

THE SENTINEL

Fighting for life

California condors confront bird flu in flight from extinction, **THE WEST, A2**



Christ and Common Sense

The Godly woman of Proverbs Thirty-One, **FAITH, B1**



MOSTLY SUNNY 95 • 63 FORECAST, A6 | **SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023** | hanfordsentinel.com

Incoming O'Connor relieves CO Capt. Douglas Peterson at NAS Lemoore



GARY FEINSTEIN, CONTRIBUTOR

Capt. Shawn O'Connor, right, salutes Capt. Douglas Peterson as he takes command of Naval Air Station Lemoore on Friday afternoon.

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The service of Capt. Douglas Peterson was honored and celebrated Friday afternoon at Naval Air Station Lemoore, during a change of command ceremony.

The outgoing Peterson was relieved by incoming commanding officer, Capt. Shawn O'Connor. The two arrived at the outdoor ceremony via a helicopter piloted by Peterson.

In his outgoing speech, Peterson praised the Lemoore community for its pride and patriotism.

"I have really been amazed at how deeply the community, and I mean the broad community, is willing to work together, especially when COVID hit. We didn't know what was going on, but towns worked together, as did the clinic, public works and security. The galley had to get meals to sailors that had to stay inside their rooms, isolated.

It took a massive amount of integration and it's that integration that makes us all better," Peterson said after the ceremony.

Peterson has been commanding officer of NAS Lemoore since September 2019, providing leadership throughout the pandemic. He said that he's proud of the base's response to COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdowns it caused.

"Once we came out of it, we turned everything back on very quickly and it

was great to see sailors get back to actual liberty, actual face-to-face interactions," he said.

Hundreds of people gathered in a shady field on a not-yet-too-hot morning to celebrate Peterson's NAS Lemoore career and welcome his successor. Jets flew overhead, jokes were told, gifts were given and there was one special and unique guest — Chewbacca, of the "Star Wars" films.

Please see **LEMOORE**, Page A6

California to put \$17M toward raising Corcoran levee

Funding a one-time deal, contingent on county's updated disaster plan

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Gov. Gavin Newsom this week announced the state will put \$17 million toward raising the 14.5-mile long, horseshoe-shaped levee protecting Corcoran from flood waters.

The town of about 22,000 people, located 20 miles south of Hanford and home to two state prisons, is in the path of an estimated 1 million acre-feet of Sierra Nevada snowmelt expected to flow into the Tulare lakebed this summer.

"All one has to do is look around to see that we're in crisis, just to see water brushing up against this levee," said Kings County Supervisor Richard Valle, speaking at a press conference Friday morning.

The Cross Creek Flood Control District, whose territory includes the Corcoran levee, began construction to raise the levee from 188 feet above sea level to 192 feet above sea level in early April using reserve funds. The state will now pay for the work through the California Disaster Assistance Act.

Please see **LEEVE**, Page A6

FIREFIGHTER SPOTLIGHT

Baseball player turned firefighter, Dennis Springer reflects on career

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Once a baseball star, now a small-town firefighter, Dennis Springer, 58, has been working for the Hanford Fire Department for nearly 19 years.

This week he took some time to reflect on his career and the importance of teamwork.

From 1995 to 2002, Springer was a right-handed pitcher in the Professional Baseball League. He played for the Philadelphia Phillies, California Angels, Tampa Bay Devil Rays, Florida Marlins, New York Mets, and the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"At one point I had a previous career, and when it was over I needed to move on, and I said well I always wanted to be a firefighter, so I went to the Fresno City Fire Academy," said Springer. "I had some friends down here and

Please see **SPRINGER**, Page A2

'THE LAKE HAS A MYSTIQUE'



PARKER BOWMAN, STAFF

In this photo taken in April, trash and other debris litter what was a thriving alfalfa field in Kings County prior to flooding.

600,000 years of history, and Tulare Lake isn't done yet

Farmers wait on the 'big melt' to see what's next

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Much like the shifting shorelines and water levels of the lake itself, the history of Tulare Lake has remained difficult to map.

"The lake has a mystique," said local historian Michael Semas. "There is a desire to know more. I think the mystery has always

intrigued everybody."

With the resurgence of Tulare Lake for the first time in more than a quarter of a century following a historically wet winter that left Kings County soggy and flooded, the history of what was once the largest body of fresh water west of the Mississippi River is again being embraced — not just for what it can tell us about the past — but about the present, and future.

Road closures, submerged farms and NASA photographs confirm that on some level, Tu-

lare Lake has returned, and local authorities and farmers are waiting to see how much worse the flooding will get.

The thawing of a record-breaking snowpack in the Sierra Nevada, dubbed "the big melt," is projected to fill the Tulare Lake basin this summer with 1 million acre feet of water.

A history of change

Like the lake's resurgence this spring, its history is one of rapid change.

"Unfortunately, [Tulare Lake]

changed so fast that we don't have many detailed descriptions on what it was like in its early state," College of the Sequoias professor Rob Hansen told Huell Howser during a 1999 episode of "California's Gold." "There was never any thorough study of the lake."

The lake, at its largest, covered about 1,800 square miles of the Valley. From its northernmost point at Summit Lake, near Riverdale, to its southernmost point

Please see **HISTORY**, Page A5

'I sing anyway': An oral history of Tulare Lake

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When exceptionally wet winters cause the return of Tulare Lake, it becomes the talk of the town.

As we explore the lake's past, present and future, it may be best to hear about the lake from the people who lived to see it in its heyday, and experienced its bounty firsthand.

Pedro Fages, a Spanish captain who led the first excursions to the southern San Joaquin Valley in 1773:

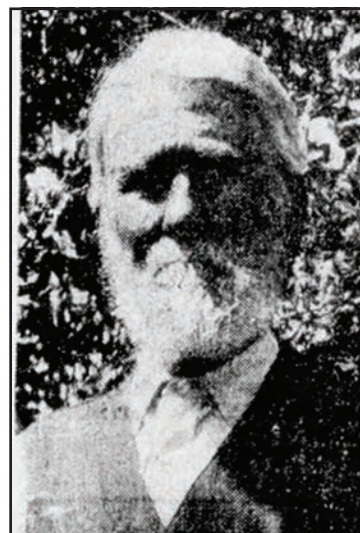
"This plain will exceed one hundred and twenty leagues in length and in parts is twenty, fifteen and even less in width. It is all a labyrinth of lakes and tulares [tules], and the river San

Francisco, divided into several branches, winding in the middle of the plain, now enters and now flows out of the lakes, until very near to the place where it enters into the estuary of the river."

Francisco Garces, a Spanish priest and explorer, wrote in his diary on May 1, 1776, about what would become known as the Kern River, which fed into Tulare Lake:

"I came upon a large river, which made much noise, at the outlet of the Sierra de San Marcos, and whose waters, crystalline, bountiful, and palatable, flowed on a course from the east through a straightened channel."

Please see **TULARE**, Page A6



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

LEFT: "Uncle Bud" Akers. **RIGHT:** Charles King

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THE WEST



RICHARD VOGEL

Condor chick LA1123 waits for it's feeding in a temperature controlled enclosure at the Los Angeles Zoo on May 2. The chick hatched April 30.

California condors confront bird flu in flight from extinction

STEFANIE DAZIO
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The California condor is facing the deadliest strain of avian influenza in U.S. history, and the outbreak could jeopardize the iconic vulture with its 10-foot (3.05-meter) wingspan decades after conservationists saved the species from extinction.

But nine newly hatched chicks, covered in downy white feathers, give condor-keepers at the Los Angeles Zoo hope that the endangered population of North America's largest soaring land birds will once again thrive after 40 years of aggressive efforts.

With fewer than 350 condors in the wild — in flocks that span from the Pacific Northwest to Baja California, Mexico — the historic outbreak means ongoing breeding-in-captivity and re-wilding programs like the LA Zoo's remain essential.

Over the past year and a half, millions of birds across the U.S. have died from avian flu, including more than 430 bald ea-

gles and some 58 million turkeys and commercial chickens that were euthanized to prevent the spread of the disease. Bird flu is further suspected in the deaths of dozens of seals off the coast of Maine last summer.

Already, the strain is believed to have caused the deaths of at least 22 California condors in Arizona, which were part of a flock in the Southwest that typically accounts for a third of the species' entire wild population.

Experts are now concerned the strain could further impact condors by rapidly spreading across state lines through the spring migration. More than two dozen environmental advocates this week urged the federal government to expedite approvals for a vaccine that would be given to both condors in the wild and in captivity.

The advocates, which include the Center for Biological Diversity, warned in a letter that the flu strain is "jeopardizing the existence" of the famed bird.

Newsom says state's budget deficit has grown to nearly \$32B

ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — California's budget deficit has grown to nearly \$32 billion, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Friday, saying the state's challenges are partly due to high inflation and a decision to let most people delay filing their taxes because of a series of winter storms.

That's about \$10 billion more than Newsom predicted in January, when he offered his first budget proposal. The deficit is part of Newsom's overall proposal for a \$306 billion budget, by far the largest state budget in the nation.

California is one of the only states to have a shortfall this year. That's mostly because its progressive tax code relies on wealthy taxpayers whose income is closely tied to the performance of the stock market.

