

The Hemet & San Jacinto CHRONICLE

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SAN JACINTO, CA

Bitterness prevails at San Jacinto City Council Meeting

RUSTY STRAIT
| SENIOR REPORTER

San Jacinto City Council meetings are usually calm, cool and collected, but not tonight. There were accusations, responses and downright rudeness at times. It seems Councilmen Hawkins and Ayala were teamed up against Mayor Ledema and Mayor pro-tem, Crystal Ruiz. It all began when Hawkins led off with Black History month, but first things first. After the usual opening rites came a Proclamation for Israel, everybody loves Israel. Then, Brian Hawkins gave an excellent dissertation in honor of Black History Month, which culminated in the council and half the audience (packed, I might add) posing for a group photo. Hawkins, being the only black member on the council, was lauded by Phil Ayala for all his work and dedication to the city and humanity in general. He went on

to praise President Joe Biden for the daring journey he took to Ukraine, where he met with President Zelensky in open daylight with the sound of air raid sirens booming in the background. That got him cold stares from the rest of the council. Both he and Hawkins spoke highly of their love for Hemet, after which he made note that other members of the council seemed to be against him. Ruiz and Mayor Ludezma declared their love and respect for everybody on the council and hoped that the council members could go forward in peace and harmony. Ruiz spoke of a recent trip out of town where everything went wrong and how poor her family was that they couldn't afford hotel rooms. Each of the five council members gave forth some dissertations about their private lives. Public comments ranged from a lady who praised Hawkins and Malcolm Lillianthal (Hemet Councilman) as the only black councilmen in the

Valley and considered that progress. Still, the work must go on to maintain equality. Several truck drivers complained about parking space for their rigs, stating that there was no patrol in the area and now enough parking space for all the drivers. One driver stated that his truck had been vandalized with a full tank of diesel fuel siphoned off and cargo stolen from the \$100,000 load. When they finally got down to the business at hand, there was an excellent presentation about the City's Harp program and how much it had accomplished during the past year. It was really the highlight of the meeting as the many aspects of the program unraveled, including they had made 1200 contacts during the year and 71 of them resulted in finding shelter and jobs, which took them off the streets. Crystal Ruiz commented on a bill now being discussed in the State Assembly that would ban semis from the roads and

highways of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties and said that they must do everything possible to stop that bill from passing. Everyone agreed. A 5-0 vote passed the Consent calendar and The Code Enforcement Program Overview was continued to a future date. FURTHER COUNCIL ACTIONS: 1. Waived full reading of Ordinance(s), and reading by title only. 2. Approved the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2023. 3. Reviewed and approved Warrants and Disbursements for the period of January 2023 for \$3,313,056.31. 4. Updated an Emergency Replacement of the Water Main Line on Artesia Street, between North Jordan Avenue and North Algona Avenue. 5. Approved the basic terms of the Amendment to the Agreement with PTI US Towers LLC for a lump sum payment of future rent, subject to minor mod-

ifications by the City Attorney, and approved the City Manager to execute said Amendment. 6. Received and filed the report of the ARPA funds. 7. Authorized the City Manager to approve the Western Riverside Council of Government (WRONG) Transportation Uniform Mitigation Fee Program Reimbursement Agreement No. 05-HS-SIC-1025 for the Construction of the Esplanade Avenue Widening Phase 1 from Sanderson Avenue to Warren Road (CIP-060145), in the amount of \$5,630,000. 8. Authorized the City Manager to issue a one-year extension of the Landscape and Irrigation Maintenance Agreement for Inland Empire Landscape for \$717,932.56 annually and increase the price list of all items listed on Exhibit "C" of the Agreement by 10%; and authorize the City Manager to issue a

See CITY COUNCIL on page A1

SAN JACINTO, CA

Nonprofits profit from Soboba Charity Golf Tournament

SOBOBA BAND OF LUISEÑO INDIANS | CONTRIBUTED

The 11th annual Soboba Foundation & Soboba Casino Resort Charity Golf Tournament will provide area nonprofits with \$10,000 each to continue their worthwhile endeavors. While most organizations have a specific project in mind for the funds, others are looking to continue offering much-needed scholarships to youths and others who don't have the financial means to participate in educational and recreational programs. One of those nonprofits is the San Jacinto Mountain Bike Team, led by Team Director Randy Wood, who is also a teacher at San Jacinto High School. The SJMTB Team provides students with coaching and camaraderie that will help them achieve both competitive and non-competitive cross

country goals while promoting fitness, recreation and health. The SJMTB was founded in 2013 by two teachers at San Jacinto High School. These two teachers were very passionate about the sport of mountain biking and wanted to share the experience with kids. The team formed a High School Mountain Bike Team and later formed a Middle School Mountain Bike Team. The governing SoCal League was established in 2008. "We are extremely honored to have been chosen as a beneficiary," Wood said, who added that the team typically receives funding from fundraising, individual donations and business sponsorships. "Our goal is to grow and get as many kids on bikes as possible." He said the Charity Golf Tournament funding will be used for race fees, bikes, jerseys, transportation, overnight stays, equipment and insurance



Members of the San Jacinto Mountain Bike Team, one of the beneficiaries of the 11th annual Soboba Foundation & Soboba Casino Resort Charity Golf Tournament on March 21 and 22. | Courtesy Photo



Oak Grove Center plans to build new playgrounds with the \$10,000 grant received from Soboba's 11th annual Charity Golf Tournament. Courtesy photo. | Courtesy Photo

country goals while promoting fitness, recreation and health. The SJMTB was founded in 2013 by two teachers at San Jacinto High School. These two teachers were very passionate about the sport of mountain biking and wanted to share the experience with kids. The team formed a High School Mountain Bike Team and later formed a Middle School Mountain Bike Team. The governing SoCal League was established in 2008. "We are extremely honored to have been chosen as a beneficiary," Wood said, who added that the team typically receives funding from fundraising, individual donations and business sponsorships. "Our goal is to grow and get as many kids on bikes as possible." He said the Charity Golf Tournament funding will be used for race fees, bikes, jerseys, transportation, overnight stays, equipment and insurance

fees that are all ongoing expenses for the team. He said it will also help recruit new riders who may not have the means to purchase the necessary equipment to participate in the sport. "Managing the costs and continued growth of the sport is difficult," Wood said. "We do our best to find a way to get kids on bikes if they show an inter-

est in riding." One of the requirements of the organizations that are chosen as beneficiaries is to provide volunteers to assist with all the logistics on and off the course during tournament days, which are March 21 and 22. Early morning check-ins, hosting games and resting points set up throughout the golf course, meeting the needs of all the players and helping out at the evening banquets at the end of each day are just some of the ways that volunteers are asked to contribute to the success of the tournament. "My team of volunteers is looking forward to giving back,"

See GOLF on page D4

MURRIETA, CA

Jury Selection Underway in Inland Empire Convenience Store Killing

CITY NEWS SERVICE | CONTRIBUTED

Jury selection is slated to get underway Tuesday for the trial of two convicted felons accused in the robbery-killing of a Riverside convenience store clerk nearly three years ago. John Lamont Bush, 33, of Los Angeles and Roderick Lamar Grandison, 50, of Compton allegedly gunned down 28-year-old Waqar Tanveer of Fontana in 2020. Both men are charged with first-degree murder, three counts of armed robbery, three counts of gun assault, as well as one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. Bush alone is charged with a special circumstance allegation of killing in the course of a robbery, as well as sentence-en-

hancing gun and great bodily injury allegations. A third co-defendant, 36-year-old Marleya Onshel Barnes of Moreno Valley, pleaded guilty in 2021 to three counts of armed robbery and was sentenced to 15 years in state prison. Pretrial motions were argued in the case last week, and Riverside County Superior Court Judge Stephen Gallon is expected to summon multiple panels of prospective jurors to the Southwest Justice Center in Murrieta on Tuesday and in the following days for screening as to their availability and qualifications. Both defendants are being held at the Byrd Detention Center in Murrieta -- Bush without bail, and Grandison in lieu of \$1 mil-

See JURY SELECTION on page A4

RIVERSIDE, CA

Snow, Cold Temps Expected To Smash Riverside County Records This Week

TONI MCALLISTER | PATCH

The National Weather Service has issued warnings and advisories across Riverside County as a round of winter storms is set to batter the region this week. The deluge is forecast to see snow levels drop to 1,500 to 2,500 feet in all Riverside County foothills and mountains beginning Tuesday night, according to the NWS. "Temperatures and snow levels take a significant dive later this evening," the NWS reported Tuesday morning. A Winter Weather Advisory was in effect from 4 a.m. Wednesday to 10 a.m. Thursday across all of western Riverside County. In elevations above 2,500 feet, a more urgent Winter Storm



Given the relatively low snow levels, many mountain communities will have the potential to see several feet of accumulating snow through Sunday, according to the National Weather Service. | Courtesy of Shutterstock

Warning takes effect from 6 p.m. Tuesday through 6 p.m. Thursday.

See WINTER STORMS on page A4



Event date: Saturday, Mar 25th, 2023
Registration close: 03.21
Cancellation policy: No Refund
Weather re-schedule: May 20th
Capacity: 138 players

INLAND INVESTIGATIONAL PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

Entry fee: \$60 (Includes second event/game mix players and lunch)
Check-in at 8:00AM to play at 8:30AM
Check-in at 11:00AM to play at 11:30AM
Check-in at 2:30PM to play at 3:00PM
Register: Dorcytd@gmail.com



LOCAL & REGIONAL NEWS

NEWS BRIEFS

SAN JACINTO, CA

FATAL RAMONA EXPRESSWAY CRASH: DETAILS RELEASED BY CHP

A Beaumont man and his two young passengers escaped serious injury during a deadly traffic crash caused by a 73-year-old woman who pulled in front of them on the Ramona Expressway, according to details released Thursday by the California Highway Patrol.

Wednesday's three-vehicle crash occurred at approximately 1:47 p.m. on the expressway at Lincoln Avenue.

According to the CHP, the septuagenarian from Hemet was behind the wheel of a 2020 Chevrolet Spark with her 90-year-old mother as a passenger. They were at a Lincoln Avenue stop sign, waiting to turn into northbound Ramona Expressway traffic.

For reasons still under investigation by the CHP, the woman pulled in front of the 35-year-old Beaumont man's 2000 Nissan Frontier. He was heading south on the Ramona Expressway and could not avoid the Chevy.

The two vehicles hit, sending the Chevrolet out of control where it crashed into a 2018 Toyota Sienna driven

by a 55-year-old Hemet man. The Chevy driver suffered serious injuries and had to be transported by air to a local hospital. Her elderly mother was sent by ground ambulance to Riverside University Health System - Medical Center in Moreno Valley, but she succumbed to her injuries, the CHP reported.

The mother was later identified by the corner's office as Riverside resident Irma Higgins.

The Beaumont man and his two young passengers — an 8-year-old girl and a 6-year-old boy — were sent to a local hospital "with possible minor injuries," according to the CHP.

The Toyota Sienna driver was not injured, the agency reported.

There were no reports of arrests.

The CHP cautioned drivers to be safe: "The California Highway Patrol would like to remind you to look left, then right, and again to the left prior to pulling away from a stop sign to be sure the intersection is clear and safe to proceed."

Patch.com

VALLE VISTA, CA

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATING AFTER BODY FOUND IN BURNING HOME IN VALLE VISTA

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department is investigating after a body was removed from a burning home in Valle Vista early Sunday morning.

The fire was first reported just before 2 a.m. at a double-wide mobile home on the 24700 block of Howard Drive, according to Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire Department.

Firefighters responded to the scene and battled the blaze with hoses and heavy equipment. Smoke billowed from the structure and video from the scene showed a wall of flames overtake a pickup truck in the home's garage.

After about 45 minutes, firefighters were able to contain the fire. But during a search of

the home, a body was located.

Graphic video from the scene showed firefighters remove what appeared to be a man's burned body from the home.

Deputies from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department responded to the scene to assume the investigation into the person's death. At this time, it's unclear if foul play is suspected.

The person's name will be released pending the completion of a coroner's examination and notification of next of kin.

No other injuries were reported by the Fire Department and an estimate of total damages was not made available.

ktla

ONTARIO, CA

Montclair triple homicide: Authorities release photos of at-large suspect, a relative of the victims

NEWSBREAK | CONTRIBUTED

Authorities on Tuesday released photos of the suspect in a Montclair triple homicide as part of an effort to find and capture the man accused of killing three of his family members.

Pete Renteria, 29, was identified last week as the primary suspect in the killings, which occurred on Jan. 31.

Three of Renteria's family members were found shot to death in a home in the 4800 block of Ramona Place, according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

They were identified as 68-year-old Sonia Ramirez, 66-year-old George Ramirez and 43-year-old

David Ramirez.

Investigators said Renteria's whereabouts remain unknown.

Pete Renteria, a suspect in the murder of three of his family members, is seen in photos released by the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

A woman who lives next door told Eyewitness News at the time of the discovery the victims were friends of her family.

"It's an older couple, they have an older son and that's who I think is there now. That's all I know," she said.

Meanwhile, the victims' family created a GoFundMe to help.

"Our family is devastated by the great loss we are suffering," read the GoFundMe's description



HOMICIDE: Pete Renteria, 29 | Courtesy Photo of San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

"It is an understatement to say that George and Sonia Ramirez were devoted, compassionate, selfless and kind. As parents, their love was boundless. Our brother, David Ramirez, was our family protector, a dotting father and an incredibly supportive son."

