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Merry Christmas!



West Sacramento Police Department Hosts Shop with a Cop Event

**West Sacramento
Police Department
News Release**

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Dec. 14, at 8:30 a.m., the West Sacramento Police Department hosted its ninth annual Shop with a Cop event.

This event hosted 30 local West Sacramento youth on a \$200 shopping spree at Walmart. Students were selected in conjunction with the Washington Unified School District Outreach Team, the Collings Teen Center and the Yolo County



On Dec. 14, local West Sacramento children got to go on a shopping spree with the West Sacramento Police Department. Santa was there for the fun, as well. Photo courtesy of the West Sacramento Police Department

District Attorney's office for a variety of reasons, including being at risk, family financial struggles, previous interaction with the judicial system and showing marked behavioral improvement.

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Youth Volleyball Open in West Sacramento

*Nonprofit offers
boys and girls fun,
safe, supervised
environment for
volleyball*

**United States Youth
Volleyball League
News Release**

TORRANCE, CA (MPG) - The United States Youth Volleyball League (USYVL) registration for the 2025 spring program in West Sacramento is open.

The instructional volleyball league will provide boys and girls aged 7 to 15 the opportunity to learn and play volleyball in a fun, safe and supervised environment.

The eight-week developmental league provides participants with instruction twice per week that is designed to teach basic volleyball skills in a positive environment. The program is structured around the principles of participation, teamwork, skill development, sportsmanship and fun. Practices and games operate in a coed format and offer participants the opportunity to develop self-esteem and confidence.

The United States Youth Volleyball League's West Sacramento league will begin April 1 and run through June 7 at Patwin Park in West Sacramento. Practices for the league will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursdays, and games will be from 9 to 10 a.m. Saturdays.

Registration for participants is currently available online at www.usyvl.org. The registration price includes a T-shirt and an end-of-season participation award.

For more information on registration, programs, locations, schedules or volunteer opportunities, visit www.usyvl.org or contact the league at 888-988-7985 or info@usyvl.org.

About the United States Youth Volleyball League

Founded in 1997, the United States Youth Volleyball League is a nonprofit youth sports organization that hosts more than 15,000 participants annually, nationwide. The United States Youth

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Finding a New Direction

By Kristin Thebaud

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- Tina Goree was 59 years old and managing a Wing Stop in Sacramento in 2018 when she decided it was time to change careers as she continued to age. She signed up for a class at a career skills center and was ready to begin a new chapter.

The next morning, the Citrus Heights resident woke up blind. She had no pain but her right eye was completely dark and her left eye could only see a blur.

“I thought, oh my gosh, I think I’m blind. I wonder if this is temporary,” Goree said.

Goree called her daughter, who took her to the emergency room. Doctors determined that hypertension had caused a stroke in her right eye and it had also affected her left eye. She was legally blind.

“You want to cry and break down but you can’t,” Goree said. “I immediately went into the mode of thinking, well, this is what is happening to you, so now you have to figure something out.”

Refusing to lose her sense of humor with her vision loss, Goree spent three days in the hospital joking and laughing with family and friends. Yet when she came home, she felt lost, barely able to even use her flip phone.

“I was getting ready to start a new career and now I didn’t know what to do,” Goree said.

Fortunately, Goree’s family signed her up for Social Security, ordered her a cane and connected her to the Department of Rehabilitation and local nonprofit Society for the Blind, which empowers people of all ages with vision loss with tools to maintain their independence.

Unfortunately, Goree’s skepticism began to grow. She remembers sulking at the Society for the Blind orientation, thinking there was nothing they could do to help her.

Goree refused to attend Society for the Blind classes after that but she did join its weekly Coffee



Tina Goree joined Society for the Blind’s Senior IMPACT Program, which empowers seniors with vision loss to stay independent. Photo courtesy of Kristin Thebaud

and Connect support group calls for a couple of months. Once the pandemic hit, she stopped calling in.

“I never broke down and cried but I did kind of feel sorry for myself,” Goree said. “I kept sitting on the couch doing nothing and letting people lead me around.”

In September 2022, four years after losing her vision, Goree decided it was time for a change.

“I said to myself, you cannot live like this; you are not this type of person,” Goree said. “My life isn’t over and I need to do something with it. I have no direction.”

In early 2023, Goree’s family was surprised when she

announced that Paratransit would take her to Society for the Blind and she had coordinated the ride herself.

“I felt like a kindergartener on the first day of school as I rode the bus,” Goree said. “I didn’t know what to do, where to go or who I was going to meet. It was a new beginning for me. They took me to Society for the Blind and my life began.”

Goree joined Society for the Blind’s Senior IMPACT Project, which empowers seniors with vision loss to stay independent. As she began talking with other Senior IMPACT Project participants, it became clear they wanted to hear more from her and that helped her regain

confidence.

“I’ve shed tears several times when people say they want to call me because they like the confidence I have,” Goree said. “It makes me feel worthy. It makes me feel like those are skills I had before I lost my vision. That’s what made me become a manager.”

Now at 65, Goree’s main goal is to secure a job, so she has joined Society for the Blind’s Core program, which includes assistive technology and living skills classes. She has been especially surprised at her ability to pick up on new technology, including her iPhone and Victor reader. She will soon begin Core orientation and mobility classes

and she hopes to finish within a year so she can work with the Department of Rehabilitation on finding employment.

“I don’t yet know what I want to do but I know I want to be useful and involved in my community,” Goree said. “I’ve worked since I was 17 years old, so I’m confident that no matter what job I get, my supervisor skills will take over. I’m pretty sharp at figuring things out and troubleshooting.”

Goree plans to stay at Society for the Blind after classes are over. She rejoined Coffee and Connect and participates in its Black Americans Senior Support group. She organizes independent outings with her Society for the Blind friends, including a train ride and a luncheon with 22 other individuals.

“I told everyone we can do this,” Goree said. “It was so heart-filling to see people who haven’t been out in a couple of years trusting me and this group. We’ve had a lot of fun.”

Goree says connecting and networking has become even more important since losing her vision.

“I love connecting with everybody and spreading the good news to people with vision loss who are afraid to go out,” Goree said. “I’m willing to step out with someone just because they want to step out and people know that.”

This summer, Goree and four other women with vision loss went to the National Federation for the Blind conference in Florida for six days. They navigated their way around 2,700 participants. Goree proudly used the skills and tools she learned at Society for the Blind. Goree said she is even more confident now and that the skills feel almost automatic.

But if it were not for her decision to take that big step and go to Society for the Blind, Goree said, she would not be here.

“Coming to Society for the Blind gave me courage, a sense of being and a reason to keep going,” Goree said. “I was introduced to myself again.” ★

**Kristin Thebaud
Communications
News Release**

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- Society for the Blind recently launched its \$1-million Vision Forward Initiative at its 70th anniversary celebration.

The three-year initiative will increase the nonprofit organization's capacity to meet growing demand for services, create a resource and learning center on the second floor of the group's Midtown Sacramento building and build Society for the Blind's endowment to respond to

new opportunities and challenges. To donate, visit www.SocietyfortheBlind.org/Donate.

“Our Vision Forward Initiative will ensure our clients of all ages have access to our services for years to come,” said Shari Roeseler, Society for the Blind executive director. “This will help us serve more people, reduce wait times, offer the latest assistive technologies, and quickly respond and adapt to meet the needs of our clients.”

The initiative was announced to 300 event guests gathered to celebrate

Society for the Blind's 70th anniversary and its 2024 Briggs Award honoree, Retinal Consultants Medical Group, for extraordinary contributions to eye care in the community. The event raised more than \$375,000 as seed funding for the Vision Forward Initiative.

Sacramento-based Society for the Blind continues to create innovative ways to empower individuals living with low vision or blindness to discover, develop and achieve their full potential. Since 1954, Society for the Blind has grown from a dedicated group of volunteers to a

nationally recognized agency and the only comprehensive rehabilitative teaching center that provides services for a 27-county region of Northern California and the state of Nevada.

The nonprofit organization provides low-vision eye care, life and job skills training, mentorship and access to tools to maintain independence for more than 5,000 youth, working-age adults and seniors in the region experiencing vision loss each year.

To learn more or make a donation, visit www.SocietyfortheBlind.org. ★



Shari Roeseler of Society for the Blind and event emcee Cristina Mendonsa announce the \$1-million Vision Forward Initiative launch at the nonprofit's 70th anniversary gala. Photo courtesy of Kristin Thebaud Communications

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Tower Bridge Gateway Renamed

By MPG Staff

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Tower Bridge Gateway, which runs between Jefferson Boulevard, past Sutter Health Park to the Tower Bridge is now officially named Cabaldon Parkway.

The city celebrated the renaming with a street sign unveiling on Nov. 6 to honor former Mayor Christopher Cabaldon's leadership, which spans 22 years. Cabaldon was first elected to the West Sacramento City Council in 1996 and served as mayor from 1998 to 2020.

"Cabaldon is credited with leading the city through a period of rapid growth and prosperity," said City of West Sacramento public information officer Paul Hosley.

Among the many

milestones under Cabaldon's watch, he helped recruit the River Cats to move to West Sacramento and transformed the site of old warehouses and rail yards along the river into the emerging Bridge District with Raley Field as its anchor. The Bridge District is now home to apartments, condos, office buildings and restaurants, including the local favorite Drake's the Barn.

