



**Use Caution:  
American River  
Running Cold  
and Swift**

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*Happy  
Mother's Day!*



# Citrus Heights Messenger

VOLUME 13 • ISSUE 19

Serving the City of Citrus Heights & Sacramento County

MAY 12, 2023


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INSIDE**

**ACCESSORY  
DWELLING UNITS  
REPORTED IN  
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POWER AND  
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## First Ever Stars and Stripes Celebration



This new community event is a result of the community's desire to celebrate Citrus Height's patriotic roots. Strategic planning and prioritizing the community's wishes to connect brought this event to life, now all we need is you to make it spark. MPG file photo

**City of Citrus Heights  
News Release**

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - The City of Citrus Heights is hosting a brand-new event for the community, the Stars & Stripes Celebration. This family-friendly event is open to the public and will feature entertainment, food and of course, a fireworks show!

Grab your blankets and lawn chairs and head to Van Maren Park on Saturday, July 1 at 6 p.m. to join Citrus Heights in celebrating Independence Day. From 7 to 9:30 p.m. attendees will enjoy live music

from local band, CC Seger. While you listen to music you can grab a bite to eat from one of the many food trucks that will be on site.

The Stars & Stripes Celebration welcomes kids to enjoy the Kids Zone, where kids can stay entertained leading up to the big show. Starting at 9:45 p.m. guests will look to the skies for a special fireworks show! Enjoy the views from the park, with your family and community nearby. Sit back, watch the sky light up and remember all that the holiday is meant to celebrate: our country, community and togetherness.

This new community event is a result of the community's desire to celebrate Citrus Height's patriotic roots. Strategic planning and prioritizing the community's wishes to connect brought this event to life, now all we need is you to make it spark.

The City of Citrus Heights looks forward to seeing you and your loved ones there!

For more information on the Stars & Stripes Celebration and other events you can visit the City Events page on our website. Text "Hello" to (844) 95-HELLO (43556) to receive reminders about the event. ★

## "Kids Helping Kids" Raises \$150K

**Kids Helping Kids  
News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Kids Helping Kids Sacramento hosted its Ninth Annual Signature Gala, with a concert headlined by the Grammy award winning rock band, Switchfoot. The night also included an opening act by Brendan James and former Sac's Got Talent winner, Kendra Dantes. Along with the benefit concert, the gala included silent auction bidding and a raffle for Taylor Swift concert tickets and a diamond bracelet. Proceeds raised by this event will go directly towards families with children who are battling pediatric cancer.

Kids Helping Kids is an entirely student-run, non-profit organization made up of juniors and seniors from Del Campo High School. They put on their Signature Gala, along with several other events, to raise money for the populations they serve. They support children battling pediatric cancer and their families by providing financial resources during their medical treatment. Kids Helping Kids aids families in paying for expenses which are directly caused by the massive cost of treatment for their child. Each year, they raise \$50,000 to help 100 families battling pediatric cancer and this year they hope to generate even more so they can reach even more children.

On April 29th, Kids Helping Kids raised \$150,673 through their Signature Gala. By using the online platform of GiveSmart, the organization raised a majority of their money from their silent auction.

Headlining the gala is legendary rock band, SWITCHFOOT, who received a grammy for 'Best Rock Gospel Album'. Switchfoot has sold almost 10 million copies worldwide of their twelve studio albums and performed sold-out tours with over 5 million concert tickets sold in over 40 countries around the world. Through their unique blend of emotionally intelligent and uplifting brand of alternative rock, the Gala was a night of both soulful music and changing children's lives. ★

## Sacramento County Hires New Shelter Operator

**Sacramento County  
News Release**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento County has hired a new non-profit shelter operator to take over operations of the Full Service Rehousing Shelter (FSRS) program. FSRS provides low-barrier sheltering and re-housing services for highly vulnerable adults experiencing unsheltered homelessness that may not be served successfully by traditional sheltering programs. FSRS provides 24-hour interim housing, meals, case management, transportation, and support services. Currently, this program is being operated by Sacramento Self-Help Housing, Inc. (SSHH) through a scattered-site model using approximately 23 single-family homes. Due to ongoing financial concerns with SSHH, the County will not pursue a contract renewal with SSHH for the Scattered

Site Shelter program after the contract's end on June 30, 2023.

The County has entered into an agreement with City Net, a non-profit homeless services organization that has a history of collaborative success in several communities in California. City Net is an organization that provides street outreach, case management, housing navigation, bridge housing, shelter operations, census coordination, and more through coordination with local service partners and community-based organizations. For this contract, City Net will manage the day-to-day operations and provide wrap-around case management and supportive services for program participants. Additionally, City Net will lease sites for use in this program and manage landlord relationships. City Net held a hiring event this past Saturday to identify staffing for the expansion of

work in Sacramento.

"City Net is pleased to have been selected as the new Sacramento County scattered site project lead," said Brad Fieldhouse, President, and Executive Director for City Net. "We recognize and share the commitment by all parties involved to continue this important work, and our team is looking forward to jumping in and giving it a fresh start."

Many of the current property owners and landlords who have been leasing scattered site housing to SSHH are owed several months of unpaid rent. In anticipation of closing its doors no later than June 30, SSHH has been in communication with landlords to ramp down leases formally used for sheltering and to share the opportunity for potential continuation with a newly selected provider. These units are vital to the long-term success of the FSRS program,

and County staff have been working directly with landlords to identify the amount of arrears owed, repairs in need and continuing relationships for future collaborative opportunities.

To expedite the start date for City Net to begin work, the County has executed a short-term contract to ensure that City Net has a three-month overlap with Sacramento Self Help Housing before fully taking over the program for a multi-year term beginning July 1, 2023.

"We appreciate the County's diligence in finding an operator that can help transition the clients without risk of them losing shelter," said Sacramento Self Help Housing Board Chair Ethan Evans. "Our number one priority is the safety and security of this vulnerable population, and we trust the County and City Net will provide them with what they need to succeed."