Anyone with information about the case or Renteria's whereabouts is urged to call the sheriff's homicide unit at 909-890-4904. If you'd like to remain anonymous, you can call the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463) or visit www.wetip.com.

Hemet sues Southern California Edison over Fairview fire damage

Lawsuit alleges the fatal blaze burned city property, including Simpson Park

MONSERRAT SOLIS | CONTRIBUTED

Hemet is suing Southern California Edison, alleging that its utility equipment sparked the fatal Fairview fire in fall and damaged city property.

The lawsuit comes about five months after the blaze pushed residents and their animals out of their homes near Hemet. The city's suit, filed by attorney John Fiske, alleges that Edison did not manage its electrical power lines and failed to keep landscape trimmed.

The lawsuit states that the city lost property and suffered damages because of the fire. Fiske said in a Thursday, Feb. 9, email that Hemet owns property burned in the fire, which also damaged its infrastructure. The city also saw "increased costs and lost revenues due to the fire," he wrote.

Mayor Pro Tem Malcolm Lilienthal said that, although Simpson Park is not within the city limits, it is a city park that the blaze badly damaged. Also, Hemet's resources were used to combat the fire, he said Thursday.

The Fairview fire started about 3:30 p.m. on Sept. 5 near Hemet and burned about 28,307 acres over 18 days. Two residents, Ian Compton, 40, and daughter, Mikayla Porter, 27, were killed while Compton's wife, Tina, was burned as they evacuated their home.



Crews on Sept. 6, 2022, prepare to replace a blackened electrical pole that burned during the Fairview fire near Hemet. | Courtesy Photo of Brian Rokos, The Press-Enterprise/SCNC

Also, two firefighters were injured. About 25 structures were destroyed and eight were damaged.

Residents of some 50 homes were asked to boil tap water before consuming it because of the fire.

"Our thoughts remain with the people affected by the Fairview fire," Edison spokesperson Reggie Kumar said Wednesday, Feb. 8. "We are reviewing this action and will respond to it through the proper legal channels."

Also, three families sued Edison following the fire. Unable to afford a hotel room, Guillermo Figueroa and his family lived in their car after the fire ravaged a garage and an electrical panel. Three of the family's 18 horses, five dogs and 80 chickens were claimed by the fire.

Hours after the Fairview fire started, Edison filed a

report stating a "circuit activity" occurred close to the time of the blaze.

Alex Robertson, an attorney who has filed lawsuits against Edison over wildfires, has said the activity reported by the agency happens when an energized conductor or power line makes contact with other equipment on a power pole. That causes melted aluminum to drip on vegetation and start fires, Robertson said.

In October, damaged electrical and telecommunications equipment was found during an investigation into the Fairview fire. The damaged equipment was owned by Edison and Frontier Communications.

It cost about \$33.8 million to extinguish the fire, the Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire Department reported.

Filed Monday, Feb. 6, in the Los Angeles County Superior Court — because Edison is based in LA — Hemet's suit seeks:

- The repayment and replacement of damaged, destroyed or lost personal and real property.
- Attorney fees, expert fees and related costs.
- Relief and compensation for damages and injuries.
- Payment for the loss of natural resources, open space, wildlife, public lands, parks and other recreational spaces.
- Reimbursement for law enforcement costs and fire-suppression costs.

The lawsuit didn't include an amount that Hemet is seeking. Fiske said that is not known as of Thursday and the city is working to "understand the full extent of the monetary/value loss."

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FAITH & RELIGION

CHURCH BRIEFS

Chronological Way Bible Study @ Hope in the Valley Baptist Church in Hemet

Please signup and join us Chronological Bible Study every Wednesday at Hope in the Valley Baptist Church in Hemet Wednesday Room #114. Hope in the Valley Baptist Church in Hemet has a bible study class in Chronological way every Wednesday. Please sign up and join us. Hosea 4:6 says "my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge." (NIV). Hope in the Valley Baptist Church 1480 N. Kirby St. Room #114, Hemet CA 92545 www.hvbchurch.com.

VBS Training 2023

Daylight Saving Time has ended, and we mark yet another end to a wonderful VBS season! We had 62 VBS programs during summer 2022 with thousands of children and families engaging in activities pointing them towards a gracious and loving Jesus! This also means that we shift our focus to VBS 2023. Our SECC VBS Training Team has already been at work on your behalf preparing for our 2023 Training Event that will take place at the La Sierra Spanish Church on February 26, 2023. This year we are happy to provide 3 tiers of registration: Early Bird Until December 31, 2022 \$20/pp

Regular Registration until January 31, 2023 \$30/pp

Late Registration until February 20, 2023 \$50/pp

Plan on joining us February 26, 2023!

Schedule

8:00 am - Registration and continental breakfast

8:30 am - Event Starts

1:30pm - Prize Drawing & Farewell

Building a Team for the Move of God - February Edition

Come and join us and hear our guest speaker Apostle Vanisia Tapia about building a team for the move of God! Sun, Feb 26, 2023, 2:30 PM PST | Prophetic Glory Ministries 1026 S State St 1026 South State Street San Jacinto, CA 92583 United States

Rialto Church of Christ Ladies' Day!

LADIES!! JOIN US ON 2/25/23 FOR A DAY OF FELLOWSHIP! *** FREE EVENT*** Breakfast and lunch will be served!! Rialto Church of Christ 245 West Merrill Avenue Rialto, CA 92376 . Sat, February 25, 2023, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

It's the Riverside Dickens Festival! We can't wait to Celebrate with You!

Join us at the 30th Annual Riverside Dickens Festival Saturday, February 25th and Sunday, February 26th in Beautiful Downtown Riverside. Come to the Riverside Dickens Festival, a free, family event featuring entertainment, food and parties for all ages. Downtown Riverside 3900 Main Street Riverside, CA 92501

Black History Month Celebration

Celebrating Black History honoring our past and looking towards the future. A family and community event. By Northside Church of Christ. Civil Rights Institute Inland Southern California 3933 Mission Inn Avenue Riverside, CA 9250. Sat, February 25, 2023, 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Santa Ana United Methodist Church 10 AM Service

Celebrating Black History honoring our past and looking towards the future. A family and community event. By Northside Church of Christ. Civil Rights Institute Inland Southern California 3933 Mission Inn Avenue Riverside, CA 9250. Sat, February 25, 2023, 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Gateway Seminary Leadership Lunch | Spring 2023

Leadership Lunches at Gateway are unique Q&A opportunities with experienced ministry leaders. By Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention. Gateway Seminary 3210 East Guasti Road Ontario, CA 91761. Join us for a lunch Q&A this semester! Hance Dilbeck Jr. | Thursday, February 2 Hance Dilbeck Jr. is president and CEO of GuideStone. Bart Barber | Thursday, February 16 Bart Barber is president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church, Farmersville, Texas. Stephen Rummage | Thursday, March 30. Stephen Rummage is senior pastor of Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Promises of God Christian Cathedral Prayer Breakfast: Year of Manifestation

If you were at the last one in January you can only imagine what is going down in March. This is a free event but RSVP is REQUIRED. Theme: Year of Manifestation-Bridging the Gap

The prayer breakfast is focused on the execution of the instructions that God is downloading. Date and time Sat, March 25, 2023, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Location: Promises of God Christian Church 1168 North Waterman Avenue San Bernardino, CA 92410

the defendants allegedly confronted him about 3:25 a.m., demanding money.

A customer walked into the store a short time later and discovered the victim mortally wounded. He was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics.

Police officers and sheriff's deputies initiated a search of the area using K9 teams, but the robbers drove away, according to investigators.

The store's security sur-

veillance videotape was reviewed as part of the investigation, but detectives did not disclose how the defendants were ultimately identified as the alleged perpetrators.

The trio were arrested without incident the following week.

According to court records, Bush and Grandison have prior felony convictions in another jurisdiction, but the offenses weren't listed.

al normals through much of the week ahead," the NWS reported. "Afternoon high temperatures each day through the weekend will be anywhere from 10 to 25 degrees cooler than normal, with Wednesday and Thursday as the coolest days.

"These days will be characterized by highs in the lower 50s near the coast, widespread 40s in the valleys, lower 20s to lower 30s in the mountains, and deserts ranging from lower 40s to upper 50s," the agency continued. "Many daily records for lowest maximum temperatures on Wednesday and Thursday will be in jeopardy."

With the cold air will be a wind onslaught. The NWS issued Wind Advisory from 10 p.m. Tuesday until 6 p.m. Wednesday across all of western Riverside County.

Stronger winds were predicted in the desert, with a High Wind Warning in effect from 4 p.m. Tuesday through 6 p.m. Wednesday,

the NWS reported.

"West winds will steadily increase through [Tuesday], becoming strong and potentially damaging," according to the NWS.

Models show "the potential for triple-digit wind gust readings in the mountains and desert foothills" while communities county-wide can expect "a significant wind event," the agency reported.

Another storm is set to move in later this week.

"This next system will also be able to tap into at least a weak atmospheric river component, supporting potential for heavier rainfall starting late Thursday through Saturday," according to the NWS.

Total precipitation through the weekend will range from around 2 inches at the coast to over 6 inches in the mountains. Given the relatively low snow levels, many mountain communities will have the potential to see several feet of accumulating snow through Sunday, the NWS reported.

CLERGY CORNER

Dawn of The Walking Billboards

SUSAN BECKETT | DWELLING PLACE CITY CHURCH

It seems the last few weeks in America have been very busy for attempted slap-downs on our freedoms! First up, we have students from a Catholic high school who were touring the Smithsonian when a security guard approached them and insisted they remove their hats or leave. They were wearing beanies inscribed with a pro-life message. When the students asked why other visitors were able to wear their hats without issue, they were told the beanies were "political statements." The worker then told the students the museum was a 'neutral zone,' and the First Amendment freedom "does not apply here." Which, by the way, is absolutely ridiculous!!

Next up to bat is a gentleman who was told to leave a mall or remove his shirt which read "Jesus saves" on the front & "Jesus is the only way" on the back. A video shows one of the mall guards telling the man, "Jesus is associated with religion and it's offending people." Then the guy was told his T-shirt counted as 'soliciting.' Interestingly - many said they were shocked to learn this happened in the U.S.

At one time there was even an ad campaign to market God. You may have seen some of their billboards: "Let's Meet At My House Sunday Before The Game - God." "We Need To Talk - God." "You Think It's Hot Here? - God." And my favorite: "Have You Read My #1 Bestseller? There Will Be A Test - God."

The point is this: advertising works - hence the hats, shirts, milk cartons, and billboards, etc. They often offend and/or persuade - but no one should be a sheriff who can advertise and who can't. Thankfully!

A high school class was once asked what they thought the best gift would be that they could give to a friend. Most answered, "Buy them something." But one smart kid suggested they could do something for a friend that would make that person famous! What a novel idea! But come to think of it, that's exactly what Jesus did for Lazarus! To this day, just about everyone knows of Lazarus who was raised from the dead.

And, archeologists now believe they have found the grave of Lazarus and on his tomb are these simple words: "Lazarus, Bishop of Larnaca, Four days dead, Friend of Jesus." Jesus literally made Lazarus a New Testament walking billboard.

But really, we all have a story to tell and we're all walking billboards, like it or not. There was once a pro basketball player who told a reporter that he chose not to be a role model. That's laughable! Of course he's a role model - again, like it or not. We're all telling a story with our lives. The Apostle Paul wrote that "Our very lives are a letter that anyone can read by just looking at us...and we publish it." In other words - we are an open book read of all men! But what is the message we're sending out to the world around us?

There's a story of a little girl brought up in a strict Hindu family, who had come across Christians.



SUSAN BECKETT | Courtesy Photo.

Somebody asked her what she thought a Christian was. She thought for a few moments and replied, "Well, as far as I can see, a Christian is somebody who is different from everybody else." As it should be!

A man was once eating at a sea food grill when the strangest thing happened. He looked out the window and saw the grill manager eating his lunch at the fast food place across the street. Immediately this thought went through his brain - "Don't eat here...the food across the street is better!" And why not?! The manager was advertising for the competition!

People are watching you! They see how you live, they hear you talk, they see your priorities and observe where you go. Like it or not, you are a walking billboard. So why not embrace it - be the God billboard?! But know your biggest decision is going to be this: What exactly goes on your billboard?

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Bob and Susan Beckett pastor The Dwelling Place City Church at 27100 Girard Street in Hemet, CA. For more information, you may contact them at DPCitychurch.org

CITY COUNCIL

from Al

one-year extension of the Landscape and Irrigation Maintenance Agreement for Executive Image for \$311,097.60 annually and increase the price list of all items listed on Exhibit "C" of the Agreement by 10%.
9. Agreed to bring back to a later date the City of San Jacinto Code Enforcement Overview.
10. Agreed (by a 5-0 vote) to hold a public hearing and after approval of 2/3

of the electors affected, agreed to a first reading: ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN JACINTO AUTHORIZING THE LEVY OF SPECIAL TAXES IN A COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT, INCLUDING CERTAIN ANNEXATION TERRITORY IDENTIFIED AS ANNEXATION NO. 12 (TAX ZONE NO. 12 (TAX ZONE NO. 13) INTO SAN JACINTO COMMUNITY FACILITIES DIS-

TRICT NO. 2020-11. City Manager Update continued to future meetings.

