



New HomeGoods Store Coming to Birdcage

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Citrus Heights Messenger

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CHPD Toy Convoy Delivers



Sayonara Community Center families and members are of good cheer and in the good company of Citrus Heights police, councilmembers and other civic leaders during the holiday toy drop off. Photo courtesy of CHPD

By Elise Spleiss

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - With lights flashings and sirens blaring, a convoy of more than a dozen police vehicles from the Citrus Heights Police Department descended on the Sayonara Community Center on Sayonara Drive for its annual Christmas toy drop-off event. On Thursday afternoon December 21, members of the CHPD delivered hundreds of toys and stuffed animals to children in front of the Center. City Manager Ash Feeney,



CHPD Officer Hansen was one many who helped the department deliver hundreds of toys and stuffed animals to children in front of the Center on December 21. Photo courtesy of CHPD

Mayor Bret Daniels, Council Member Tim Schaefer, Council Member Porsche Middleton, Police Chief Alex Turcotte, Commander Jason Russo, Commander Kris Frey and other CHPD personnel joined in the fun.

Police and City personnel met and mingled with Sayonara children, parents and neighbors during the delivery.

A video overview of the event, which makes you feel as you were there, can be seen on *Continued on page 2*

United Way Receives Grant to Create New Job and Housing Opportunities

Kristin Thébaud Communications

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - United Way California Capital Region has received a grant of \$150,000 from the Sierra Health Foundation's Community Economic Mobilization Initiative to ensure future green job opportunities and training in the region are attainable and accessible for all communities, and to create a strategic housing fund.

"Historically, vital opportunities have passed by underserved and under-resourced communities," said Dr. Dawnté Early, president and CEO, United Way California Capital Region. "With California's unwavering focus on addressing the climate crisis, a pivotal moment has emerged for the Greater Sacramento community. United Way is dedicated to securing pathways to green job training and access, ensuring that this surge in employment leaves no community member behind. Through our partnership with Sierra Health Foundation and other statewide partners, we are supporting entry into the growing green job sector, a cornerstone in our efforts to uplift local families from the cycle of poverty. We are excited to work with our partners to promote a plan to develop sustainable industries and create equitable opportunities for all, and we are grateful to Sierra Health Foundation for entrusting us with these critical funds."

Funding from the grant will also be used to address the Sacramento region's immediate need for housing. United Way recently formed the new Community Support Services department that includes housing navigation services through the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal program (CalAIM) for people on Medi-Cal who are unhoused or at risk of losing housing. Funding from Sierra Health will allow United Way to explore additional ways to take on the issue of housing in the capital region.

The Community Economic Mobilization Initiative by The Center at Sierra Health Foundation works to empower and uplift community organizations through inclusive economic development in their communities, cities and *Continued on page 2*

Hot Stuff at Chamber Chili Cookoff

By Thomas J. Sullivan

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Seven contestants vied for the best chili in Citrus Heights in the second annual Chamber of Commerce Chili Cookoff held on December 12 at the Citrus Heights Community Center during the chamber's recent member luncheon.

"We had our very first Chili Cookoff last year, and it was so much fun we decided to have another. I'm sure this will be a regular annual event," said Diane Ebbitt-Riehle, executive director of the Citrus Heights Chamber of Commerce.

"At this year's luncheon, we also had all 13 of our incoming chamber board members in attendance. Citrus Heights City Manager Ash Fenney administered the oath of office to each of them," she said.

The competition for best chili and best cornbread



Coby Basset, left, and chef Dan Catanio, display the three individual plaques they received from the Citrus Heights Chamber of Commerce, each with an engraved wooden spoon, for their winning Orange Coast Indian Tribe Wild Game Chili recipe which took honors in the Chamber's 2nd Annual Chili Cookoff. Photo courtesy of MealPro

was tough again this year, Ebbitt-Riehle said. Panel judges included Citrus Heights City Manager Ash Feeney, outgoing mayor Tim Schaefer and Forest Johnson, on behalf of County Supervisor

Sue Frost.

The three put their tastebuds to work in a blind tasting of seven different contestant recipes to determine this year's "Judge's Choice," "People's Choice" and

"Hottest Chili."

"In all, we had seven chili entries and three cornbread entries. The entries were numbered so no one was able to see who brought what,"

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Masters of Illusion and *Jesus Christ Superstar* Presenting at Harris Center



Harris Center for the Arts at Folsom Lake College presents the 50th Anniversary Tour of Jesus Christ Superstar with five performances January 10-13. Photo by Evan Zimmerman for MurphyMade

Harris Center for The Arts News Release

FOLSOM, CA (MPG) - Harris Center for The Arts presents two amazing events to kick off 2024: Masters of Illusion on Sunday, January 7, at 7:30pm; and the 50th Anniversary Tour of Jesus Christ Superstar, performing five times, January 10-13, with Wednesday-Saturday evening performances at 7:30 pm, and a Saturday matinee at 2:00 pm.

MASTERS OF ILLUSION
Only the best, most unique, amusing, astounding, and amazing performers have been chosen to perform. *Master of Illusion* is a huge stage phenomenon born from the multi-award-winning television series *Masters of Illusion*, which completed its 8th season on the CW in 2021-2022.

Masters of Illusion has performed live in front of tens of thousands of people around the US for the past seven years and been seen by over 100 million viewers on the CW network, as well as in 126 countries around the world. Masters of Illusion recently performed in the heart of the Las Vegas Strip for a limited engagement at Bally's Las Vegas in a brand-new show for the whole family.

Starring the world's greatest award-winning magicians, this 21st century magic show is unlike anything you have seen before – filled with modern illusions and arts of deception, performed live on stage.

Audiences will be held at the edge of their seats by the jaw-dropping grand illusions, and laugh out loud at the hysterical comedy magic as performers from around the world combine fantasy, fervor and flair with magic created in front of their very eyes.

Watch closely as you experience things that just can't be done ... or can they?

