginning chapter readers on your list are two fun new series, *Cupcake Diaries-The New Batch* Emily's *Cupcake Magic* and *Marvel's After School Heroes*. Emily starts a new School in -The New Batch, and she has no choice but to make new friends. Will cupcakes be the answer, or will it turn into a disaster? New York City is crawling with Villains, and now it's time for

young heroes to be put to the test in these illustrated beginning chapter book adventures. See if they have your favorite Marvel superhero.

Prepare little ones for the Holidays with books that spread Holiday cheer. Pull out the CD player. *Cow and Holly* by Sandra Boynton is ready to sing along with the family to 14 Christmas songs. Illustrations, lyrics, and music all pair together for a fun family sing-along.

Get ready for the joys of the holiday and be a helper with - *All By My Elf* by Jeffrey Burton and Nanette Ryan. Feel the cool air as it glides across the page or the lumpy frosting on the gingerbread house. Help wrap the presents with crinkle ribbons and feel the fuzzy stockings in this touch-and-feel board book adventure.

Get Ready for Santa with *Santa Mouse—Plays Reindeer Games*

and *Santa Mouse Finds a Furry Friend* by Michel Brown and *Chicka Chicka Ho Ho Ho* by William Boniface and Julien Chung. Santa Mouse delights readers with his joyful excitement. Whether he is playing reindeer games or finding a new friend, every Santa Mouse book is filled with happiness and joy. In *Chicka Chicka Ho Ho Ho*, the Alphabet crew takes readers on a festive holiday adventure that will have them chanting and singing along.

*Relish the Season* with a *Merry Weenie* book by Katie Vernon for some holiday laughter. Weenie loves the holiday season, and he is ready to celebrate, but what is the merriest part? Find out how Weenie celebrates and dresses up for his favorite holiday to spend it with those he loves, bringing a wave of cheer and laughter to your holiday season. ★



# Riley Reviews

“WICKED” AN IMMERSIVE JOURNEY FROM THE STAGE TO THE BIG SCREEN

**A Film and TV Review**  
by Tim Riley

### “WICKED” RATED PG

Broadway musicals that become movie musicals have a long tradition that invite debate as to which versions are better. “Chicago” has been a Broadway musical twice, first with a two-year run starting in 1975, and returning to the stage in a 1996 revival still running to this day.

Not surprisingly, “Chicago” inspired a 2002 movie musical of the same name, starring Catherine Zeta-Jones as Velma Kelly and Renee Zellweger as Roxie Hart, both of them scheming vixens ending up in jail on murder charges.

Were the movie stars as good as their counterparts in the original 1975 stage musical? Broadway legends Chita Rivera and Gwen Verdon were the initial Velma Kelly and Roxie Hart, respectively. Both of them won Tony Awards.

The point of this exercise of comparison of the stage versus the big screen is that an argument can be made that what started on the stage is invariably better than a cinematic adaptation. This is something to think about with the release of “Wicked” if you have seen the musical on Broadway or a national tour.

Before you invest time into 160 minutes for “Wicked,” a running-time that tests the outer limits of endurance, keep in mind that it ends with a “to be continued” notice for a second part that is reportedly not expected to arrive until about this time next year.

On Broadway, the “Wicked” musical runs for 2 hours and 45 minutes, including a 15-minute intermission. That informs us that the full story could wrap up a lot sooner than a two-part marathon.

From the outset, a drawback of a stage production is the physical inability to deliver stunning visuals of a witch taking flight or computer-generated imagery of an Emerald City. “Wicked” proves to be exquisite in its cinematography.

Comparing favorably to the original Broadway stars Idina Menzel and Kristen Chenoweth, Cynthia Erivo’s Elphaba, the future Wicked Witch of the West and Ariana Grande’s Glinda, the impending Good Witch of the North, respectively in the same roles, deliver big time on the dancing and singing.

While the denizens of Munchkinland rejoice in the death of the Wicked Witch of the West, Glinda the Good tells the story of the Witch’s troubled childhood and her days at Shiv University where they became reluctant roommates.

The backstory then shifts to Elphaba, born with iridescent green skin and mysterious abilities, as she arrives at the university to see her wheelchair-bound younger sister Nessarose (Marissa Bode), and draws the notice of Madame Morrible (Michelle Yeoh), the Dean of Sorcery

Studies. After inadvertently revealing her magical abilities, Elphaba accepts an invitation to be tutored by Morrible, and this is how she comes to know Galinda, the irrepressible pretty blonde and seemingly self-absorbed lightweight hailing from a life of privilege.