With everyone having vented whatever bothered them and one and all anxious to get out and go home, the mayor gavelled the meeting to a close at 8:57 PM. But oh, the raw feelings that were exposed throughout the night. The council needs the next two weeks off to recover from the razor-sharp jabs. Just sayin' rustystrait@gmail.com

JURY SELECTION

from Al

lion bail.

In addition to the Feb. 28, 2020, robbery that claimed Tanveer's life, the defendants allegedly robbed several men in a separate holdup a few days later.

According to Riverside police Officer Ryan Railsback, Tanveer was working the register at the 7-Eleven at 6692 Indiana Ave. when

WINTER STORMS

from Al

Commuters who travel between Orange and Riverside counties on state Route 74 are impacted by the latter.

While overall snow accumulations overnight could be relatively light, more substantial precipitation arrives later Wednesday afternoon and evening, the NWS reported.

"Accumulating snow will be possible even in some of the valleys down to around 2,000-2,500 feet in elevation starting early Wednesday and lasting through Thursday. Snow will also be possible in portions of the High Deserts during this time as well ...," according to the agency.

Temperatures in Southwest Riverside County, downtown Riverside, the San Geronio Pass Area and across the desert will be unseasonably cold.

"As implied by the very low snow levels, it will be notably cooler than season-

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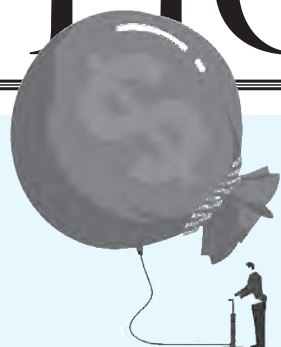
B

POLITICS



EDITORIAL & OPINION
In California Legislature, 500 bills beat the deadline

See more on page B2



ECONOMY
US inflation slows to 6.4%, but price pressures re-emerge

See more on page D1

These Democrats hoping to replace Feinstein largely agree on policy. So how do they differ?

SEEMA MEHTA | CONTRIBUTOR

The biggest names vying to replace retiring Sen. Dianne Feinstein largely agree on many issues dearest to Democratic voters, so their differing political passions, generational perspectives and life stories will likely be front and center in the first hotly contested Senate race in California in more than a decade.

Reps. Katie Porter, Adam B. Schiff and Barbara Lee all claim the progressive mantle, an almost essential ingredient for any politician hoping to put together a winning Senate campaign in a state that champions gun control, abortion rights, marriage equality and combating climate change. They face the difficult task of defining themselves in a heavily Democratic electorate that may struggle to distinguish what separates them. "California is not going to elect a Republican. And they're not going to elect a centrist. The question is what kind of progressivism is most important" to voters, said Dan Schnur, a politics professor at UC Berkeley, USC

and Pepperdine University. "These three candidates represent very different strains of progressivism."

Porter, of Irvine, is a white-board-toting economic populist; Lee, of Oakland, is a longtime social justice activist; and Schiff, of Burbank, is an anti-Trump litigator focused on saving democracy, Schnur said. These personas are grounded in the lives they led long before they were elected to office.

Lee's activism dates back to her work on the 1972 presidential campaign of Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman to hold a seat in Congress; and on the Oakland mayoral campaign of Black Panther Party co-founder Bobby Seale the following year. Lee, 76, was elected to the state Legislature in 1990 and to Congress in 1998. She is best known for being the only member of Congress to vote against the measure that authorized President George W. Bush to use military force after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Lee was viewed as a pariah by many afterward, and subjected to death threats, but her qualms about granting a president



Democratic Reps. Barbara Lee of Oakland, Adam B. Schiff of Burbank and Katie Porter of Irvine, from left, hope to replace retiring Sen. Dianne Feinstein. | Courtesy Photo of Associated Press

too much power are now echoed by politicians in both parties.

Schiff, 62, is a former federal prosecutor who was first elected to public office during President Clinton's tenure, and who reflected the former Arkansas governor's center-left views while serving in the California Legislature and when he was elected to Congress in 2000. Schiff gained national prominence as he led the first impeachment effort against then-President Trump in 2019 and served as a key inquisitor on the congressional panel that investigated the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Porter's political views were indelibly shaped as she

grew up on an Iowa farm during the farm crisis, and led to a prominent career as a law professor specializing in consumer protection. The 49-year-old single mom has hammered bank and pharmaceutical executives during congressional hearings, frequently using a whiteboard to break down complex issues.

A protege of Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Porter was appointed by then-California Atty. Gen. Kamala Harris as the state's independent monitor of California's share of a \$25-billion mortgage settlement with banks. Porter and Schiff are well-known to MSNBC viewers,

See DEMOCRATS on page B4

POLITICAL BRIEFS

California's assault weapons ban could soon be overturned: Here's what that means

ABC7NEWS | CONTRIBUTED

As early as this week, a federal judge could once again rule to overturn California's long-standing ban on assault weapons.

The ruling -- which would come from Judge Roger Benitez -- is believed to be imminent, according to Kostas Moros, a lawyer representing the California Rifle and Pistol Association. Moros said the final response briefs in the cases are due on Tuesday and Benitez could rule any time after that.

Advocates on both sides of the gun debate issue say they expect Benitez, who is known for ruling against California's gun control laws, will decide to strike down the three-decades long law. "We would see this as a win," Rick Travis, the legislative director for the California Rifle and Pistol Association, a gun rights lobbying

group. Still, Travis said the decision is unlikely to lead to any immediate change in the sale of guns in California.

"Californians have this idea that when they hear the news, that this is going to change overnight. This isn't," Travis said. "No matter what happens either way with the decision nothing's going to change for the foreseeable future. And when I say that, I mean for years."

Travis said the decision will be appealed to the 9th Circuit Superior Court and from there, potentially, all the way up to the Supreme Court.

Governor Newsom warned about the likely ruling earlier this month while announcing new gun control legislation after the Half Moon Bay and Monte-

See WEAPONS on page B4

California and Nevada may ban forced prison labor, servitude

SOPHIE AUSTIN AND GABESTERN | AP NEWS

Lawmakers in Nevada and California are advancing legislation to remove "involuntary servitude" from their states' constitutions, a move that follows four states' bans on forced labor that passed in ballot measures last fall.

The goal of these proposals is to remove exceptions from the states' constitutions that allow forced labor as criminal punishment. The efforts come amid a growing push among some states to scrub outdated, century-old language from their state constitutions. Last fall, voters approved similar ballot measures in Alabama, Oregon, Tennessee and Vermont.

About a dozen states are pushing this year to get rid

of the involuntary servitude exceptions, according to the Abolish Slavery National Network. Some advocates said this has major legal implications today, particularly in litigation related to prison labor pay and conditions.

It's not uncommon for prisoners in California, Nevada and other states to be paid less than \$1 an hour to fight fires, clean prison cells, make license plates or do yardwork at cemeteries.

Samuel Brown, who was formerly incarcerated with a life sentence, helped author an anti-involuntary servitude amendment in California last year. He said incarcerated people can be forced to do work that is unsafe and puts their health at risk. Even more, he described how terrified he was when he had to disinfect jail cells after someone tested positive for



Steven Abujen, a California prison inmate with the Prison Industry Authority, cleans one of the newly installed headstones at the Mormon Island Relocation Cemetery, near Folsom, Calif., on Oct. 18, 2011. Lawmakers in Nevada and California are advancing legislation to remove involuntary servitude from their state constitutions, a move that follows four states that purged forced labor from the books in ballot measures last fall. | Courtesy Photo of AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli, File

COVID-19. Brown said the amendment that is being reintroduced this year is long overdue. "We have an opportunity

to stamp it out once and for all. We're not going to stop until we get it done," he said.

The language allowing in-

See PRISON LABOR on page B4

Democratic governors form alliance on abortion rights

BILL BARROW AND GEOFF MULVIHILL | CONTRIBUTED

Democratic governors in 20 states are launching a network intended to strengthen abortion access in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision nixing a woman's constitutional right to end a pregnancy and instead shifting regulatory powers over the procedure to state governments.

Organizers, led by California Gov. Gavin Newsom, described the Reproductive Freedom Alliance as a way for governors and their staffs to share best practices and affirm abortion rights for the approximately 170 million Americans who live in the consortium's footprint — and even ensuring services for the remainder of U.S. resi-

dents who live in states with more restrictive laws.

"We can all coalesce," New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said in an interview ahead of a Tuesday announcement. She added that the court's Dobbs decision that ended a national right to abortion "horrified" and put pressure on governors to act. "This is leveraging our strengths ... to have more of a national voice."

That includes, organizers said, sharing model statutory language and executive orders protecting abortion access, ways to protect abortion providers from prosecution, strat-

See ABORTION on page B4

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

DEAR ABBY ADVICE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips.



DEAR ABBY: I'm in mourning for my husband. He's still alive, but he up and left six months ago and sent me a text saying he's done. He is living with another woman. I didn't see it coming. We were planning our retirement move up to our cabin. One weekend he kicked me out of the cabin, and three hours later had her join him there.

I feel so lost. At this point, I don't want him back because I feel he has committed the ultimate betrayal. I have started counseling because I'm so confused, grieving and upset. My counselor seems to think he is leaving the door open to one day return. He still comes once a month to pay the bills. However, when he does, he doesn't want me there. He texts to make sure I will be gone for a few hours, so I leave.

I miss him, but I can't get beyond the pain and betrayal. He has lost a ton of weight and looks terrible. He has aged so much. He's 66, clinically depressed and an alcoholic. He's also a narcissist. He would never admit he did something wrong; it was always "my fault." I never knew what I would be facing after work.

I'm still in the house and slowly packing up his clutter that I was never allowed to touch. (He is a hoarder.) I'm lonely, but I'm enjoying my peace. We don't communicate at all. My question is, do you think he is going to come walking back in like nothing happened?

- ABANDONED IN MINNESOTA

DEAR ABANDONED: I hope not! And if he did show up, why on Earth would you want him back? (Frankly, I am surprised that your therapist would suggest you would open the door to him.) You are free. Consult an attorney, clear out the physical and emotional debris in your life and enjoy it. would be very unromantic. Please let me know how the date goes. I wish you luck.

DEAR ABBY: A few years ago, my husband, unhappy in his job, decided he wanted to be a real estate agent. He quit his job to do full-time real estate, and really struggled. The company he joined offered little training, and he had no office skills. The dramatic drop in our income almost bankrupted us. He asked me to also get a license to help (I have a great office job). I didn't want to at first because I knew I would end up doing almost all the work, but I did it anyway.

Shortly after I got licensed, he was offered a position at his previous company. It was a blessing, and he took it. I have been selling real estate in addition to my job and having a lot of success. I believe it's due to my 20 years of office management experience and social media skills. Although I'm an introvert, I'm a hard worker, and my business is growing. People seek me out.

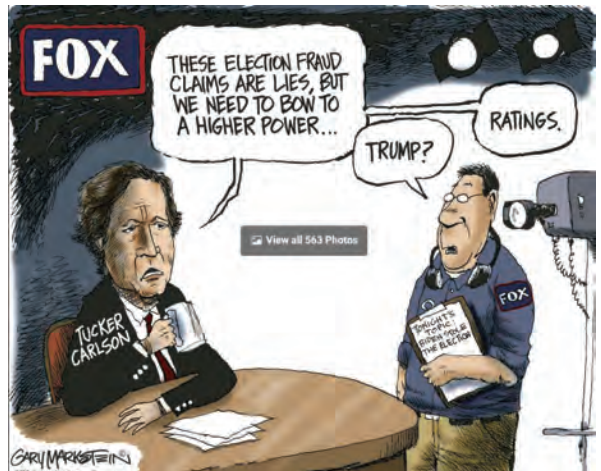
Abby, my husband is jealous. When I sell a home, he pouts, acts depressed or picks arguments around that time. He hates going to business dinners or training with our company, and if I go without him, he barely speaks to me the next day. Sometimes he gets excited and talks about how he needs to sell some houses. When he does, I encourage him and talk about how great he is at working with people, but ultimately he does nothing to make it happen.

I really enjoy real estate. I love getting out and showing houses and networking with other agents, and the extra income has really helped. I don't know what to do.

- PAYING THE PRICE OF SUCCESS

DEAR PAYING: Your husband may be jealous because you have outdone him in his (day)dream job. Or, he may be punishing you out of fear that you are becoming so successful you might want your independence. Keep going and do not allow his behavior to diminish you. None of what you have described is healthy for the future of your marriage. I'm hoping a licensed marriage and family therapist may be able to help you to navigate through this rough patch. Please don't put it off. Without counseling, the status quo isn't likely to change.

Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



AMERICAN THINKER

The Dead End of Reparations

CHRISTOPHER CHANTRILL | AMERICAN THINKER

I don't know about you, but I am about ready to take the ruling-class enthusiasm for "reparations" and put it where the sun don't shine.

The current push for reparations, I assume, has occurred because Nikole Hannah-Jones' 1619 Project has jumped from the New York Times to the Hulu streaming service.

And, of course, all of a sudden, California has decided to empower its black politicos to decide how much reparation is enough. Don't know much about historee, but I think the Latinos of one-time "Alta California" might have a better claim to the loot.