Cabaldon was also instrumental in developing the Civic Complex along West Capital Avenue featuring the construction of City Hall and the Community Center. An avid bicyclist, Cabaldon was also a champion of expanding the city's trail system.

For more information, visit www.cityofwestsacramento.org.



Former Mayor Christopher Cabaldon secures the new street sign, which is a tribute to his contributions. Photo courtesy of the City of West Sacramento

Yolo County Takes a Bold Step Toward Sustainability

First-Ever Electric Compactor

Yolo County News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - Yolo County is making history as one of the first in the United States to add the Volvo DD25 Electric compactor to its fleet, marking a significant step forward in the county's commitment to environmental sustainability and its goal to achieve a carbon-negative footprint by 2030. The Volvo DD25 Electric compactor is part of a broader effort by the Yolo County Board of Supervisors to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance climate resilience, and implement clean energy solutions. This initiative aligns with the county's ongoing push to electrify its fleet of on and off-road equipment and supports the overarching goals of its Climate Action and Adaptation Plan.

"Yolo County takes a bold step forward in our commitment to sustainability by adding the first Volvo DD25 Electric compactor to our fleet," says Lucas Frerichs, Chair of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors. "This pioneering addition not only supports our goal of achieving a carbon-negative

footprint by 2030, but also exemplifies our dedication to innovative solutions that protect our environment and improve the quality of life for our residents. We are proud to lead by example, showcasing how electrification can enhance our operations while fostering a cleaner, greener future for our community."

As part of Yolo County's sustainability efforts, the fleet is already home to six electric forklifts and two electric pickup trucks, with additional electric vehicles in the works. The addition of the Volvo DD25 Electric compactor will help the county further reduce its carbon footprint while maintaining its high standards for road maintenance and infrastructure development.

Ben Lee, Fleet Superintendent for Yolo County Fleet Services, explains, "The DD25 Electric will help us achieve our goals in several ways: by reducing emissions, lowering noise levels, being more energy efficient, improving working conditions, and promoting environmentally friendly practices."

The Volvo DD25 Electric is a double-drum compactor used for a variety of applications including soil and gravel compaction, road construction, and asphalt resurfacing. Lee says the machine will prove invaluable in road projects, delivering reliable performance while supporting the County's sustainability objectives.

California's progressive clean air regulations and state incentives have been key factors in Yolo County's decision to electrify its equipment. Through programs like the Clean Off-Road Equipment (CORE) Voucher Incentive program, the county has been able to access financial support for electric machinery, making these investments not only environmentally beneficial but also economically feasible. Yolo County's Fleet Services Division continues to work closely with industry partners and take advantage of available grants and incentives to reduce emissions and improve environmental practices. For more information on the Volvo Construction Equipment, visit VolvoCE.com



Yolo County gets Volvo DD25 Electric from VCES. Photo courtesy of Yolo County



Yolo County gets Volvo DD25 Electric from VCES. Photo courtesy of Yolo County

Tuleyome Tale – Merry, Merry Christmas Berry!



Christmas Berry (*Heteromoeles arbutifolia*) is also called Toyon and Christmas Holly – the namesake of Hollywood! Photo by Nate Lillge

By Kristie Ehrhardt

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - On a recent hike through Molok Luyuk, the newest addition to the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, one couldn't help but notice the dark green shrub with the shouty red berries from across the canyon.

You didn't really have to search for it, all you needed to do was lift your eyes from the toes of your boots and glance across

the landscape. There, in a sea of gray-green foliage, "Christmas Berry" conspicuously stood out like the one (delicious) black-licorice jellybean in a bowl of brightly colored fruity flavors. The entire shrub is quite showy with large, shiny leaves and chunky clusters of splashy red berries.

Christmas Berry, also known as Christmas Holly and Toyon, are all common names for *Heteromoeles arbutifolia*. Toyon belongs

to the very diverse Rose family (Roseaceae) but is the sole constituent of the genus *Heteromoeles*. Other members of the Rose family include cultivated crops such as apples, peaches, plums and strawberries as well as native species such as California Rose (*Rosa californica*) and Chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) and many, many others. Christmas Berry is a woody shrub that occurs along the foothills of Central California and in

the Coastal Ranges from Humboldt County south to Baja California.

It is commonly, but not always, found on north-facing slopes usually below 4,000 feet in woodlands, forest and chaparral habitats alongside a variety of other species such as coyote bush, coffee berry and live oaks. The name "Toyon" is believed to have been used by the indigenous Ohlone people of historic Central California. It is also thought that the name Toyon could have come from an old Spanish word meaning "canyon", which is where it frequently occurs. In fact, the striking presence of Christmas Holly among the adjacent foothills is thought to have been the namesake for the famed Southern California neighborhood now called "Hollywood".

Native to California, Christmas Berry has adaptations that help it not only survive but thrive in our Mediterranean climate. The thick leaves are leathery and waxy which helps them retain moisture during our scorching summers. It also remains

green all year long, which makes the plant less flammable than neighboring chaparral species that readily combust. Underground, the roots are thoroughly branched and sprawling to help it acquire moisture from the surrounding soil.

The wood is very hard and was used to make tools and weapons while the leaves were used for wound care by Native Californians. Although the leaves and unripe berries contain a cyanide compound which can cause sickness or even death, as the fruit matures it becomes concentrated only in the seed. This aids in plant dispersal as birds and small mammals eat berries and distribute seeds elsewhere without harming them. The cyanide compounds remain in the leaves which may help deter browsing by deer and elk. The ripe berries are described as sweet to spicy and bitter. Native Americans used them as a food source after roasting or drying to remove the bitterness and rarely ate them raw. Pioneers used the berries in custards, jams, pies and fermented them as a

type of cider beverage; the process of fermentation or cooking deactivates the cyanide compound - seems like kind of a tough trial and error lesson.

Sprigs of Christmas Berry were often used commercially in place of English Holly for Christmas decorations. By the 1920's Christmas Berry was harvested so severely that it was nearly extirpated from within Southern California prompting the state to pass a law making collection of the plant illegal. In 2012, Christmas Berry was adopted as the official native plant of Los Angeles by the Los Angeles City Council. It can be cultivated and grown in domestic gardens in well-drained soil and has even gotten popular as an ornamental in Southern England. Butterflies love the flowers and the berries are an important winter food source for many resident bird species including California Quail, Northern Mockingbirds, Scrub Jays as well as migrating species such as Cedar Waxwings.

Tuleyome is a nonprofit conservation organization based in Woodland. For more information, go to www.tuleyome.org





MEMORIAL

SAMUEL P. CIERI • 10/4/1930 - 12/8/2024

Samuel P. Cieri was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania on October 4, 1930, and passed in Sacramento, California on December 8, 2024. He was preceded by his late wife Kay, and his triplet siblings, John and Rose. He is survived by his son Sam Jr., granddaughter Samantha, her husband Jeff, great-granddaughter Eliza and great-grandson Luca; Nephews Dennis, Paul, and others; Nieces Carol, Becky, Connie, and Lauren; Great nephews Eric and Johnathan; great nieces Susanne and Jennifer; great-great grandnieces Taylor, Mackenzie, and Aubrey, great-great

grandnephew Julian, along with extended family and friends.

He followed in his father's footsteps who fought in WWI, by joining the army in 1948, was in the 24th Infantry, and the highest metal he received was a bronze star in the United States Armed Forces.

When he was discharged from the army he met and married Kay on July 18th, 1955, and they moved to West Sacramento.

The Funeral Service will be held on December 27, 2024 at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in West Sacramento



Food & Farm
NEWS

Douglass honor Farm Bureau Successes

California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass celebrated the organization's accomplishments this year in an address delivered Monday at the Farm Bureau's 106th Annual Meeting in Monterey. Douglass, speaking in her first annual address since being elected last year to lead the Farm Bureau, focused on local achievements and on the organization's strength in unity. "We can have extensive success as a state organization, but it doesn't matter if we don't have strong county Farm Bureaus," Douglass said. "Thank you for showing us what's possible when we put our mind to something."

Young Farmers and Ranchers Urged to Engage, Be Involved

Young farmers and ranchers from across the state gathered at the 2024 California Young Farmers & Ranchers State Conference, where they reaffirmed the importance of collaboration within their communities to boost involvement and address key issues essential to the future of agriculture. The event brought together California YF&R members—farmers, ranchers and agricultural professionals ages 18 to 35—for workshops on critical issues, strategies to strengthen YF&R programs and celebrations of member achievements.

Madera County Farm Dog Wins Farm Bureau Contest

Aussie, a hardworking pooch in Madera County, won the Grand Prize in the California Farm Bureau's fourth annual Farm Dog of the Year contest. With support from Nationwide and FieldClock, the contest asked Farm Bureau members to submit photos and a brief story about their beloved family member. The Grand Prize winner earned \$1,000, with First Runner-up receiving \$500, Second Runner-up, \$250 and Third Runner-up, \$100. "Aussie is our family's special dog," said Kaydence Erickson, 15. "There has been no other dog like her that we have ever owned."