In January, Newsom proposed a number of ideas to cover the deficit, including about \$9.6 billion in spending cuts that hit some of the state's ambitious climate programs and other policy areas. His latest proposal includes roughly another \$1 billion in spending reductions. Some of that comes from clawing back unspent money in various programs, including those designed to provide tax refunds and help people with their utility bills.

He's making up the rest of the deficit by shifting expenses, taking some money from the state's safety net reserve and borrowing.

"This was not an easy budget, but I hope you see we will try to do our best to hold the line and take care of the most vulnerable and most needy, but still maintain prudence," Newsom said.



ADAM BEAM

California Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Gomez Reyes, left, and Democratic Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, right, march with parents and others who support the state's subsidized child care programs on Wednesday in Sacramento.

Republican legislative leaders blasted Newsom's proposal as another marker of irresponsible spending by the Democrats who control Sacramento.

"His cuts to drought programs are dangerous, his 'fiscal gimmicks' are shortsighted, and his words about good government and efficiency are yet another empty promise. Californians deserve better," Republican Assembly Leader James Gallagher said in a statement.

The deficit is small compared to the cash crunch that the state faced during the last recession.

Since taking office in 2019, Newsom's biggest budget fights with the Democratic-controlled state Legislature is how to spend California's record-breaking surpluses. Agreeing on what to cut could be much more difficult.

Newsom's plan in January was to cut money for flood protection projects, delaying an expansion of a subsidized child care program and canceling a \$500 million plan to help small businesses pay higher tax rates associated with some state debt.

Newsom now plans to restore money for flood protection projects and spend another \$250 million on other flood projects, which includes raising a levee to protect the Central Valley community of Corcoran.

It's not yet clear if he can or will relent on his other proposed cuts. Newsom signed off on an expansion of a subsidized child care program last year that would pay to help an extra 20,000 families. But because of the deficit, Newsom proposed delaying that funding for one year. He argued that the state was having trouble filling the child care slots it already had.

That angered some Democratic lawmakers, who said the reason the state was having trouble filling its child care slots is because there aren't enough child care workers. On Monday, Democrats in the Assembly proposed \$1 billion in new spending to increase the pay of child care workers.

"Now, we just need to put a little pressure on the governor to make sure he's on board," Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Gomez-Reyes said on Wednesday while speaking to a rally of parents and child care workers at the state Capitol.

It's not just child care though. Democrats in the state Senate want to raise taxes on 2,500 of the largest companies so they can cut taxes by about 25% for most other businesses — a plan that Newsom has already said he opposes. And environmental groups want Newsom to reverse his planned \$6 billion cut to some of his climate proposals.

Newsom has maintained most of those cuts in his revised proposal.

Springer

From A1

I started working at the Valley Ford Car dealership. I saw that Hanford was hiring and I took the test and passed."

From a young age, Springer said he was captivated by the work of firefighters, making the transition from baseball player to firefighter a natural progression in his career.

"As a little boy living in Fresno, my mom would actually hear the sirens and throw my brothers and me in the car and we'd go and try to see where the fire trucks were going. It was always something I was interested in," said Springer.

Springer moved to the Hanford area early in his firefighter career, and he says the community is unlike any other.

"The community here in Hanford is great, when we moved down here it was a big move for us since we had two young boys, and for them to grow up in the community and have lifelong friends and go to high school here was nice," Springer said.

Over the years, Springer has worked his way up the ranks, going from firefighter to captain.

"Well, typically you start



DAVID MORENO, STAFF

Dennis Springer sits in an engine at Hanford's Fire Station 1.

as a firefighter, I was in that position for about 11 years, then I moved into the engineer position, which I held for about five to six years. I've been a captain for a little over two years now," said Springer.

Having the opportunity to move around the department has given Springer the room to explore and grow — he marks the increase in responsibilities as a positive aspect of the job.

"As an engineer, you're the driver of the fire engine, your job is to get everyone to each call safely. But, as a captain you're in charge of your crew, and a lot of the responsibility comes back to me during my shifts, like paperwork, training, and that transfers over when

we're out in the field," he said.

Springer said an important aspect of field work that he took with him to his current position is the appreciation of teamwork.

"We have a great group of guys that work here, we're like a baseball team, we go out and we try to win our battles, and sometimes we lose, but it's all about how we come back and how we react from losing," said Springer.

"It's all about teamwork, you know we're away from our families, so we become our own family here, typically in a month we spend a third of our time here, this place becomes our home."

Springer notes that it's important to have a strong team behind you, especially while working in the fire department.

"We try to always keep a positive attitude, but at the same time that's hard because we get worn down on calls, typically this station we run 12 to 15 calls per 24-hour period, and that's at all times of the day. We try to take care of each other, and our main goal is to get home safe at the end of our shift," he said.

Springer celebrates 19 years working for Hanford Fire in July, and he said above everything else, the most important part of his job is keeping people safe.



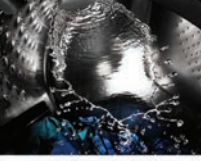
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Twitter’s new CEO is an NBCUniversal executive with deep ad industry ties

WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS AND BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writers

Elon Musk confirmed that the new CEO for Twitter will be NBCUniversal’s Linda Yaccarino, an executive with deep ties to the advertising industry. “I am excited to welcome Linda Yaccarino as the new CEO of Twitter!” Musk wrote in a Friday tweet. He added that Yaccarino “will focus primarily on business operations” while Musk will stay closely connected to product design and new technology.

Before that announcement, NBCUniversal said Friday that Yaccarino would step down immediately as chairwoman for global advertising and partnerships.

Musk, who bought Twitter last fall and has been running it since, has long insisted that he would step down as top executive at the company, which is now called X Corp.

Few expect Musk to remove himself from the decision making process at Twitter, however.

“While he’s stepping back from the CEO title, Musk is far from likely to step back from calling the product shots,” said Mike Proulx, research director at Forrester Research.

Yaccarino, with deep roots in the advertising industry, could be a linchpin in Twitter’s future.

Luring advertisers is critical for Musk and Twitter after many fled in the early months after his takeover of the social media platform, fearing harm to their brands in the ensuing chaos. Musk said in late April that advertisers had returned, but provided no details.

Mark DiMassimo, founder and creative chief of ad agency DiGo, said Yaccarino successfully integrated and digitized ad sales at Comcast and NBC — and that her track record of cross-selling ads across different platforms could appeal to Musk as he tries to transform Twitter from a social media company to a bigger media platform.

Yaccarino worked at NBCUniversal for nearly 12 years — with her team generating more than \$100 billion in ad sales since 2011, her company bio notes.

According to LinkedIn, Yaccarino previously served as NBC’s chair for advertising and client partnerships and as president of cable entertainment and digital advertising sales. Prior to her time with NBC, Yaccarino worked at global entertainment company Turner for almost two decades.

Last month, Yaccarino interviewed Musk on a Miami stage last month in front of hundreds of advertisers.

“If anyone can translate the Musk vision into advantages for marketers she’ll be able to do it,” DiMassimo said Friday, prior to Musk’s confirmation. “Even though there’s skepticism and all marketers live in the ‘show me’ state right now with regard to Twitter, if in fact she does go to Twitter this is a powerfully reassuring move.”

Proulx added that advertising is not the only challenge that Twitter’s new CEO will face — after all, Musk has “fundamentally altered” Twitter both as a product and a community, arguably “for the worse.”

Musk’s tenure at Twitter’s helm has been chaotic. He began his first day firing the company’s top executives, followed by roughly 80% of its staff, which has meant that Twitter has far fewer engineers to ensure that the site is running smoothly and far fewer content moderators to help rid it of hate speech, animal cruelty and graphic violence.

He’s upended the platform’s verification system and has scaled back safeguards against the spread of misinformation. It’s been some of these changes — along with Musk’s own penchant for spreading misinformation and engaging with prominent conspiracy theorists and far-right figures — that analysts say soured many advertisers on the platform.



REBECCA BLACKWELL

Elon Musk holds one of his children as he watches a Red Bull racing crew during practice for the Formula One Miami Grand Prix auto race, at Miami International Autodrome in Miami Gardens, Fla. May 6.

Trump sexual assault verdict marks rare moment of accountability

MARYCLAIRE DALE
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Cassandra Nuñez and her grandmother cast their first ballots in a U.S. presidential election in 2016. She was a first-year college student; her grandmother, a newly minted citizen. They both hoped to elect the first woman president over a man who bragged about grabbing and kissing women at will.

But Donald Trump became president, and it would be nearly seven years before a Trump accuser could press her claims at trial. This week, jurors in a New York civil case said they believed that Trump sexually assaulted writer E. Jean Carroll in a dressing room in the 1990s — making him the first U.S. president found liable by a jury in a sexual battery case. The panel awarded her \$5 million in damages.

“It’s a victorious moment, but why did the people of the United States let this happen?” said Nuñez, now 25, of Los Angeles, noting the number of sexual misconduct accusations against Trump during the campaign and since his election. “It’s kind of late.”

The verdict — a rare moment of accountability for a former president and powerful men like him — comes as women across the U.S. ponder the cultural landscape amid sweeping threats to their hard-won progress, including Hillary Clinton’s loss to Trump in 2016, the Supreme Court’s repeal of abortion rights last year and the uneven success of the #MeToo movement.