But then, I thought, better check Google Ngram and Google Trends to see how the present Mass Formation Psychosis on reparations has arisen.

On Google Ngram, which is about books, "reparations" was going nowhere until a peak in the 1920s. Then it dropped away but shot up again in the 1940s. It is all about German reparations, the brilliant idea of the western powers to Make Germany Pay for World War One. But WWII reparations enthusiasm peaked in 1947. Reading the tea-leaves in books like American Occupation of Ger-

many: Retreat to Victory by Edward N. Peterson, I get the feeling that our fearless leaders realized that, if post-Nazi Germany was going to be sent back to the Stone Age, we Yanks would have to feed it.

On Google Trends, which is about search, "reparations" was going nowhere until June 2019, the month of the virgin birth of the 1619 Project. Then it declined but shot up to a new peak in June 2020, right after the crucifixion of George Floyd. And now it is trending because of Gavin Newsom and the Hulu series.

Of course, to me, this fascination with "reparations" is just another confirmation of my idea that the left is a Great Reaction, a political lurch back to the primitive. "Revenge" and "Reparations" belong to stateless tribal societies where there is no legal system backed up by the state to enforce justice. How do tribal societies prevent escalation of blood feuds into general warfare? According to Francis Fukuyama in The Origins of Political Order, stateless tribes tried to resolve blood feuds with a culture of revenge, arbitration, and monetary damages -- called Wergeld by the Germanic tribes. But in our day, we have the glorious legal system and lawyers, backed up by government force, to as-

sess damages and enforce payment without the intervention of the male relatives of the victim.

I want to say that "this is not that hard," but in fact it is hard. Americans do not learn about the history of law and the state and justice in public school, nor in college. If you want to educate yourself so you can write what I have written here, you have to read the books and ignore the union teachers and the woke professors and tread where cupcakes fear to tread, outside the Overton Window.

But why, you ask? Why, a century and a half after the abolition of slavery, and fifty years after the abolition of racial discrimination, why is the New York Times poisoning us with a reactionary movement for "reparations?" What is the point?

The point is that under the present regime of the Anointed, there comes a time when the Mascots fall away from a blind devotion to their masters. It happened with the working class, left by their Anointed rulers to die of despair; it is presently happening with TERF women who really don't like men in the women's bathroom. One fine day, the descendants of the African slaves may tumble to the truth that, to the exalted Anointed, they are just the Benighted in blackface. Mean-

while, our Anointed ruling class is doing its level best -- which admittedly is not that good -- to keep its black Mascots all riled up and voting 90 percent for Democrats.

(With Anointed, Benighted, and Mascots, I am here using the notion of economist Thomas Sowell in The Vision of the Anointed. Sowell, like Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, is sometimes accused by the Best and Brightest of being an "Uncle Tom." Your mileage may vary.)

Okay. Now we are going to fly up into the heavens. Make sure your wings don't melt.

It seems to me that almost all ethnic groups in America have started out as stateless tribes in their ethnic ghettos. They lived outside the law, with gangs instead of police and courts. Today we see black gangbangers obsessed by "dissing," thus a lot of the killings in the stateless black inner cities are really honor killings.

A truly Anointed ruling class would help blacks advance beyond their stateless culture of gangs and honor killings and baby mamas and reparations. But our rulers don't.

We know why. More important than a thriving American black middle class is maintaining the power of the Anointed educated ruling class.

In California Legislature, 500 bills beat the deadline

SAMEEA KAMAL | CONTRIBUTOR

California doesn't really need 2,600 new laws, right?

Nevertheless, state lawmakers proposed 500 new bills on Friday, the 2023 session's introduction deadline, bringing the total to about 2,600. That's the most in more than a decade, according to veteran Capitol lobbyist Chris Micheli. More than 1,000 are "placeholder" bills without specific language. Reminder: More bills are typically introduced in odd-numbered years, the first year of the Legislature's two-year sessions.

Last year, when about 2,000 bills were introduced, the Legislature passed almost 1,200 of them -- and nearly 1,000 became law with Gov. Gavin Newsom's signature, including ones on wage transparency and housing.

Some of the new bills tackle California's hot-button issues. Assembly Bill 3 by new Assemblymember Jasmeet Bains, a Democrat from Bakersfield, would increase oil production in California just as the state aims to scale back fossil fuels to battle climate change. Her bill, proposed in the special session called by Gov. Gavin Newsom on an oil profits penalty, would require 60% of all crude oil refined in California to be produced in the state in 2030 and 50% in 2035. California now produces only about 30% of its crude oil, while the rest is imported from South America, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere.

Meanwhile, Sen. Dave Min, a Democrat from Costa Mesa, introduced Senate Bill 559 to end offshore oil drill-

ing in California's waters.

Another hot topic: the fentanyl crisis, which has spurred nearly two dozen bills introduced since December. Last week, bills were introduced by Republican Assemblymember Jim Patterson, from Fresno, and Democratic Assemblymember Carlos Villapudua, from Stockton. Both bills seek to increase the penalties for selling the drug. And Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, a Democrat from Oakland, introduced SB 287, which would make social media platforms liable for promoting the illegal sale of fentanyl to minors.

Here are a handful of other key bills introduced last week to beat the deadline:

Housing and homelessness

- AB 799, by Assemblymember Luz Rivas: Creates an accountability framework for cities, counties and organizations receiving state funds;
- AB 1418, by Assemblymember Tina McKinnor: Bans penalties for tenants who have interactions with law enforcement;
- AB 1700, by Assemblymember Josh Hoover: Limits the use of noise and population growth as factors violating CEQA, the state's environmental review law.

Health care

- AB 1690, by San Jose Assemblymember Ash Kalra: Revives the effort to create a single payer health care system, though it won't be fleshed out until next session;
- SB 385, by Sen. Toni Atkins, from San Diego: Allows physician assistants to



Assemblymember Jasmeet Bains and other legislators on the assembly floor in the state Capitol in Sacramento on Jan. 19, 2023. | Courtesy Photo by Rahul Lal, CalMatters

perform first-trimester abortions.

Workers' rights

- SB 497, by Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, from Los Angeles: Strengthens protections for workers from retaliation by employers;
- SB 525, by Sen. Maria Elena Durazo, also from Los Angeles: Revives the effort to increase the minimum wage for some healthcare workers to \$25 an hour;
- AB 1672 by San Francisco Assemblymember Matt Haney: Creates a framework to address labor disputes between employee organizations who represent independent in-home caregivers and the state.

Fast food fight: With a landmark law to regulate wages and working conditions in the fast food industry on hold until voters decide its fate in November 2024, California lawmakers will try again to hold franchise chains, including McDonald's and Burger King, responsible for alleged labor violations in their restaurants.

Assemblymember Chris

Holden, a Pasadena Democrat, introduced Assembly Bill 1228 to establish joint labor law liability for fast food franchise owners. Last year, he agreed to strip it out of his fast food bill to sway detractors in the Legislature.

CalMatters found that joint liability in other industries -- such as extending legal responsibility from janitorial and gardening contractors to the companies that hire them -- has been a key part of California's efforts to combat wage theft and other labor violations.

But fast food franchise corporations have long avoided liability in federal and state labor law. Labor advocates say the current business model allows these companies to squeeze profits from franchise locations while distancing themselves from how employees are treated. Franchise and business groups say extending liability would upend the franchise owners' independence as employers. The International Franchise Association released a statement saying the bill would cause business opportunities to dry up in California.

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Answers on C2

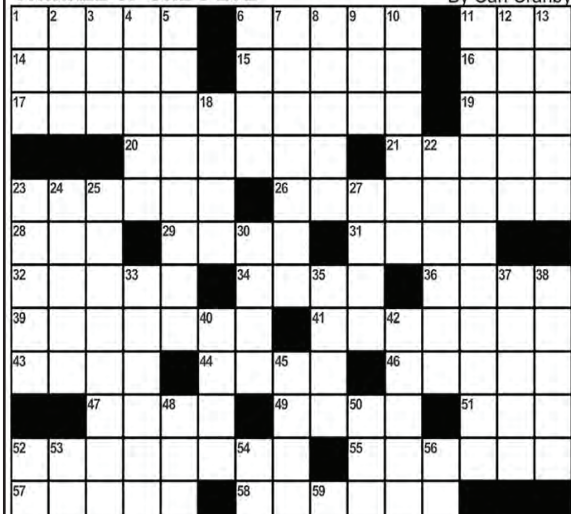
ACROSS

- 1) Certain informal parent
- 6) Wooded valleys
- 11) Female pronoun
- 14) ___ of expertise
- 15) Bye-bye, in Burgundy
- 16) Pin number?
- 17) Object on Israel's flag
- 19) Interject
- 20) Burning
- 21) Suitable material?
- 23) Annoying inconvenience
- 26) Professed
- 28) FBI employee, briefly
- 29) Eve's mate
- 31) Jacob's twin
- 32) Unedited version
- 34) Petticoat junction?
- 36) Blueprint detail, in short
- 39) Most spooky
- 41) Brandy cocktail
- 43) Words with "precedent"
- 44) Senate helper
- 46) Having an irregular edge
- 47) Spot in the distance
- 49) Point to the right
- 51) Harden
- 52) Barnum and Bailey's business
- 55) Home for an old king
- 57) Guiding beliefs of a group
- 58) In a lively manner
- 60) Doctor in a 1964 movie
- 61) Campus VIP
- 66) Nightmare street of film
- 67) Down provider
- 68) Barbecue leftover
- 69) "Sayonara!"
- 70) Run-down in appearance, as a motel
- 71) Furry weasel cousin

DOWN

- 1) ___ de deux
- 2) Dinner scrap
- 3) Ammo in a harmless shooter
- 4) Legal aides, informally
- 5) Recently
- 6) Baby's word for I-Across
- 7) Japanese protein source
- 8) Cats have nine of them
- 9) Welcoming garland
- 10) Makes soapy bubbles
- 11) Business seed money
- 12) Steeplechase obstacle
- 13) Called off
- 18) Left the scene
- 22) Desk drawer item
- 23) Hellish place
- 24) See things the same way
- 25) First base?
- 27) Prefix for "circle"
- 30) ___ spumante (Italian wine)
- 33) Total disaster
- 35) Sailing the Atlantic
- 37) Renoir's prop
- 38) Minotaur's home
- 40) Verb for Simon
- 42) Unfastens
- 45) Longed for
- 48) Boot-wearing felines?
- 50) Sing "shooby-doo" and such
- 52) Paparazzi target, briefly
- 53) Venice setting
- 54) Dodge
- 56) Historical Alabama march site
- 59) Results may do this, in commercials
- 62) Make a sheepshank
- 63) Flow back
- 64) Business card no.
- 65) Prior, to poets

TWINKLE OF ONE'S EYE By Carl Cranby



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Is ending homelessness just a matter of money?

DAN WALTERS | CALMATTERS

Being what it is, California has a mélange of complex public policy issues – some of them fully blown crises – that defy resolution year after year, decade after decade.

Rather than recognize and deal with their complexities, the state's politicians tend to condense responses into money.

K-12 education exemplifies the syndrome. The state's nearly 6 million public school students perennially fail to make the cut in national tests of academic achievement, often trailing states that spend far less per-pupil on their schools.

It indicates that money is only one factor, and perhaps not the most important one, in educating children. Nevertheless, the political debate over the state's educational deficiencies begins and ends with how much money is being spent, thereby providing a convenient excuse for failure.



A homeless camp outside the PATH apartment complex in Los Angeles on Nov. 17, 2021. | Courtesy Photo of Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

California's newest crisis, the nation's highest level of homelessness in both absolute and relative terms, is following a similar arc.

Why upwards of 200,000 Californians, and probably more, are homeless involves factors that, much like educational aptitude, are as individual as fingerprints. While theories on causes and potential cures abound, once again the politics of the issue is focused on money – how much to spend, who spends it and who, if anyone, is held accountable

for outcomes.

The politics of homelessness – or rather of spending on homelessness – appear to be entering a very contentious phase.

Early in his governorship, Gavin Newsom appointed himself as the state's homelessness czar and during the first three years of his governorship (2018-21) the state spent nearly \$10 billion on battling the social malady, according to a new state report. The money paid for 35 different programs administered by nine different state agencies.

PRISON LABOR

from BI

voluntary servitude that still exists in more than a dozen state constitutions is one of the lasting legacies of chattel slavery in the United States. Colorado became the first state in recent years to revise its constitution in 2018 to ban slavery and involuntary servitude, followed by Utah and Nebraska in 2020.

Democrats in Congress have yet to pass federal legislation changing the 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which states: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." If the latest attempt wins approval in Congress, the constitutional amendment must be ratified by three-fourths of U.S. states.

In California, more than 40 supporters of the measure gathered Wednesday outside the state Capitol, where lawmakers and formerly incarcerated people talked about the impacts of forced labor.

Assemblywoman Lori D. Wilson, a Democrat representing part of Solano County, is introducing this year's proposed amendment, hop-

ing to have a different outcome than a failed attempt last year to pass similar legislation in the state. The Senate rejected it after Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration warned that if inmates were paid the \$15-per-hour minimum wage, it could cost taxpayers \$1.5 billion a year.