Individual tickets for *Masters of Illusion* range from \$56-\$86, including fees, and are on sale now at the Box Office at (916) 608-6888, or online at HarrisCenter.net. Box Office hours are Tuesday-Friday from 12:00pm-5:00pm, and one hour before showtime.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR
Celebrating its 50th Anniversary, a new mesmerizing production of the iconic musical phenomenon returns to the stage. Originally staged by London's Regent's Park Open Air Theatre and helmed by the acclaimed director Timothy Sheader (*Crazy for You, Into the Woods*) and



Harris Center for the Arts at Folsom Lake College presents the world's greatest award-winning magicians in *Masters of Illusion* on Sunday, January 7, at 7:30 pm. Photo courtesy of Masters of Illusion

cutting-edge choreographer Drew McOnie (*King Kong, Strictly Ballroom*), this production won the 2017 Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival garnering unprecedented reviews and accolades. Appealing to both theater audiences and concert music fans, this production pays tribute to the historic 1971 Billboard Album of the Year while creating a modern, theatrical world that is uniquely fresh and inspiring.

With lyrics and music by Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony winners Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, *Jesus Christ Superstar* is set against the backdrop of an extraordinary series of events during the final weeks in the life of Jesus Christ as seen through the eyes of Judas. Reflecting the rock roots that defined a generation, the legendary score includes "I Don't Know How to Love Him," "Gethsemane," and "Superstar."

Jack Hopewell stars as Jesus, joined by Elvie Ellis as Judas and Faith Jones as Mary. The tour also welcomes Grant Hodges as Caiphas, Nicholas Hambruch as Pilate, and Kodiak Thompson as Annas.

Individual tickets for *Jesus Christ Superstar* range from \$81-\$125, including fees, and are on sale now at the Box Office at (916) 608-6888, or online at HarrisCenter.net. Box Office hours are Tuesday-Friday from 12:00pm-5:00pm, and one hour before showtime.

The Harris Center for the Arts is located at 10 College Parkway, Folsom, CA 95630.

For more information visit www.harriscenter.net/ ★

CHPD Toy Convoy Delivers



CHPD Commander Jason Russo opens up the 'toy truck' for the Sayonara toy drop off. Photo courtesy of CHPD



The Sayonara Community Center on Sayonara Drive received a convoy of CHPD vehicles during the toy drop off on December 21, 2023. Photo courtesy of CHPD

Continued from page 1
the Citrus Heights Police Department social media channel. <https://youtu.be/uGAytNOA6s4?feature=shared>

In addition to the toy delivery at Sayonara, over two dozen families were adopted as part of Operation Holiday Cheer with presents delivered to them. Additionally, 20 children participated in the annual 'Shop with a Cop' event at

Target on December 7, in collaboration with the Citrus Heights Police Activities League (PAL).

Some of the service groups and other contributors to Operation Holiday Cheer were Citrus Heights Soroptimist, Stones Casino, Citrus Heights Grocery Outlet, Grand Oaks Bingo Hall, Citrus Heights PAL, and many more!

Source: Larissa Aguilar, CHPD ★

United Way Receives Grant to Create New Job and Housing Opportunities

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regions. The initiative's goal is to help strengthen the ability of underserved and BIPOC-led community organizations to leverage public investments to address economic disparities. United Way joins 43 statewide partners in the initiative that has awarded \$14 million toward

community development and centering community in decisions.

"Economic progress is only meaningful if it's equitable," said Chet Hewitt, president and CEO, Sierra Health Foundation. "These partners will be at the forefront of California's recovery and climate resilience efforts for years to come." ★

Happy Holidays

NORTHBRIDGE DENTAL
(916) 944-1197

New HomeGoods Store Coming to Marketplace at Birdcage



A 25,020-square-foot HomeGoods will fill the space labeled "6130A" previously occupied by discount retailer Stein Mart which closed in early 2020.

Story and photo by Thomas J. Sullivan

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - HomeGoods, a major home decor retailer is planning to open in the Marketplace at Birdcage in Citrus Heights in 2024.

The names of HomeGoods, and two other new businesses, Teriyaki Madness and Flawless Fix have been added to leasing materials by Gerrity Properties for Marketplace at Birdcage, a retail center along Sunrise Boulevard in Citrus Heights as coming soon.

HomeGoods sells items such as furniture, rugs, bedding and storage accessories. The chain's website lists seven other locations in the greater Sacramento area. A marketing representative from HomeGoods did not respond to an email request for comment.

The 25,020-square-foot HomeGoods will fill the space labeled "6130A" previously occupied by discount retailer Stein Mart which closed in early 2020.

A separate 6,729-square-foot space, labeled "6130B," is identified in leasing materials just behind HomeGoods, next door to Cost Plus World Market where a grove of tall trees now stands.

Broker Chris Campbell of the Gerrity Company did not respond to a telephone or email request for comment concerning the pending three openings listed in Gerrity's

leasing materials.

A new interior wall separates the former vacant Starbucks coffee shop at 6121 Birdcage Center facing Sunrise Boulevard from its adjacent neighbor, Barnes and Noble Booksellers.

In August, the Business Journal confirmed that restaurant chain Teriyaki Madness, an Asian fast-casual restaurant chain based in Denver would open in the Citrus Heights retail center at 6121 Birdcage Center next to Noodles and Company, with a projected opening date in the second quarter of 2024.

Another new business, doing business as Flawless Fix is listed to fill suites B-111-112 just behind Bath and Body Works. No opening date has been set for Flawless Fix.

In a statement to the Business Journal, HomeGoods spokesperson Arielle Abramek confirmed a Citrus Heights store "will open in the future," as did Kathlynn Carpenter, executive director of Sunrise MarketPlace in an email.

HomeGoods is one of the retail chains owned by Framingham, Massachusetts-based The TJX Companies Inc.