Juliet Williams, a professor of gender studies at UCLA, called it an ambiguous time for women.

“It’s very hard to feel at this moment that the accounting, the reckoning that we need has yet happened,” she said. “I feel this is a small step in the right direction.”

Some may find “yet another day contemplating the behavior of Donald Trump just feels like a colossal waste of attention,” Williams said. But she believes it’s important to address “the everyday abuses of power that have real consequences for victims.”

With a string of investigations swirling around Trump, the sex-abuse case



SETH WENIG

E. Jean Carroll arrives at a courthouse in New York April 25. A civil jury’s May 9 finding that former President Donald Trump sexually assaulted the writer in the 1990s comes at what one scholar calls an “ambiguous moment” for American women.

— a civil verdict, with no criminal prosecution possible — hit only so hard across a news-weary America. Nuñez followed the trial and discussed it with a few colleagues at her public relations job. For others, the news barely hit their radar, if they were aware of the decision at all, even as Trump campaigns for the presidency again.

“Trump’s long list of scandals makes any single moment seem less surprising,” said Kelly Dittmar, a scholar with the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University. “What might certainly derail other candidates or elected officials meets an eye roll among many Trump detractors — and only further mobilizes Trump supporters around the idea that this is a ‘witch hunt’ against him.”

Carroll this week savored the outcome of the lawsuit she filed the day New York, like some other states, opened a one-year window for adults to file suit over old sexual assault claims. Advocates say it can take years for victims like the 79-year-old advice columnist to move past their sense of shame and go public. But it’s often too late, as it was for her, to pursue criminal charges.

Trump dismissed the accusation as a way to boost sales of Carroll’s 2019 book, “What Do We Need Men For?”

But Carroll, in the wake of the verdict, said the case was never about money. She said she only hoped to clear her name, one the jury — in

awarding nearly \$3 million for defamation — agreed Trump had sullied.

Trump, in hours of deposition questioning, denied he knew Carroll despite photographic evidence, and he denigrated her as “not my type.” He also mused that celebrities had gotten away with sexually abusing women for centuries, “unfortunately, or fortunately.”

Trump doubled down on his insulting, often misogynistic rhetoric about women in a CNN Republican town hall Wednesday evening, mockingly calling Carroll a “wack job” in a comment that drew glee from the New Hampshire audience.

The day after his inauguration in January 2017, millions of people around the world took part in a Women’s March to protest his rise to power. Many sported bright pink hats that were the brainchild of the Pussyhat Project — a cat-eared design meant as a wry clapback to Trump’s infamous comments on women’s genitals.

“The Women’s March demonstrated that we are watching,” Williams said. “But in terms of the scope of sexualized violence, a \$5 million fine to somebody who commands immense resources and will certainly not show that this does any material harm to him, there’s a grotesque imbalance with this outcome.”

Los Angeles screenwriter Krista Suh, who helped launch the Pussyhat Project, is not sure Tuesday’s

verdict strikes a death knell for Trump’s political career.

“He’s very good at skirting the truth, and I’m just not sure this verdict pins him down, but it definitely helps,” the 35-year-old said.

The crowd at the Women’s March in Washington included an anonymous observer from Toronto: Andrea Constand, whose sexual abuse claims against actor Bill Cosby would soon go to trial.

In the years that followed, she would see Cosby convicted, sent to prison and then released when his conviction was overturned on appeal. Amid that setback, and the inability of victims like Carroll to pursue criminal cases, she believes the civil court process can alone be effective. Constand had received \$3.4 million from Cosby in a civil settlement in 2006, long before the criminal case was reopened, and she used the money to rebuild her life and career.

“If that’s what it takes to get justice and you have no other option, then it is about the money, because the money helps you heal and move forward and accomplish things that you haven’t been able to accomplish because you’ve been gripped by your trauma,” she said.

Despite the jury’s view that Trump is a sexual offender, millions of women would likely still vote for him given the chance in 2024, to maintain the country’s social, economic or racial order, Williams said. More than half of white women voted for Trump in 2020.

US Postal Service honors civil rights leader, Ponca tribe Chief Standing Bear, with stamp

SCOTT MCFETRIDGE
Associated Press

A Ponca tribe chief whose landmark lawsuit in 1879 established that a Native American is a person under the law was honored Friday with the unveiling of a U.S. Postal Service stamp that features his portrait.

The release of the stamp of Chief Standing Bear comes 146 years after the Army forced him and about 700 other members of the Ponca tribe to leave their homeland in northeast Nebraska and walk 600 miles (965 kilometers) to the Indian Territory in Oklahoma. Chief Standing Bear was arrested and imprisoned in Fort Omaha when he and others tried to return. This prompted him to file a lawsuit that led to an 1879 ruling ordering his release and finding that a Native American is a person with a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

“For so long people didn’t know his story or the Ponca story — our own trail of tears,” Candace Schmidt, chairwoman of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska said. “We are finally able to tell his story of perseverance and how we as a tribe are resilient.”

Judi M. gaiashkibos, executive director of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, called the issuing of a Chief Standing Bear

stamp a milestone she hopes “provokes necessary conversations about race, sovereignty and equality in the United States.”

“It’s remarkable, that the story of Nebraska Native American civil rights leader Chief Standing Bear has progressed from a native man being considered a non-person by the U.S. Government in 1879, to today, being recognized by the Postal Service with a stamp honoring him as an American icon,” gaiashkibos said.

The Postal Service, which released the stamp at a ceremony Friday in Lincoln, Nebraska, has printed 18 million stamps. The stamp features a portrait of Chief Standing Bear by illustrator Thomas Blackshear II, based on a black and white photograph taken in 1877, the Postal Service said.

More than 100 members of the Ponca tribe died during or soon after the forced journey to Oklahoma, including Chief Standing Bear’s only son. It was a desire to have his son buried in their homeland in Nebraska’s Niobrara River Valley that resulted in the return of Chief Standing Bear and 29 others and their subsequent arrest.

According to the National Park Service, two Omaha attorneys represented Chief

Standing Bear at a two-day trial before Judge Elmer S. Dundy in U.S. District Court in Omaha. The government appealed Dundy’s ruling that Chief Standing Bear and other arrested members of his tribe were “persons” but the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the case.

The Ponca members were freed and returned to their old reservation along the Niobrara River, where Chief Standing Bear died in 1908.

A congressional investigation later determined the government wrongly gave away the Ponca homeland and removed the tribe, leading to congressional legislation in 1881 that gave some compensation to members of the tribe. In 1924, an issue that arose in the 1879 trial was resolved when Congress approved a law that conferred citizenship on all Native Americans born in the United States.

The federal government terminated the Ponca tribe of Nebraska in 1966 but the tribe regained federal recognition in 1990. Schmidt said the Ponca now has about 5,500 members, operates three health clinic and offers numerous services to members.

“We’re doing really well,” she said.

There is a separate Ponca tribe in Oklahoma.

Anton G. Hajjar, vice



HOGP

This image provided by the U.S. Postal Service shows the new stamp honoring Native American civil rights leader Chief Standing Bear, issued on Friday.

chairman of the Postal Service Board of Governors, said the post office has been issuing stamps that honor the legacy of great Americans since the 1800s. In issuing the stamp of Chief Standing Bear, Hajjar noted, “It took our country far too long to recognize the humanity in many of its people — including the American Indians who lived in these lands for thousands of years.”

The Postal Service previously has issued stamps honoring Native Americans including Pocahontas, Chief Joseph, Sequoyah, Red Cloud, Sitting Bull and Jim Thorpe.

COMMENTARY

THE SENTINEL

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GUEST COMMENTARY

Hearing our moms then and now

Seven years ago, I asked a wide-ranging group of sons and daughters, “If you could take one lesson from your mom that has made all the difference in your life, what would it be?” The responses were rich and varied. They included, “Life’s not fair, but it shouldn’t stop you from dancing,” “Keep your doors open because the stranger is the friend you haven’t yet made,” and “Stay curious and look it up.”

Some children shared that their lessons from mom were about what not to do. “Don’t underestimate yourself,” “Don’t keep painful secrets hidden,” and “Don’t demand perfect.” Even though the times and social norms were quite different for our moms, their stories shared a common thread of resilience — something we appreciate even more in 2023.

But about 2023, would we take different lessons from our moms today, post-COVID but still embroiled in political acrimony and deep social divide? If so, what might we take? I went back to my contributors to ask that question, and here is some of what I got back. It suggests that we actually do hear our moms a little differently today:

Modest expectations are important

“Any day you can get out of bed and put your feet on the floor is a good day. And laundry piles are a sign that everyone is well...”

This message is akin to, “A messy house is a happy house.” We’ve certainly had a lot of mess over the last three years, but maybe not so happy a house.

Find opportunities for kindness

“Mom never let the world get her down. She taught me that every morning we wake up is a blessing and an opportunity to live in positivity and kindness.”

This mom also woke up her kids each morning by singing a Broadway show tune that might not have felt too kind at the time. Clearly, though, she valued spreading good cheer — very useful today. Her son, who internalized this lesson, has found ways to show kindness and cheer as an educator.

You are never too old to find friends and make connections

The octogenarian mother who exhibited this trait moved from the East Coast to the West Coast to be near her son. Then, around the time of the pandemic, she moved back to the East Coast to rejoin her community of friends.