"Slavery is wrong in all its forms, and California, of all states, should be clear in denouncing that in its constitution," said Wilson, who chairs the California Legislative Black Caucus. It wasn't until 1974 that the state Constitution was amended to read: "Slavery is prohibited. Involuntary servitude is prohibited except to punish crime."

If the proposed amendment passes in the California Legislature this year by a two-thirds vote, voters would decide in November 2024 whether to adopt it. Wilson said she hopes conversations she has had with lawmakers about the economic impact of this amendment will help it get passed this year in the Legislature.

Meanwhile in Nevada, lawmakers voted unanimously Tuesday to move a measure that would change the state Constitution to ban slavery and involuntary servitude, which is prohibited "otherwise than in the punishment for crimes, whereof the party shall have been

duly convicted."

That puts the measure one step closer to appearing on the 2024 ballot in Nevada, after it passed unanimously during the 2021 Legislature session. Ballot measures that go through the legislative process must pass Nevada's Legislature twice before going in front of voters. This would need a majority vote in the state Senate and Assembly to pass again.

Democratic Assemblyman Howard Watts of Las Vegas, whose great-great-grandfather was born enslaved, is cosponsoring the legislation in the state.

"I believe that it's time for us to move forward and make it clear and unequivocal that nobody will ever live through the horror of state-sanctioned slavery, or servitude ever again," Watts said.

The ACLU of Nevada is considering litigation related to the pay and working conditions of incarcerated women at prison firefighting camps – and the measure could protect people from "harmful, deadly conditions without being forced to labor for our sake," said Lilith Baran, the group's policy manager.

"This is not just a feel-good bill," Baran said. "This has actual real implications on people's lives."

ABORTION

from BI

egies to maximize federal financing for reproductive healthcare such as birth control, and support for manufacturers of abortion medication and contraceptives that face potential new restrictions from conservatives.

Lujan Grisham noted the launch comes as a federal court in Texas considers a challenge to the nationwide availability of medication abortion, which now accounts for the majority of abortions in the United States.

In a statement, Newsom called the effort, which he and his aides spent months organizing, "a moral obligation" and a "firewall" to protect "fundamental rights."

The group includes

executives of heavily Democratic states such as California, where voters overwhelmingly approve of abortion rights, but also involves every presidential battleground state led by a Democrat, including Govs. Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, Roy Cooper of North Carolina, Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania and Tony Evers of Wisconsin.

The alliance has secured its initial funding from the California Wellness Foundation and the Rosenberg Foundation, nonprofits that often steer money to public health efforts focused on disadvantaged communities.

While the organization is billed as national and nonpartisan, the makeup underscores that abortion access since Dobbs has settled essentially into two Americas that broad-

ly track the platforms of the nation's two major parties. That means greater access in states controlled by Democrats, tighter restrictions or practically outright bans in those controlled by Republicans.

For example, 22 Democratic-run states have weighed in on the Texas challenge to medical abortions that was filed by many of the same litigant states that worked together to overturn the 1973 Roe vs. Wade ruling that legalized abortion nationwide. A similar contingent of Republican-led states has filed briefs in the Texas case urging a judge to reverse a decades-old approval by the Food and Drug Administration of medical abortions.

Still, Newsom aides said the group would welcome

Republicans, though they declined to name any GOP executives that Newsom or other Democratic governors might be recruiting to the consortium. Indeed, a handful of Republican governors support abortion rights broadly.

Lujan Grisham mentioned New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu, who has sent mixed messages on the issue. Sununu signed a state budget in 2021 that included a ban on abortion after 24 weeks of pregnancy but also said after the Dobbs decision that abortion would remain legal in his state. He endorsed candidates in the November elections who favored further restrictions but also supports adding exemptions to the current law for victims of rape and incest.

Lujan Grisham acknowledged that the alliance cannot make national policy or even impose policy across state lines. But she said there's practical value in having executives and their staffs have a formal framework to communicate.

She noted that New Mexico lawmakers now are considering how to affirm abortion access with a statute, even though she and others believe the state's constitution already establishes the right.

"The problem is everyone keeps challenging those constitutional interpretations," she said. "We're going to codify equality on abortion rights, reproductive rights and care in as narrow as possible a way." New Mexico's process, she said, could become a model for other similarly situated

states. Governors' offices in the alliance also have started working with advocacy groups that back abortion access.

Jeanné Lewis, the interim chief executive of Faith in Public Life, a progressive multistate faith-based organization, said having states work together to ensure abortion access is essential as states and federal lawmakers continue to consider bans and deeper restrictions.

"It is important for governors to be in conversations now about shared solutions across state lines," she said.

Alexis McGill Johnson, president of Planned Parenthood Foundation of America, said states should be working together to protect abortion access, especially given the pending Texas case.

DEMOCRATS

from BI

Democratic activists and social media denizens – a picture of Porter nonchalantly reading a book titled "The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F—" during the House speaker election in January went viral. Lee's foreign policy votes after 9/11 are celebrated by liberal voters as proof of courage to defend unpopular views in times of national crisis.

"It's going to be interesting," said Roger Salazar, a Democratic consultant who was a spokesman for former Gov. Gray Davis as well as for the Clinton-Gore White House. "You don't have your business Democrat or your Reagan Democrat, so they're going to have to really work hard to differentiate themselves from each other."

The three lawmakers' voting records are nearly identical, as are their views on reproductive rights, same-sex

marriage and labor rights, so Californians should expect to see a major emphasis on pivotal issues and votes where they did diverge, as well as on campaign finance.

One difference will be Lee's post-9/11 votes contrasted with Schiff's support of military action in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the Patriot Act's ability to surveil American citizens. Another point of contention will be who backs their campaigns financially.

Porter refuses donations from corporate political action committees and federal lobbyists, while Schiff has received significant sums from committees representing businesses, including oil firms, payday lenders and pharmaceutical interests, according to campaign finance reports. A Schiff spokesman said he would not accept donations from corporate PACs for his Senate campaign.

The candidates will need to introduce themselves to the state's 21.9 million registered

voters, 47% of whom are registered Democrats, 24% Republicans and 23% who do not state a party preference, according to the California secretary of state's office.

No prominent Republican has entered the race thus far, so candidates will need to appeal to liberals, moderates and independents alike, particularly in light of the state's nonpartisan primary. The two contenders who receive the most votes in March 2024 will advance to the general election, regardless of party.

But it's early – the filing deadline is Dec. 8, though candidates who are not wealthy self-funders would have to launch campaigns well before then to raise the tens of millions of dollars it takes to compete in such a vast state.

If a well-known Republican enters the race and consolidates the GOP vote in the March 2024 primary, it's likely that only one Democrat will advance to the November general election.

WEAPONS

from BI

rey Park shootings.

"I look forward to Judge Benitez's decision. It's already written," Newsom predicted. "He's likely to overturn our assault weapons ban. Stay tuned. That's a preview of things to come in the next few weeks."

"Large capacity magazine clips. That will likely also be thrown out by the same ideologues," Newsom added.

In addition to the assault weapons ban, Judge Benitez is also hearing a case on California's ban on certain magazine clips.

If Benitez does overturn the assault weapons ban, it would not be his first time. He struck down the law in 2021. However, a higher court reinstated the law.

But Travis says this time is different. The decision would be the first to come

after the Supreme Court's Bruen decision last year that overturned a New York gun control law and made it easier to argue laws restricting guns are unconstitutional.

Travis said that ruling gives gun rights groups a better chance of actually overturning California's assault weapons ban.

"It forced you to have to go back to the original text, the history based off of that text, and what is common use at this time," Travis said of the new standard set by the Bruen decision. "And those are the things that help set the standard of how a judge or judges, in case of a panel, have to review anything under the Second Amendment."

Newsom recently condemned the Bruen ruling, which says gun control laws can be found unconstitutional unless the government could show they were consistent with

the nation's historical tradition of firearms regulation, going back to the country's founding. Newsom said it doesn't take into account how guns, and the country, have evolved.

"Presumably, somehow equating those that are doing the same with AR-15s or other assault weapons to those with muskets," Newsom said. "I mean, it's perverse. The whole thing is perverse."

But it's that new standard -- along with a majority conservative Supreme Court -- that has gun rights groups feeling empowered to take on California gun control laws.

Travis believes the assault weapons ban case will be brought to the Supreme Court.

"I think most of these laws with firearms in California, in this space, that's where they're going to be going," he said.

Weekly Column: Veterans Corner

RUSTY STRAIT | SENIOR REPORTER

California veteran-related legislation (Assembly Bill AB-1623) Military Retirement Pay Tax Exemption and Senate Bill SB-658 Disabled Veterans Property Tax Exemption both failed in the Appropriations Committee. Only a few weeks are left before the deadline to re-introduce legislation for the 2023 session. It is highly encouraged and considered a very effective prac-

tice for Veterans, Veteran Service Organizations, Family Members, Community Leaders and the General Public to communicate their support for legislation either directly or through their respective elected officials.

The Riverside County Veterans' Advisory Committee (VAC) was established to: 1. Keep the Board apprised of problems and issues facing veterans. 2. Serve as a support group for the Riverside National Cemetery.

3. Act as liaison between veterans and the County Veteran Service Officer. 4. Help unify Veteran Service Organizations (VSOS). 5. Assist veterans and keep the public aware of the problems and needs of Veterans. STATEWIDE: CALIFORNIA VETERANS NEWS 1. On February 2nd. The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced \$30 million would be allocated to a new grant opportunity aimed at helping formerly homeless veterans maintain financial

independence. California VSOs and nonprofits can find more information on the VA's GRANT AND PER DIEM page 2. The U. S. State Department is aware of increasing efforts by the Wagner Group, a private mercenary company with strong ties to Russia, to recruit U. S. Combat veterans to fight against allied Ukrainian forces. The Wagner Group has played a critical role in Russia's invasion of Ukraine since last February. The U. S. Treasury Department classifies the

group as a transnational criminal organization and there are growing international calls to label the Wagner Group as a terrorist organization. 3. As reported by WVEC-TV Norfolk, the VA has awarded 6,900 Blue Water veterans of the Vietnam War over \$200,000 in retroactive benefits since 2021 as part of the Blue Water Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. * * *

coming year. They are resuming their Friday night dinners served between 5:00 and 7:00 PM. Post 53 is joining with the VFW Post 4379 Winchester, Empire Mobility and Veterans paying it Forward in a weekly nine-ball pool tournament. For details, ask at the Legion. This column will continue uninterrupted to ap'prise all Veterans, whether members of the Legion or not, of events and rights that you have given up so much to earn. Just sayin' rustystrait@gmail.com

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Photo courtesy of RCC

Best Dispensaries In Riverside, CA

There's plenty to see and do in Riverside, whether you're a local or just visiting. Prepare to explore the area's best dispensaries and cannabis-friendly businesses.

RACHEL ABELA | CONTRIBUTOR

Riverside, California is located in the Inland Empire region and is known for its rich history, diverse culture, and beautiful scenery. The city's thriving cannabis scene is one of the city's main draws for visitors.

Riverside offers a variety of activities to suit all interests. Explore the many stores, eateries, and bars in the downtown area as you stroll around. The Riverside Metropolitan Museum is a must-visit for history buffs, and the Riverside Art Museum provides a look at the city's thriving art scene.

Riverside offers a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, including Riverside Park and the Riverside Community College Botanic Garden. Enjoy a leisurely hike through the stunning countryside nearby or unwind in one of the many parks and outdoor spaces nearby that allow cannabis use.

Visitors can expect a distinctive and exciting cannabis experience in Riverside, with lots of chances to explore, unwind, and have fun. Riverside is the place to be whether you're a cannabis enthusiast or just looking for a fun and exciting new destination.

The Artist Tree

The Artist Tree is a dispensary that delivers immersive experiences using cannabis and art. They recognize how important cannabis has been for the art industry, and from that, they created a space for people to enjoy art and weed.

The Artist Tree supports local artists and allows them to show their creations at the store. Every visit to The Artist Tree is full of excellent cannabis products and an inspiring environment for artists and spectators.

Their Riverside store is located at 240 Iowa Ave. The store is full of art that is available for purchase and tons of different activities throughout the year. They also have

a wide variety of cannabis products, and this combined with such a beautiful location creates an experience hard to forget. If you are looking for some inspiration and good weed, The Artist Tree is for you.

Plant Galaxy

Plant Galaxy is a dispensary that bets on a futuristic, premier experience. They have built a modern and comfortable store with a space theme that offers a substantial variety of cannabis options.

Plant Galaxy has an amazing team full of professionals that are ready to advise every customer through their high-quality, carefully curated menu. Their main objective is to offer an out-of-this-world experience for new and regular cannabis users.

Their store is located at 1270 Center St., Riverside, CA. They offer free parking and an on-site ATM. In their store, you can find an array of sativas, indicas, and CBD products that include

flowers, pre-rolls, vapes, topicals, and more. With all they have to choose from, they want every visit to feel like a unique journey.

Stiiizy

Stiiizy is one of the biggest cannabis companies out there. They are, in part, responsible for the huge growth of the cannabis industry. A visit to Stiiizy's dispensary is an experience that every cannabis user would love.

Stiiizy has created a number of unique products that have earned them a place in top dispensaries across the country. They are popular mainly because of their innovative cannabis vapes and accessories, but they also have a lot of dispensaries located in California and Michigan.