Continued on page 3



# Accessory Dwelling Units Reported in Record Numbers

By Thomas J. Sullivan

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - An accessory dwelling unit (ADU), known as a “mother-in-law” or “granny flat,” is a smaller home with complete independent living facilities on the same parcel as a “primary” home is becoming a popular way to address the ongoing crisis.

In 2022, the city of Citrus Heights issued a record number of 33 building permits for the construction of accessory dwelling units (ADUs), a 250 percent increase over the previous year, and over a 600 percent increase since 2017, when many state and local laws were relaxed to encourage them, said Meghan Huber, Economic Development and Community Engagement Director for the City of Citrus Heights.

ADUs can generally take many forms, varying in size from 220 square-foot studios to 1,200 square-foot units with multiple bedrooms, containing everything someone needs to live, including a kitchen, bathroom and a place to sleep.

ADUs are typically small homes that provide complete independent living facilities on the same parcel as a “primary” home.

The City’s recent increase in ADUs permits can also be attributed to the popularity of the City of Citrus Heights’ Permit-Ready Accessory Dwelling Unit Program (PRADU),

Huber said.

Funded by a grant from the State Department of Housing and Community Development, the City’s PRADU program provides free, pre-approved building plans for Citrus Heights property owners. Six of the 33 permits issued in 2022 were for “permit-ready” PRADU units.

The difference in approval time by applicants who submit ADU building permits through the PRADU process tends to be a bit quicker than those submitted through an architect, Huber explained.

“The permit review time is significantly reduced since the permit-ready plans have already been through the review process for compliance with building codes,” Huber said.

Has thought been given to adding additional approved PRADU plan designs to the current program, given the city’s diverse housing mix? That’s entirely possible, Huber said.

General examples of ADUs include a basement conversion, converted garage, or either an attached or detached auxiliary dwelling unit.

“The PRADU program was paid for utilizing grant funding awarded to the city. In the future, the city may consider adding more pre-approved options, if funding becomes available,” Huber said.

She added that general feedback from owners utilizing the PRADU

program has been positive.

“In most cases, the unit is for a family member who needs accommodations promptly, so they appreciate not only the cost savings, but the time saved using the pre-approved models,” Huber said. “The biggest challenge for any ADU project, not necessarily the PRADU program, is financing the construction,” Huber said.

ADUs are becoming a popular way to provide housing for families, for those looking to downsize, or as an investment for rental income. Property owners may see savings when they build ADUs since utility services are already in place, as there is no general need to purchase additional land.

The city’s PRADU plans include 1 or 2-bedroom units with varying exterior styles and sizes ranging from 499 to 749 square feet, Huber said. The program eliminates both the need to hire an architect and the plan review process, saving Citrus Heights property owners more than \$7,000 in plan preparation fees, according to a recent city press release.

The city web page at [www.citrusheights.net/aducentral](http://www.citrusheights.net/aducentral) features helpful information concerning auxiliary dwelling unit (ADU) zoning regulations and general site plans. For more information, contact the Planning Division at 916-727-4740 or by e-mail [planning@citrusheights.net](mailto:planning@citrusheights.net). ★

# Saving Power and Paying More



Charging you more because you earn more? What’s next, higher prices on food, water and the air you breathe? Photo courtesy of Pixabay

By Lynn La. Calmatters.org

California utility companies are working on a controversial pricing structure that would bill households a different fixed charge depending on their income — but the idea is catching heat from Republicans who argue it will hurt low-income families.

As you may have already noticed on your own bill, monthly electric bills come with a few fixed fees that are added on top of the charges proportional to your usage rate. These charges go toward operating costs for the state’s electric grid, including maintenance.

Earlier in April, three companies — Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric — submitted a proposal to the California Public Utilities Commission that includes an income-based pricing system for these fixed charges, as called for in a 2022 state law. According to KTLA 5, the monthly charge would vary between the companies, and range from: Households making less than \$69,000 a year: \$20 to \$34; Households making \$69,000 to \$180,000 a year: \$51 to \$73; Households making more than \$180,000 a year: \$85 to \$128.

The companies say the rate of kilowatt-hour usage will also lower for all customers, but low-income households

will benefit the most. PG&E and Southern California Edison estimate its lowest-income customers would, on average, save as much as a 21% on their bill.

But Republican legislators are skeptical that a plan from “a government sanctioned monopoly” will save customers money. On Friday, the Senate Republican caucus fired off a letter to the utilities commission arguing that the pricing proposal would “unfairly burden” low-income residents:

Senate GOP leader Brian Jones of El Cajon and other Republican senators, in the letter: “The goal of trying to stabilize the grid and lower electricity rates is something we support; however, the tactic of implementing a structured fixed-charge system that diminishes individual responsibility and usage in favor of an ‘identity’ subsidization is not, in our opinion, an answer. More fees are not a solution to already ridiculously high utility bills.”

The rising cost of natural gas has caused utility bills to surge, frustrating Californians across all economic levels. But lower-income residents end up paying a disproportionate share of utility expenses.

In the meantime, the first round of comments for the proposal will be due by June 2 and the Public Utilities Commission will be expected to make a final decision on the pricing structure by July 2024. ★

# The Beat Goes on at this Year’s Sacramento County Fair!

## Sacramento County Fair News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Can you hear those sweet sounds? It’s the FREE featured artists playing at the 2023 Sacramento County Fair!

On Thursday, May 25th, **FAN HALEN**, known as “The World’s Most Authentic Tribute to Van Halen”, kicks it all off. Join Dave, Eddie, Alex and Michael for a true-to-life tribute to not only the band, but the spirit of an era!

On Friday, May 26th, hip-hop sensation **BANDED FUTURE** takes the stage. Banded Future

is musical duo Jericho Law and Zap Rath. Popular for their clean, fun music that all ages can enjoy, the duo has an unconventional approach that goes against the grain of modern hip hop and ropes in all in attendance!

