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California parents may get tax breaks with Biden plan

BY DAVID LIGHTMAN
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WASHINGTON

Chances are California parents will soon get more tax breaks that will probably be worth thousands of dollars.

President Joe Biden is propos-

ing big one-year increases in both the credit for child care, which allows breaks for the cost of such care, and the Child Tax Credit, which allows qualifying parents to reduce their tax bill for each child.

Expanding the Child Tax Credit could help the parents of an estimated 10.1 million chil-

dren in California. The poorest 20% of state income earners - who make less than \$26,500 a year - could get an average \$4,250 tax break, according to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, a Washington-based economic research group.

In California, Biden's proposals "would have a significant

impact," said James Moses, policy chair of the California Association for the Education of Young Children.

The tax savings are part of Biden's \$1.9 trillion economic relief package. While many Democrats and Republicans have qualms about the overall proposal - Republicans say it's

too expensive, while many Democrats say it isn't enough - so far there's been little serious opposition.

An alternative being pushed by 10 Senate Republican alternative does not include the tax breaks, but a source close to the group said it has not been ruled out.

TAX BREAKS FOR PARENTS

Child tax credits have long had support from both parties. Helping parents fits squarely into the conservative effort to promote stable, prosperous families. It helps the liberals'

SEE TAX BREAKS, 9A

Bezos to exit Amazon CEO role

BY JOSEPH PISANI
Associated Press

NEW YORK

Jeff Bezos, who founded Amazon as an online bookstore and built it into a shopping and entertainment behemoth, will step down later this year as CEO, a role he's had for nearly 30 years, to become executive chairman, the company announced Tuesday.

Bezos, 57, will be replaced in the fall by Andy Jassy, who runs Amazon's cloud-computing business. In a blog post to employees, Bezos said he planned to focus on new products and early initiatives being developed at Amazon. He said he would have more time for side projects, including his space exploration company Blue Origin, his philanthropic initiatives and overseeing The Washington Post, which he owns.

Bezos, who is the company's biggest shareholder, will still have broad influence over the company. "Jeff is really not going anywhere," Amazon executive Brian Olsavsky said in a call with reporters. "It's more of a restructuring of who's doing what."

Launched in 1995, Amazon was a pioneer of fast, free shipping that won over millions of shoppers who used the site to buy diapers, TVs and just about anything else. Under Bezos, Amazon also launched the first e-reader that gained mass acceptance, and its Echo listening device made voice assistants a common sight in living rooms.

As a child, Bezos was in-

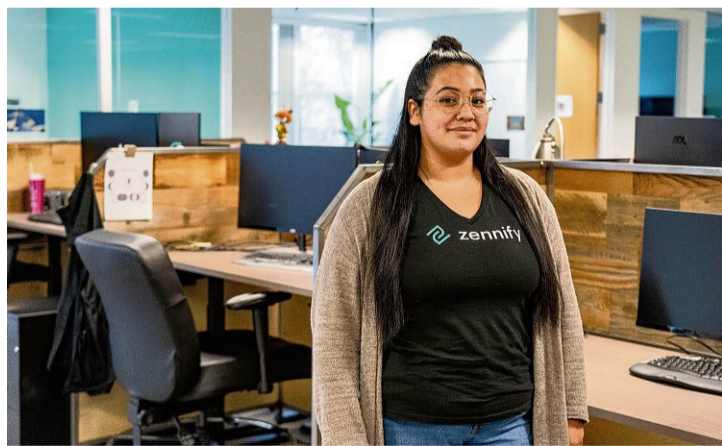
SEE BEZOS, 10A

Amid pandemic job losses, local program helps launch IT careers



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Rey Justo of Sacramento stands inside the offices of tech consulting firm Zennify on Jan. 22. After being laid off and spending months living in his car and with family, he recently started working at the company after completing Sacramento's digital upskilling program.



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Alicia MacHale of Sacramento started working at Zennify after completing Sacramento's digital upskilling program last year.

BY JEONG PARK
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The Sacramento Bee is exploring the future of work in California as the state recovers from the coronavirus pandemic. The series is supported by the Solutions Journalism Network, a nonprofit organization dedicated to rigorous and compelling reporting about responses to social problems.

Unemployment helped Rey Justo achieve his dream.

In April, Justo lost his job working as an appliance installer making \$20 an hour,

the highest paying work he has ever had. By fall, he and his family of six were living between a Honda Pilot and his in-law's living room.

It was then he read an e-mail about Sacramento's program to pay residents \$600 a week for nine weeks while they trained for such digital jobs as data analyst and technical support specialist.

He had always dreamed of working in technology, but never had the time or resources to learn. This time, though, his unemployment

SEE PROGRAM, 9A

'Latinx' grows in popularity, but not with all Latinos

BY KIM BOJORQUEZ
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Last summer, Democratic Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, D-San Diego, posed a question on Twitter: "Does it seem like non-Latinos use Latinx far more than actual Latinos?"

A debate on Gonzalez's Twitter thread followed.

Spanish-language loyalists criticized the gender inclusive label for its attempt to change a language that consists of masculine and feminine nouns. Defenders called it a non-binary and inclusive label that acknowledges Latinas and LGBTQ Latinos.

What's clear is that the label has risen in popularity on the internet in the last five years, reaching its peak on Google Trends in September 2020, a month before the presidential election.

But a 2020 Pew Research Center study, finds that only a quarter of Latinos in the U.S. have heard the term - and only

3% use it. Instead, the study shows, Latino communities would rather be referred to by their country of origin, such as Mexican, Honduran or Cuban.

The term is embraced by younger Latinos, liberal Democrats and the LGBTQ community and its allies, including Gov. Gavin Newsom. It tends to be shunned by many native Span-

ish speakers and older, working-class Latinos.

"It's a question of what people choose to call themselves," said Laura E. Gómez, a law professor at UCLA and author of the book "Inventing Latinos: A New Story of American Racism."

WHO USES LATINX?

The term is most used among young Hispanic women, as well

SEE LATINX, 10A

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