One of their stores is located at 5434 Mission Blvd., in Jurupa Valley, in Riverside County. They use a minimalistic theme that creates an outstanding environment. Their store is full of amazing,

See RIVERSIDE on page C4



Photo courtesy of The Artist Tree



Photo courtesy of Plant Galaxy

Winter

EVENTS

CALENDAR



Top 8 Events in the Valley

M?stic

THE HIDEAWAY CAFE & LOUNGE
Friday, February 24, 9pm
3660 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA.
Visit: <https://allevents.in/>



Jerry Cantrell

FOX PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
Friday, February 24, 7pm
3801 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA.
Visit: <https://concerts.livenation.com>



Black History Explosion

RE-NU MASSAGE
Saturday, February 25, 1pm
4080 Tyler St ste a, Riverside, CA.
Visit: <https://www.unation.com/>



Lone Star drift

ADAMS MOTORSPORTS PARK
Saturday, February 25, 10am
5292 24th St, Riverside, CA.
Visit: <http://lonestardrift.com>



CARIN LEON

TOYOTA ARENA
Saturday, February 25, 8pm
4000 Ontario Center, Ontario, CA.
Visit: <https://www.toyota-arena.com/>



The Villain's Children's Tea

RIVERSIDE CITY MAYOR'S OFFICE
Sunday, February 26, 2:45pm
3900 Main St, Riverside, CA.
Visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/>



BrideCon

ONTARIO CONVENTION CENTER
Sunday, February 26, 11am
2000 E Convention Center Way, Ontario, CA.
Visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/>



Jeff Garcia

ONTARIO IMPROV
Friday, March 03, 7:30pm
4555 Mills Cir, Ontario, CA.
Visit: <https://www.ticketweb.com>



More events in the Valley

Friday, February 24

12pm: **Tours of Heritage House**, Riverside Heritage House, 8193 Magnolia Ave, Riverside, CA. <https://allevents.in/>

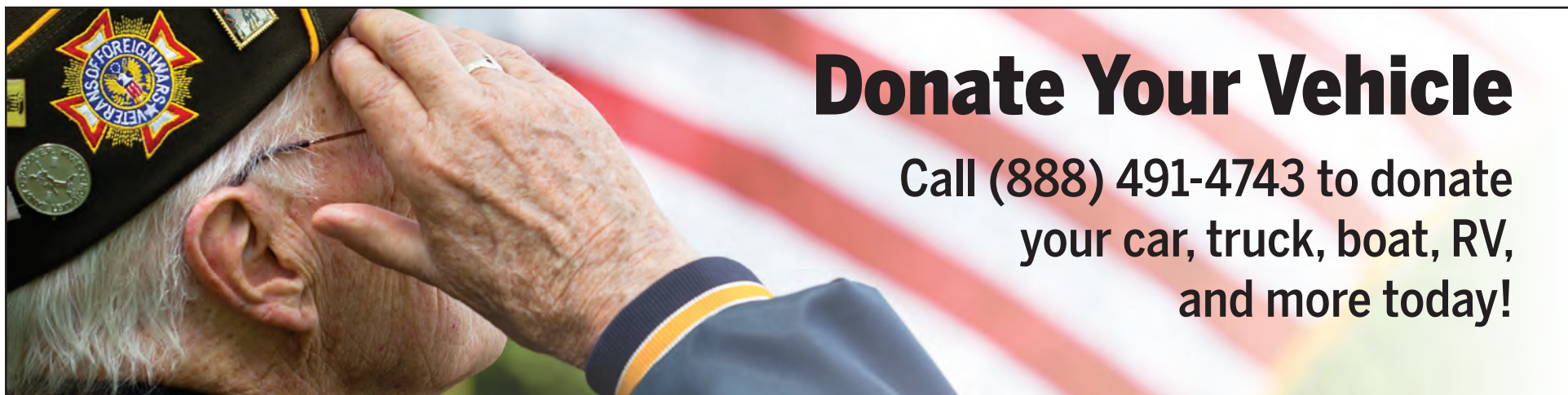
10am: **It's a Scavenger Hunt! Riverside**, 3639 Riverside Plaza Dr, Riverside, CA. <https://itsascavengerhunt.com>

10am: **SoCal Etsy Guild Market Riverside**, Galleria at Tyler, 1299 Galleria at Tyler, Riverside, CA. <https://www.eventbrite.com/>

11am: **Practical Boundary Setting for Highly Sensitive & Empathic Women**, Moreno Valley City Hall, 14177 Frederick St, Moreno Valley, CA. <https://www.eventbrite.com/>

5:15pm: **Pardi Gras Pub Crawl - Downtown Riverside**, Loft 84 Wedding and Event Venue, 3840 Lemon St, Riverside, CA. <https://www.eventbrite.com/>

See CALENDAR on page C2



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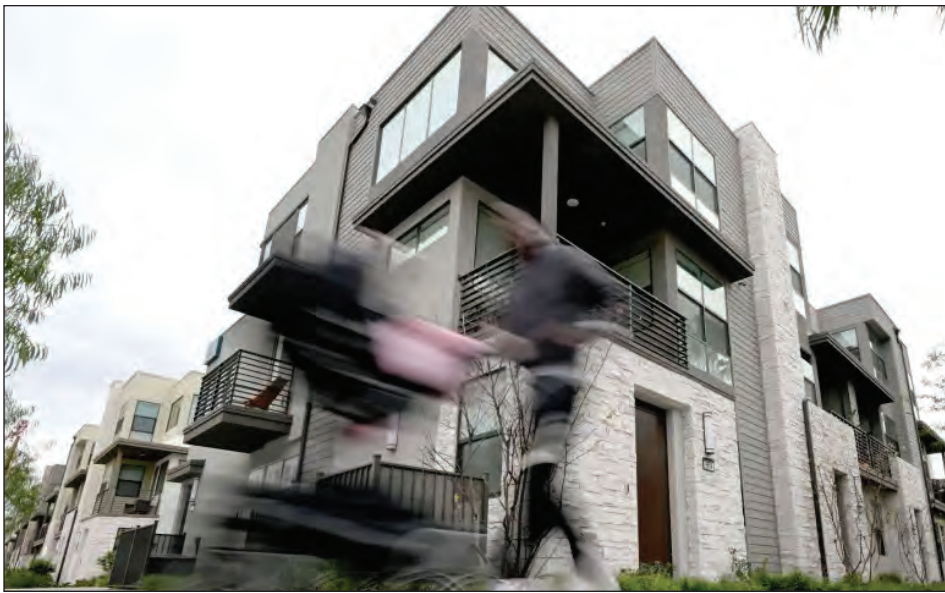
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REAL ESTATE & PROPERTY GUIDE



The Resort in Rancho Cucamonga, seen Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022, includes stacked flats with and without elevators, bungalows, townhouses, detached houses and apartments that range from two to four bedrooms. Built by the Upland-based Lewis Management Corp., it is considered a model of what housing may look like in the future. | Courtesy Photo by Will Lester, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG

In 25 years, housing will look different in Inland Empire

Homes will be more dense, more vertical and more energy efficient – but some fear there won't be enough homes for all

CONTRIBUTING WRITER | CONTRIBUTOR

The single-family house that symbolizes life in the Inland Empire will be alive and well 25 years from now.

Anthony Orlando, a Cal Poly Pomona associate professor of finance, real estate and law, said he believes most people will still live in such homes.

But, in many cases, the standalone dwelling of the future won't resemble the house with the big backyard common today in Riverside County, San Bernardino County and eastern Los Angeles County.

"Housing is evolving and there will be surprises," said developer Randall Lewis, executive vice presi-

dent of Upland-based Lewis Management Corp.

Look for houses to be more dense, more vertical, more energy efficient – many will produce as much electricity as they consume – and located near stores, Lewis said.

Look also for a higher proportion of housing to be apartments, condominiums and townhomes – some of which will be hard to tell apart from the new single-family home.

"The lines between multifamily and single family will blur," Lewis said.

Inland project offers peek at future

An example of what the future may look like is the Tempo neighborhood in The Resort development in Rancho Cucamonga.

Houses are spaced so close together – about 15 to the acre – that they appear to be townhomes, Lewis said.

The homes have only thin strips of yards, he said, though they are large enough for a barbecue grill and "a place to sit."

Tempo is one of five different housing products in The Resort that range from single-family homes to condominiums and have 12 to 24 homes per acre, Lewis wrote in an email.

The demand for a variety of housing styles will be driven by a growing diversity of households.

In the past, most people who shopped for Inland Empire houses were families with children, Lewis said. Large families tend-

See HOUSING on page C4

160 closed transactions for the week of February 13, 2023 through February 19, 2023

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HEMET	\$	SQ. FT.	BD / BA	Days on the Market
1819 Seven Hills Drive	\$395,000	1751 SQ. FT.	2 BR / 3 BA	241 DOM
26573 Cortrite Avenue	\$315,000	1152 SQ. FT.	2 BR / 2 BA	19 DOM
800 Lyon Avenue	\$120,000	1152 SQ. FT.	2 BR / 2 BA	5 DOM
873 San Ignacio Drive	\$135,000	800 SQ. FT.	2 BR / 2 BA	12 DOM
44020 Thomas Street	\$160,000	1296 SQ. FT.	2 BR / 2 BA	2 DOM
611 Palm Avenue	\$180,000	1254 SQ. FT.	2 BR / 2 BA	45 DOM
25935 Baylor Way	\$230,000	860 SQ. FT.	2 BR / 1 BA	0 DOM
820 Buena Vista Street	\$265,000	872 SQ. FT.	1 BR / 1 BA	2 DOM
1837 Campus Way	\$360,000	1414 SQ. FT.	2 BR / 2 BA	7 DOM
763 Sonrisa Street	\$385,000	1337 SQ. FT.	3 BR / 2 BA	63 DOM
2891 Janae Way	\$395,000	1612 SQ. FT.	2 BR / 2 BA	11 DOM
834 Pinehurst Drive	\$395,000	1514 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 2 BA	132 DOM
31975 Tava Lane	\$400,000	1212 SQ. FT.	3 BR / 2 BA	21 DOM
861 Digby Drive	\$400,000	1449 SQ. FT.	3 BR / 2 BA	47 DOM
27756 Vista Del Valle	\$405,000	1560 SQ. FT.	3 BR / 2 BA	170 DOM
1425 Honor Way	\$429,990	1576 SQ. FT.	3 BR / 2 BA	8 DOM
5407 Coyote Street	\$433,540	1678 SQ. FT.	3 BR / 2 BA	6 DOM
325 Pamela Court	\$467,500	2692 SQ. FT.	5 BR / 3 BA	214 DOM
846 Riesling Street	\$515,000	2581 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 3 BA	14 DOM
5781 Silkstone Drive	\$525,389	1779 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 2 BA	26 DOM
26100 Corte Tecolote	\$540,000	2438 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 4 BA	60 DOM
3690 Claremont Street	\$553,000	3019 SQ. FT.	5 BR / 3 BA	5 DOM

SAN JACINTO	\$	SQ. FT.	BD / BA	Days on the Market
1536 Beringer Drive	\$395,000	1599 SQ. FT.	3 BR / 2 BA	4 DOM
107 Lower Street	\$445,000	1762 SQ. FT.	3 BR / 3 BA	131 DOM
1739 Brownwood Drive	\$467,000	2230 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 3 BA	84 DOM
862 Canopy Lane	\$470,815	2239 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 3 BA	47 DOM
854 Browning	\$489,000	2385 SQ. FT.	5 BR / 3 BA	119 DOM
1946 Echo Road	\$495,000	2302 SQ. FT.	5 BR / 3 BA	9 DOM
873 Canopy Lane	\$506,025	2537 SQ. FT.	5 BR / 3 BA	4 DOM
1357 Reinhart Street	\$549,900	2541 SQ. FT.	5 BR / 3 BA	68 DOM

TEMECULA	\$	SQ. FT.	BD / BA	Days on the Market
40238 Ayer Ln	\$637,000	1684 SQ. FT.	3 BR / 3 BA	55 DOM
43071 Avenida Cielo	\$570,000	1739 SQ. FT.	3 BR / 3 BA	25 DOM
34022 TEMECULA CREEK Road	\$800,000	2609 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 3 BA	254 DOM
47265 Rancho View Drive	\$550,000	1960 SQ. FT.	5 BR / 4 BA	21 DOM
44809 Camino Alamosa	\$560,000	1415 SQ. FT.	3 BR / 2 BA	11 DOM
44622 Brentwood Place	\$570,000	2618 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 3 BA	106 DOM
32865 Naples Court	\$600,000	2350 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 3 BA	129 DOM
40477 Amesbury Lane	\$610,000	2010 SQ. FT.	3 BR / 3 BA	38 DOM
40206 Ayer Lane	\$630,000	1684 SQ. FT.	3 BR / 3 BA	7 DOM
27609 Sonora Circle	\$650,000	2427 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 3 BA	165 DOM
31089 Wellington Circle	\$680,000	2291 SQ. FT.	5 BR / 3 BA	64 DOM
43029 Argo Court	\$680,000	1835 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 3 BA	62 DOM
31905 Keyes Court	\$680,000	2618 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 3 BA	106 DOM
44753 Longfellow Avenue	\$710,000	2794 SQ. FT.	5 BR / 3 BA	15 DOM
31772 Via San Carlos	\$745,000	2268 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 4 BA	25 DOM
44859 Mumm Street	\$774,900	2786 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 3 BA	5 DOM
44928 Silver Rose Street	\$820,000	2418 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 3 BA	3 DOM
32062 Dayspring Way	\$878,000	3378 SQ. FT.	5 BR / 5 BA	45 DOM
34063 Abbey Road	\$937,000	2973 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 3 BA	8 DOM
32687 Valentino Way	\$956,000	3800 SQ. FT.	5 BR / 5 BA	9 DOM
27495 Capricho Circle	\$983,812	2118 SQ. FT.	2 BR / 2 BA	38 DOM
45743 Middle Gate Court	\$1,105,000	4121 SQ. FT.	6 BR / 5 BA	17 DOM
40550 Calle Madero	\$1,250,000	3800 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 4 BA	165 DOM
36100 Calle Tequila	\$1,750,000	3250 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 3 BA	7 DOM