With her verdant complexion, Elphaba is an outcast, while Galinda is the complete opposite, more like one of the popular mean girls most likely to be found in high school surrounded by members of a clique, including here the fawning yet amusing connivers Pfannee (Bowen Yang) and ShenShen (Bronwyn James).

Elphaba’s notoriety gains her an invitation to the Emerald City to meet with the Wizard of Oz (Jeff Goldblum) and is joined by Galinda, who shortens her name to Glinda as a nod to how it has been mispronounced at college. The trip appears to put some complications into their friendship.

The arrival of Prince Fiyero (Jonathan Bailey), a rebellious carefree player committed to only whatever and whomever may tickle his fleeting fancy, catches the eyes of both girls.

Meanwhile, the school’s authoritarian streak leads to discrimination against the anthropomorphic animals and subsequent deprivation of their civil rights and ability to speak.

Affected by this turn of events is Dr. Dillamond (Peter Dinklage), a talking goat who teaches history until he’s forced to retire and replaced by a devious professor who lacks any respect for animals.

Taking umbrage at the mistreatment of animals and feeling a growing sense that Morrible and the Wizard are problematic, Elphaba is on her wicked witch trajectory, which is likely to be further explored in the second part, perhaps much like the Broadway show’s Act Two.

Undeniably, Cynthia Erivo’s Elphaba is at once fierce and vulnerable, and if her rendition of “Defying Gravity” does not result in an emotionally satisfying experience, then “Wicked” will not leave an indelibly curious impression.

While “Wicked” impresses as a solidly designed production with memorable performances, my preference for a musical creation remains immutably fixed on the stage where one’s imagination also plays a role.

However, the more thought that goes into the provenance of this film version leads me to reconsider, at least in the limited scope of this one adaptation, that the magic of a stage production can be captured and expanded upon to achieve a richly rewarding cinematic experience.

“Wicked” is an immersive journey through the fantasy world of the witches of Oz as both Elphaba and Glinda will eventually fulfill their destinies, and a year from now we could learn so much more. ★

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# Sacramento Region Gained People but Flubbed Economic Opportunities Over 50 Years



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Fifty years ago this month I moved to Sacramento and a few months later, just after Jerry Brown became governor, began covering politics for the long-defunct Sacramento Union newspaper. I have lived in five different homes — soon to be six — and my workplaces have always been in downtown Sacramento, near the Capitol. That experience, plus research for my 1985 book on California megatrends, forms the background of some observations about the Sacramento region's evolution. So here goes:

In 1974 the six-county region (Sacramento, Yolo, Yuba, Placer, Sutter and El Dorado) was home to barely a million people. However it was on the cusp of explosive growth, as was the entire state, thanks to a wave of migration and a baby boom. Today the region has about 2.5 million residents, making it the nation's 28th largest metropolitan region, equal to the Las Vegas and Austin, Texas areas. Much of the growth has been in Sacramento's suburbs, so the city now contains just a fifth of the region's population and has ceased to be its economic center, while jobs and businesses have flourished in the suburbs. As the local economy evolved from state and federal government employment — including four large military

bases — into technology and other fields, voters had two opportunities to merge the city with what were mostly unincorporated communities in Sacramento County. Merger would have made Sacramento the nation's seventh or eighth largest city, with the economic and cultural clout that comes with size. But voters rejected both proposals, one in 1974, the other in 1990, and several suburbs incorporated into cities. The consolidation failures reflected historic economic and political conflicts between the city and its suburbs which today still undermine cooperative policymaking and are visible in chaotic responses to the ever-growing homelessness crisis and the perpetual wrangling over transportation issues. Glen Sparrow, who headed the 1974 consolidation effort, later blamed Sacramento's "civic gentry" — its long-dominant families — for torpedoing its passage because they didn't want Sacramento to grow. The 1990 effort died because suburban voters saw city officials as incompetent ideologues, while Sacramento's dominant Democrats feared that suburban Republicans would take control. The failures blocked the city from controlling development outside its borders, and its downtown commercial district, once full of department stores, withered. It regained some momentum after the Sacramento Kings downtown basketball arena opened in 2016. But the proliferation of homeless encampments, a fatal gang shootout, a violent demonstration and the pandemic, which emptied state offices, erased much of that progress. Meanwhile city government has become a model of