Marketplace at Birdcage, built in 1975, is anchored by businesses such as Walmart Neighborhood Market, Best Buy, Old Navy, Michaels, Barnes & Noble and Chuze Fitness. The center spans more than 325,000 square feet, according to leasing materials. ★

David Villanueva Appointed County Executive



David Villanueva

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors unanimously agreed to appoint Assistant County Executive David Villanueva as County Executive. The appointment is effective January 28, 2024.

"I am pleased to announce that the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to appoint David Villanueva as County Executive," said Board Chair and Third District Supervisor Rich Desmond. "David's career has been dedicated to public service with Sacramento County and the State of California, with which he has had extensive senior management and executive management experience."

"The County as an organization has made tremendous progress over the last three years. We are confident this

will continue under David's leadership. David brings a unique combination of business, accounting and technology skills to this role, and he has shown in practice that his decisions are guided by honesty, integrity and a passion for service and transparency."

Appointed Assistant County Executive last May, Villanueva has been serving as Deputy County Executive for the Administrative Services Agency since 2011. Prior to that, he began his County service as Chief Information Officer/Director of the Department of Technology in 2008. Before his County service, Villanueva was the Deputy Director/Chief Information Officer for the California Department of General Services.

"I am deeply honored and grateful for the trust placed in me by the Board of Supervisors in appointing me as the County Executive," said Villanueva. "This opportunity to serve our community is both a privilege and a responsibility that I undertake with great dedication. I am committed to fostering a culture of transparency, collaboration, and customer service excellence within our organization."

"In the spirit of public service, I look forward to collaborating with our dedicated team and community stakeholders to continue to build a County government that is responsive, accountable, and committed to making a positive impact in the lives of our residents."

During his tenure at the County, Villanueva implemented a number of initiatives. Most recently, he led the County's new Leadership Development Academy program, designed to enhance leadership skills, learn global trends impacting leadership and sustain positive changes in the organization. He also implemented his Agency's departments in the County's Organizational Culture Change Initiative and managed the formation of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force.

Villanueva is a long-time member and the current Chair of the Board of Trustees for Plumas Lake School District. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from California State University, Sacramento, and recently completed the Harvard Kennedy School Executive Education program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government. ★

Sacramento Tall Club Memorial Scholarship Available

By Thomas J. Sullivan

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Members of the Sacramento Tall Club (STC) affiliated with Tall Clubs International (TCI) are seeking outstanding eligible high school seniors throughout Sacramento, Yolo, Placer and El Dorado counties to apply for their competitive annual 2022-23 academic scholarship.

The number of submitted scholarship applications dropped off last year, said STC Club President Harry Lehman of Orangevale. STC did not award a local scholarship for the 2021-22 school year.

"We wanted to take an extra step to reach out to all high school districts throughout our region in a focused direct mail effort, and through the media to make sure that both public and private schools received this year's application materials in a timely manner."

"We recognize that the potential pool of eligible scholarship candidates across the Northern California region is quite large, and we wanted to take all steps possible to encourage high school seniors to apply."

TCI divides California geographically into four scholarship areas with membership of the Sacramento Tall Club responsible for student scholarship applications in some 29 inland counties, large and small, north to the Oregon border, Lehman said.

Locally, STC has provided scholarship materials to high schools in the San Juan Unified School District serving Citrus Heights, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, and Sacramento city and county high schools.

"The TCI scholarship application process is now completely entirely online," Lehman said.

"Typically, high school guidance counselors are aware of the STC and TCI scholarship program, but many may not be aware that our application process has completely changed," Lehman said.



Nicole Hensley, 2018-2019 Sacramento Tall Club scholarship award and TCI scholarship winner from Bella Vista High School. Left to right are Bob and Patty Huggett, scholarship winner Nicole Hensley and LeeAnn and Dave Spencer. Nicole was awarded her check for \$1,000 on May 23, 2019, at Awards Night at Bella Vista High. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Tall Club

Individual applicants can upload their application, current high school transcripts, reference letters, and personal photo to the TCI scholarship website at www.sacramentotallclub.org/scholarship starting January 1st where they will receive an immediate receipt email acknowledgment of their application and responses to any direct questions which they may have, Lehman said. STC scholarship applicants may also contact scholarship@sacramentotallclub.org with additional questions or for more information.

A complete summary of STC scholarship application guidelines, sample essays and photos of current and past winners are also posted on the club website.

Every year, the Sacramento Tall Club awards academic scholarships to qualified and talented high school seniors who meet the tall club height requirements (at least 5'10" for women and 6'2" for men.) The annual STC scholarship award is dedicated in memoriam to former TCI and STC members, many of whom were big supporters of young scholars and their many talents and merits. Scholarship amounts can vary year to year.

Part of the scholarship application for each young person is to write an essay titled "What being tall means to me."

Completed essays, high school transcripts and all application materials submitted by area high school students graduating in the

2023-24 school year are due by March 1.

Local Sacramento Tall Club (STC) scholarship winners also compete for annual scholarships awarded by both Tall Clubs International (TCI) and by the non-profit Tall Clubs International Foundation. Annually, the TCI foundation awards scholarships of up to \$1,000 each.

While grade point average and test scores are especially important scholarship criteria, so too are participation in school activities and community involvement.

General membership in the social Sacramento Tall Club is open to men that are over six feet and women that are nearing that mark.

The 2023 STC scholarship winner will be notified later in March 2024 by the club membership.

All signed STC scholarship applications should be submitted with a good headshot photo, preferably a senior graduation photo. Partial applications submitted online are not accepted, Lehman said.

The club also has a donations link to contribute to its scholarship fund at: www.sacramentotallclub.org/scholarship so that the dollar amount of student scholarship awards can be increased. Lehman said, "We're always looking for, and welcome support from the community to help the STC scholarship program grow and offer more scholarships to eligible students." ★

Sac County Teens Support Gifts from the Heart



A group of dedicated teens from Inderkum High School chose to get involved with Gifts from the Heart as part of their Senior Project. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County is celebrating 35 years of Gifts from the Heart this year. A child protective services worker founded the program in 1988. Since then, the tradition has grown to support thousands of people in Sacramento County. Each year, dozens of volunteers donate thousands of hours. Volunteers pick up, wrap, and deliver gifts from November into mid-December. Sponsors also support the cause by donating gifts, money, and food.