WILDOMAR	\$	SQ. FT.	BD / BA	Days on the Market
22732 Queensbury Court	\$598,000	2219 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 3 BA	83 DOM
34658 White Street	\$365,000	1152 SQ. FT.	3 BR / 2 BA	88 DOM
34082 Harvest Way	\$410,000	1152 SQ. FT.	3 BR / 2 BA	24 DOM
22506 Spur Brook Drive	\$490,000	2595 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 4 BA	0 DOM
32541 Dahlia Lane	\$520,000	1443 SQ. FT.	3 BR / 2 BA	26 DOM
33689 Mill Pond Drive	\$525,000	2246 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 2 BA	90 DOM

WINCHESTER	\$	SQ. FT.	BD / BA	Days on the Market
31043 Pinon Pine Circle	\$585,000	3258 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 3 BA	69 DOM
29659 Bonneville Court	\$585,129	2285 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 3 BA	41 DOM
36364 Bastiano Lane	\$458,000	1550 SQ. FT.	3 BR / 3 BA	18 DOM
36403 Rotterdam Street	\$465,000	1685 SQ. FT.	3 BR / 2 BA	69 DOM
36323 Franklin Avenue	\$525,000	2315 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 2 BA	69 DOM
33437 Royal Netherlands	\$525,000	1344 SQ. FT.	3 BR / 2 BA	4 DOM
35622 Denver Circle	\$540,000	2202 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 3 BA	26 DOM
31682 Olive Tree Court	\$588,000	1977 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 3 BA	6 DOM
34733 Armstrong Road	\$588,000	1945 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 2 BA	203 DOM
31970 Sage Court	\$610,000	2995 SQ. FT.	5 BR / 3 BA	18 DOM
34963 Old Vine Road	\$645,000	3258 SQ. FT.	5 BR / 3 BA	71 DOM
31390 Tullette Lane	\$703,000	3073 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 3 BA	34 DOM
32680 Pines Airpark Road	\$1,200,000	2728 SQ. FT.	4 BR / 3 BA	83 DOM

26529 Jefferson Avenue
Murrieta, CA 92562

27070 Sun City Boulevard
Menifee, CA 92586

2355 East Florida Avenue
Hemet, CA 92544

31569 Canyon Estates Dr, Ste 127
Lake Elsinore, CA 92532

TABLE GAMES



BINGO



SLOTS



FOOD



IT PAYS TO PLAY

NON-SMOKING & SMOKING AREAS



14 students awarded Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival scholarship

JESUS REYES | CONTRIBUTOR

Fourteen outstanding high school seniors from across Riverside County were awarded the Date Festival scholarship from Pickering Events LLC, the operators of the Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival, in recognition of the importance of the Fair to the community.

The students participated in a month-long competition that considered their community involvement, scholastic achievement, interviews, and an essay (written on "The Importance of Community").

The \$2,000 scholarship recipients are:

- Alexis Alfaro, Notre Dame High School Riverside, Mira Loma
- David Anacan, Palm Springs High School, Palm Springs
- Leah Marie Baluyot, Chaparral High School, Temecula Murrieta
- Olga Benito, Desert Mirage High School, Thermal, Thermal
- Riley Cohen, Cathedral City High School, Cathedral City
- Kaylee Cervantes, Notre Dame High School, Riverside
- Caitlyn Hill, Desert Mirage High School, Thermal, Mecca

- Isela Lopez, Desert Mirage High School, Thermal, Thermal
- Ryann Van Horn, Palm Desert High School, Palm Desert, Indio
- Monique Villalobos, Ramona High School, Ramona, Riverside

The \$1,000 scholarship recipients are:

- Luis Bojorquez, Coachella Valley High School, Thermal, Indio
- Jasmine Leyva, Rancho Mirage High School, Rancho Mirage, Cathedral City
- April Nunez, Indio High School, Indio
- Isaac Robles, Palm Springs High School,



Courtesy Photo of Skip Fredricks

Palm Springs, Cathedral City

"Pickering Events LLC, in collaboration with Butler Amusements and the Bailey-Findley Foundation, are honored to offer these deserving Class of

2023 seniors scholarship funds to be sent in each student's name to the college or university of their choice," said Chris Pickering, Founding Partner of Pickering Events. "Our goal with the scholarships

is to honor and emphasize exceptional student achievement.

Winners also participated in today's Presidents' Day Parade and were given tickets to enjoy the Fair."

RIVERSIDE

from []
top-quality products and impeccable customer service.

Remedy Room
Sometimes little busi-

nesses like Remedy Room can offer the most incredible service. Remedy Room is a small dispensary located at 8642 Limonite Ave., Riverside. They prioritize customer service so that everyone leaves satisfied and with the best products.

In Remedy Room you are going to get the best attention from people who can guide you with anything related to cannabis. They have a remarkable team of qualified budtenders that have all the information, so you go home with the best

weed for every occasion.

Culture Cannabis Club

The cannabis community has always been like a family. Stoners from all over the world get together thanks to the healing plant.
Culture Cannabis Club

is one of many other communities that work together to create a safe world for every cannabis user. Their stores are places to live cannabis experiences, with friendly visitors and good customer service.

Culture Cannabis Club, aside from being one of the

best dispensaries in California, also offers the possibility for new customers to join an amazing community. They are located at 10810 Limonite Ave., Mira Loma, in Riverside County. They have only the best products, like pre-rolls, vapes, extracts, and more.



Photo courtesy of Stiiizy



Photo courtesy of Remedy Room



Photo courtesy of Culture Cannabis Club

HOUSING

from []

ed to seek five-bedroom homes while smaller ones were buying three-bedroom houses.

Now, experts said, alongside families are couples who don't have children, young professionals who want to walk to stores and entertainment, multigenerational households and retirees looking to downsize.

Will there be a housing shortage?

One of the biggest concerns today is that there's not enough housing to go around.

Daniel MacDonald, associate professor and chair of the Economics Department at Cal State San Bernardino, isn't optimistic that will change.

"Even though the Inland Empire is a very fast-growing metropolitan area ... we are approving less permits (for new houses) today than we did back in the year 2000," he said.

That doesn't bode well for closing the gap.

Multifamily housing is accounting for a growing share of the new homes, MacDonald said. Still, single-family houses comprised 77% of housing approved in 2021, down some - but not substantially - from 90% at the turn of the century, he said.

"Developers are finding it very difficult to build in this kind of political environment," MacDonald said. "So we are just not building enough to satisfy the demand. That's why prices go up."

That has implications for the region's future attractiveness.

For years, more people have been leaving California than have been moving to the Golden State, with a

main reason being the cost of housing, MacDonald said. Lower-income workers have been leaving for some time, he said. Higher-income workers are starting to do the same.

"The question is whether the Inland Empire is bucking that trend, or is just late to the party," he said.

The answer may be the latter, MacDonald said.

Prices may hit younger residents

The Inland Empire long has been a relief valve for families escaping high prices in Orange County, San Diego and the Los Angeles area. That's reflected in recent migration patterns.

MacDonald said 17,000 more people ages 25 and older moved into Riverside and San Bernardino counties than moved out of the area in 2021 - most of them from coastal counties.

What's concerning, he said, is that the 2021 numbers were down sharply from the region's net in-migration total of 31,000 for 2016.

Although some state projections show the region's population growing by 20% in the next 25 years, MacDonald said that, if regional leaders don't work to ease the housing crunch - and slow surging home values - within 10 years, the Inland Empire may begin to lose more 25-and-older people than it gains from move-ins.

Matthew Taylor, a principal planner for the city of Riverside, said in an email that high costs and stiff competition for housing will prompt younger residents to make tough choices, such as "renting for longer, opting for smaller units in denser communities, moving back in with Mom and Dad, or leaving the area altogether."

Orlando, the Cal Poly Pomona professor, said easing the shortage will be difficult in the face of community opposition to dense housing.

What's needed, Orlando said, is for politicians, influential employers, workers and non-real-estate leaders in the business community to recognize the need for housing and advocate for it.

"I haven't seen that happen yet at the scale that it needs to happen," he said.

There is reason for optimism, though, Orlando said. Citing the construction of homes in downtown areas, he called that trend something upon which the region can build.

Low-income people may face choices

Meanwhile, the shortage has created major problems.

"Either people have to share or they don't get housing," Orlando said. "So we have overcrowding and homelessness growing side by side."

Juanita Kodera, senior fair housing counselor for the Fair Housing Council of Riverside County, said the shortage is particularly acute in price ranges that lower-income families can afford.

Consequently, multiple generations of families are squeezing into homes that weren't meant to accommodate many people, Kodera said.

Some have jobs but sleep in cars because they don't earn enough to pay rent, she said. Some opt for gym memberships so they can shower and dress for work.

California lawmakers have tried to confront the shortage through legislation, including passing a law that makes it easier for homeowners to build second homes - often referred to as granny flats - on their

lots.

Those efforts will help, Kodera said, but more must be done to boost the supply, which she said "needs to grow exponentially."

The housing council is based in downtown Riverside at the new Mission Heritage Plaza, which also is home to the Civil Rights Institute of Inland Southern California and 72 apartments for lower-income families.

Housing is moving to downtowns

In recent years, the downtown area of the Inland Empire's largest city has sprouted several multifamily complexes. In January, another such complex - the seven-story high rise called the Mark - is set to open next to the landmark Mission Inn Hotel & Spa.

Michelle Rubin, president of Regional Properties, which built the Mark, said no one would have dared to build apartments there 25 years ago. Now there is a strong demand for multifamily housing as millennials and other young people seek such places.

"They want to live in the city," Rubin said.

Responding to that desire, developers have built 500 housing units in downtown Riverside in the past five years, Taylor, the principal planner, said in an email.

The total includes the Mark's 165 units, 125 homes at Centerpointe, 89 apartments at Imperial Hardware Lofts and the 72 at Mission Heritage Plaza, Taylor wrote.

Urban-living-type projects are beginning to rise in other places, too, Rubin said.

"They're like micro downtowns," she said. "You have retail around them."

One such place could

emerge at Riverside's former Sears store, which for decades was a retail giant and now sits empty. A team of developers is crafting a plan to remake the Arlington Avenue site.

Preliminary ideas call for tearing down the building and constructing almost 400 townhomes and apartments, along with shops, a grocery store and a dog park. Potential approval is a few years off as environmental studies must be completed first.

Other projects that could deliver a mix of housing and retail development are in the works.

In Redlands, plans to transform the former Redlands Mall into 700 apartments and condominiums, with restaurants and shops, were approved in May.

In San Bernardino, city leaders are preparing to demolish the shuttered Carousel Mall. The San Bernardino City Council voted in August to hire a Dallas-based real estate firm to create a vision for breathing new life into the 43-acre site. Though the firm later backed out, redevelopment of the shuttered mall remains a high priority for the city.

Future can be hard to predict

Exactly what mix of single-family and multifamily housing the region will see in the future remains to be seen, experts said.

Jennifer Lilley, Riverside's community and economic development director, said that's hard to predict following the coronavirus pandemic. The trend toward people working remotely made the single-family house more attractive, Lilley said.

"COVID kind of took the crystal ball out of our hands a little bit," she said.

In any event, Lilley said,

multifamily housing will account for an increasing share of homes built in Riverside - and, experts said, across the region.

Today, 67% of Riverside's homes are single-family houses, Taylor said.

The Sears redevelopment in many ways represents "the future of housing in Riverside and Southern California," Taylor wrote. Riverside's plan that sets the stage for more than 20,000 homes to be built by 2029 relies heavily on placing housing in underused and abandoned commercial areas, he said.

Expect that approach to be replicated across the region. In July, a new state law will take effect that requires cities to allow homes in commercial and office zones.

Sara Tellez, who manages the fair housing initiative program for the Fair Housing Council of Riverside County, predicted that dense, high-rise, housing will become more common in part because of the shrinking amount of vacant land available for building.

"The easy sites have been taken," Lewis, the developer, said. "You're going to see the repurposing of nonresidential properties. That is already happening now. But if you look 25 years from now, that is going to happen on a larger scale."

The region's vast inventory of existing houses will play a role, too, Lewis said. Many were built during the 1970s, '80s and '90s, he said, and will be well past their prime in 2048.

Some will be torn down and replaced. Others will be remodeled, Lewis said.

"Adaptation will be a huge theme 25 years from now because we will have an aging housing stock," he said.