Her son was understandably unhappy about the distance. Still, he appreciated that “Even amid COVID, my mom was not to be deterred. She continues to reconnect with people and make new friends wherever she goes.” Given that COVID has made us more insular and less social, his mom is a good reminder that we should always be in the friend-making business, regardless of age.

Keep Moving

Seven years ago, a daughter shared how her friends would stop by to see her mom, even if the daughter wasn’t there. Her mom, who was of modest means, would say, “I have no more meat, but I can add potatoes,” as she created an open home for all.

Fast forward, and the daughter fought a significant health battle. Fortunately, she has recovered, but during her darkest days, she would hear her mom in the back of her mind saying, “Keep moving.” Her mom never succumbed to her own personal battles, choosing instead to “keep moving.” So has her daughter.

Get a good night’s sleep, and the world will look different to you in the morning.

These were the words I heard many times from my mother. In 2017, I shared her lesson of continuous lifelong learning — a value I am committed to. Over the last three years, different words of my mom have resonated. I remind myself to get a good night of sleep to cope better in the morning. We need our strength when the world seems overwhelmingly sad. I’ve passed along this advice to my family.

My re-engaging with sons and daughters has shown me that lessons from our moms have been tweaked with new ones emerging. What we shared in 2017 still holds, but there is a renewed respect for tenacity and equanimity, purpose and patience, as the elixir for our times. COVID and our mood have tamed us with a dose of pragmatism. We believe we best honor our moms’ memories by embodying their truths.

One contributor wrote, “Believe it, and you will be it.” Happy Mother’s Day to one and all.

Jill Ebstein is the author of “Alfred’s Journey to Be Liked,” and editor of the “At My Pace” book series. She founded Sized Right Marketing, a Newton, Mass. consulting firm. She wrote this for InsideSources.com.

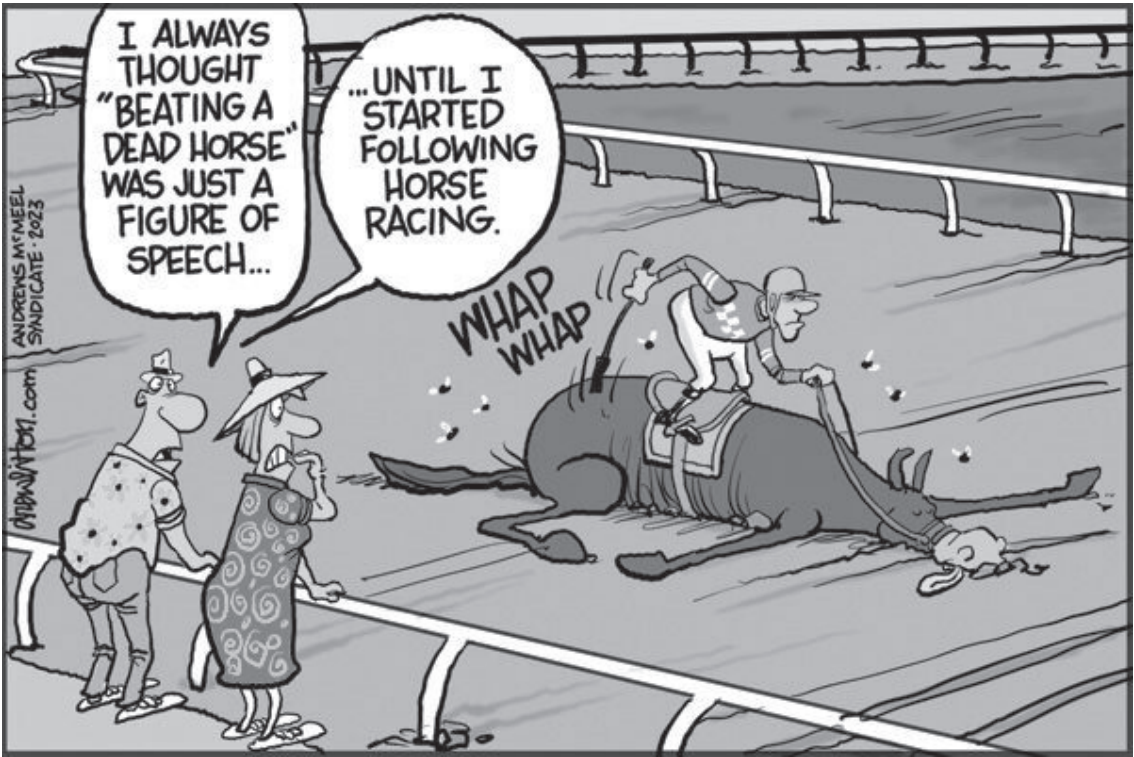
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GUEST COMMENTARY

Animals in human care are pampered, not prisoners

Today, animal rights activists are supporting the release of sea creatures from aquariums into the wild in honor of “Empty the Tanks Day.”

While I sympathize with the desire to reenact “Free Willy,” as a former whale and dolphin trainer, I know firsthand that releasing them from their current habitats doesn’t usually have a Hollywood ending.

While we often imagine an uplifting image of a whale or dolphin swimming off into the sunset and freedom, the truth is much uglier. Marine mammals that have lived long periods, or their entire lives, in professional zoological care are simply not suited to thrive in the wild. Skills that wild animals learn from infancy simply don’t exist for ones from aquariums and zoos. They have never had to hunt, navigate the ocean, or evade predators before.

Animals’ lives under human care are comfortable, even pampered, and very different from life in the wild. If returned to the wild, their lives may come to an untimely end.

Take the story of Keiko, the whale-actor from the movie “Free Willy.” It’s a sad tale and one that’s long been personal to me — I worked on the Keiko Release Project and witnessed this tragedy firsthand.

Keiko was the subject of a push from animal rights activists to reintroduce him to the wild. They got their wish, and he was moved to the North Atlantic in 1998.

Keiko died five years into the project, but he was never released. He was never without the human support he learned to

depend upon. He was never able to join a wild orca pod, and he failed to feed himself.

At each opportunity throughout the experiment, Keiko sought human companionship. He even visited a small town in the Norwegian fjords and interacted with the people there. Keiko did not die an easy death in the wild; he suffered greatly over a long period, likely never understanding why he was being deprived of the only life he had known.

He was only 26 at his death, while wild orcas typically live to around 35. In human care, he might have lived much longer.

While emptying the tanks seems like it’s pro-animal, it would just be condemning countless other marine animals to Keiko’s fate.

The organizers of “Empty the Tanks Day” suggest using sea pens — enclosures in the open water — for animals that shouldn’t be fully released into the wild.

This sounds like a nice compromise, but it has a whole host of its own problems.

For many species, sea pens are less safe than aquariums. Sea pens provide no protection from the countless pollutants that show up in our oceans, causing several health problems, which are all more difficult to treat than they would be at an aquarium. After a life spent in a contaminant-free habitat, few of these animals have the immune system to fight off this risk of infection.

Just as important, sea pens do nothing to fix the critical issue that animals raised in zoological care are accustomed to human interaction and can become stressed

and depressed without it.

Even if sea pens were an effective solution, current sea pen capacity is woefully inadequate for anything approaching “emptying the tanks.” Today, the only operational sanctuary equipped with sea pens suitable for large marine mammals is located in Iceland, which is too cold for many of the potential residents and too isolated for easy relocation.

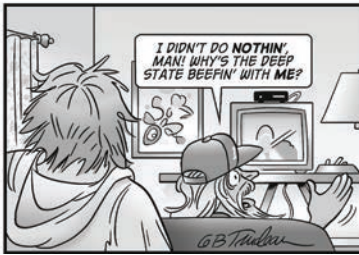
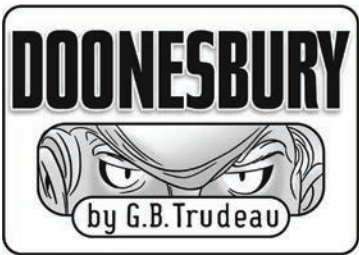
In addition, the facility may even carry the risk of orcas and dolphins ingesting debris from the pen’s floor to deadly effect. Other comparable facilities in the past have experienced this issue, leading to health issues for the marine life kept there.

The fact of the matter is that our aquatic friends in human care are safer, healthier, and happier than they would otherwise be in the wild. They’ve spent their whole lives, or much of them, depending on and in the company of humans, and taking them away from that would be dangerous and cruel. The concept is not unlike abandoning a pet cat or dog in the wild to fend for itself.

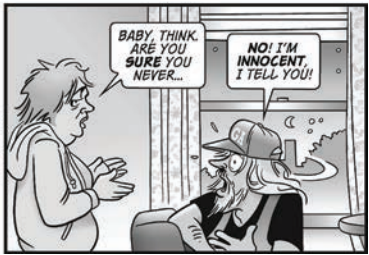
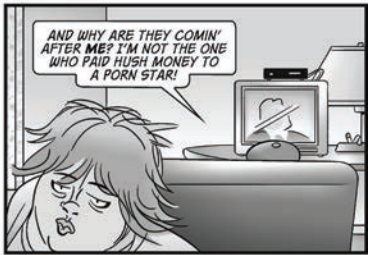
Let’s keep our whales and dolphins happy and healthy, not condemn them to a lonely death. It’s too late for Keiko, but we can learn from his end and not repeat the same mistake. Maybe a better use of our time would be cleaning up wild habitats where animals increasingly struggle for survival against human impacts.