This year, a group of dedicated teens from Inderkum High School have joined the cause. John Norboe, Van Froling, Ty Miramontes, Kaylee King, Jackson Norton, Mason Worrall, and Lindsay Jones say they are excited to give back to their community. The group chose to get involved with Gifts from the Heart as part of their Senior Project – which requires them to volunteer for a cause they are passionate about. The teens have not only volunteered their time, but they

have also fundraised over \$1,500 for Gifts from the Heart. They organized different events to fundraise the money. The cash will help provide gifts for foster youth in Sacramento County. The teens say they are privileged to be able to give back.

"It's a great cause. It's really nice to help out your community. And, when you hear about these foster kids that aren't really getting much for Christmas and whatnot, that makes you appreciate it. The least you can do is give back, and when we were given an opportunity like this for our senior project, I thought it was a great idea," says Van.

The teens are just 17 and 18 years old, proving anyone can get involved with helping their community at any age. These high schoolers, along with other volunteers and sponsors highlight our community's kindness and compassion. It is the people who donate their time and money who have helped Gifts from the Heart grow into a program that helps thousands of children, teens, disabled adults, and older adults in Sacramento County. ★

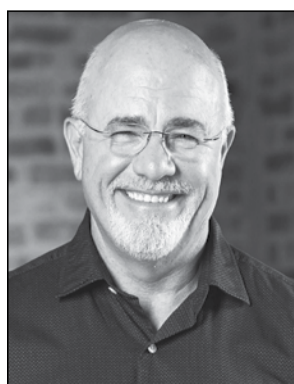
MPG

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS



Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



For Starters, Have A Plan

Dave Ramsey Says

happened to me, there were three pieces to the puzzle that helped me break the cycle. One was fear. Specifically, I was scared to death that I wouldn't be able to take care of my family, and that I'd retire broke. Now, don't misunderstand me. No one should live their lives in fear. But a healthy, reasonable level of fear can provide needed motivation.

Another was disgust. I realized what I was doing was stupid. I was tired of living that way, and I made a conscious, purposeful decision that things were going to be different.

The third piece, and maybe the most important because it's connected to our spiritual walk, was contentment. We live in a society that's constantly having the idea that we'll be happier, or more successful, or more admired, if we'll only buy this or that product. We're constantly marketed to, and when we have this stuff in our faces day after day, we can become unsatisfied with just about every aspect of our lives. Don't let it drag you down. It's all just an illusion.

One of the things I did to combat this, was to start living on a strict, written, monthly budget. Also, I

stopped going places where I was tempted to spend money. You shouldn't give a drunk a drink, right? So, don't put yourself in a bad situation when it comes to your behavior with money. If you go wandering through the mall without a specific plan, you'll lose every single time.

When you go to the store make a list of only the things you need. On top of that, take only enough cash with you to buy what you need. If you can walk in and back out without buying a bunch of stuff that wasn't on your list, it's a win. Every time you do this, it's another win and another step away from your old habits and in the right direction.

You can do this, Melissa. God bless you.

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions ★

Dear Dave,

My mom and dad always told me to live within my means. As an adult, I've made some mistakes with money, including falling right back into debt after paying off everything. I'm tired of this rollercoaster, and I want to get control of my finances for good. Can you give me some advice on where to start?

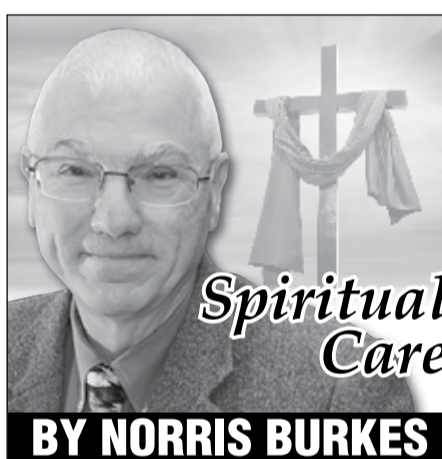
– Melissa

Dear Melissa,

It's frustrating, isn't it? But making mistakes with money means just one thing. It means you're human. We've all done it. Think about this, though. We're approaching a traditional time of the year for changes. On top of that, you're smart enough to have realized what you've done in the past hasn't worked.

Believe it or not, I was once in the exact same spot you are now. When it

Public Prayer Journal Shares Private Heartbreak



Before my retirement as a health-care chaplain, I was privileged to hear the prayers of patients who were hurting, sick and discouraged. They were heavenly appeals that I wanted to share with you, but patient privacy prevented that.

However, in many cases, patient families recorded their prayers in the public journal of our hospital chapel. The journal was a spiral notebook on the altar where visitors wrote anonymous requests.

I recently rediscovered some of those requests that I feel comfortable sharing with you now.

As you read these collected prayers, I encourage you to do two things. First, recall similar situations where God answered your prayers and granted his grace. Second, I ask you to offer your own prayer for these writers.

Some of the prayers are simple one-liners, like the short prayer of a child asking, "Lord, help me to be a football player." But most are deeply moving entreaties searching for healing, acceptance and understanding.

One of the writers was earnestly searching for meaning:

"God, or whoever,

"I don't know if there is a Creator/God. I only know that my day to leave this life will come. I just hope that the memories of my mother and father will be with me just like my parents were with me the day I was born. If there is a Creator/God, he/she will know that I tried to live my life with a clean heart."

Some of the petitioners, like this one, were clearly scared:

"Dear Lord,

"I need your guidance now. I don't have my mom anymore, so my dad and I are lost. My son and his wife have a sick baby girl. I need you to help us. Please hold my family tight. I love you, dear Father.

"In the name of the Father and Holy Spirit."

Other prayers showed a struggle that no one wants to face:

"Dear Lord,

"Mom's accident crossed your desk and you approved it. Now we have to turn off the ventilator. It's the hardest decision this family has ever made. My sister is hanging on with vain hope. Please help her see the truth and let mom go.