UC Master Gardener's 'Labor of Love' Improves Health of Older Adults

The Belden Village Apartments in Clairemont Mesa East of San Diego is home to a diverse population of older adults. Shital Parikh, a UC Master Gardener of San Diego County, took the initiative to build a garden that grows food and encourages residents to spend more time outdoors, getting their hands dirty alongside neighbors. "The Belden Community Garden is a labor of love," Parikh said. "One that has been made possible thanks to the knowledge and support gained from the UC Master Gardener Program and the invaluable support from Amy Zink from the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency." ★

Social Security Matters

About How Medicare Premiums Are Determined



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: Please explain the Medicare premium increase based on income reported to Social Security? For those of us that waited to draw Social Security until age 70, and who are still working - drawing a salary, and planning to retire at age 75 after RMDs kick in at age 73 - how do we make sure that Social Security reports our earnings accurately, so we don't wind up with increased Medicare premiums? Why not charge increased Medicare premiums when we are younger, instead of waiting to sneak up on us when we are older? **Signed: Confused about Medicare Premiums**

Dear Confused: I believe you are referring to Medicare's "Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount," or "IRMAA." IRMAA increases the Medicare Part B (and Part D) premium amounts for those whose combined income from all sources exceeds specified levels for their IRS tax filing status. Social Security (and Medicare) get your earnings information from the IRS and use your reported IRS income (on your income tax return) to calculate your Medicare

premium each year. But there is a twist – they use your reported combined income (also known as your "MAGI" or "Modified Adjusted Gross Income") from 2 years ago to determine your current year's Medicare premium. For example, they will use your 2023 MAGI to determine your 2025 Medicare Part B premium (and your Part D premium if you have Part D). So, if your income reported to the IRS on your tax return in 2023 is correct, Social Security will use that amount to determine next year's Medicare premium.

IRMAA uses a sliding income scale to determine your Medicare premium. If you filed your 2022 taxes as "married/jointly" and your combined income for that year was \$206,000 or less, for 2024 you are paying the standard Medicare Part B premium of \$174.50, and there is no additional amount added to your Part D premium. But if your MAGI as a married couple was over \$206,000 your Medicare premiums will be more – e.g., MAGI up to \$258,000 makes your Part B premium \$244.60 and results in a Part D supplement of \$12.90 per month. And so on - as your MAGI further increases, so will your Medicare premiums until you reach the maximum. MAGI over \$750,000 means a Part B premium of \$594/month and a Part D supplement of \$81/month. Thus, Medicare premiums are "means-tested" (those with higher income pay higher premiums).

A word about "MAGI" – MAGI starts with your Adjusted Gross Income on

your tax return, to which is added any non-taxable interest you may have had, and 50% of the Social Security benefits (if any) you received during the income tax year. The total of those three amounts is your MAGI, from which your Medicare premium is determined for the forthcoming year.

So, if your 2023 combined income (your "MAGI") as a couple was under \$206,000 you will pay the standard 2025 Medicare premium which, for Part B, will be \$185/month. If your 2023 MAGI as a married couple is more than \$206,000, you will pay higher Medicare premiums in 2025 due to IRMAA.

Why not pay higher Medicare premiums when we are younger? Well, that's because IRMAA only applies when you are enrolled in Medicare, and your premium relates to your income while receiving Medicare benefits.

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



PoppTalk

With Mary Jane Popp

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. KEEP HYDRATED.** 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. 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!** ★

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Youth Volleyball in West Sacramento

Continued from page 1

Volleyball League’s mission is to provide every child between the ages of 7 and 15 an opportunity to learn and play volleyball in

a fun, safe, and supervised environment.

One of the main tenets of the program is to encourage children to do their best with their abilities. With an

emphasis on positive reinforcement, the program seeks to build confidence and self-esteem in each child. For more information, visit www.usyv1.org★

Community Calendar

December

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

Friday, Dec. 20: English conversation group, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Lego Block Party, 3 to 5 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 21: Bilingual Russian story time, 10 to 11 a.m. and winter ornament craft workshop, 2 to 4 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 23: Family story time, 4 to 4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 24: Hug-a-Bye Baby, 11 a.m. to noon. Library closes at 6 p.m. for Christmas holiday.

Wednesday, Dec. 25: Library closed for Christmas holiday.

Thursday, Dec. 26: “Hora de Cuentos” Spanish story time, 4 to 4:30 p.m. Yoga at the library, 6 to 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 27: English conversation group, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Family movie on the big screen, 3 to 5 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 28: Bilingual Russian story time, 10 to 11 a.m.

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

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 or call the Yolo County Master Gardeners hotline at 530-666-8736.

See’s Candies available for sale 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Dec. 23 at the West Sacramento Moose Lodge 1762, 3240 Jefferson Blvd. This fundraiser supports scholarships, community service and other Moose projects. For more information, call 916-371-9684 or 916-440-3790.

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 available at 530-758-3370.

West Sacramento Cub Scouts Pack 49 are now taking appointments for Christmas tree pick up and recycling. Do you take your tree down after Christmas Day? Pickups are available on Dec. 28 and 29. Like to keep your tree up until after New Year’s Day? Schedule a pickup on Jan. 4 or 5. Email your name and address to: pack49trees@gmail.com to schedule.

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 or call the Yolo County Master Gardeners hotline at 530-666-8736.

Friday, Jan. 10: 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 or

in-person at the Community or Recreation Center. For more information, contact Lucy Ramos at LucyR@cityofwestsacramento.org.

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 or in-person at the Community or Recreation Center. For more information, contact Lucy Ramos at LucyR@cityofwestsacramento.org.

Thursday, Jan. 23: Yolo County Business Summit 8:30 a.m. to noon, Woodland Community Room, 25 N. Cottonwood St., Woodland. This event, exclusively for Yolo County employers only, is sponsored by the Yolo County Workforce Innovation Board and presented by the California Employers’ Association. Join this free, onsite, informative and engaging half-day summit with two impactful trainings by HR subject matter experts. It’s also a great opportunity to network with your local, professional peers and learn about resources available through Yolo County. For more information and to register, contact: <https://www.employers.org/events/onsite/yolo-county-business-summit-sponsored-by-yolo-county-workforce-innovation-board/01/23/2025/>.

Friday, Jan. 24: 2025 Denim & Diamonds crab feed 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Old Sugar Mill, 35265 Willow Ave., Clarksburg, benefitting Delta Elementary Charter School. There will be a silent auction, photo booth and DJ for dancing. A family-style dinner will be served and there will also be a VIP table option (must purchase whole table.) For more information or tickets, contact: <https://www.facebook.com/DECSfundraiser?mibextid=ZbWKwL>.

Saturday, Jan. 25: American Legion Post 77 crab and prawn feed 5:30 p.m. no-host social hour followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Yolo County Fairgrounds, Waite Hall, 12520 E. Gum Ave., Woodland. Proceeds benefit Legion baseball and other youth sports. For more information and tickets, call 530-908-3973.

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 Avenue. 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.

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: westsacmentopack49@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 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>. Due to the holidays, the next Council meeting will be on Wednesday, Jan. 15. ★

West Sacramento Police Department Hosts Shop with a Cop Event



Representatives of the West Sacramento Police Department meet Santa in Walmart during the Shop with a Cop event. Photo courtesy of the West Sacramento Police Department

Continued from page 1

This event gave local youth an opportunity to have positive interactions with officers and district attorneys, while adding a bit of holiday cheer to a time that is financially difficult for many West Sacramento families. In years past, this event has been a first opportunity for many local youths to purchase a gift not only for themselves, but for family as well, and this year was no different.

The group met at 8 a.m. at the Collings Teen Center, where students

met the Officers and Deputy District Attorneys they were paired with to shop. Around 8:45 a.m., there was a caravan from the Collings Teen Center to Walmart where the group met with Walmart Associates in the Garden Center before heading into the store to shop.

Once shopping was completed and photos had been taken with Santa and his elves, the caravan returned to the Collings Teen Center, where there was a light lunch and an opportunity for gift wrapping before the youth

headed home.

“This is among our most rewarding events to host and is so meaningful in creating lasting relationships with the youth in our community,” said Taylor Nelson, division manager of the West Sacramento Police Department Community Outreach and Support.

This event was made possible through a grant from Walmart, in partnership with Washington Unified School District and the Yolo County District Attorney’s Office. ★

Crime Reports

WEST SACRAMENTO



ARREST REPORTS

Tabitha Ann Binder, 37, was arrested Friday, Nov. 29 by West Sacramento Police for shoplifting at a store in Town Center Plaza.

Gerome Edward Myers, 55, was arrested Friday, Dec. 6 by West Sacramento Police at 5th and C Streets. An officer was on patrol and observed Myers yelling obscenities near the intersection. The officer recognized Myers from prior calls for service and asked if he needed any police assistance. Myers proceeded to yell and throw an aluminum can of beer in the roadway, littering in the officer’s presence. Officer knew Myers to be on Yolo County Probation including a term of “no alcohol”. Officers approached Myers; however, he fled on a bicycle. Officers activated emergency lights and sirens as a short slow-speed pursuit ensued. Myers proceeded to ride his bicycle down multiple neighboring streets, despite the emergency lights and sirens and eventually willingly got off his bicycle at 3rd and D Streets, where he was arrested and transported to Yolo County Jail without further incident. Myers was charged with littering on public property, obstructing / resisting a peace officer, evading a peace officer and probation violation: rearrest.

Anthony Thomas Espinoza, 40, was arrested Friday, Dec. 6 by West Sacramento Police on West Capitol Avenue for possession of a controlled substance.