dysfunction, with officials squabbling over mundane issues, chronic budget deficits and ceaseless conflicts with the county government, particularly over homelessness. The lack of cohesion means that Sacramento has flubbed opportunities to gain status among metro regions. Two examples involve its unique positioning at the juncture of two major rivers, the Sacramento and the American. Local officials blocked a canal that would have connected the Sacramento River to the channel that carries ocean-going ships to a Yolo County port and its lake, thereby missing an opportunity for spectacular waterfront development a la Southern California's Marina del Rey. While the city is redeveloping an old railyard adjacent to downtown, it could have done something truly special by redirecting some American River water through canals, emulating San Antonio's famous Riverwalk. A third is a failure to fully capitalize on the closure of McClellan Air Force Base in the 1990s. While the base has undergone a workable conversion to civilian use, its unique facilities also could have become another campus of the California Polytechnic State University, fueling off-campus technology businesses. Regions prosper when they have united and visionary leadership — such as North Carolina's Research Triangle. Sacramento lacks that vision. *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.* ★

# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Chicken Little said, "the sky is falling, the sky is falling," but was it? We know of course the answer was no but does this sound vaguely familiar. Kings fans and supposed experts would have you believe that the current team is in need of an overhaul, as well as a group of new coaches. I'm the first to say that I'm not pleased with coach Brown's performance thus far, but I'm not clamoring for his job. Coach Brown's rotations have been hard to understand all season, but that is no different than the prior season where continuity was in short supply. It wasn't long ago the Kings were two games over 500, and suddenly went into a losing tailspin. Losers of five out of the last six games will get people talking, and everyone has an opinion. On the plus side, no one was casting aspersions when last week the Kings announced the signing of small forward Jae Crowder. Crowder, a free agent, has a history of being on winning basketball teams, and his moniker is his hard-nosed style of play, something the Kings could use more of. Without question, the current squad plays hard every night, but we are lacking in players that have the dog mentality that can set the bone crushing screens that the Kings seem to see nightly from other teams. Crowder brings that element, so it remains to be seen in what capacity coach Brown will use his new addition. Brown chose to put Crowder in the starting lineup without even a single practice, while talented Mr. everything, Malik Monk watched as always from the bench. Imagine my surprise when not one but two former members of the Kentucky Wildcats were introduced into the starting lineup against the San Antonio Spurs on Sunday, Dec. 1 at Golden One Arena. The arena erupted when Malik Monk was introduced right in back of DeAaron Fox, and I couldn't have been happier for Malik. Coach Brown and Sacramento Kings fans were treated to the best scoring first quarter of the young season, as the Kings put up a staggering 42 points.

Malik was the spark plug he always seems to be, but despite the auspicious start, the Kings played poorly in the fourth quarter, and although they made it close, came away with a 2-point loss. As is oft the case, the zebras did not help their cause, and the game was replete with calls that one would expect at a high school game, not in the highest court of basketball. The last week began on a high note, as the Sactown boys went into Minnesota, and after losing the prior two games to the Wolves this season, the Kings put on a fourth quarter show that was a pure pleasure to watch. Surprisingly, while only connecting on 32% of their 3-point efforts, and scoring only 12 3-point field goals all night, the Kings sent the Timberwolves home with a 115-104 spanking. For Kings fans, this type of overall efficiency, which included solid team defense all night, is what gives everyone hope that this team can turn things around. Sadly, after breaking a 4-game losing streak by besting the Wolves, Sacramento could not back it up, losing to both Portland and San Antonio back-to-back. The bright spot for me this past week was the emergence of small forward Isaac Jones. Nearly forgotten at the end of the bench, the rookie out of Washington State brought energy, spirited defense, and added 12 points that were sorely needed against the young and talented Timberwolves. Why it's taken this long to give Isaac a look is a hard question to answer but look for coach Brown to move this young forward closer to the top of the bench. Another bright note is hearing Malik Monk in the post-game interview say it's taken him three years in Sacramento to get a single start, and he likes being a starter where he's spent the majority of his career. Hang on Kings fans. It's not time to pull your hair just yet. Christmas is right around the corner, and something tells me the Sac Town ballers may have some presents in store for basketball hungry Sacramento fans in the month of December. *All the best Kings fans! Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com.* ★

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