Mark Simmons is a fellow of the Center for the Environment and Welfare and the author of “Killing Keiko: The True Story of Free Willy’s Return to the Wild.”

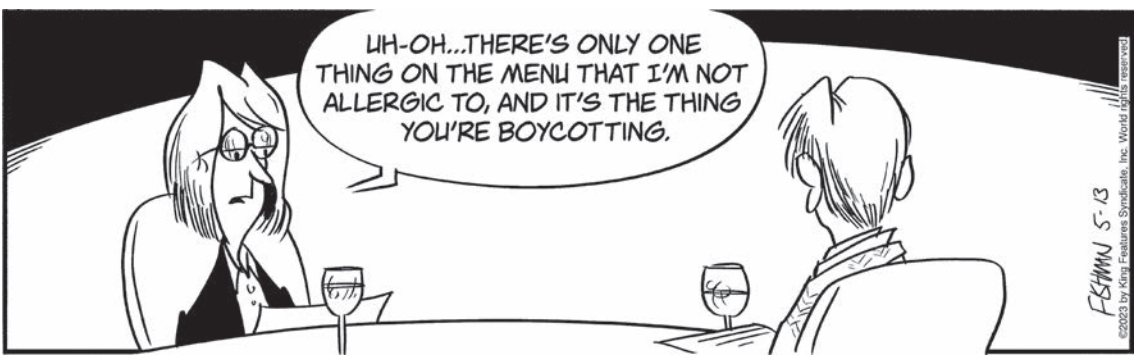
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History

From A1

— generally about five miles north of what is now Wasco-Lost Hills Road — it spread over about 60 miles. East to west, the lake’s waters would span the 35-mile stretch from what is now Kettleman City to Pixley. If the lake were to suddenly reappear as it once was, Lemoore and Kettleman City homeowners would have lakefront property, Alpaugh would be an island, and Corcoran would be under water. In its heyday, the lake was wide and shallow, with most areas around seven feet deep — at the deepest it was nearly 30 feet, with a threshold of about 210 feet above sea level. The lake was difficult to map and even more difficult to build permanent settlements around. Local historian and newspaper columnist F.F. Latta wrote that the heavy Valley winds could reshape the shoreline by up to five miles in a couple of hours. “Fluctuating year by year, moved this way and that by strong Valley winds, Tulare Lake sometimes grew to tremendous proportions and overflowed into the San Joaquin River, or gradually subsided until the water entirely disappeared and the loose dust blew from its lowest depths,” Latta wrote in the July 10, 1937 edition of the Hanford Morning Journal.

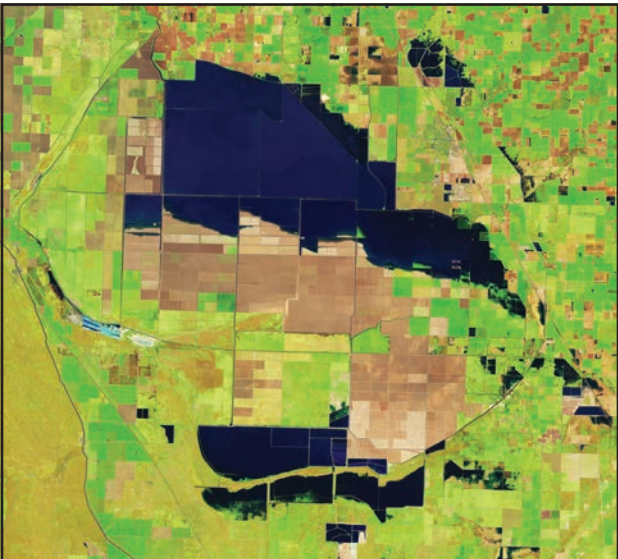
Pre-Spanish Tulare Lake

It’s been estimated that the Tulare Lake region supported the largest population of Native Americans north of Mexico prior to Columbus’ arrival in the New World. Of the many Yokuts tribes in the Valley, three were known to live on the banks of the lake — the Tachi, Wowol and Chunut. The area, described as a “Garden of Eden” by Semas, was by most accounts peaceful, with local tribes often trading with other tribes from the north and the coast. “Conflicts between tribes

were apparently about as frequent as with aliens; and with many of their neighbors they were on friendly and intimate terms. Yokuts were evidently on the whole a peaceable people,” anthropologist A.L. Kroeber wrote in the 1925 “Handbook of the Indians of California.” The Yokuts lived in the area, hunting the lake’s abundant wildlife and gathering acorns, an immensely important food for them, for about 5,000 years. The Spanish arrived in 1772, led by Pedro Fages, Father Francisco Garces and others, and would name the lake after the abundant tule plants that lined it. While the Spanish colonized much of the coast, the land in the Central Valley and around the lake was left alone, being deemed mostly worthless. Between 1772 and 1846, there were only two permanent European settlements around the lake: Pueblo de las Juntas, near present-day Firebaugh, and Pueblo San Emigdio, south of Buena Vista Lake. What Latta described as the “forbidding barrenness” of the Valley included several oases of lakes, sloughs, rivers and swamps. The lake was a breeding ground for mosquitos, which in addition to spreading malaria, attracted “billions” of bats nightly.

Statehood

The area saw control shift from Spain to Mexico and then to the United States in 1848, bringing with it a new influx of settlers. In the 1840s, trappers, including John “Grizzly” Adams and Kit Carson (for whom a local elementary school is named), began finding their fortunes in the area’s abundant wildlife. “Any writer who attempts to give the uninitiated an accurate impression of the quantities of game supported in the San Joaquin will lose all reputation for dealing with the truth,” Latta wrote in a 1938 column. By the 1870s, the lake became the source of a great fishing industry. The Water Witch, a 32-foot long vessel



NASA EARTH OBSERVATORY IMAGE BY LAUREN DAUPHIN, CONTRIBUTED

This composite satellite photo released by NASA, shows the scope of Tulare Lake as of April 30.

skimmed its surface taking in fish and terrapin — a type of small turtle. The terrapin were so important to the region that a small area of the lake six miles south of Kettleman City would become known as Terrapin Bay. As many as 300 dozen terrapin would be sold per season to markets in the Bay Area for stews and soups.

More than just fish

It’s said that the most prominent lake fisherman was W. J. Browning, of Delano, with three boats and four employees. But while the Water Witch’s broad seine caught fish and terrapin, the Mose Andross ferried cattle and hogs between Atwell’s Landing and Gordon’s Point. “The boat got stranded up by Lemoore,” Semas said of the Mose Andross. “The engine was salvaged and still exists today. It’s up at Atwell Mill in the Mineral King area. The engine sits out in the open. They used it to run a lumber mill up there for many years and then they abandoned it.” In 1868, the San Joaquin Valley was surveyed by R. W. Brereton, a man working for “San Francisco and London capitalists,” according to Latta. Brereton had made a name for himself by surveying India and Egypt for the English. As a result of his report, the San Joaquin and

Kings River Canal and Irrigation Company was formed with \$1 million in capital in 1871. With no railroad south of Tracy at the time, the plan was to connect Tulare Lake to the Bay Area via a series of canals and locks, according to historian and Sentinel columnist, Mae Belle Weis. This route would mostly be used for freight, however by 1875, the railroad extended south into Bakersfield and a new plan began to take shape as the water started to be used for irrigation.

Uncovering Corcoran

Due to water from the Kern, Tule, Kaweah and Kings rivers being diverted to grow wheat and cotton, among other crops, the lake fell to an “unprecedented” low level between 1876 and 1881, uncovering the area that would come to be Corcoran. “In those days [1894], Corcoran was an artesian well, a pond and a tule patch,” Browning said sometime around 1900. According to Weis, the area was first farmed by Frank Howe in 1878. The city was formally founded by developer Hobart Johnstone Whitley after a 1905 visit. The J.G. Boswell Company was established in Corcoran in 1921, and would become the world’s largest privately-owned farm. “The initial goal wasn’t

to dry up the lake. The goal was to divert a lot of the water that was going into the lake basin to other areas that could use the irrigation more efficiently,” Semas said. “The lake dried up because the water was being diverted and not a lot of water was going into the basin. It was a secondary situation, but once the lake dried up, there was an attempt to keep it dry.” Today, Corcoran is protected from the resurging lake by a levee which stretches more than 14 miles in a half circle around the city and is 188 feet above sea level, according to Kings County Sheriff David Robinson. On Thursday, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced that the state will pay for raising the Corcoran levee to 192 feet, marking the third time the state or federal government has intervened to raise the levee, according to the governor’s office. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers made repairs to the levee in 1969 and again in 1983. The levee requires repeated work, in part, because over-pumping of groundwater beneath the levee has caused subsidence. Corcoran is sinking at a rate of seven inches per year, according to the New York Times.