"Mom is your child, Lord. I know she has a mansion waiting for her. The rest of us have peace about letting her go. Please pass that peace on to my sister. Time is a factor, Lord. Finances are a factor, too.

"The life she's living now isn't life. It isn't fair to mom to have to be like she is. Please help my sister to understand that we are all suffering. Give our family the strength to cross this bridge and give mom a peace that only you can give.

Amen."

One writer, likely a caregiver, compared her pain to that of her patients. She expressed the guilt many of us feel when seeing our problems in the light of the tragedy experienced by others:

"Dear God,

"No one I know is dying or suffering, so I need to stop being a baby about my problems. I should be praying for those who truly need love and support. I'm going through a divorce, and I feel depressed all the time. However, I'm grateful for my health, friends and family.

"Please help me overcome this feeling of anguish, loss, anxiety and jealousy. It's not good for my health, and I'm unable to help my patients who truly need it.

"Thanks for listening.

"Amen."

Finally, the last page of these collected prayers offers a benediction for this column:

"To anyone who reads this:

I hope God answers all your prayers in the New Year. The Lord is good!

"Amen."

★

California's Push For Labor Laws Can Have Negative Consequences For Workers



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

When the federal government and state governments passed laws governing wages, working hours and other workplace conditions prior to World War II, agricultural labor was exempted.

Many years later, after the 40-hour work week became standard, California's Industrial Welfare Commission decreed that farmworkers could work up to 10 hours a day or six days a week before overtime pay kicked in.

In 2016, however, years of lobbying by unions and other groups finally paid off when the Legislature decreed that the eight-hour day and 40-hour work week for agricultural labor would be phased in. Then-Gov. Jerry Brown signed the legislation, Assembly Bill 1066, despite warnings from farm groups that it would disrupt their industry.

Recently, the University of California's Cooperative Extension branch, which researches agricultural issues, released a study indicating that having a 40-hour work week has not been as beneficial to farmworkers as its sponsors promised.

Alexandra Hill, an assistant professor at UC Berkeley, concluded that many workers who had hoped for a cornucopia of overtime pay saw their

incomes reduced when employers limited them to 40 hours a week. Her study found that many workers experienced reductions in the \$100-\$200 range each week because farmers could not automatically pass on overtime costs to their customers.

"It's really important to think carefully about how we can best implement policies that really benefit the people that we're trying to (help)," Hill told The Sacramento Bee.

Hill's research exemplifies the phenomenon of unanticipated consequences that often afflicts political actions. Legislators may have thought they could help farmworkers by giving them a 40-hour workweek but failed to consider the potential downsides when applied in the real world.

In recent years, the Legislature has been particularly prone to passing laws affecting workplace conditions – not surprisingly, given the close relationship between the Capitol's dominant Democrats and labor unions, which seek benefits they are unable to achieve in unionization drives or negotiations with employers.

The most spectacular example was 2019 legislation that severely limited employers' ability to use contractors, in effect converting several million workers to payroll employees.

Hill's study was released just months after the Legislature had set new minimum wages for the fast food and medical care industries, \$20 per hour for the former and \$25 for the latter, to dampen threats of ballot-box wars.

As with the 2016 law on farm labor, unions and other advocates of the new minimum wages said they would lift workers in the affected industries out of poverty.

"Today California is putting a stop to the hemorrhaging of our care workforce by ensuring health care workers can do the work they love and pay their bills – a huge win for workers and patients seeking care," Tia Orr, executive director of SEIU California, told CalMatters.

However, there will be real world impacts.

Fast food franchisees will adjust by hiring fewer workers, raising prices or adopting more technology, such as the self-serve kiosks now common at McDonald's.

One effect of the health care wage bill has already surfaced. When it was passed, legislators were not given any estimates of the financial impact, but after Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the measure, his administration said it would cost the state budget, which has a \$68 billion projected deficit, about \$4 billion a year split 50-50 between state and federal taxpayers. And that doesn't include the multibillion-dollar impact on private health care providers and insurers.

On one level, it's perfectly understandable why politicians would like to raise wages for some of the state lowest paid workers. But they shouldn't ignore the potentially negative effects of their actions.

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

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Giants and KNBR FanFest Tour to Make Stop in Sacramento

Sacramento River Cats News Release

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (MPG) - On Thursday, Dec. 14, the San Francisco Giants introduced the Giants & KNBR FanFest Tour 2024 – an evolution of their traditional preseason fan event. Known as a single-day San Francisco-based event, Giants & KNBR FanFest has transformed into a four-stop Northern California series, which kicks off in Sacramento at Sutter Health Park on Saturday, Jan. 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Giants & KNBR FanFest Tour will expand beyond San Francisco, providing opportunities for fans to interact with their beloved team prior to Spring Training in Scottsdale. This year's iteration will feature four events with current Giants players, coaches, alumni, VIP guests and Lou Seal. The final stop will feature a Spring Training-inspired Open House at Oracle Park with Giants alumni.

As a proud affiliate of the San Francisco Giants, the Sacramento River Cats and their home of Sutter Health Park will host the first stop of the tour on Jan. 20. At the event, fans will have the chance to receive autographs, participate in Q&A sessions, purchase merchandise, and much more. Scheduled to appear at the event is Rocklin, CA, native and Giants ace Logan Webb, along with other current teammates and coaches.

"We are thrilled to host the first stop of the Giants & KNBR FanFest Tour," said Sarah Hebel, Sacramento River Cats director of marketing. "Player and fan interaction is an integral part of the Sutter Health Park fan experience, so River Cats fans will no doubt look forward to this extended opportunity to connect with local product Logan Webb among other Giants favorites."

Outside of Sacramento, the tour will also make stops in San Jose (Jan. 24) and Napa (Feb. 3) before concluding at Oracle Park (March 9). Giants tickets for the 2024 baseball season will be available for purchase at each tour stop, along with other special offers for those in attendance.