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US inflation slows to 6.4%, but price pressures re-emerge

AP NEWS
| CONTRIBUTED

The pace of consumer price increases eased again in January compared with a year earlier, the latest sign that the high inflation that has gripped Americans for nearly two years is slowly easing.

At the same time, Tuesday's consumer price report from the government showed that inflationary pressures in the U.S. economy remain stubborn and are likely to keep prices elevated well into this year. Rising costs will also keep pressure on the Federal Reserve to raise its benchmark interest rate further and to keep it there through year's end.

Consumer prices climbed 6.4% in January from a year earlier, down from 6.5% in December. It was the seventh straight year-over-year slowdown and well below a recent peak of 9.1% in June. Yet it remains far above the Federal Reserve's 2% annual inflation target.

And on a monthly basis, consumer prices increased 0.5% from December to January, much higher than the 0.1% rise from

November to December. More expensive gas, food and clothing drove up last month's figure.

The data show that while inflation is fading, it is likely to do so slowly and unevenly. The government also incorporated annual revisions of its methods into January's inflation report, which caused monthly increases in the final three months of last year to be higher than originally reported. Combined with January's price figures, the slowdown in inflation since the fall is now more gradual than it seemed just a few weeks ago.

Excluding volatile food and energy costs, so-called "core" prices increased 0.4% last month, up from 0.3% in December. Core prices rose 5.6% from a year ago, down just a tick from December's 5.7%.

In the past three months, core prices have risen at a 4.6% annual rate, which is below the year-over-year number and suggests that more declines are coming. But that figure is up from 4.3% in December.

"These things never happen in a straight line," said Tiffany Wilding, an economist at PIMCO, an asset management firm. "But I

think the overall balance of evidence suggests that we are starting to see inflation move in the right direction."

Fed Chair Jerome Powell said last week that the "process of getting inflation down has begun."

But "this process is likely to take quite a bit of time," he added. "It's not going to be, we don't think, smooth, it's probably going to be bumpy."

The Fed has aggressively raised its benchmark interest rate in the past year to its highest level in 15 years in its drive to get rampaging inflation under control. The Fed's goal is to slow borrowing and spending, cool the pace of hiring and relieve the pressure many businesses feel to raise wages to find or keep workers. Businesses typically pass their higher labor costs on to their customers in the form of higher prices, thereby helping fuel inflation.

So far, most of the slowdown in inflation reflects freer-flowing supply chains and earlier declines in gas prices. Those factors have sharply reduced inflation in goods, including cars, furniture and toys. Overall core goods prices ticked up



INFLATION IN THE COUNTRY: Cashiers process purchases at a Walmart Supercenter in North Bergen, N.J., on Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023. On Tuesday, the Labor Department reports on U.S. consumer prices for January. The consumer price index is closely watched by the Federal Reserve, which has raised interest rates eight times in the past year in an attempt to cool the economy and bring down inflation. | Courtesy Photo of Eduardo Munoz Alvarez/AP

just 0.1% in January, after declining for three months.

Furniture prices were unchanged in January for a second straight month and are up just 2.2% from a year ago. Average new car prices rose just 0.2% last month, though they're still 5.8% more than last January.

Used car prices, which had soared in 2021 and early last year amid widespread supply disruptions, dropped 1.9% last month, the seventh straight de-

cline. They're now 11.9% lower than they were a year ago.

Gas prices rose 2.4% in January, the government said, with prices averaging \$3.50 a gallon nationwide by the end of last month. Prices at the pump have since dropped back to \$3.41 as of Tuesday, according to AAA.

Food prices jumped 0.5% from December to January, defying hopes for a smaller increase. Cereals and bread

products became costlier. And egg prices jumped 8.5% just in January and have skyrocketed 70% in the past year. Those prices have been driven up by more expensive feed and an avian flu epidemic that has devastated chicken flocks.

More expensive food, along with other rising costs, has caused Pat DeCandia, a 65-year-old re-

See INFLATION on page D4

Housing, Inflation Data On Tap as Debate Rages on Strength of Economy

TIMSMART
| CONTRIBUTOR

A bevy of economic reports awaits investors and economists in a holiday-shortened week as the government gives updates on a key inflation measure and fourth quarter gross domestic product as well as private readings on the state of the housing market.

The releases of data, mostly for January, come against a backdrop of an economy that has been running hotter than expected and inflation that while trending downward still is running well above the level the Federal Reserve believes is needed.

The Fed's thinking will be aired on Wednesday when the minutes of its most recent meeting will be released. Analysts expect it will show a healthy debate among officials over whether the recent downshift to a 25-basis-point hike was enough or if some favored a more aggressive half-point increase.

"The decision to raise the federal funds rate at the last meeting was apparently not unanimous," Sam Bullard, managing director and senior economist at Wells Fargo, wrote on Monday, so policy watchers will closely monitor any discussion on the disagreement."

Goldman Sachs and other top Wall Street firms are now talking about three more rate hikes as the Fed raises interest rates another 75 basis points, a more hawkish estimate than the two rate hikes the market had priced in recently.

"In light of the stronger growth and firmer inflation news, we are adding a 25bp (basis points) rate hike in June to our Fed forecast, for a peak funds rate of 5.25%-5.5%," Goldman Sachs economists led by Jan Hatzius said in a note late last week.

The revised thinking has pushed yields on government bonds to the highest levels since 2007 and further fueled the debate over whether the economy can achieve the desired "soft

landing" or whether a recession is inevitable.

Already, a sharp downturn has occurred in the housing and manufacturing sectors, while the tech industry is undergoing a wave of layoff announcements. The week will see two reports on housing, with Tuesday's existing home sales data and Friday's new home sales. Economists are predicting a small increase in existing homes, while new home sales are expected to show a decline month to month.

Thursday brings an update to the forecast for fourth quarter growth in GDP, pegged to register no change to the earlier estimate of 2.9% growth. Economic growth has been better than anticipated and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's GDP Now model is forecasting 2.5% growth for the first quarter of this year.

A lot of focus will be on Friday's report on personal consumption, including an index of pricing that is closely monitored by the

Fed. The price index for January is forecast to show a monthly increase in the inflation number to 0.4% with a drop in the annualized rate to 4.3% from December's 4.4%.

The inflation picture is clouded as year-over-year inflation is coming down, aided by a reduction in the price of many goods, but the month-to-month comparisons have been going up as the sharp decline in gasoline prices late last year has reversed a little. The Fed is especially focused on inflation in the services sector of the economy, where people spending more money eating out, getting haircuts and visiting the doctor have pushed prices and wages for service workers higher.

Looming over all the forecasts will be geopolitical developments, with the stunning cloak-and-dagger visit to Ukraine by President Joe Biden on Monday and Vladimir Putin's bellicose speech to the Russian people Tuesday. China's reopening of its economy



REPORTS: A neighborhood of homes near Chino Hills State Park, Feb. 8, 2023, in Chino Hills, Calif. | Courtesy Photo of Patrick T. Fallon/AFP/Getty Images

post-COVID and its cozying up to Russia have also affected the markets as they contemplate stronger global economic growth but a more unsettled global security environment.

Last but not least is the internal dynamics of the stock market where gains in the S&P 500 have brought the index to a 14% rebound off its lows of last fall, prompting some analysts to warn of a retreat if inflation numbers and bond yields surprise to the upside.

"Markets are continuing to process economic data through the lens of 'this will produce a more hawkish Fed' and 'higher for longer rates', but the market is missing the point that a strong economy and normalization of rates after an abnormal decade of zero interest rates is a long-term positive, because it's a signal of a healthier economy that isn't in need of stimulus," Carol Schleif, chief investment officer, BMO Family Office, said Tuesday morning.

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INFLATION

from DI
tired teacher from Ridgefield, New Jersey, to change her buying habits. She will no longer buy specialty items like smoked salmon from Costco.
"I can do without that," she said.
DeCandia is buying more store label items, which are typically cheaper. For mayonnaise, she is skipping Hellmann's and now buys a store label brand at ShopRite called Bowl & Basket. And whenever anything is on sale,

she stocks up.
Though goods prices across the economy have come down, services costs, including housing, remain chronically high. Rental costs jumped again in January, up 0.7%, and are 8.6% more than a year ago.
Housing costs account for fully 2.75 percentage points of the 6.4% yearly inflation increase, according to calculations by Eric Winograd, an economist at AllianceBernstein. But Powell and other economists expect housing costs to start declining by the middle of this year. Market

rates for new rental leases have been easing since fall, and the Fed expects those lower costs to gradually feed into the government's data.
Excluding housing, however, the cost of other services are still accelerating. Auto insurance prices jumped 1.4% in January and are nearly 15% higher than a year ago. Recreation, which includes movie tickets and veterinary costs, rose 0.7% last month and is up 5.8% from a year earlier.
The Fed is particularly focused on the cost of services excluding housing.

That is because the prices of labor-intensive services tend to be especially difficult to curb. With the strong job market compelling employers to raise pay to attract and keep workers, employers are often passing on those higher labor costs to their customers by charging more.
Kathy Bostjancic, chief economist at Nationwide, calculates that in January, services prices excluding housing were 6.1% higher than they were a year earlier, barely below December's figure of 6.2%. The slow decline reflects the

fact that the Fed's rate hikes — eight since March of last year — have had no discernible effect on America's job market, which remains exceptionally strong.
The unemployment rate has dropped to 3.4%, the lowest level in 53 years, and job openings remain high. The strength of the job market has, in turn, helped support consumer spending, which underpins the bulk of the U.S. economy. With unemployment so low, average wages are rising at a brisk pace of about 5% from a year ago.
Many economists expect

inflation to fall to roughly 4% later this year. But it could plateau at that point so long as hiring and wage gains remain vigorous. The Fed might then feel compelled to keep borrowing rates high well into 2024 or even raise them further this year.
A key question for the economy this year is whether unemployment would have to rise significantly to achieve a slowdown in wage growth. Powell and other Fed officials have said that curbing high inflation would require some "pain" for workers.



Last year's Soboba charity golf tournament was a huge success. | Courtesy Photo of Carlos Puma/Puma Images



Members of Oak Grove Center's basketball team are just some of the many who benefit from the nonprofit's youth programs. | Courtesy Photo



The 11th annual Soboba Foundation & Soboba Casino Resort Charity Golf Tournament will be March 21 and 22 at Soboba Springs Golf Course | Courtesy Photo of Carlos Puma/Puma Images

GOLF

from AI
Wood said. "A donation of \$10,000 is a lot of money; we want it to be extra clear that we are very grateful for being chosen as a beneficiary."
Another first time recipient of the generous funding generated from this annual tournament is the Oak Grove Center, based in Murrieta. Chief Executive Officer Tammy Wilson shared the mission of the nonprofit, which is "to rebuild the lives of at-risk children and their families through educating, healing, restoring relationships, building character and instilling hope."
Oak Grove Center was founded in 1989 to provide treatment and care for chil-

dren and teens struggling with severe behavioral and emotional problems. It provides residential care, education and treatment to an average of 1,000 youths each year who are at risk or have special needs. Its programs touch families throughout Southern California. In 2022, 55 San Jacinto Valley children and teens were served through its multiple programs.
Development Director Kristi Piatkowski said the Center's vision is "to be a premier treatment center that successfully prepares youth for healthy, productive and responsible lives."
She said Oak Grove has a diverse funding stream with treatment, housing and educational costs paid through contracts that include school districts, in-

surance and Department of Social Services as well as adoptions.
Regarding the Soboba donation, Wilson said, "The funding will help us complete the replacement of two playgrounds. Playgrounds are important in a child's physical and social development as well as mental health. Physically, outdoor playgrounds help improve overall health. Mentally, playgrounds support developing relationships with peers and encourage the discovery and development of other talents. They are especially important to children with special needs. It will provide a place to play, grow and thrive, and a special, safe environment where they can "just be a kid."
Additionally, partnering

with a well-respected, impactful organization such as Soboba Foundation will bring attention to Oak Grove Center, spreading more awareness of what we do for the community and how others can help."
Piatkowski said it is the fundraised dollars that go directly to the unique needs of the youth including art and music programs, sports and recreation, vocational programs and special campus needs, such as the new playground Soboba is helping build. She said that without Soboba's help, it would have taken Oak Grove Center longer to raise the funds as \$10,000 will cover a significant portion of the funds needed to build the playgrounds.
Wilson said that Oak Grove volunteers are excit-

ed to be a part of the two-day event. "It will be interesting to see how the event is organized, meet the other nonprofits and learn about those also benefiting, and being a part of this community," she said. "We appreciate those that give back and greatly admire the generosity of Soboba."
Rounding out this year's selections are the 7G Foundation, Boxing for Christ, Carol's Kitchen, Four Directions Club at San Jacinto High School, Friends of Valley-Wide Foundation, Grandfathers for Golf Inc. and Inter-Tribal Sports.
Soboba Foundation members voted on the nearly 50 qualified applications received this year to find those that matched best with the Foundation's mission and vision to sup-

port education, health, economic development, and special projects within Southern California. Throughout the year, the Soboba Foundation provides financial assistance for educational and charitable activities that preserve the cultural heritage of the Soboba Band and support Native American and local community programs.
"It was difficult to narrow down our choices as all the nonprofits under consideration do such meaningful and valuable work in our communities," Soboba Foundation President Dondi Silvas said. "We hope this year's recipients will reap many benefits from this event and we look forward to them and others applying again next year."



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