Daniel Charles Paine, 35, was arrested Friday, Dec. 6 by West Sacramento Police at a store in Town Center Plaza for shoplifting and a bench warrant for failure to appear on misdemeanor charge. Officers responded to a call regarding a shoplifting incident. Loss prevention agent was contacted and advised officer of a subject, identified as Paine, who walked past all points of sale with approximately \$38 worth of groceries, with no attempt to pay. Per records checks, Paine has multiple warrants for his arrest. He was arrested and transported to the Yolo County Jail without incident.

Richard Anthony Miller, 61, was arrested Friday, Dec. 6 in El Dorado County by El Dorado County Sheriff for driving with license suspended for drunk driving.

Maria del Carmen Gomez Contreras Arroyo, 30, was arrested Saturday, Dec. 7 by West Sacramento Police at Greenmeadow Avenue and Pine Street for DUI alcohol and DUI with blood alcohol concentration >.08. Officer was dispatched to Evergreen Circle for report of a physical fight, which was later determined to be verbal only. Upon arrival, the officer contacted Arroyo standing outside the apartment complex near her vehicle. While speaking with her, the officer smelled a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage emitting from her breath or person. Arroyo admitted to drinking alcohol prior to driving to this location and denied consuming any alcohol while at this location. The hood of the vehicle was still warm despite the cold weather. Arroyo agreed to submit to field sobriety tests and was arrested for DUI without incident and transported to the Yolo County Jail.

Joseph Apodaca, 31, was arrested Saturday, Dec. 7 in Yolo County by Davis Police on a bench warrant / failure to appear on misdemeanor charge.

Karla Lizeth Valencia-Rodriguez, 29, was arrested Tuesday, Dec. 10 by West Sacramento Police on West Capitol Avenue for a bench warrant / failure to appear on misdemeanor charge. Officer was patrolling and observed a vehicle on the roadway with expired registration. A traffic stop was conducted and one of the occupants identified herself as Valencia-Rodriguez. Per records checks, she was found to have a misdemeanor warrant for her arrest out of Yolo County and was transported to the Yolo County Jail without incident.

INCIDENT/CRIME REPORTS

Monday, Dec. 2 – victim reports that sometime during the last two months, goods were stolen from a storage unit on Ramco Street. Large plastic tubs are missing, containing Legos, Pokémon Cards and collectibles, estimated \$5,000 value.

Monday, Dec. 2 – a business victim on Industrial Boulevard reported their check had been “washed” back in August, resulting in a loss of \$19,724.

Wednesday, Dec. 4 – victim was attacked by seven or eight unknown male suspects on Lisbon Street. Victim received minor injuries to face and torso.

Thursday, Dec. 5 – unknown suspect(s) stole various power tools and equipment from a locked vehicle in a parking lot / garage at a business on Riverpoint Court. Loss estimated at \$1,000.

Sunday, Dec. 8 – victim reports unknown suspect broke into their storage unit on West Capitol Avenue by damaging the locking mechanism. Items missing include: a Sony Bravia television, a gas JCE Tron Challenger-G helicopter, a 12-quart crock pot, a dual Minn Kota trolling motor and a Marin motorcycle battery. \$1,759 estimated loss.

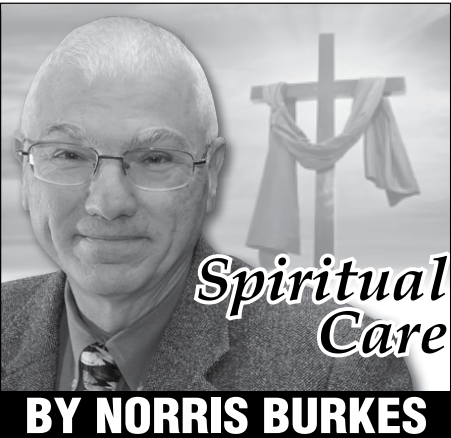
Monday, Dec. 9 – victim reported a vehicle burglary and theft of vehicle from a parking lot / garage on West Capitol Avenue. Loss estimated at \$5,000.

Monday, Dec. 9 – Four unknown suspects broke the front right passenger window of the victim’s vehicle in a parking lot at Town Center Plaza and took cigarette cartons valued at \$6,000.

Monday, Dec. 9 – a business on Ramco Street reported an employee for embezzlement. Fraudulent transactions on the company credit card were reported, value of \$17,000.



Definitely NOT the Best Christmas Ever



This is the time of year when writers like to recount their “Best Christmas ever.”

Their stories often include a video of a slobbering puppy leaping from a ribbon-covered box or a marriage proposal, or my favorite, a deployed soldier surprising her family with an early homecoming.

But if you’ve read my column long enough, you’ll know that this columnist seeks to fill the holes of the unexpected. So, today, I recollect my very worst Christmas ever!

I was only 4 years old, but savvy enough to ask my parents why our Charlie Brown Christmas tree was so bare. I didn’t understand why my father, a poor ministerial student, had nothing to place under the tree.

However, I became cautiously optimistic on Christmas Eve when my dad called us one-by-one into his study cubby.

My sister came away with a new doll. My brother followed holding a kinetic car, the kind you roll backwards to wind up the energy.

Score! Seeing that kind of haul, my kinetic energy was pushing full throttle.

I approached my dad’s desk and climbed into his loving lap.

“I have something very important to tell you,” he said.

My little eyes reflected with the anticipatory joy of Tiny Tim.

“There is no such thing as Santa Claus,” he said. “We celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas, not Santa.”

My eyes blinked with tears. Could it get any worse for a preschooler than that?

Yes, actually, it could.

When I asked about my present, my dad told me that I’d be sharing the kinetic car with my brother.

“Does it get it any sadder?” you ask.

In fact, it did..

I joined my brother on the kitchen floor where we took turns sending the car careening back and forth like a game of catch.

Twenty minutes into the game, my 5-year-old brother began speculating on how the car mechanism worked.

“Let me take it apart,” my brother begged with screwdriver in hand. I was curious, too, but I would only agree if he promised to restore it to working condition.

He promised.

Ten minutes later, with wheels, chassis and motor spread on the kitchen table, the car was humpty-dumptied.

Saddest, worst, most disappointing Christmas ever, right?

So, why would I write about a Christmas memory worthy of Debbie-downer?

As foul as it was, it still points toward some spiritual takeaways of Christmas.

First, Christmas needn’t be all about materialism, about what we buy or what we consume. It might also be about sacrifice.

My sacrifice fed my brother’s mechanical mind. He explored the workings of the tiny engine, gaining early insights into motion, potential energy and kinetic energy. He may have failed the car restoration business, but he became an electronics repairman and later started his own electronics business.

Second, my worst Christmas inspired me to share what we are given. Christian scripture reminds us, “To whom much is given, much shall be required.”

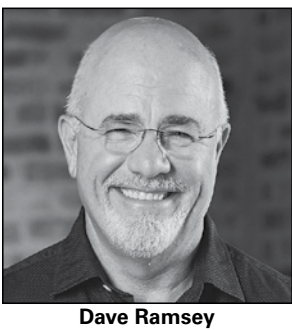
I didn’t get much, but in sharing it, I perhaps inspired greater generosity. For years to come, my brother modified other gifts into things much more interesting.

One year he rigged a toy tank to burst from a record player box and shoot rubber bands. Another year, he removed the capacitor from an old radio to make an electric shock device capable of repelling the school bullies.

I’ve shared this sad story with my wife many times over the years. So, last week I told her I’d have my best Christmas ever if she’d give me a miniature Schnauzer puppy for Christmas.

At first she said no, but after reading this column, she assured me that our neighbor would likely “share” his new puppy.

So much for the worst Christmas ever. ★



Dave Ramsey Says

The Roadmap to Financial Peace

time to take your very first Baby Step.

You’ve already mentioned getting \$1,000 in the bank for a starter emergency fund. That’s Baby Step 1. After that comes your debt snowball, which is Baby Step 2. Here, you’ll pay off all your debts from smallest to largest—except your home. Attack the first balance on your list by paying as much as you can each month, while making minimum payments on the other debts. When you’ve paid off the first one, add what you were paying on it to the payment on your next debt and start attacking it. As the snowball continues to roll over, you’re picking up more and more money to apply to your debts.

In Baby Step 3, you’ll save money and increase your emergency fund from \$1,000 to a full three to six months of expenses. You’re going to be surprised how fast you can save money when your income isn’t flying out the door to pay off debt every month.

Now, it’s time to really start looking toward the future. In Baby Step 4, start investing 15 percent of your income for retire-

ment. College funding is next in Baby Step 5 for any kids you have, or plan on having one day. And here’s a big one. Baby Step 6 is where you pay off your home early. How great will that feel?

But Baby Step 7 is the real deal. Now, you start building wealth and giving with outrageous generosity. When you’ve completed all the other Baby Steps, and are able to do these two things, you’ve achieved the pinnacle of smart money management. Or in other words, you’ve reached the point of financial peace.

Make it happen, Miles. You can do this!!

– 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. ★



I Thought She Said, “Doughnut”

Dr. James L. Snyder

As hard as I try, and believe me I try, I don’t always hear correctly, especially regarding The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I don’t always hear every word she says.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage once set me up and said, “Did you hear what I just said?”

“Oh, yes, my dear, I heard you clearly.”

Then she said, “Well then, what do you think I should do?”

At this point, I knew she was trying to set me up because she knew I wasn’t listening, but I had to respond. Believe me, I was nervous.

“Oh, my dear, I think your idea is splendid. Go with it.”