"We are continuously listening to our fans to ensure we are delivering what they want," said Rachel Heit, chief marketing officer of the San Francisco Giants. "With the reimagining of Giants & KNBR FanFest in 2024, we're giving Giants fans even more opportunities and flexibility to connect with their team, while improving and expanding upon a beloved preseason event."

To learn more about the giants & KNBR FanFest Tour 2024, visit rivercats.com and click on the FanFest icon. Fans can also visit mlb.com/giants/fans/fanfest. For more, follow along with @SFGiants on Instagram, X, TikTok, YouTube, and Facebook. ★

Hot Stuff at Chamber Chili Cookoff

Continued from page 1

Ebbitt-Riehle said.

When the results were tallied, it was the original recipe of chef Dan Catanio, who leads the Culinary Staples Prep Cook program at MealPro in Citrus Heights, which took top honors in all three competitive categories for his "Oregon Coast Indian Tribe Wild Game Chili."

Catanio said he taught his former student Coby Basset how to make his chili recipe which they then entered together in competition.

Catanio shared a photo taken with Basset of the three individual plaques presented from the Citrus Heights Chamber of Commerce, each with an engraved wooden spoon emblazoned with a flaming tongue logo in honor of their special achievement.

"It's quite an honor," he said, "and I'm especially proud of Coby for the way he interpreted and followed my recipe."

Other contestants in the chili cookoff included Carlos Perez, PRIDE Industries; Ryan Becker, Waste Management; Steve Balko, a community member; Tony Gariano, A-Applied Mailing Service; Tammy Chavez, Pancho Villa BBQ, LLC; and Ray Ward, of Legacy Benefits.

Three contestants competed for "Best Cornbread" honors. Realtor Amanda Camacho, of the office of Amanda in Sacramento took top honors, with chef Tammy Chavez, Pancho Villa BBQ, LLC, taking second place. Diane Ebbitt-Riehle, executive director of the Citrus Heights Chamber of Commerce took third place honors for her cornbread recipe. ★

CHP Urging Motorists to Drive into The New Year Safely

CHP News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As we prepare to usher in a new year, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) is ramping up efforts to help ensure the safety of all road users, while reducing the number of deadly crashes on the state's roadways.

Beginning at 6:01 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 29, the CHP will implement a statewide Maximum Enforcement Period (MEP), which will continue through 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 1, 2024.

The CHP conducted a similar enforcement effort during the recent Christmas holiday. Tragically, 20 people were killed in crashes within CHP jurisdiction between 6:01 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 22, through 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 25. Additionally, CHP officers made more than 900 arrests for driving under the influence (DUI) – an average of one every five minutes.

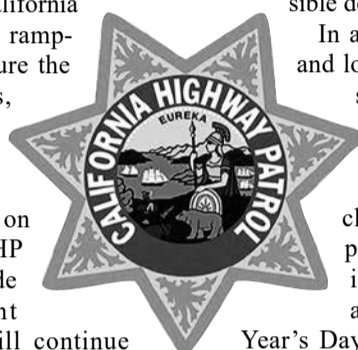
"Our personnel work through the holidays to help ensure people arrive safely at their destinations," said CHP Commissioner Sean

Duryee. "The goal is to maintain a safe environment on California's roads, which is achievable when all motorists make responsible decisions behind the wheel."

In addition to assisting drivers and looking for traffic violations, such as failure to wear a seat belt, speeding, and distracted driving, CHP officers will be paying close attention to people suspected of driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol. During the last New Year's Day MEP, CHP officers made 570 DUI arrests statewide.

As we close out 2023, avoid becoming a statistic. Have a plan and designate a sober driver or use ride-share services, avoid distractions while driving, and always wear your seat belt. If you see or suspect an impaired driver, call 9-1-1 immediately. Be prepared to provide the dispatcher a description of the vehicle, the license plate number, location, and direction of travel. Your phone call may save someone's life.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security. ★



SMUD Partners with Cub Scouts to Recycle Christmas Trees

SMUD News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Give your Christmas tree the proper holiday send-off. Instead of tossing it in the trash, recycle it. You'll be doing our local landfills a big favor.

SMUD is once again partnering with local Cub Scout Pack 128, who will be picking up trees on Dec. 30 and Jan. 6, 2024, from their local area and bringing them to SMUD to mulch for free.

As one of the Cub Scouts main fundraisers of the year, they collect trees from residents in East Sacramento neighborhoods for a donation and SMUD turns them into mulch. This helps fund many community service and learning projects throughout the year for the Cub Scout Pack.

Community members are welcome to bring their trees for recycling themselves to the SMUD Corporation Yard, 6100 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento on Jan. 6, 2024, between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., as well as at other designated locations.

Please remove all tinsel, lights, tree stands and nails. Flocked trees will not be accepted.

North Area Recovery Station* 4450 Roseville Road, Saturday, Jan. 6 & Sunday, Jan. 7 | 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Kiefer Landfill*12701 Kiefer Boulevard: Saturday, Jan. 6 & Sunday, Jan. 7 | 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Elder Creek Recovery & Transfer: 8642 Elder Creek Road, Saturday, Jan. 6 | 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sacramento Recycling & Transfer Station: 8491 Fruitridge Road, Monday - Saturday, Dec. 26 - Jan. 6 | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Folsom - Dan Russell Rodeo Arena: Rodeo Park, end of Stafford Street, Saturday, Jan. 6 | 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

***If you have more than five trees, you need a voucher and must follow Sacramento County's Holiday Tree Recycling Program rules for them to be accepted for free.**

SMUD provides mulch for free to its customers for use in landscape projects, gardens, playgrounds, parks and homes throughout the year. To pick up chips, be sure to bring your own tools to load the chips and bags to carry them in or a tarp to cover a pickup load from 6100 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento. ★

Arrest Made in Homicide on Georgia Drive in North Highlands

Sacramento Sheriff's Dept News Release


SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - At approximately 1:15 PM on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, Sacramento County Sheriff's Deputies assigned to North Patrol responded to a residence on Georgia Drive in North Highlands regarding a fight involving 30 people and possible shots fired. Upon their arrival, they contacted several individuals who indicated a male was shot but had been transported to the hospital by family members or friends.