On Saturday, May 27th, **THE FABULOUS YACHTSMEN** take the stage. After navigating through tumultuous seas of tribute bands and sub-par cover acts, Captain Doc spent painstaking hours putting together a top-notch crew of musicians the likes of seven seas have never seen. And thus, The Fabulous Yachtsmen were born! “Friends, it’s time we yacht rock!” That’s

what Captain Doc said in 2020. And when The Captain speaks, his crew listens! Don’t miss your chance to cruise right along with them.

On Sunday, May 28th, **MAYA LATIN ROOTS BAND** performs. Maya is a Latin Tribute Band presenting the most popular cross over hits from well-known artists that everybody knows and loves, including a special movie soundtrack from Selena & La Bamba. Plus, tributes by Santana, Mark Anthony, Gloria Estefan, Celia Cruz, La Sonora Dinamita and classic Latin Old School hits.

“We are thrilled to offer live musical acts with such talent and

variety at no charge,” said Matt Cranford, Sacramento County Fair CEO. “We can’t wait for our guests to experience all the fun and excitement that the fair has to offer.”

In addition to these exciting performances, the Sacramento County Fair offers a fun, affordable and safe outing for the whole family. Adult Admission is only \$12 and kids under-12 are FREE every day of the Fair! And don’t forget Fair favorites like the agriculture and livestock displays, carnival rides and games, and of course, all the delicious fair foods everyone loves.

For more information and

showtimes, visit us online at [www.SacFair.com](http://www.SacFair.com)! And don’t forget to save time and buy online now for pre-sale discounts! Don’t miss out on all the fun at this year’s Sacramento County Fair!

Over 100,000 guests will enjoy the Sacramento County Fair Memorial Day Weekend, May 25-29, 2023, at Cal Expo. Nearly 10,000 school children will enjoy educational school tours. 5,000 local Sacramento residents will compete for awards in the livestock and competitive exhibit programs. This year’s fair theme is “Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow.” ★

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# County Hires New Shelter Operator

*Continued from page 1*

The intent of this agreement is to bridge the ramp-down of this program with SSHH in regard to program participants, and the ramp-up of City Net as the operator moving forward. During this transition period, no new clients will be enrolled in the program; services under this contract are intended to minimize displacement due to the ramp-down of SSHH and to provide smooth transitions for those clients that will be receiving services from City Net. The County has already started to pay unpaid lease balances, utilities and damages to property owners and property management companies and plans to pay

future rents for the months of May and June 2023, if the landlord is interested in remaining in the program.

“The County has been working tirelessly to ensure none of our clients go unsheltered during this transition,” said Director of Sacramento County Homeless Services and Housing Emily Halcon. “This program has had a lot of success in the past, and we know that once it gets running again at full capacity, we’ll see positive outcomes for our unhoused population.”

To learn more about Sacramento County’s response to homelessness, visit our website. ★

# Use Caution: American River Running Cold and Swift



Sacramento County warns those wanting to get in the waters of the American Rivers that cold waters combined with swift flows are a recipe for disasters. Photo by Dave Dawson

## Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - With temperatures on the rise this weekend, swimming in the American River may sound like a great way to beat the heat, but, with the snowmelt causing the river to run so cold and swiftly, Sacramento County Regional Parks is advising residents to find other ways to beat the heat.

“Cold rivers are dangerous rivers, and right now the American River is running colder than most people realize,” said Liz Bellas, Director of Regional Parks. “Water flowing through the American River right now is in the low 50 degrees. We typically see water in the high 50-/low 60-degree range at this time of year.”

According to the National Weather

Service, “Cold water drains body heat up to four times faster than cold air. When your body hits cold water, ‘cold shock’ can cause dramatic changes in breathing, heart rate and blood pressure. The sudden gasp and rapid breathing alone creates a greater risk of drowning even for confident swimmers in calm waters.”

Flows out of Nimbus Dam into the American River this weekend will be around 8,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), which is quite high. A typical Sacramento summer sees outflows into the American at around 2,000 cfs or less.

The cold water combined with the swift flows are a recipe for disaster. Don’t be bold, the water is cold, so please stay off the river. For more water safety tips, visit LifeLooksGoodOnYou.org. ★

# Citrus Heights Hosts 2nd Annual Public Works Showcase

## City of Citrus Heights News Release

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - The 2nd Annual Citrus Heights Public Works Showcase Event and Career/Education Fair is happening Thursday, May 18!

Citrus Heights is hosting the 2nd Annual Public Works Showcase and Career/Education Fair on Thursday, May 18, from 3 PM to 6 PM at Van Maren Park (Stock Ranch Road and Fountain Square Drive). The event features fun and education for all ages, where you’ll meet the machines that support first responders and essential community workers and learn how they work and operate. There will also be an array of vendors representing the trades, technical jobs, and training opportunities to get started on a career supporting public works.

Students, young adults, and those curious about a profession in public works are encouraged to attend this free, family-friendly event. Representatives from public works organizations, associations, and trade shows will also be on hand to chat with job seekers. You’ll have the

opportunity to learn from experienced public works employees and about career, education, and employer options.

The event tees up to National Public Works Week (May 21-27) to celebrate and showcase the critical services provided by those in the public works industry. “Public Works employees are first responders who work hard every day to ensure our community infrastructure and public spaces are operating safely, effectively and serving our community customers and we are honored to celebrate them,” said Regina Cave, the city’s General Services Director and former president of the American Public Works Association (APWA), Sacramento Chapter.

The Showcase & Education/Career Fair will be open to the public at no charge and includes light refreshments and plenty of free parking. For more information, contact the city at 916-727-4770 or [generalservices@citrusheights.net](mailto:generalservices@citrusheights.net).

Vendor opportunities still available! Are you a trade school or company looking to hire? To learn more about exhibiting, contact [generalservices@citrusheights.net](mailto:generalservices@citrusheights.net) or call 916-727-4770. ★

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# Evergreen Cleaning Services: Cleaning with Compassion!