Growth, decay, transformation

The lake first dried up in the late 1890s, and without dams and reservoirs, its water levels grew and shrank according to the whims of nature for years. According to Weis, the lake basin would fill and dry, expand and contract for the next few decades. Thanks to dikes, levees and pumps, however, the entire basin would not fill, though parts would reach levels close to its historic depths. During a particularly wet season in 1938, 140,000 acres of the lake’s basin were covered by 1.25 million acre-feet of water, resulting in 17,000 acres of cotton — 45% of Kings County’s total yield — being destroyed. Additionally, 5,800 acres of sugar beets were submerged, essentially

wiping out the industry. Another 100,000 acres of wheat, barley and alfalfa were lost. “Had Pine Flat Dam been in the Kings River Canyon, as advocated for the past 20 years, 600,000 acre-feet of water now in Tulare Lake would still be in the mountains, held in storage until such a time as the Valley wished to draw on it. Possibly that is the only solution, to control Tulare Lake at its source, to hold the water in the mountains,” Weis wrote in a 1938 Sentinel column. Construction would finally begin on Pine Flat Dam in 1947. The dam was completed in 1954, impounding water on the Kings River in Fresno County. The Success Dam on the Tule River and the Terminus Dam on the Kaweah River opened in 1961 and 1962 respectively, after another lake resurgence in 1955. Despite the dams and intermittent droughts, the lake returned in 1969, 1983, 1997 and now, 2023.

The face of change

Valley agriculture now employs around 340,000 people, and produces more than \$24 billion in revenue each year, according to the Public Policy Institute of California, a vastly different landscape than the expanse of bountiful lake that nourished the Yokuts for 5,000 years and was deemed something of an eyesore by European settlers. “[Boswell] and a handful of farmers before him had sucked the Tulare Lake dry and made its rivers run backward. No landscape in America — not the cotton south, not the grain belt of the Midwest, not the cane fields of Florida — had been more altered by the hand of agriculture,” wrote Valley journalist Mark Arax, in his 2003 book “The King of California.” And with a history spanning 600,000 years, there are undoubtedly many chapters left in the story of Tulare Lake. “Whether we like it or not, that lake will return. It may not be in our lifetime, or even our children’s lifetimes, but geography will make that lake return,” Semas said.



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FAITH

CHRIST AND COMMON SENSE

The Godly woman of Proverbs Thirty-One

The Bible gives a refreshingly clear description of an ideal woman in Proverbs 31:10-31. It is refreshing because it is not focused on the outward appearance of a woman. The twenty-two verses in this passage are overflowing with colorful imagery and practical illustrations of the kind of woman who “is to be praised.” It is important to note that the Bible does not require women to be married to faithfully serve God (1 Corinthians 7:7-8). Those who are married have a specific role to play in God’s glorious plan, but the principles listed in Proverbs 31 provides guidance regardless of whether someone is single or married.

Many Christians are aware of the importance of the passage, but what is not as well known is that every stanza begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet, starting with Aleph and ending with Tau. One reason the original author created this abecedarian, was to paint a complete picture of a Godly woman. This helped the readers of Proverbs to grasp the attitudes and actions that God wants woman to have.

This ancient wisdom has been helpful for women of every generation that have had access to it. As a husband of one such woman, I can personally attest to the joy and peace that is brought into the world by women who seek to follow after these principles. My prayer is that this article will bring a renewed interest in this profound teaching about God’s view of a wise woman.



TIM DINKINS

Please see **SENSE**, Page B3

THE CONVERSATION



AHN YOUNG-JOON/AP

Children leave after having their heads shaved during an event to have experiences of the lives of Buddhist monks, at the Jogye Temple in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, May 9, 2023. Nine children entered the temple to have experiences for three weeks ahead of celebrations for Buddha’s birthday on May 27.

Meditative mothering?

LIZ WILSON
Miami University

Buddhist saints are often described as maternally compassionate, with the endless patience of a mother who feeds, cleans and cares for children around the clock. In fact, the Theravada branch of Buddhism holds mothers in such high esteem that two men among the Buddha’s chief disciples, Sariputta and Mogallana, are said to be “like the mother giving birth” and “the nurse raising a child.”

Yet in Buddhism, as in some other religions, views of motherhood are complex. Motherlike compassion is idealized – yet so are celibacy and monasticism. Historically, the faith does not have a core ideology that values marriage and procreation as central virtues to be pursued at the cost of spiritual study and

enlightenment. However, as a scholar of gender and family in Buddhism, I have noticed shifting views about how spirituality and motherhood can be combined.

Repaying a mother’s debt

Cultivating gratitude toward sentient beings is a central focus of Buddhist practice, particularly toward elders. Buddhists are exhorted to be grateful for the sacrifices parents make to bring them into the world and raise them. In fact, failure to repay debts owed to parents can land one in a realm of hell exclusively for ungrateful children, according to one sutra that is often called the filial piety teaching.

Buddhists might show reverence for mothers or motherlike figures in their lives by preparing

a meal or offering a gift. Year-round there are many other specific ways Buddhist children might honor a parent. In Thailand, for example, some boys seek to repay what is known as the “milk debt” to their mothers by temporarily taking monastic vows and spending a few weeks living with monks – a tradition meant to show deep respect.

If someone’s mother is no longer alive, however, there are still many ways to direct loving kindness toward her. One of the most common ways is to make food offerings, such as rice balls, at ancestral shrines, altars to the family lineage and the like. As with feeding a living parent, the ritual is meant to make Buddhists aware of the sacrifices their parents made to feed them.

Please see **BUDDHIST**, Page B3

LIFE NOTES

A different frame of reference

Summer is on its way! In classic spring-cleaning fashion, my family took on a few outside home improvement projects in preparation for spending more time there. Our teenage son was drafted for the job of helping refinish our patio.



CANDACE CORTEZ

It was a long strenuous project on a Saturday, that none of us particularly enjoyed...although there was a portion of my mom heart that was glad for a project that required all “hands on deck” (pun intended).

My son, who is still learning how to be a hard worker, was pacing himself (to say the least!) It was almost laughable the amount of water breaks he required. It seemed that if we had a flow of conversation while working, certain thoughts required him to stop painting to consider his answers, rather than being able to work steady through the chit chat. My husband and I kept laughing with each other, reminding him to get back to work, and that he could talk and roll on paint at the same time.

Five rolled around, and we were three-fourths of the way finished. We grabbed a quick bite to eat and then got back to work, much to my son’s surprise and obvious dismay. At around 7 p.m., the shadows were beginning to overtake the light in the backyard. My son finally asked a crucial question: “When are we gonna stop working? Can we finish tomorrow?”

Please see **NOTES**, Page B3

Hanford Church Directory

Featured Church

Grace Bible Church

707 W. Fargo Blvd.
583-3355

Bridge Community Church
1461 N 10th Ave - 584-8077

Calvary Chapel Hanford
1900 N Douty St – 582-5532

Central Community Church of God 1100 N Redington St
(559) 582-4762

Centro Cristiano Fuego Santo
211 N Brown St, (559) 317-4246

Christ Church Anglican
Mission 13999 Grangeville Blvd.
(559) 410-8101

Church of Christ Hanford
1596 W Grangeville Blvd
(559) 530-4339

Church of God (Pentecostal)
323 E 11th St - 582-1210

Church of the Nazarene
6258 E Murphy, Laton
(559) 923-1200

Country Church Hanford
4375 12 3/4 Ave. Hanford, CA

Epic Church
213 W 7TH ST – 836-8762

Episcopal Church of the Saviour
519 N Douty St – 584-7706

First Baptist Church
9125 13 1/2 Ave – 584-6644

First Christian Church
505 W Cameron St - 584-3082

First Christian Reformed Church
2175 Leoni Dr - 582-4423

First Lutheran (Missouri Synod)
9075 12th Ave – 582-2463

First Pentecostal Church
429 W Elm St - 584-7513

First Presbyterian Church
415 N Redington - 582-0283

First Southern Baptist
1207 N 11th - 584-7255

First United Methodist
505 N Redington St
(559) 584-4075

Glad Tidings Church
750 E Grangeville Blvd
(559) 584-8565

Golden Harvest Apostolic Church
11914 2nd Place - 587-1464

Grace Bible Church Hanford
707 W Fargo Blvd - 585-3355

Grace Temple Pentecostal Holiness Church
616 E Malone St - (559) 585-1532

House of Hope Seventh Day Adventist Church
206 E 9th St - 587-5179

Howard Chapel AME Zion Church
311 S Douty St - 816-1225

Iglesia Adventista Del Septimo Dia
700 N Harris St - (559) 582-6614

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic
10435 Hanford-Armona Rd
(559) 584-8576

Jehovah’s Witness Congregation
8595 12th Ave - 582-5165

Koinonia Church
12356 Hanford-Armona Rd
(559) 582-1528

Lakeside Community Church
16942 S 10th Ave
582-2382

Latin American Assembly of God 700 S Harris St. – 582-5018

Mustard Seed Faith Christian Center COGIC
136 11th St. – (619) 675-2881

New Beginnings Church
9837 9 1/4 Ave – 584-1518

New Hope Orthodox Presbyterian Church
900 Redington St.
Pastor Fox (717) 745-2892

New Hope Community Church (Nueva Esperanza Iglesia De La Comunidad)
11274 Hanford-Armona Rd.
(559) 582-2009

Pentecostal Church of God
323 E 11th S - 582-1210

Renewing Faith Global Outreach
724 Vaughn St - 583-1447

St. Brigid’s Catholic Church
1001 N Douty St – 582-2533

Salvation Army
380 E Ivy St – 582-4434

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Suns go big at trade deadline, still lose in second round of playoffs

DAVID BRANDT
AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — The Phoenix Suns pushed all-in at the trade deadline, blowing up their roster nucleus to add 13-time All-Star Kevin Durant in a quest for the franchise's first championship in its 55-year history.