Then she got up, walked to the kitchen, and says, “Okay, then it’s broccoli for supper.”

The other day, she asked if I would go to the grocery store and pick up a few items.

I went to the store, checked off every item on the list, and went to the checkout line when I remembered she told me something after giving me the list. I tried to think of what it was, and then it came to me. She mentioned something about doughnuts. I think she wants me to get her some doughnuts.

I picked one, went to the checkout counter, paid for the items, and then got in my truck to go home.

I was very happy as I drove home because I usually don’t get things done exactly the way she likes them. I drove into the driveway, parked my truck, and went inside with the bag of groceries.

Walking through the door, I shouted, “Honey, I’m home.”

It wasn’t long until she entered the kitchen, and I heard her say, “What is this?”

I had no idea what she was talking about, but as she walked over to me, she was holding the box of donuts. “What is this?”

Looking at her with a big smile, I said, “Oh, my dear, those are the donuts you asked me to get. Remember?”

She went back into the kitchen. I heard her going through the grocery bag. Then she came back and handed me the grocery list she had given me and said, “Where do you see donuts on this list I asked you to get?”

I was a little confused, so I said, “Don’t you remember as I was leaving you told me to get doughnuts?”

“I said no such thing. What I said was, Do Not get anything that is not on this list.”

Oh boy, was I in trouble? All I heard was the word “doughnut,” which got me into trouble.

Looking at her, I said, “Do you want me to return the donuts?”

That afternoon I was reading my Bible and came across a verse that encouraged me.

“To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the Lord is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it” (Jeremiah 6:10).

I believe it takes all of the Bible to make it the Word of God. I can’t cherry-pick what I want to believe. If I only hear part of the Bible, I will get it wrong and bear the consequences. All heresy is built on fragments of the Bible.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnsnyder51@gmail.com, website www.james-snyderministries.com ★

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SK Hynix NAND Product Solutions Corp DBA Solidigm has an opening in Rancho Cordova, CA for System Validation Eng. Creat, define & dev syst vldtn. MS+1 yr exp rqd. Salary Range: \$97,531-\$120,050. Telecom may be permit. When not telecom, must rprt to wrksite. To apply email resume to HRresumes@solidigm.com & ref job#7643972 (12/20/24)

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Yolo County Launches Bridge Initiative as First Pilot Location for Public Sector Apprenticeship Programs

Yolo County News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - Yolo County is proud to announce its participation as the first pilot jurisdiction in the Bridge initiative, a new program launched by the Institute for Local Government (ILG).

This initiative aims to strengthen California’s local government workforce by creating Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs) in non-traditional fields, including human resources, accounting, information technology (IT), health and human services, and more.

“I’m thrilled that Yolo County will serve as an inaugural participant in ILG’s Bridge Public Sector Registered Apprenticeship program,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chair Lucas Frerichs. “Apprenticeships have

a long history of success in the construction trades, and I’m excited to bring this innovative model to support our broader local government workforce in Yolo County.”

Like many local governments across the state, Yolo County is facing significant workforce challenges, with recruitment and retention issues affecting nearly 70% of California’s cities, counties, and special districts. These challenges can lead to vacancies in essential roles, potentially disrupting services such as social services, permitting, and more. The Bridge initiative is designed to address this issue by providing innovative, community-based solutions to hire for high-demand, difficult-to-fill positions, while expanding career opportunities for underserved and underrepresented populations.

As the first confirmed pilot

jurisdiction for the Bridge initiative, Yolo County will help test and implement non-traditional Registered Apprenticeship Programs over the next year. The program will focus on training and hiring individuals for a wide range of roles in local government, including positions in information technology, human resources and health services.

The Institute for Local Government will provide crucial support to Yolo County, including capacity building, grant writing, marketing assistance and technical guidance throughout the program’s development. Through this pilot, Yolo County will work closely with local education agencies, community-based organizations, and other partners to ensure the successful implementation of apprenticeship programs that align with the county’s workforce needs.

Yolo County’s participation in the Bridge initiative is a crucial step toward building a sustainable, skilled workforce capable of meeting the challenges of the future. As part of the pilot program, the county will lead the way in developing a scalable model for apprenticeships that can be adopted by other local governments across California.

“Apprenticeships are a proven strategy to develop a resilient workforce while opening doors for underserved communities,” stated Erica Manuel, CEO and executive director of the Institute for Local Government. “The Bridge initiative brings this model to the public sector, ensuring local governments have the talent they need to meet the challenges of tomorrow. With Yolo County leading the way, we’re building a blueprint for other jurisdictions across California to follow.”

The Institute for Local

Government is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that supports local governments with tackling their most pressing and evolving issues related to workforce development, climate action, leadership, ethics, and public engagement. Since 1955, the Institute for Local Government has provided conscious counsel, training, resources and technical assistance to empower and educate local agency leaders and deliver real-world expertise to help them navigate complex issues, increase their capacity, and build trust in their communities. As the nonprofit affiliate of the League of California Cities, the California State Association of Counties and the California Special Districts Association, ILG proudly serves municipalities large and small, urban and rural throughout California. Find out more at www.CA-ILG.org ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

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

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240984

The following person(s) is doing business as: Empire Specialties, 3701 Parkway Place, Suite A, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

Polvera Drywall of Riverside Corp, 8315 Miralani Drive, San Diego, CA 92126. This business is conducted by a Corporation. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on November 19, 2019.

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/26/2024.

By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025

EMPIRE 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240951

The following person(s) is doing business as: Aegean Investment Team (AIT), 9 Main Street, Woodland CA 95695.

Theofilos Fkiasas, Emmanuel Vasiliou, and Spiros Moulats, 7172 McKean Court, San Jose, CA 95120. This business is conducted by Co-Partners. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on October 1, 1999

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/14/2024.

By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025

AEGEAN 1-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240980

The following person(s) is doing business as: ACTIVE OASIS CARE HOME, 442 YOUNG DR, WINTERS, CA 95694, County of YOLO

ACTIVE OASIS LLC, 649 PERIWINKLE DR, VACAVILLE, CA 95687

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

/s/ MA MOSQUEDA

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 11/22/2024.

Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder

By: KQUAM, Deputy
12/13, 12/20, 12/27/24, 1/3/25

CNS-3875709#

NEWS-LEDGER 1-3-25

95691. This business is conducted by an Individual. 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 11/20/2024.

By: Jesse Salinas, Deputy
Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025

SIGNATURE 1-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. F20240988

The following person(s) is doing business as: WHPLSH MEDIA, 2212 SIMPSON ST, WOODLAND, CA 95776, County of YOLO.

THE CRUCIAL CO. LLC, 2212 SIMPSON STREET, WOODLAND, CA 95776

This business is conducted by LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (SUBMIT ARTICLES OR ORGANIZATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE).

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 09/14/2024

/s/ MICHAEL BYRNE, MANAGER

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Yolo County on 12/02/2024.

Jesse Salinas, County Clerk/Recorder

By: KQUAM, Deputy
12/20, 12/27/24, 1/3, 1/10/25

CNS-3878119#

NEWS-LEDGER 1-10-25

ramento, CA 95691 on 12/26/24 @11am: amanda middleton: Mariena De Anda: Isabel Tapia: Jessica kaiser: Nathena Lopez

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

12/20/24

CNS-3879129#

NEWS-LEDGER 12-20-24

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: GILBERT EDWARD LOUIE AKA GILBERT E. LOUIE AKA GILBERT LOUIE CASE NO. PR2024-0278

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of GILBERT EDWARD LOUIE AKA GILBERT E. LOUIE AKA GILBERT LOUIE. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by CENTRAL PACIFIC BANK in the Superior Court of California, County of YOLO. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that CENTRAL PACIFIC BANK be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

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

A HEARING on the petition will be held in this court as follows: 01/08/25 at 9:00AM in Dept. 14 located at 1000 MAIN STREET, WOODLAND, CA 95695

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

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your

rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner

MAURICE ABADIA - SBN 159766

LAW OFFICE OF MAURICE ABADIA

301 E COLORADO BLVD STE 616

PASADENA CA 91101

Telephone (626) 744-0992

12/13, 12/20, 12/27/24

CNS-3875730#

NEWS-LEDGER 12-27-24

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE (UCC SEC. 6105)

ESCROW NO. 042440198DMB

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale is about to be made. The name(s), business address(es) of the seller(s) are: MA-1 LLC, 3876 MARTIS ST, WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691

Doing business as: CRUMBL COOKIES

All other business name(s) and address(es) used by the seller(s) within three years, as stated by the seller(s), is/are:

The name(s) and address of the buyer(s) is/are: FERNANDO SIERRA LLC, 6767 E WATERLOO RD, STOCKTON, CA 95215

The assets being sold are generally described as: FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT, INVENTORY AND ALL BUSINESS ASSETS and are located at: 2155 TOWN CENTER PLAZA SUITE 107, WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 94591

The bulk sale is intended to be consummated at the office of: BAY AREA ESCROW SERVICES and the anticipated sale date is JANUARY 10, 2024

The bulk sale IS subject to California Uniform Commercial Code(s) sections set forth above. The name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is: BAY AREA ESCROW SERVICES, 2817 CROW CANYON RD, STE 102, SAN RAMON, CA 94583 and the last date for filing claims by any creditor shall be date on which the notice is the Business day before the sale date specified above.