Brody Zimprich, owner of Evergreen Clean, loves to make things new again! Photo courtesy of MaryAnne Povey



Brody and MaryAnne (a satisfied customer) by the mean "green" cleaning machine! Photo courtesy of MaryAnne Povey

By MaryAnne Povey

**ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG)**

- How's your carpet looking these days? What about your upholstery? Do they look and smell like you have kids and pets? Or has it been a long time since you've had them cleaned? Now that the weather is warm, there's no excuse to get your spring cleaning done, so what are you waiting for? I knew we couldn't wait and when I met Brody Zimprich, owner of Evergreen Cleaning we put him to the test! Our sectional couch was way overdue as well as carpet in the bedroom. Brody came in and in less than two hours, restored both couch and carpet back to looking new and smelling fresh!

Brody, a long-time Orangevale resident and father of eight, should really have "Mr. Clean" on

his business card because he has a calling to clean! He not only does carpet and upholstery, but also specializes in "cleaning things that other people don't want to clean". He is certified in biohazard cleaning, does hoard cleanups, trauma and unexpected death cleanups too.

His truck is loaded and ready to go at any time, with all the right tools including eco-friendly cleaning products that are safe for people and pets. Inside, a high pressure, truck mounted cleaning machine that uses super-hot water and mega suction power, pulls the dirty water out fast so everything dries quickly.

"You wouldn't believe how many people ask to see the dirty water after I clean," he laughed.

"There's something very gratifying about seeing how much dirt and

grime is removed!" After working for nearly ten years for a local carpet cleaning business and learning all the aspects of the industry, Brody set out on his own to start a full-service cleaning business of his own.

"There came a day when I finally asked myself, if I'm working this hard, why aren't I doing this for myself?" Then a dream prompted him to "go for it" and take it a step further, taking on the additional responsibility of handling crime scenes, unattended death cleanups and biohazards.

"I do the cleanup jobs that others don't want to do, and I don't mind it one bit," said Brody, "I feel like it's a calling for me and I really like to help others in difficult situations."

Brody is extremely passionate about hoard cleanups. "I can take a dirty canvas and make it like new. Like a piece of art," he said, "I see firsthand how I'm helping people feel like their life is back in control."

When it comes to unusual circumstances like unexpected death, trauma or biohazardous cleaning, people may not know where to turn. This is where Brody stands out as the guy to call.

"I feel comfortable knowing I'm there to help, just like an EMT or doctor. I'm compassionate about what family members are going through. I'm not just doing the job, but listening too. So often people need to vent, and I'm there to lend an ear."

On a recent job, a parent was feeling overwhelmed by their son who was suffering from stage four cancer. That alone was enough for the parent to cope with but having a clean environment for their son was very important to him. He called Brody to clean the home knowing it would feel so much better when their son was released to come home for his final days.

"The parent was so obviously overwhelmed," Brody shared, "I told him, not to worry, I've got you covered."

To schedule a free estimate for any of your residential or commercial cleaning needs, give Brody a call at 916.765.9603. He loves to clean and loves to serve people too! ★

# Take a Walk on the Wild Side at the Sacramento County Fair!

**Sacramento County Fair  
News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Get ready for a jungle adventure with A Walk on the Wild Side exhibit at the Sacramento County Fair! This Memorial Day weekend, the Cal Expo Fairgrounds will be filled with the sights and sounds of the jungle as A Walk on the Wild Side brings exotic species of wild animals up close and personal.

This immersive experience allows fairgoers to enter through a rain forest and be transported to destinations all over the world. From reptiles to jungle cats, A Walk on the Wild Side showcases the amazing diversity of animal life and inspires an interest in preserving the lives of these fascinating creatures.

A Walk on the Wild Side is an organization dedicated to helping all species of wild animals who, for various reasons, find themselves without a place to live. They are the most diverse exotic non-profit animal refuge of its kind in the State of Oregon and in addition to housing unwanted exotic species, they take pride in educating the public about responsible

animal ownership. Their ambassador animals each have their own story to tell and lessons to teach.

"The Walk on the Wild Side exhibit is an experience like no other. Families will have a chance to interact with and learn from exotic animals that they might not otherwise have a chance to see," says Matt Cranford, CEO of the Sacramento County Fair. "A Walk on the Wild Side is a wonderful organization, and we are proud to partner with them again this year, as the mission of the Fair is to not only provide wholesome family-friendly fun to kids of all ages, but also provide our guests with unforgettable learning opportunities."

Pre-Fair Discount Tickets for the Fair and premium Grandstand events are available for purchase online at [www.sacfair.com](http://www.sacfair.com) or at the Sacramento County Fair office. Adult tickets are only \$10.00, kids 12-17 are \$8.00 and, of course, kids 12-and-under are FREE every day of the fair! Join over 100,000 guests and experience more than 30 carnival rides, dozens of free exhibits, musical guests, and activities all Memorial Day Weekend. ★



Join us for the 2nd Annual 

## Public Works Showcase

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# Construction Company Owner Sentenced to Prison

**FBI News Release**

**WASHINGTON, DC (MPG)** - A construction company owner in California was sentenced to 78 months' imprisonment and ordered to pay \$984,699 in restitution for his role in a bid-rigging and bribery scheme involving California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) improvement and repair contracts.

According to a guilty plea entered on Nov. 14, 2022, in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California in Sacramento, Bill R. Miller engaged in a conspiracy from April 2015 through as late as December 2019. As part of the conspiracy, Miller recruited others to submit sham bids on Caltrans contracts, including co-conspirator William D. Opp, a former business partner who pleaded guilty in the case on Oct. 3, 2022.