It didn't happen.

Now it feels like big changes are on the horizon after another embarrassing playoff exit.

Phoenix is headed to the off-season after losing to the Denver Nuggets 125-100 in Game 6 of the Western Conference semifinals. The Suns fell into a 30-point halftime hole on their home-court one season after losing to the Dallas Mavericks in eerily similar fashion.

"When it comes to a screeching halt, it's like everyone just flies all over the place and you're trying to figure out what just happened," coach Monty Williams said. "It just comes to a stop you don't expect."

Suns new owner Mat Ishbia enters his first offseason with the franchise and it remains to be seen how aggressive he'll be in re-shaping the roster. The assumption is that three-time All-Star Devin Booker — who averaged



MATT YORK/AP

Phoenix Suns forward Kevin Durant watches from the bench during the second half of Game 6 of an NBA basketball Western Conference semifinal series against the Denver Nuggets, Thursday, May 11, 2023, in Phoenix. The Nuggets eliminated the Sun in their 125-100 win.

nearly 36 points per game in a brilliant postseason performance — and Durant will be back.

The rest of the roster is in flux.

The biggest questions surround 12-time All-Star point guard Chris Paul and former No. 1 draft pick Deandre Ayton, who were both out with injuries by the end of the series. It also remains to be seen if Williams — the NBA's coach of the year in 2022 — will be back on the sidelines.

The 38-year-old Paul was solid when he was on the court for the Suns this season, but his body gave out again in the playoffs and he missed the final four games with a strained left groin. He's under contract for next season with a partially-guaranteed deal.

"We train, we practice to be in these moments," Paul said. "When you can't be out there it's tough."

Please see **SUNS**, Page B3

Bengals welcome rookies to begin building new foundation

KEITH JENKINS
Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — The Cincinnati Bengals have been close.

The two-time defending AFC North champions played a tight game against the Los Angeles Rams in a losing Super Bowl effort last year. They followed that by losing to the eventual Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs by a field goal in this year's AFC title game.

The Bengals hope at least one of their eight picks in this year's draft will help provide the missing link to the franchise's first Super Bowl win.

Cincinnati welcomed its latest batch of draft picks and a group of undrafted free agents into the team's indoor practice facility for the first day of their rookie mini-camp Friday as coach Zac Taylor and his staff began building the foundation for this year's squad.

"Your purpose is to be the best football player you can be to help the team," Taylor said. "All the things off the field that go into that: eat, sleep, spend your time making sure you know the playbook inside and out ... those little discipline things can really make the difference early in a guy's career. ... That's one of the things that we try to communicate to these guys."

Taylor and director of player personnel Duke Tobin prioritized strengthening the team's pass rush in last month's draft, selecting former Clemson defensive end Myles Murphy with the 28th overall pick. Cincinnati got its first look Friday at the 6-foot-5, 270-pound edge rusher who figures to help a Bengals defense that finished 29th in team sacks last season with 30.

"I thought he was in good shape for the first day," Taylor said of the 2022 All-Atlantic Coast Conference defensive lineman. "Again, we're not out here very long, but I could see a bright-eyed guy that was ready to learn and get after it."

The Bengals were only on the practice field for about an hour. But Murphy took advantage of the time to go through drills with defensive line coach Marion Hobby.

Murphy donned his new No. 99 jersey, one number higher than the No. 98 he wore while at Clemson. Defensive tackle D.J. Reader, another Clemson product, already wears No. 98 for Cincinnati.

"He said I could get the number for a price," Murphy said of Reader. "I don't even want to know what that price is. So I'm going to stick with 99 for now and leave it there."

Please see **BENGALS**, Page B3

How does the NBA lottery work?

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

The NBA draft lottery has offered teams a quick path from bad to good for nearly four decades. The stakes this year are unusually high with French phenom Victor Wembanyama the top prospect.

The lottery format has undergone a few changes since the New York Knicks won the first one in 1985, when there were seven teams.

There are twice as many lottery teams now, all hoping, like the Knicks did when they drafted Patrick Ewing, to have luck strike at the right time and land the player who can turn around a franchise.

The Detroit Pistons, Houston Rockets and Spurs all have a 14% chance of getting him, but there will be 14 teams at the McCormick Place Convention Center that have hopes.

WHEN IS THE NBA DRAFT LOTTERY?

The league will hold this year's lottery Tuesday night in Chicago, with the winner getting the No. 1 pick and the chance to draft Victor Wembanyama. He is considered the best prospect in years — perhaps since LeBron James went No. 1 20 years ago. The lottery telecast begins at 8 p.m. EST on ESPN and during the televised portion, Deputy Commissioner Mark Tatum opens envelopes that reveal the draft order. Neither he nor any of the representatives on stage will know the results until then.

WILL WEMBANYAMA BE AT THE LOTTERY?

The most coveted prospect in this year's draft will not be there. Wembanyama plays his last regular-season game for his pro team in France on Tuesday, a few hours before the lottery.

All the teams that missed the postseason are in the Wembanyama Sweepstakes. In addition to Houston, Detroit, and San Antonio, the list includes Charlotte, Portland, Orlando, Indiana, Washington, Utah, Dallas, Chicago, Oklahoma City, Toronto and New Orleans.

WHAT ABOUT THOSE PING-PONG BALLS?

Fourteen ping-pong balls numbered 1 to 14 are placed in a machine and the teams are assigned various four-number combina-

tions. The balls are mixed for 20 seconds before the first one is drawn. The remaining balls are mixed again before another is drawn, and that happens twice more until four have been removed.

The team with that combination of numbers gets the No. 1 pick. The balls are then returned to the machine and the process is repeated for the Nos. 2-4 picks.

Teams have representatives in the lottery room where the actual drawing takes place and another on the podium for the televised announcement. Representatives in the lottery room can observe the process but can't see the results. Everyone in the room has to turn over their cell phones and any other forms of communication when they enter.

WHY DOESN'T THE WORST TEAM HAVE THE BEST ODDS TO WIN?

The short answer is to avoid any incentive for a team to finish last.

The worst team did have the best odds until a few years ago with a 25% chance of winning the No. 1 pick from 1994-2018. Now the teams with the three worst records all have a 14% chance.

In the first years of the lottery from 1985-89, every team had the same odds. But the team with the worst record got the top pick only once and that led the league to implementing a weighted system. The current system also does not guarantee the worst teams get one of the top four picks.



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Buddhist

From B1

The Buddha’s gift

Buddhists commonly believe there are many possible realms where a person might go after death – some heavenly, some hellish. Children can prevent a mother who landed in hell from staying there long by doing good deeds and transferring good

karma to her. Even a mother who was reborn in a heavenly realm can be sustained there by her children’s gifts of good karma.

The downside of the Buddhist heavens, however, is attachment to fine food, drink, clothing and other sensual delights. In many legends, the gods have a hard time seeing the cardinal teaching of Buddhism: the evanescent nature of all phenomena. Whatever

you want more of will not last.

According to Buddhist tradition, the Buddha’s mother, Maya, was lucky in that she had good karma and became a goddess after death. But after he had achieved enlightenment, the dutiful Buddha ascended to the heaven where Maya resided and taught her that even heavenly enjoyments pale in comparison to liberation. Legends say he spent three months

teaching her the most advanced doctrines in the Buddhist canon – far more complicated than what legends say he taught his father.

Focus vs. family

Buddhist Asia, from the western end of the Silk Road in Turkey to the eastern end in China, is full of fertility traditions and fertility figures. In many parts of Asia where Buddhism is practiced,

however – especially in elite monastic circles – texts about the freedoms and virtues of celibacy hold pride of place.

Much of Buddhist teaching is rooted in the idea that all things are impermanent. Therefore, all desires – including to have sex or have a family – are seen as forms of bondage: These cravings tie people to worldly goals rather than to the path of wisdom toward nirvana.

Notes

From B1

I walked over, turned on the lights over the patio, and let him know that we planned to paint until we were done. All of a sudden it was like a fire was lit under my son. He had energy, vigor, and a goal. It only took one more hour to do the amount of work that had previously taken us nearly two hours.

It dawned on me, that he was working with a different finish line than we were, so his engagement was different as well! He thought we were going to stop when a certain hour approached. We knew we would stop when the job was done, no matter the hour. This got me thinking about my work for the Lord.

I wonder if I have the same goal or finish line that God has

for me. Am I aiming for the same things He has for me? Hebrew’s 12:1 encourages us to run with perseverance, the race set before us. Sometimes, I do not feel like God and I are on the same page about the race I’m running. I can feel “off,” not sure of my purpose, or which lane I’m supposed to be in. Is this a daily race? Or a finish line at the very end? Maybe a combination of both? Is salvation the goal?

Or does God have bigger plans than even that?