Shortly thereafter, Deputies learned that the victim, described as a 33-year-old adult male, had been transported to a local hospital with a gunshot wound. The victim was pronounced deceased at the

hospital a short time later.

Sheriff's Homicide Detectives and Crime Scene Investigators responded to the scene, interviewed witnesses, and gathered evidence. Based on their investigation, Detectives determined that the victim and his girlfriend were involved in an argument with her ex-boyfriend, later identified as 30-year-old Jarell Triplett, regarding child custody arrangements. During the argument, Triplett shot the victim and fled the scene.

At approximately 10 AM, Detectives from the Sheriff's Major Crimes Bureau located Triplett in the Sacramento area and took him into custody without incident. Triplett was booked into the Sacramento County Main Jail and is ineligible for bail. He is scheduled to appear in court on December 18, 2023 at 3 PM. ★



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Paul V. Scholl**

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To submit your articles, information, announcements or letters to the editor, please email a Microsoft Word file to: Publisher@mpg8.com.
Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher". If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.

Citrus Heights Messenger

Serving Citrus Heights and Sacramento County Since 2006




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Call (916) 773-1111 for more information.

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.

Sacramento Public Library Puts Out Call for Artists

By Tamara Warta

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Public Library (SPL), which has 29 locations spanning from Orangevale to Isleton, recently announced its new Parks and Tranquility project. With the intention of bringing visual and performing arts to a selection of the region's many outdoor spaces, artists are invited to apply for grant awards that range from \$5000 - \$10,000.

"We will engage and collaborate with community members, community-based organizations, and arts and justice collectives," states the official website, "to create site-specific art and educational experiences at multiple California State Park sites around Sacramento County."

A schedule of the public events developed through the Parks and Tranquility program are expected to be announced in early 2024.

The idea to bring the arts into parks and other outdoor spaces was inspired by the California State Library's statewide Parks Pass program. This program allows any California resident with a library card to borrow free passes to approximately 200 state parks. SPL specifically was granted funds to identify and create art installations to complement these passes. While any artist may apply, selected projects should carry one of the specific themes being prioritized by



Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, one of the potential sites for a Parks and Tranquility Project art installation.
Photo courtesy of California Department of Parks and Recreation

the library.

According to Ricardo M. Ramirez, the system supervisor of SPL, these themes include a project goal to "generate positive measurable impacts in the areas of health, natural resource stewardship, and historical and cultural connections with an equity lens."

"SPL will engage and collaborate alongside our Sacramento community members, community-based organizations, and arts and culture collectives on arts and recreational equity experiences

that include community events and field trips," Ramirez also stated.

Selected artists will work with a special project team that consists of both library staff and community members. The original visual artwork will be featured at pre-selected California state parks, while other artists will prepare and execute community workshops featuring their art discipline.

"All types of art mediums are eligible," said Ramirez. "We encourage a wide range of artists

and all levels of experiences to apply for these grants. We are fortunate to be in a dynamic and lively arts community, and are continually inspired by what we see, hear, and experience. We plan to curate a number of public programs that will incorporate the work of the selected artists that reflect our communities and the joy of being in natural spaces."

While any type of artist is welcome to apply, it is with the understanding that their art form may be converted to accommodate

a realistic outdoor art installation. A watercolor or acrylic painter, for example, may complete their piece and see it converted into a more durable digital print. Dancers should expect to accommodate an outdoor learning or performance space in lieu of a traditional indoor studio.

In order to be eligible for the Parks and Tranquility grant, applicants must be a resident of the Sacramento region and aged 16 or older. Applicants cannot be currently employed by SPL, and should be eligible to receive taxable income. The selected artist(s) must also be available for public events and installations related to the finalized artwork at the select location(s).

The grant application and selection process is a quick turnaround — applications are due by December 30th, and artists will be notified by the end of January. Time is of the essence for those artists wishing to be considered. With all levels of experience welcome to apply, SPL understands there will be questions. Applicants may call (916) 264-2920 or email parksandtranquility@saclibrary.org with any inquiries.

Potential artists may visit saclibrary.org/Parks-and-Tranquility for more information and to apply, as well as for the opportunity to view artists' inspirations behind the project for a better view of what SPL is seeking out for this unique new opportunity. ★

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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows January 24, 2024, 1:30 p.m. in Dept 129; Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, William R. Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse, 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, CA 95826.

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

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section

58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

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

The name, address and telephone number of the Petitioner is: Gina Frisby, 5708 Alloway Street; 916-671-9359
Publish: Dec 29, 2023, Jan 5, 12, 2024
DIAZ 1-12-24

SUMMONS

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER: 23CV009805

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: All persons unknown claiming any legal or equitable right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the Property adverse to Plaintiff's title, or any cloud of Plaintiff's title to the Property and Does 1 through 5

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: Tracy K. Sharp.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service.

If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Website (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion.

Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos

formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov) en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperacion de

\$10,000 o mas de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesion de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es): Carol Miller Justice Center, 301 Bicentennial Circle, Sacramento, CA 95826

The name, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Vanessa Amador, Norcal Attorney Brokers, 1355 Florin Road Suite 4, Sacramento, CA 95822, 916-396-9934.

Date: (Fecha) 10/12/2023
Clerk (Secretario) K. Johnson, Deputy (Adjunto)
Publish: Dec 22, 29, 2023, Jan 5, 12, 2024
SHARP 1-12-24



**CITY OF CITRUS HEIGHTS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING**

NOTICE is hereby given that **January 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the **Planning Commission** of the City of Citrus Heights will hold a Public Hearing for the consideration of the projects listed below.