In addition to pleading guilty to bid rigging, Miller also pleaded guilty to paying bribes to Choon Foo "Keith" Yong, the former Caltrans contract manager who managed the contracts involved on behalf of Caltrans, a California state agency that receives significant federal funding. On April 11, 2022, Yong pleaded guilty for his role in the bid-rigging and bribery scheme. According to Yong's plea agreement, Yong received the bribes in the form of cash payments, wine, furniture and

remodeling services on his home. The total value of the bribes that Miller paid to Yong was nearly \$1 million. Miller is the first defendant to be sentenced in the case.

"This sentence sends a strong message that criminals who corrupt the competitive bidding process will face stern consequences," said Assistant Attorney General Jonathan Kanter of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division. "Protecting infrastructure spending and taxpayer dollars remains a top priority for the Antitrust Division and our Procurement Collusion Strike Force partners."

"A lengthy investigation and a series of guilty pleas has led to the sentencing today for a bid-rigging and bribery conspiracy," said U.S. Attorney Phillip A. Talbert for the Eastern District of California. "But our work is not done. Anticompetitive practices harm taxpayers and legitimate businesses alike. My office will continue to investigate and prosecute such conduct."

"Fair and free competition is essential to ensure taxpayer money is only obligated and spent on essential services and contracts," said Special Agent in Charge Sean Ragan of the FBI Sacramento Field Office. "The FBI is committed to working with our partners to investigate such allegations, and bringing to justice those

who conspire to enrich themselves by cheating the American public as a whole. We hope this sentence serves as ample warning to anyone contemplating a scheme to falsely influence a government bidding process for personal gain."

Today's sentencing is the result of a joint investigation that was conducted by the Antitrust Division's San Francisco office, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California, and the FBI's Sacramento Division as part of the Justice Department's Procurement Collusion Strike Force (PCSF). Trial Attorneys Christopher J. Carlberg and Tai S. Milder and Assistant U.S. Attorney Lee S. Bickley prosecuted the case.

In November 2019, the Department of Justice created the Procurement Collusion Strike Force, a joint law enforcement effort to combat antitrust crimes and related fraudulent schemes that impact government procurement, grant, and program funding at all levels of government — federal, state and local. To contact the Procurement Collusion Strike Force, or to report information on market allocation, price fixing, bid rigging and other anticompetitive conduct related to construction or infrastructure, go to <https://www.justice.gov/procurement-collusion-strike-force> ★

# Teacher Pension Fund Betrays Its Mission



**Commentary by Ted Gaines**

If you think that CalSTRS, the behemoth pension system that supports California's retired teachers, is focused on pensions, you are wrong. The largest teacher-focused pension system in the country is abandoning its core fiduciary role to chase left-wing political goals. Its mission creep will hurt teachers, taxpayers, and students alike.

In April, CalSTRS issued an extraordinary press release stating their priorities for the companies they invest in, including corporate greenhouse gas disclosures. CalSTRS is interested in achieving a "net zero" emissions portfolio. Of course, CalSTRS is also interested in corporate diversity, and states: "CalSTRS will vote against an entire board of directors that does not include at least one woman and against a board's nominating and governance committee if at least 30% of its board members are not women. Furthermore, CalSTRS will vote against the nominating and governance committees of Russell 3000 companies

that do not disclose their board members' diversity characteristics."

CalSTRS' Board has morphed into Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez with a \$300-billion billy club to swing at businesses that aren't sufficiently Progressive.

If you were scouring the news for a few words about supporting corporate boards trying to grow profits, entering or creating new markets, utilizing innovation, expanding geographically, then CalSTRS is not the investment entity for you.

Who has time for the actual business of business when you can be leading a social revolution?

CalSTRS might want to check out the work of Bjorn Lomborg, who shows that the climate catastrophists claims about global warming deaths, costs, hurricanes, polar bears, forest fires, etc. are routinely contorted to further the policy agenda of the anti-fossil fuel crowd.

They might want to ask teachers if they themselves are willing to pay out of their own pockets for these political goals.

They might want to ask parents if they are willing to take dollars out of their children's classrooms to diversify corporate boards.

Because the problem with CalSTRS lifting its leftist political banner above all others is that the organization has an actual role, which is fiduciary. Its job isn't to be in the political vanguard but to caretake and grow its investments to meet its payout obligations.

CalSTRS pension payments are funded by payments from the state, from teachers and school districts. If investment gains fall short, contributions need to increase.

The system was already facing a serious insolvency threat in 2040, which is a blink of an eye for a pension system. In 2014, the legislature crafted a plan to stave off the problem and mandated increased contributions from all parties.

California has seen an explosion of education spending in the past decade. Parents hope and assume that their taxpayer dollars go towards classroom enrichment, student activities, training that increases student performance, and so on. Some of it surely has.

But when investments fall short, school spending will go to backfilling pension obligations. That has also been the case. What good is that increased school spending if it doesn't benefit students?

Women and minorities should, of course, be welcome on every corporate board without a discriminatory roadblock. But their presence should indicate merit, not government fiat or race-and-gender box checking. Diversity itself should not be the goal for corporate governance.

Every single California government activity should not be Progressive activism. CalSTRS should honor the teachers, parents, taxpayers and students who are all affected by its decisions and stick to its fiduciary job. ★

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## When California Laws Go Too Far, The Courts Intervene



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Early explorers believed California to be an island, and while its physical attachment to the rest of North America eventually became evident, it nevertheless has sought to forge an island-like cultural and political identity – a “nation-state” in Gov. Gavin Newsom’s description. There are, however, limits. Legally, California is still just one of 50 states and thus is subject to federal law, including the U.S. Constitution.

California politicians sometimes ignore that basic fact of civic life in their zeal to lead the parade. But when they cross the legal line, as defined in federal law, they get their comeuppance.

For instance, the federal appeals court that oversees California recently overturned an ordinance passed by city leaders in Berkeley, one of the state’s more adventuresome jurisdictions, to ban natural gas service in newly constructed buildings.

The 2020 ordinance, cheered by environmentalists as a gesture to reduce greenhouse gases, was challenged by the California Restaurant Association for violating federal authority to set energy efficiency standards.