Two lessons to be learned from this short passage of scripture: 1) God sets the race, and 2) I need to keep running, even if I get off course. The goal is set by the Lord, not necessarily by me. What a humbling realization that is. I can set goals such as 100% church attendance, or reading my Bible every day, or even witnessing to 100 peo-

ple this year. But my ultimate goal needs to be surrendered to God’s plans for me: the race set before me!

I need to never stop trying to please God, not editing the process according to my desires and expectations. Allowing the Lord to determine when I’ve grown enough, given enough, said enough, or surrendered enough is the goal.

So, what are you aiming for? Are you and God on the same page? Have you checked in recently to see if you’re working on the things that He wants you to work on in your life and for His Kingdom?

I know that sometimes I get off course. I know sometimes I lack the perseverance to stay moving and stay in my assigned lane. I pray that today you find fresh vigor and enthusiasm to run the race set before you!

Sense

From B1

One of the unique aspects of this chapter is that the author goes out of his way to highlight the unique value that a woman of God brings to her husband. The modern reader might be surprised that husbands are mentioned in a chapter about women, but this is no surprise to the informed reader of Scripture.

Genesis 2:15-18 specifies that God’s intention in creating Eve was to be a “suitable helper” for her husband. Ephesians 5:22-27 gives even more detail regarding God’s beautiful design for marriage. The author, the apostle Paul, commands each husband to love his wife in a sacrificial way, modeled after the incomparable servanthood of Jesus Christ. In verse 22, the apostle Paul specifies that each wife is to submit to her husband’s leadership of the family. Far from encouraging wives to subjugate themselves to the sinful domination of a worldly husband, this is a profound encouragement for wives to follow the loving leadership of a husband who is being held accountable by the perfect guidance of a good and gracious God.

This picture of a Godly wife supporting her loving husband is masterfully displayed in Proverbs 31:10-31. The passage includes three references to the husband and each of them show the special value that a woman of God can bring to her husband. Verses 10-12 state that a Godly wife “is more precious than jewels.” She has earned the trust of her husband and he is convinced that his relationship with her will bring him success, and not harm, all her life.

Verse 23 is the next place that mentions the connection between a husband and an ideal woman of God. It says, “Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders

of the land.” The verses above and below imply that his wife’s excellent work and remarkable industry are one of the reasons her husband has such a good reputation in the city.

Verses 28-31 bring a nice bookend to the passage because they reveal that a Godly woman will be praised by her children and her husband, “Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: “Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.” Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.” The last sentence implies that her husband is the one recognizing his wife’s remarkable service to him, his family and the community.

The majority of the chapter is filled with detailed descriptions of the activity and attitude of an ideal woman of God. She is actively involved in the oversight of the business of the home. She is sacrificial in her concern for her children and for the responsibilities she has been given. She does not praise herself or demand recognition. Her praise comes from the lips of others.

Proverbs 27:2 reinforces the idea of measuring the value of a woman of God from the words of others, “Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.” Ultimately, the value of each woman is only decided by the God who made her. Scripture is also clear that a woman does not have to be married in order to be faithful to God. In fact, the apostle Paul wrote that there was much value for both men and women to remain single (1 Corinthians 7:7-8). Regardless of someone’s marital status, each person can benefit by studying the example given in Proverbs 31 and each person can prayerfully ask God to help them live in a way that is pleasing to Him.

Bengals

From B2

Murphy said the key to his development early on will be asking questions. Fourth-round draft pick Charlie Jones echoed that.

“This is a receiver room that I’ve been following just as a fan,” said Jones, who set Purdue’s single-season record for receiving yards (1,361) in 2022 after transferring from Iowa. “It’s a blessing to be here and be in this group. It’s just a perfect oppor-

tunity to learn a lot from a lot of the people that have already established themselves.”

One of those people is fellow wide receiver Ja’Marr Chase. The 2021 first-round pick led the Bengals in receptions, receiving yards and receiving touchdowns in each of his first two seasons.

Jones’ locker is next to Chase’s.

“Right now, I’ve just been hanging out with the rookies,” Jones said. “I haven’t really gotten the chance to meet any of the vets in person yet. So I’m definitely look-

ing forward to Monday to start building those relationships.”

Quarterback Joe Burrow and the rest of the veterans will join the rookies Monday, when the real bonding and the countdown to the Bengals’ season opener Sept. 10 at Cleveland will begin.

“We’ll get a chance to see what we’re going to be about,” Taylor said. “And we’re starting from scratch. We’re starting over with the chemistry, the camaraderie, the scheme. I think that’s what’s exciting as a coach.”

Suns

From B2

The 24-year-old Ayton was ineffective for much of the Denver series, averaging 10.8 points and 8.2 rebounds, which were both well below his season and career averages. He suffered a rib contusion in Game 5 and watched the final game from the bench.

WILLIAMS’ FUTURE

Williams is widely respected in the Suns’ organization. Maybe most importantly, Booker has always been a fan.

But no coaching job is safe in the NBA. Championship-winning coaches like Mike Budenholzer (Milwaukee) and Nick Nurse (Toronto) have already hit the unemployment line this off-season.

On Friday, Williams sounded like a man who wanted to be back, but wasn’t sure about his future.

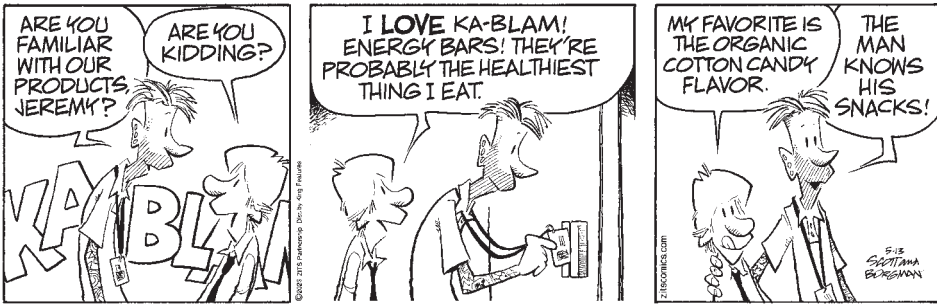
He led the Suns to the Finals in 2021, losing to the Bucks in six games.

“I’ve always felt like I have to do my job and not worry about it,” Williams said. “But you do scan the landscape and see what’s going on and you know it could be a part of anybody’s tenure. So from my perspective, you do the best you can, and if things don’t turn out the way you want them to you can sleep and rest because you did the best you could.

DAILY COMICS

Zits

Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Classic Peanuts

Charles Schulz



Hagar the Horrible

Chris Browne



Blondie

Dean Young and John Marshall



Garfield

Jim Davis



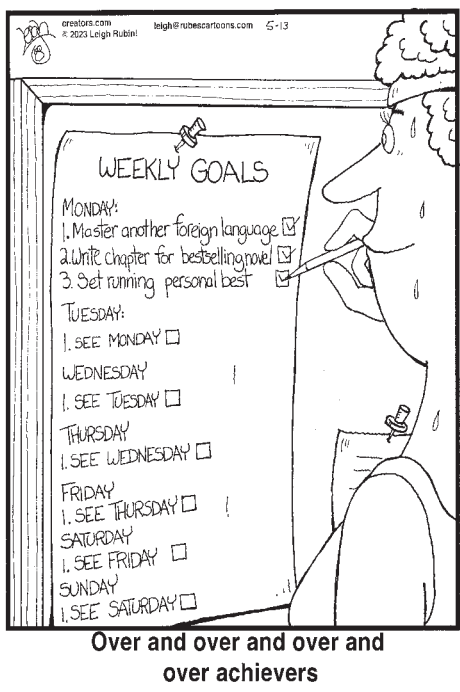
B.C.

Mastroianni and Hart



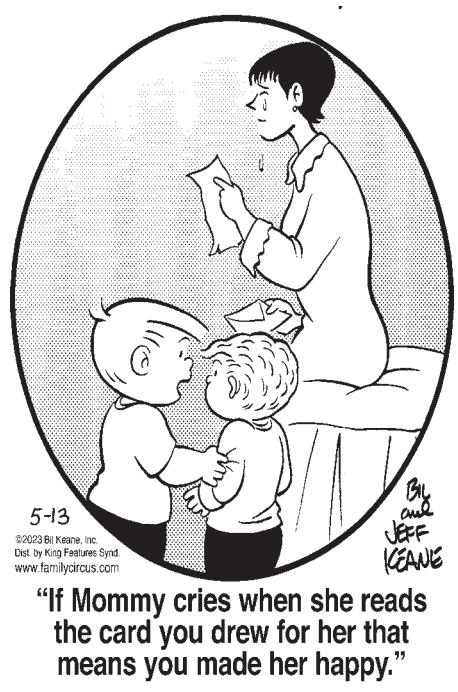
Rubes

Leigh Rubin



The Family Circus

Bill Keane



Beetle Bailey

Mort Walker

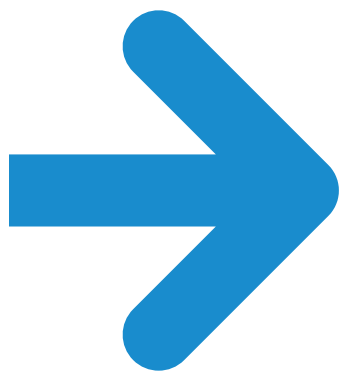




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