Buyer(s): FERNANDO SIERRA LLC

ORD-3034480

NEWS-LEDGER 12-20-24

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Self-storage Cube contents of the following customers containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart Management, LLC 541 Harbor Blvd. West Sacramento Ca, 95691 to satisfy a lien on January 09, 2025 at approx. 12:00PM at www.storagetreasures.com:
James Jackson, Catelyn Flanagan, Aicha Fousshi-Fischel, Michelle Lee, Kenneth Johns

West Sac News Ledger 12-20-2024

NOTICE OF WAREHOUSE LIEN SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, in accordance with California Commercial Code Sections 7209 and 7210 and California Civil Code Section 798.56a, the mobilehome described as a 1972 Fleetwood/Festival Mobilehome, Decal No. AAD7939, Serial No. 2760, located at 417 Westacre Road, Space No. 14, West Sacramento, CA 95691, will be sold at public auction at 11:00 a.m. on January 8, 2025 at Park West Mobile Home Park, 417 Westacre Road, Space No. 14, West Sacramento, CA 95691. The parties believed to claim an interest, Estate of Linda Ronquillo and Estate of Frank Ronquillo, have been given notice and the time specified for payment in the notice has expired. The undersigned is entitled to a warehouse lien against said mobilehome to satisfy the lien, storage and other related charged incurred including reasonable charges of notice, advertisement and sale. Estate of Linda Ronquillo, Estate of Frank Ronquillo, Registered Owner, Legal Owners, Interested Parties, please take further notice that, in order to prevent the mobilehome from being sold at the noticed sale, the following amount must be paid prior to the sale: the current total claim as of December 20, 2024 is \$3,897.92 and shall increase by the amount of \$26.39 per day for each day after December 20, 2024, until the date of sale, as well as any additional lien sale costs incurred shall be added to this amount as provided in the Commercial Code. Bidders are required to show proof of cashier's check(s)/money order(s) in an amount equal to the claim to date amount prior to bidding. The purchaser of the home may be responsible for paying unpaid taxes, fees, liens or other charges owed to the State of California and/or other governmental entities. Please note that the sale may be cancelled at any time, up to and including the time of the sale. Caitlyn De La Torre, 3511 Del Paso Road, Suite 160, Room 147, Sacramento, California 95835 (916) 432-3298, Authorized Agent for Park West MH Park, LLC

West Sac News Ledger 12-20, 12-27-2024

LIEN SALE

Extra Space Storage, on behalf of itself or its affiliates, Life Storage or Storage Express, will hold a public auction to satisfy Extra Space's lien, by selling personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated.
19389 County Rd 102, Woodland, CA, 95776 on 12/26/24 @2pm:
Amanda Kennedy: Robert Stanger: Thomas Nadavallil
1022 Gibson Rd, Woodland, CA, 95695 on 12/26/24 @11am:
Glenn Bishop
975 F St, West Sacramento, Ca, 95605 on 12/26/24 @11am:Quenyaunta Hall: Joseph Hill: Emma Blaney: Kenneth Smith: Robert Farias: Jewell Arceneaux: Mari-sol Alatorre: Deutsche Bahn E.C.O USA: Desmond Blackstone: Eric Bethnal
1100 N 1st St, Dixon, CA 95620 on 12/26/24 @2pm:Alexander Playford: Joshua Jay Dunbarr: Samantha Allen
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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by Dave T. Phipps

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • AT THE RESTAURANT

CLUES

ACROSS

1. Bet's predecessor

6. Ogre-like creature

9. Attorney's bargain

13. Old but in

14. *Restaurant waiting area?

15. Located near crannies?

16. List of Catholic saints

17. Down Under runner

18. White heron

19. * ____ meal, or staff meal

21. *Meat and fish, in Italian restaurant

23. Singer/songwriter Yoko

24. *What appetizers do to appetite

25. *Deuce

28. Like a reliable move

30. Not a desktop

35. *My bad!

37. Painter Chagall

39. Beyond suburban

40. Wisecrack

41. *Nigiri, e.g.

43. *Middle Eastern bread

44. Of an arm bone

46. That time

47. Let it stand, to proofreader

48. Swellings

50. Chancy

52. Between E and NE

53. Stomach reflex

55. *Fish eggs

57. *Second C in CDC

61. * ____ d'hotel

64. Not mainstream, as in art

65. *To His ____ Mistress

67. Bracelet add-on

69. Covers with gold

70. Stiff grass bristle

71. Irving of Dallas Mavericks

72. Eyelid affliction

73. Fairytale princess test

74. Winter driving hazard

DOWN

1. Curved one

2. Table extender

3. Sicilian erupter

4. Movie trailer, e.g.

5. Perfecting, as in skill

6. Toe the line

7. Popular pickup

8. Puppy love

9. Jumping stick

10. Forsaken

11. Barely got by

12. Spumante-producing town

15. Greek god's libation

20. Rumpelstiltskin's machine, pl.

22. *Freshwater staple in sushi restaurant

24. Idolize

25. *Chef's hat

26. Modified "will"

27. Offer two cents

29. Drawn tight

31. Baby porcupines

32. Commonplace

33. Like Cheerios

34. *Blue- ____ special

36. Unsubscriber's focus

38. * ____ de partie, or line cook

42. ____ structure or

45. Cujo's disease

49. Ray shooter

51. Foxhunter's call to hounds

54. Short version

56. C2H5

57. Marlboros or Camels, slangily

58. Army group

59. Lazily

60. *Complimentary dish

61. Asian starling

62. *Steak choice

63. Great Lake

66. Be in the red

68. Were introduced

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Hornet Football Coach Resigns

By Daniel Canfield

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Friday, Dec. 6, Sacramento State University announced that Hornet Football head coach Andy Thompson had resigned to pursue other career opportunities. Thompson’s departure after two years at the helm of the Hornet Football program comes at the conclusion of a 2024 campaign that saw the Hornets finish with a 3-9 overall record and 1-7 in Big Sky Conference play. Sac State dropped the final five games of the 2024 season including the annual causeway classic matchup with UC Davis which was played on Nov. 23 at Hornet stadium.

The official news release from the university includes a gracious statement from Athletic Director Mark Orr regarding Thompson’s tenure with the Hornets. “We want to thank Coach Thompson and his family for all they have done for Sacramento State football over the last five seasons,” Orr said. “Under his watch, the program has achieved its highest level of success. We wish him the best of luck in the future.”

In his two years as head coach Thompson posted



Sac State’s Football program is in search of a new head coach to replace Andy Thompson who resigned on Dec. 6 to join the Stanford University football coaching staff. Photo by Sacramento State Athletics

an overall record of 11 wins and 14 losses. In his first year as head coach in 2023, the Hornets enjoyed an 8-5 record and made it to the second round the 2023 FCS Playoffs. Unfortunately, that success was not seen again in the disappointing 2024 season.

Thompson had been on the Hornet coaching staff since the 2019 season.

As defensive coordinator, Thompson was instrumental in the Hornet football program earning Big Sky Conference titles in 2019, 2021 and 2022. Following the conclusion of the 2022 season, Thompson was promoted to the Hornet head coach position which had been vacated by Troy Taylor who left Sacramento State to take

the head football coaching position at Stanford University.

On the heels of the official announcement from Sacramento State Athletics regarding Thompson’s departure on Dec. 6, Stanford University officially announced that coach Thompson would be joining the Stanford Football coaching staff

as Stanford Football’s assistant head coach and co-defensive coordinator. Reuniting Thompson with his former boss and former Hornet head coach Troy Taylor.

The Hornet Football program owes a debt of gratitude to Coach Thompson as his involvement with the program led to success and accolades

not previously enjoyed by the Hornets. Best wishes to Coach Thomspson in his new position, as long as Stanford football’s interests do not conflict with Hornet football’s interests.

Sacramento State officials announced that a national search will begin immediately to find the next head coach for the Hornets. ★

Jesuit High’s Cross Country Coach Honored



Jesuit High School’s Cross County Head Coach Walt Lange, photographed here with his 2024 State Championship team, was named the Joe Newton Coach of the Year at the Nike Cross Nationals on Saturday, Dec. 7. Courtesy Photo

Jesuit High School News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Jesuit High School Cross Country Head Coach Walt Lange received a prestigious honor on Saturday, Dec. 7, as he was named the Joe Newton Coach of the Year at the Nike Cross Nationals (NXN).

This award, named after legendary coach Joe Newton of York High School, celebrates lifetime achievement in high school cross country. Newton's teams captured at least 24 Illinois State Championships, and his legacy extends far beyond victories, having profoundly shaped the lives of countless young athletes.

Coach Lange, with an extraordinary 55 years of coaching at Jesuit High

School, including 54 years as head coach, now joins the ranks of elite coaches recognized on a national stage. Known for his humility, Lange’s contributions to high school cross country and the countless lives he has impacted over the decades make this recognition richly deserved.

“I’m overjoyed that the boys were there to witness this moment,” shared Assistant Coach David Zielke, reflecting on the significance of the occasion.

Lange’s dedication, passion, and lifelong commitment to developing athletes both on and off the course embody the Jesuit tradition of excellence and service. Congratulations to Coach Lange on this remarkable and well-deserved honor! ★

UC Davis To Join Mountain West Conference

UC Davis News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The University of California, Davis has accepted a formal invitation to join the Mountain West Conference beginning July 1, 2026.