A federal trial judge upheld the ordinance but the 9th District Court of Appeals declared that federal law did,

indeed, preempt the issue so Berkeley could not strike it out on its own.

California’s governors and legislators are also prone to enacting new laws that run afoul of the U.S. Constitution, federal law or, in some cases, the state’s own constitution.

Chris Micheli, a lobbyist who is also a student of legislative procedure and teaches at the University of the Pacific’s McGeorge School of Law, has assembled a lengthy list of legislative decrees that later fared poorly in the courts. They include such recent laws as those mandating female and members of “unrepresented communities” on corporate boards and prohibiting doctors from making politically incorrect statements about COVID-19.

One entire class of California laws, those imposing sometimes unique restrictions on private gun ownership, has fallen prey to constitutional challenges in recent months, thanks to the U.S. Supreme Court’s expansive interpretations of the constitutional right to bear arms.

While gun organizations have been challenging California’s array of gun control laws for years, the Supreme Court’s landmark Bruen decision last year, invalidating New York’s almost total ban on the carrying of personal weapons, opened the door. One by one, California’s laws are being invalidated.

Just last month, for instance, a federal judge in Southern California overturned the state’s law prohibiting the sale of handguns that don’t meet

stringent – and technically unworkable – safety requirements, declaring that it runs afoul of the Bruen decision.

Even before the Bruen decision, a San Diego federal judge, Roger Benitez, had tossed out California’s ban on magazines holding more than 10 rounds, the state’s ban on assault rifles, and a law requiring background checks for ammunition purchases.

Another law that fell recently was one dreamed up by Newsom and the Legislature as a symbolic stunt – authorizing lawsuits against some gun manufacturers with conditions that made defense almost impossible. It was patterned after a Texas law making it easier to sue those who performed abortions, and Attorney General Rob Bonta didn’t even try to defend it when the inevitable lawsuit challenged it.

Undeterred by the serial invalidation of California gun laws, Newsom and legislators are working on another measure that, they say, would fit within the constraints of the Bruen decision. Senate Bill 2 would create new standards for the issuance of concealed weapons permits and list a number of new places where carrying weapons would be prohibited, even by those having permits.

Whatever emerges from this year’s session would face new legal challenges, and given the state’s recent record, would also likely be shot down in court.

*Dan Walters has been a journalist for nearly 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers.* ★

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NOTICE is hereby given that on **May 25, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the **City Council** of the City of Citrus Heights will hold a Public Hearing at the Citrus Heights Council Chambers located at **6360 Fountain Square Drive, Citrus Heights, CA**, for the consideration of the following:

**Humble Beer House Letter of Public Convenience or Necessity**

The Citrus Heights City Council will be considering the issuance of a Letter of Public Convenience and Necessity that would allow the Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control to issue a Type 20 (beer/wine) license to a proposed brewpub located at 7086 Auburn Boulevard. The project is Categorical Exempt from CEQA under Section 15301 (Class 1, Existing Facilities) of the Guidelines. Project Planner: Eric Singer

If you wish to address the Council during the meeting, please fill out a Speaker Identification Sheet and give it to the City Clerk. The Mayor has the discretion to lengthen or shorten the allotted times. Alternatively, you may submit your comment by 4:00 p.m. on the meeting day by completion of an online Speaker Card at <https://www.citrusheights.net/FormCenter/City-Council-Meetings-Speaker-Card-30>. Written public comments shall be limited to 250 words or less. Each comment will be read aloud by the City Clerk.

Following the Public Hearing, the City Council may take such action on the project as it deems appropriate. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments prior to and may testify at the Public Hearing. **Written comments may be submitted to Amy Van, City Clerk, 6360 Fountain Square Drive, Citrus Heights, CA 95621.** If the matter is continued for any reason to a later date, written comments and public testimony will be accepted until the close of the final Public Hearing. All comments will be considered by the Approving Authority.

If you challenge the action of the **City Council** on this matter in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Division at, or prior to the Public Hearing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Amy Van, City Clerk at 916-725-2448. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. TTY/TDD users with questions or comments can call the California Relay Service by dialing 7-1-1.

Citrus Heights Messenger 5-12-2023

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Safety Tower Company, LLC proposes to construct an 18.3-meter AGL overall height stealth monopine telecommunications tower at 6840 Woodmore Oaks Drive, in Orangevale, CA 95662 (Sacramento County), near latitude: 38° 41' 30.0" N, longitude: 121° 15' 17.7" W (NAD 83). The tower is anticipated to be an unlit structure. The FCC Form 854 File Number is A1243576. Interested persons may review the application by going to [www.fcc.gov/asr/](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/) applications and entering the Form 854 File Number. Interested parties may raise environmental concerns about the proposed action by filing a Request for Environmental Review (RER) with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file RER online; instructions can be found at [www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest). However, if an online request is not possible, interested parties may mail their request to: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Additionally, Public Safety Tower Company, LLC invites comments on the impact the proposed tower may have on Historic Properties. Comments may be sent to Ryan Malek of Tower Engineering Professionals, Inc. Written comments can be sent to [rmalek@tepgroup.net](mailto:rmalek@tepgroup.net) or 326 Tryon Road, Raleigh NC 27603. Ryan Malek can be reached at (919) 661-6351. Please respond to this request for comment within 30 days of the publication date of this notice.

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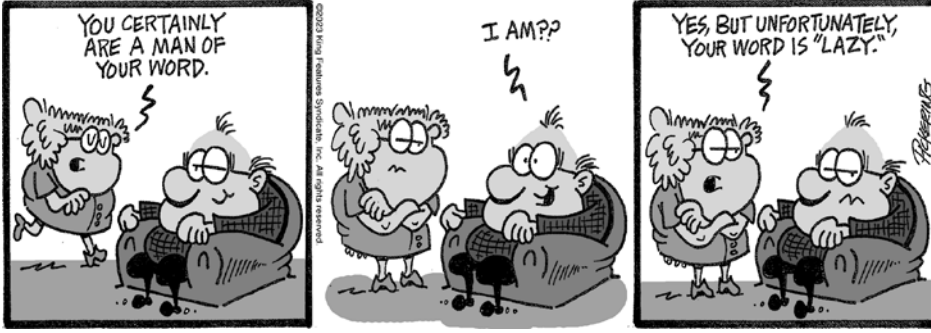




# COMICS & PUZZLES

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## Amber Waves

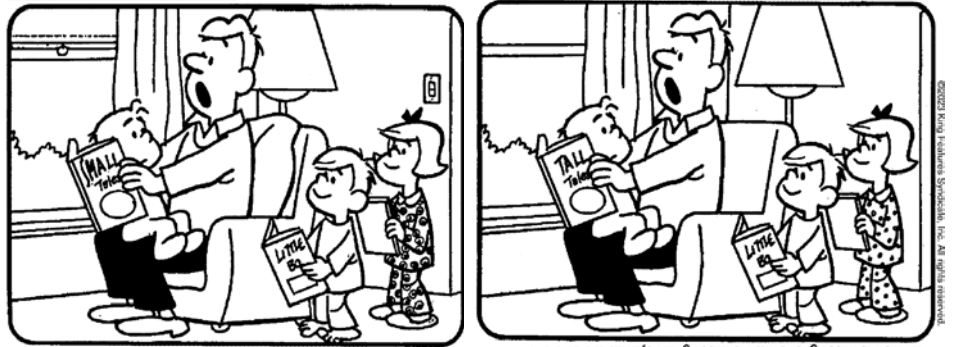
by Dave T. Phipps



## HOCUS-FOCUS

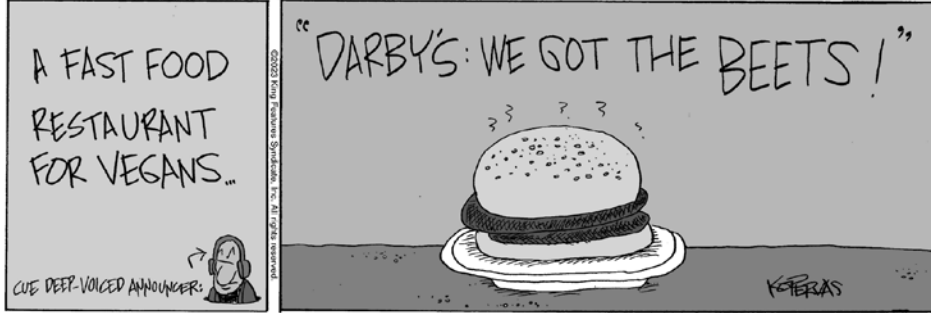
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



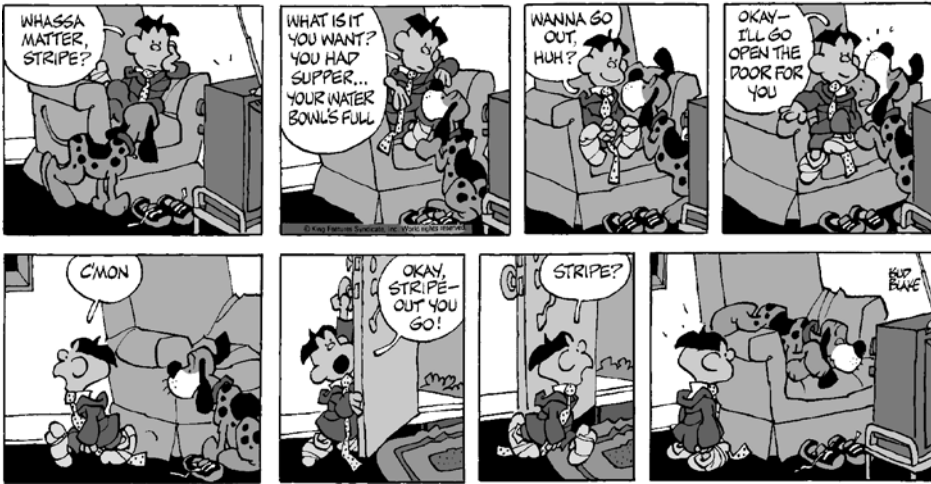
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



## TIGER

by Bud Blake



## GRIN and BEAR IT.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • AT THE AIRPORT

- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Foundation
  - Dashboard acronym
  - Bonny one
  - Pleasant smell
  - Metal-bearing mineral
  - Salk's nemesis
  - Kidney-related
  - Christopher Lloyd's Brown
  - Investigative report
  - "Something to claim"
  - "Declaration station"
  - Argonaut's propeller
  - C in TLC
  - Scot's woolen cap
  - Sushi restaurant soup
  - "Exclusive accommodation"
  - Was in the hole
  - Highest volcano in Europe
  - Angry growl
  - Dry riverbed
  - "... go!"
  - Adored one
  - "Jong of 'Fear of Flying' fame"
  - Lowly laborer
  - Cone-shaped quarters
  - Time between classes
  - Dirty air
  - Hi-...
  - Skiers' ride
  - Scheduled to arrive
  - "\*... for takeoff"
  - "Frost removal"
  - Luxurious sheet fabric
  - It would
  - Synagogue scroll
  - Barely sufficient
  - General Services Administration
  - Movie "Home ..."
  - Reason to cram
  - Negative vote
  - Washer setting
- DOWN**
- Prickle on a fence
  - Equal to pi times r squared
  - Cheap form of payment?
  - Insect in adult stage
  - Dar es ... Tanzania
  - Traveled on a horse
  - Not amateur
  - Haji destination
  - Like kittens' mittens
  - "The Sun ... Rises"
  - By Hemingway
  - Thailand, once
  - Tofu bean, pl.
  - Walkways
  - "Peer Gynt" composer Edvard
  - Dot-com address
  - Wrestling match, e.g.
  - "Air traffic control feature"
  - Fully informed
  - Army doctor
  - Traffic sign
  - ... of measurement
  - Rock bottom
  - Search blindly
  - Island off Manhattan
  - Vegas cube
  - H or O in H2O, e.g.
  - Opposite of cathode
  - Obliquely
  - Knightly title