“We are thrilled to join the Mountain West Conference, and we look forward to an incredible experience for our student-athletes and for our fans,” said UC Davis Chancellor Gary S. May. “Our transition to the highly regarded conference will introduce our Aggie community to a broader audience, in major metropolitan areas and through increased media coverage. It also provides us with an opportunity to align with universities that share similar academic strengths while also expanding our competitive presence in the Western United States.”

The Aggies will compete in all Mountain West Conference-sponsored sports, except for football, which will continue to participate in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) in the Big Sky Conference. Men’s and women’s water polo as well as beach volleyball will seek to remain in the Big West through affiliate membership but are prepared to explore other options, if necessary. No changes will occur with membership

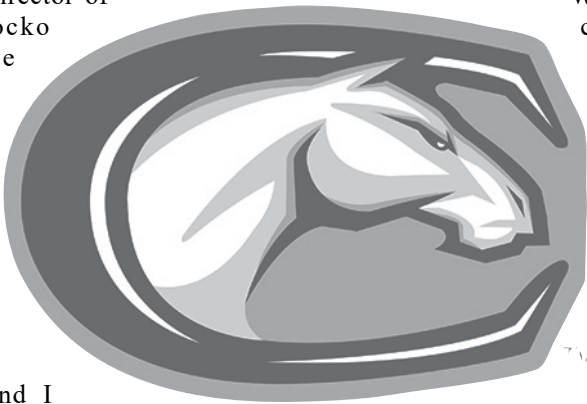
agreements for equestrian, field hockey and lacrosse.

“Adding UC Davis further strengthens the trajectory of the Mountain West as it continues to build its brand that has proven to elevate institutions and student-athletes,” said MW Commissioner Gloria Nevarez. “Chancellor Gary S. May and Director of Athletics Rocko DeLuca have shared their strategic plan and financial vision for enhancing student-athlete development, welfare, and competitive excellence, and I believe UC Davis brings a wealth of positives in the continuing growth of the Mountain West.”

The announcement comes on the heels of a historic fall sport season for the Aggies in which all eight varsity fall sports teams qualified for postseason competition.

Men’s soccer secured a Big West championship and a trip to the NCAA

tournament. UC Davis football finished the regular season seeded fifth in the nation with a bye in the first round of the NCAA Division I Football Championship followed by a win against Illinois State on Dec. 7. They will play South Dakota on Saturday, Dec. 14 at noon in the quarterfinals.




ish third in the Big West and field hockey finishing sixth in the America East.

“We are grateful to the Mountain West Conference membership for this incredible opportunity and for sharing our vision of academic and athletics excellence,” said UC Davis Director of Athletics Rocko DeLuca. “Our campus leadership, students, Aggie alumni, fans, the Davis

community and the broader Sacramento region all recognize the unique spirit of UC Davis and carry Aggie Pride with them each and every day. They have invested their time, talent and resources in supporting our growth, and the success of our fall sports is a clear reflection of those efforts. Now is the time to showcase Aggie Pride on a national stage, and the Mountain West’s brand and strategy align perfectly with our aspirations.”

Additional costs to support the transition, including travel, staffing and support services, will be primarily offset by increased revenues from ticket sales, donations, multimedia rights and, for the first time, revenue distributions from the conference. A ramp-up period of three to four years is anticipated before revenues fully reach projected levels. The university does not plan to use existing institutional funds to support the transition.

Starting no later than the 2026-27 academic year, the Mountain West will feature the United States Air Force Academy; University of California, Davis; Grand Canyon University; University of Hawaii at Mānoa; University of Nevada, Reno; University of New Mexico; San José State University; University of Nevada, Las Vegas; University of Texas, El Paso and the University of Wyoming. ★



FOR THE LOVE OF

BOOKS

By Amy Shane

BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • 📷 amy_fortheloveofbooks

Holiday Gift Guide

from Harper Collins Publishing

The Holiday gift-giving guide returns with an exciting new array of Children's books. This year, our favorite publishers have curated their top picks for the holiday season, promising delightful discoveries for you and your little ones. So, if you are looking for the perfect gift or one that will bring holiday cheer or hours of entertainment, remember that the joy of discovering a new book is timeless.



Taylor Swift

Wildest Dreams: A Biography

by Erica Wainer, illustrated by Joanie Stone

Follow Taylor Swift from her childhood on the Christmas tree farm and filling her journal with her writing, to being discovered in Nashville. Readers will be able to celebrate the journey while feeling strong and empowered. Paired with a journal and a glitter pen, this is the perfect gift for the youngest Swifties on your shopping list.

One Foggy Christmas Eve

by Kerilynn Wilson

It's Christmas Eve, and the fog is getting thicker and thicker, but nothing will stop a little girl from getting to her Nana and Papa's house. She finds her way through the fog with a flashlight in hand, twinkling lights, and some holiday magic. A beautifully illustrated story that will show how stories can light the way and bring everyone together.

Merry Christmas, Splat

by Rob Scotton

When Spalt writes a letter to Santa, he worries that he might not have been a good enough cat for a big present. So, this year, Splat decided to give his mom extra help, but he messes everything up. Will Spat be able to stay up to meet Santa to explain, or will everything be ruined? Splat the cat returns just in time for Christmas, along with over 30 fun stickers.

It's Christmas, Curious George



One Foggy Christmas Eve

CHRISTMAS EVE



Merry Christmas, Splat

Rob Scotton



It's Christmas, Curious George!



A CITY FULL OF SANTAS

That City Place



DON'T TOUCH THAT ELF!

A Scout Elf Emergency Guide

CHARLES A. BELL

It's Christmas Eve, and Curious George decides that Santa needs a little help. Young readers will giggle along as Curious George helps Santa deliver presents, adding his own bit of cheer. This lift-the-flap book holds lots of fun and cute surprises.

A City Full of Santas

by Joanna Ho and Thai My Phuong

A little girl has always dreamed of staying awake long enough to meet Santa. This year, her mama is

takes her on a journey into the city to meet Santa, but none of the Santa's feel the way she knows Santa should be. The anticipation and excitement of this adorable story shares the pure joy of wanting to meet Santa.

Don't Touch that Elf - A Scout Elf Emergency Guide.

Oh no, someone has touched the Elf. Now, what do you do? Luckily your favorite Elf is here to save this elfastrophe and save the day. A perfect book for an Elf family with 25 punch-out gifts for your Elf.

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Riley Reviews

“DAY OF THE JACKAL” A RIVETING, WELL-EXECUTED THRILLER SERIES

A Film and TV Review

by Tim Riley

“THE DAY OF THE JACKAL” ON PEACOCK

Historical events can lead to interesting entertainment, whether in books, cinema, and even television. British author Frederick Forsyth got the ball rolling, so to speak, when as a journalist in the early Sixties he covered French affairs and the assassination attempt on Charles de Gaulle. During World War II, De Gaulle became a general in the French army, and later a leader in the resistance during Nazi Germany's occupation of France. Until his death in 1970, the General would remain a consequential leader, even serving as President for a decade. General de Gaulle was the subject of a deadly plot by the paramilitary group OAS, comprised of military members filled with bitter resentment that France allowed Algeria to become an independent nation. While several attempts were made on his life, the most famous effort occurred on August 22, 1962. Barely escaping death in a hail of machine gun fire, De Gaulle's ordeal formed the basis of Forsyth's first novel. “The Day of the Jackal” was the result of Forsyth's maiden step to a career of thriller novelist that included the works of “The Odessa File,” “The Dogs of War,” and “The Fourth Protocol,” all of which were adapted into films. Forsyth's “The Day of the Jackal” was first adapted into the 1973 film of the same title, starring British actor Edward Fox as the Jackal, a professional assassin hired to kill then-President of France Charles de Gaulle in the summer of 1962. The Peacock ten-episode series “The Day of the Jackal” is set in modern-day Europe, so it can hardly be considered a remake of a classic film other than the central premise of shrouding mystery around an elusive professional killer. British actor Eddie Redmayne's Jackal, a masterful chameleon and known to his family as Charles, works as a lone assassin for the highest bidder where his contact with an employer is through the dark web. A master of disguise, the Jackal is first seen impersonating an old janitor to infiltrate an office building of a media empire belonging to Manfred Fest (Burghart Klaubner), a candidate aspiring to become Germany's chancellor. Why then does the Jackal intentionally shoot Fest's son in the leg? Is this a veiled threat? That does not seem to be the case because the Jackal's next assignment is to eliminate the hopeful political figure. The set-up is a diversion intended to draw Fest to a place where the assassin could exterminate his target with a high-powered specially-made sniper rifle at a distance that would seem wildly unattainable.

The Jackal's planning and execution of the contract is flawless. Quickly escaping from a high-rise building, he leaves behind no detectable trace of his identity by initiating a series of explosions destroying any evidence. Meanwhile, MI6 agent Bianca Pullman (Lashana Lynch) hears about the shooting while at home with her husband and daughter, realizing that it's probably only a matter of time before intelligence sources pool their resources. The very next day at the MI6 headquarters in London, high-level persons at the agency are meeting with a German intelligence figure, and Bianca invites herself into the gathering because she's a gun expert and has thoughts about how an assassin could pull off an evidently impossible job. Bianca is not exactly popular with her superior, but she does impress the director, Isabel Kirby (Lia Williams), with her tenacity and obsession that takes her to Northern Ireland in a hunt for special weapons maker. An equally interesting side of the Jackal is his personal life at his beautiful mansion on the Spanish coastal city of Cadiz with his wife Nuria (Ursula Corbero) and young child. Yet, marital discord festers as Nuria grows increasingly curious about his secretive business trips. You would think she might wonder what line of work would result in a lavish lifestyle. The complex and driven natures of both the Jackal and the dogged MI6 agent heighten the suspense at every turn. The less said about where their journeys lead the better, lest any spoilers be given away. Nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Best Television series (Drama) and star Eddie Redmayne for Best Performance by an Actor in Television Series (Drama), Peacock's “The Day of the Jackal” will be exposed to a wider audience when NBC airs the first episode on Monday, December 30th. The accolades don't stop with Hollywood's foreign press. The Critics Choice Awards nominated “The Day of the Jackal” for Best Drama Series and Eddie Redmayne for Best Actor in a Drama Series. Whether the show gets nominated in Emmy Awards categories may be a matter of eager anticipation, but there is enough cat-and-mouse tension throughout every episode of this thriller that there's no need to wait for the Television Academy to weigh in with a verdict. The bottom line is that “The Day of the Jackal” is an immensely suspenseful, intriguing, and captivating thriller that one should be very much tempted to binge-watch, all for the reason that Eddie Redmayne and Lashana Lynch are such compelling adversaries.

★

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ARREST LOGS UPDATED DAILY

How California Can Fix Its School Crisis. Two Projects Point the Way



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

When the state Department of Education released academic test scores of California’s public school students in October, it cast them in positive terms. “Overall,” the department said, “the percentages of California students meeting or exceeding standards (demonstrating proficient or advanced grade-level knowledge and skills) in (English language arts), mathematics, and science increased, from 46.7% to 47% percent in (English language arts), from 34.6% to 35.5% in math, and from 30.2% to 30.% in science.”

What the department didn’t say is that those minuscule increases from the previous year meant that California remains one of the states where academic achievements are still below what they were prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As CalMatters’ account of the test scores notes, “both English language arts and math scores are 4 percentage points below their 2018-19 levels, which were among the highest scores for California students since the state began administering the Smarter Balanced test in 2014-15.”

Alix Gallagher, director of strategic partnerships at the education research non-profit Policy Analysis for California Education, told the San Jose Mercury News

that the slow recovery from the pandemic indicates that the massive federal and state funds given schools to cope with the pandemic failed to prevent declines.

“What we would want to see is that with those additional funds, we had a really strong recovery. Instead, what we saw were really modest gains,” Gallagher said.

The department’s obfuscation continued a month later when it released its “dashboard” of public education markers that trumpeted nonacademic factors, such as increases in attendance and decreases in student suspensions, but ignored California’s subpar academic outcomes, which should be the most important.

That’s not surprising, given that the state’s education bureaucrats consciously developed the multipoint dashboard to conceal the chronic lack of academic achievement.

A state-by-state report on school system transparency of academic test results issued by the Center for Reinventing Public Education, based at Arizona State University, gives California a “D” for its lack of clarity.

“I have a Ph.D. in education policy and I can barely navigate these sites,” Morgan Polikoff, a USC professor who worked on the report, told CalMatters. “How do we expect a typical parent to access this information and make sense of it?”

Are California’s stubborn failings in teaching basic subjects such as math and reading, which the educational establishment hopes no one will notice, fixable?

Two recent projects to improve academic skills indicate that learning can be improved with sustained effort that uses proven techniques and shuns trendy short-term

fixes that school systems often adopt in their desperate efforts to raise test scores.

Policy Analysis for Public Education, a think tank jointly operated by several major universities that studies California schools, cites the math project in Lake Tahoe Unified School District’s Sierra House Elementary School and a reading program in Grass Valley School District as successful examples.

In both, California Education Partners, a school reform organization staffed by academic experts, provided three years of hands-on help to improve instruction, and PACE evaluators found significantly positive results. “The Sierra House model serves as a blueprint for building adult capacity and fostering instructional coherence,” they said, while Grass Valley’s phonics-based reading program was adopted district-wide and “improved student outcomes.”

California’s educational crisis is palpable. Not only do California schools fare very poorly vis-a-vis other states in federal academic testing — seventh from the bottom — but there’s a yawning “achievement gap” between low income and English learner students and their more privileged classmates that widened during the pandemic.

Rather than hide the problem with gimmicks such as the school dashboard, California should own up to it and embrace successful examples such as those in Tahoe and Grass Valley.

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

Things can change quickly in Kings Town, and the happenings of the past week certainly demonstrate exactly that.

The hardcourt gladiators from Sacramento are currently on a torrid 3-game winning streak, looking ahead to Monday night’s game against the Denver Nuggets.

If you hadn’t paid attention and just tuned into the Kings, you’d discover a team that is just finding themselves 26 games into the regular season, after losing every game in the preseason.

Fans and pundits alike have riddled the airwaves with remedies for multiple losing streaks, along with advice to coach Brown as to who should be his starting five.

I am more than happy to announce that coach Brown’s decision to finally insert Malik Brown into the King’s starting lineup has produced four wins in the last five games, and everyone is now wondering why it took three seasons to figure this one out.

But rather than casting aspersions, I will take the high road, and just give him an attaboy for making a decision that was long overdue. Malik is thrilled to be where he always thought he should be, and now coach Brown can simply focus on his bench that is currently ranked in the bottom of the league.

Kevin Huerter is showing signs of returning to form and seems to be comfortable taking the 6th man position that was formerly Monk’s, so it’s really the next three or four rotations that are going to tell the tale.

What has created chaos with the team is the night-in and night out inconsistency as to who will sit the night out completely, or who will garnish the majority of the minutes.

Big man Alex Len cannot catch a break, as he all too often finds himself at the end of the bench being a spectator for the entire game. This 7-foot giant has NBA game, and from my perspective, it’s up to coach Brown and his staff to build this big man’s confidence. One way you do that is by giving him a consistent rotation that he can count on every night.

Len has played several good games and shows real promise, only to find

himself relegated to the bench the very next game with no explanation except for the dreaded, coaches’ decision.

The Kings can keep scouring the league for another trade/acquisition, or just look at their own bench, and perhaps realize that there is more talent already on this team than they are giving them credit for.

I for one believe that Alex Len has a big upside, but it takes a coach and staff that are willing to build a player’s confidence if you want to see the desired result.

So far, I’m giving this staff a failing grade as it relates to evaluating talent, and you need to look no further than the inexplicable trade of Davion Mitchell to qualify my comments.

The Kings are still feeling the void left in Mitchell’s absence, and all he is doing in Toronto is making Canadian fans fall in love with him. From the Kings bench to the Raptor’s starting point guard, Davion is making the Toronto GM look like a basketball wizard.

The Kings cannot afford to continue undervaluing talent, or simply not see the forest for the trees. Let’s get everything out of the team currently constituted, and that means starting with consistency as it relates to players coming off the bench. If Huerter is the 6th man, who is #7, 8, and 9? At this point no one but coach Brown knows, and he doesn’t know until just before gametime.

Here’s the good news! At 13-13 it’s time to hit the reset button. Yes, the Kings are at 500, and now is the time to start making a run that can propel this team to the playoffs.

The starting five of, Fox, Monk, DeRozan, Murray, and Sabonis are a formidable group to guard, and I look forward to watching this team come out of the blocks on all 8 cylinders every night.

So, take heart Kings fans, because the best is yet to come, and that’s without a trade or an acquisition.

Merry Christmas to one and all and go Kings!

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

Thompson Votes to Enhance Preservation of America's Natural Resources

Office of Rep. Mike Thompson News Release

WASHINGTON (MPG) - On Dec. 3, Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-04) voted to pass the America’s Conservation Enhancement (ACE) Reauthorization Act of 2024. This comprehensive legislation will enhance the preservation of America’s natural resources, wildlife, and habitats. Thompson served as an original co-sponsor for this legislation in the House of Representatives.

“Reauthorizing our most critical wildlife conservation programs just makes sense,” said Thompson. “I was proud to vote today to reauthorize ACE and ensure the longevity of our North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) Program. NAWCA has already helped conserve over 32 million acres of wetlands across our country and I look forward to seeing its continued positive impact in the years to come.”

A longtime advocate for wildlife and land conservation, Rep. Thompson serves as a member of the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, Land Conservation Caucus, and Wildlife Refuge Caucus. To date, he’s voted to conserve 2.8 million acres of land through the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission and sponsored legislation that led to the permanent protection of nearly 1 million acres.

The ACE Act includes the following legislation, among other bills:

North American Wetlands Conservation Act, which protects waterfowl, fish, wildlife resources, and wetland habitats; supports local economies that depend on outdoor recreation, tourism, and agriculture; and preserves American traditions such as hunting, fishing, bird watching, family farming, and cattle ranching.

The National Fish Habitat Conservation

Through Partnerships Act strengthens partnerships and projects to help maintain healthy fish populations and aquatic ecosystems.

While making major investments in conservation of natural resources, the bill also includes important measures to enhance accountability and reporting to ensure the effectiveness and transparency of funded projects.

Congressman Mike Thompson is proud to represent California’s 4th Congressional District, which includes all or part of Lake, Napa, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo Counties. He is a senior member of the House Committee on Ways and Means. Rep. Thompson is Chairman of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. He is also Co-Chair of the bipartisan, bicameral Congressional Wine Caucus and a member of the fiscally-responsible Blue Dog Coalition. ★

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