**CROSSWORD**

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5	2	9	8	4	6	3	7	1
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 916.853.8000  
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 Beef London Broil & Top Round Roast \$3.99/lb  
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 Whole White Mushroom 8 oz \$1.99/ea  
 Ataulfo Mango 14 ct \$13.99/box  
 Lime 5/\$1.00  
 Gala Apple 99¢/lb  
 Mini King Oyster Mushroom 300 g \$2.99/ea

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Morton Iodized & Regular Salt 26 oz \$1.49/ea  
 Nestle Pure Life Purified Water 24 x 16.9 Ltr \$4.99/ea  
 Ione Slush Fruit Flavored Drinks 6 Ltr \$1.49/ea  
 Purex Concentrated Detergent 150 Ltr \$1.19/ea  
 Quaker Life Cereals 15 oz \$2.99/ea

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Coco Rico Coconut Soda 6 pack 6 x 12 Ltr \$5.99/ea  
 Healthy Boy Mushroom Soy Sauce 2.567 Ltr \$3.99/ea  
 Purefoods Corned Beef (with juices) 12 oz \$5.99/ea  
 Aik Cheong Teh Lihik Milk Tea 600 g \$4.99/ea  
 Foco Organic Coconut Water 1 Liter 2/\$3.00

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**SCIENCE DIET FELINE MAINTENANCE DRY CAT FOOD** \$47.99  
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**NATURAL BALANCE CANNED CAT FOOD** 15% OFF  
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# State Park Peace Officer Cadet Exam Period Opens

**California State Parks  
News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - California State Parks invites individuals to “Live the Parks Life” as rangers or lifeguards in the nation’s largest state park system. Starting March 24 and through June 10, 2023, individuals can apply for the State Park Peace Officer Cadet exams. Cadet academy graduates can serve the state as rangers and lifeguards to safeguard both visitors and the historical, cultural and natural resources found in 280 state park units. Offices are located near beaches or waterways, or in deserts, parks, museums, historic parks and state vehicular recreation areas.

“Serving as a ranger or lifeguard in California’s State Park System is a unique opportunity to make an everlasting impact on the state’s natural landscapes and the millions of people who visit them,” said California State Parks Director Armando Quintero. “I know firsthand how rewarding it is to provide natural and cultural resource protection and ensure public safety.”

The minimum age to be a peace officer is 21 years old. Candidates are required to have a valid California driver’s license and have 60 units of college credits, with 21 units being general education.

The entire selection process for becoming a ranger or lifeguard takes approximately 15 months. The first step in the selection/examination process is to mail, email or hand deliver an application during the open application period. The application is used to determine if the candidate meets the minimum qualifications for admission into the examination, which consists of the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Entry Level Law Enforcement Test Battery written exam. This exam is used to admit the candidate into the next phases of the selection



Serving as a ranger or lifeguard in California’s State Park System is a unique opportunity to make an everlasting impact on the state’s natural landscapes and the millions of people who visit them. Photo courtesy of California State Parks

process, which include the physical agility test, background investigation, oral interview, and medical and psychological evaluations. Successful applicants will be sent a notification to attend the eight-month-long POST-certified law enforcement academy.

The academy instruction prepares cadets physically, mentally and emotionally to enter the workforce as a state park peace officer ranger or lifeguard. Rangers and lifeguards are sworn officers equipped with a firearm and badge. Cadets will learn how to conduct investigations, make

physical arrests, use firearms and perform emergency responses. Training also includes how to actively protect park resources, assist visitors and run interpretive programs.

Below are some frequently asked questions regarding the State Park Peace Officer Cadet Academy:

**Do I have to carry a firearm to serve as a ranger or lifeguard?**

Yes. Cadet training includes how to conduct investigations, make physical arrests, use firearms and perform emergency responses.

**What is the age minimum and age maximum to apply?**

Candidates must be at least 21 years of age to become a peace officer. State Park Peace Officer’s mandatory retirement age is 65 years, but there is no maximum application age.

**I have not completed two years of college yet. Can I still apply while I am still taking classes?**

Candidates may be enrolled in college at the time of application but must have at least 21 units of general education credits satisfying general education curriculum standards with courses

(which may include courses in natural science, social science, mathematics, language and humanities). By the time of appointment, a candidate must have completed 60 semester units of study at a state-accredited college or university. A degree in park administration, natural sciences, social sciences, law enforcement or a related field is desirable.

**Where is the Cadet Academy located?**

Most cadets attend training at Butte College Law Enforcement Academy (Butte County). However, the department may utilize several academy sites, including Mott Training Center at Asilomar in Pacific Grove, South Bay Regional Public Safety Academy at Fort Ord in Monterey, and the Ben Clark Law Enforcement Training facility in Riverside. It is at the department’s discretion to determine an academy location for each class.

**Do I get paid while at the academy?**

Yes. Cadets earn a salary; currently, the monthly salary range is \$3,930 to \$5,300. Most cadets start at the low end of the range unless they are a current state employee with a salary within the range.

To hire a workforce reflective of California’s diverse population, California State Parks is committed to ensuring equal access and connecting all job seekers to opportunities through fair hiring and employment practices. For more information on the cadet exams, minimum qualifications, additional frequently asked questions and a timeline of the recruitment cycle, please visit [LiveTheParksLife.com](http://LiveTheParksLife.com).

Please send questions regarding other employment opportunities at California State Parks to the Workforce Planning and Recruitment Office at [recruiting@parks.ca.gov](mailto:recruiting@parks.ca.gov) ★



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