Project Name: Mariposa Avenue Subdivision Map

Project Location: 7401 Mariposa Avenue, the southwest corner of Mariposa Ave and Church Lane (APN 211-0480-001-0000)

Project Description: The applicant is requesting approval of a Tentative Subdivision Map to allow the division of an existing vacant 2.32-acre parcel into five individual parcels.

Project Name: Objective Design Standards - Citywide

Project Location: Citywide commercial areas

Project Description: The Planning Commission will be reviewing proposed objective design and development standards to streamline and promote mixed-use and multi-family development within the City's commercial corridors. The Planning Commission's recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council for review and adoption. For more information on the project, visit the City's website www.citrusheights.net/1179

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments prior to and may testify at the Public Hearing. **Written comments may be submitted to, City Planning Department, at planning@citrusheights.net or 6360 Fountain Square Drive, Citrus Heights, CA 95621.**

Following the Public Hearing, the **Planning Commission** may take such action on the project as it deems appropriate. 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 **Planning Commission** 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 Department 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 the Planning Division at (916) 727-4740. 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.

Dated: December 20, 2023

Citrus Heights Messenger 12-29-2023

**CITY OF CITRUS HEIGHTS
NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-006

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CITRUS HEIGHTS AMENDING CITRUS HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 94 - TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES, ARTICLE VI. - PEDESTRIANS, SECTIONS 94-416 TO 94-440

The foregoing is a summary of an ordinance proposed to be adopted by the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights at its meeting of **January 11, 2024.**

The purpose of this ordinance is to find there is a compelling interest to protect all pedestrians within Citrus Heights from the risks of death and serious injury resulting from colliding with vehicles by reducing the number of pedestrian-vehicle encounters resulting in death or serious injury to pedestrians in the public right-of-way while simultaneously honoring the rights of its residents under First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article I, Section 2 of the California Constitution.

The full text of the proposed ordinance is available in the City Clerk's Office, 6360 Fountain Square Drive, Citrus Heights, CA 95621, (916) 727-4704 or www.citrusheights.net.

Amy Van
City Clerk

Citrus Heights Messenger 12-29-2023

**CITY OF CITRUS HEIGHTS
NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-007

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CITRUS HEIGHTS AMENDING CITRUS HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 74 "SOLID WASTE" RELATING TO ILLEGAL DUMPING

The foregoing is a summary of an ordinance proposed to be adopted by the City Council of the City of Citrus Heights at its meeting of **January 11, 2024.**

The purpose of this amendment is to help update and bring the Enforcement and Penalties of Chapter 74 Solid Waste into uniformity and provides alternative options to enforce violations as infractions or administrative action when appropriate. The proposed addition of language for the section of the Citrus Heights Municipal Code is as follows:

Sec. 74-9. - Penalties.

Any person who violates any provision of this Chapter may be subject to any of the following legal enforcement remedies, including but not limited to: Criminal Prosecution of a misdemeanor or infraction, civil action, including but not limited to injunctive relief, administrative enforcement actions, including administrative citation, and/or revocation of a use permit, if applicable. These remedies shall be in addition to any other remedies authorized by law.

The full text of the proposed ordinance is available in the City Clerk's Office, 6360 Fountain Square Drive, Citrus Heights, CA 95621, (916) 727-4704 or www.citrusheights.net.

Amy Van
City Clerk

Citrus Heights Messenger 12-29-2023

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California Resident is Winner in International Marathon

By Grace Gollihur

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- On Sunday, Dec. 3, 11,000 runners gathered on Folsom-Auburn Boulevard to complete the 2023 California International Marathon. People came from all over to participate in this scenic 26.2 mile route, running from the Folsom Dam to the State Capitol. The CIM has been around for 40 years with the first run held in 1983. Many spectators enjoyed watching the runners go by, waving and cheering for their friends, family and community members.

Executive Director of the Sacramento Running Association Scott Abbott oversees the planning and execution of the CIM. His main job is making sure everyone else is doing their job.

"I'm just managing the entire event from six hundred foot view – it's such a big event that encompasses so much," Abbott said.

Abbott went on to talk about all the different teams of people that help plan the many aspects of the race. It's also his job to make sure that the runners are having a fun and safe time.

"Safety is always our priority. After safety, we really try to focus on the participant experience," Abbott said.

The CIM is a very big event that takes a lot of people to put on, and the SRA could not do it without their volunteers.

Gerry Garcia has been volunteering for the CIM for ten years, and he does it to give back to his community.

"We have runners in all different shapes and sizes and ages and they've set a goal to do – and I'm kinda helping them out with their goal," Garcia said.

Garcia is a captain at the starting line of the race. He also oversees the first aid tent, as well as the busses and transportation. Garcia meets with a group



Runners came from all over the world to participate in the scenic 26.2 mile route, running from the Folsom Dam to the State Capitol on Sunday, Dec. 3. Photo courtesy of California International Marathon

of volunteers three times before race day to plan their respective stations at the race.

Runners from all over the world participate in the race. They come from countries such as Germany, Brazil, Australia, Kenya, Romania, Poland, and Ukraine. This year the winner, CJ Albertson, is from Fresno, California. He took two hours and eleven minutes to finish the race. The top female finisher was Grace Kahura from Longmont, Colorado. She took two hours and twenty nine minutes to

finish the race.

But not all participants compete for time, some runners run for the fun of the race and to hang out with their friends.

Melissa McCormick is a teacher at Cowan Elementary School and she ran the CIM as a half marathon with her friend as teammate. She has been running marathons for a long time, but the CIM was her final race.

"I thought that would be a good way to go out – I have probably done about thirty halves," McCormick said.

McCormick also spoke about how her family drove her and supported her throughout the race. She enjoyed the whole atmosphere of the race.

"I had so much fun – there were DJs and I danced when I was going by – everything was the way it should be," McCormick said.

She went on to talk about how everyone was very positive and kind, and how she really enjoyed the course.

The CIM is not only for runners, but it is also for

the community. UC Davis Children's Hospital is the Chief Beneficiary of the CIM and the SRA. The SRA works continuously with the hospital to raise funds in order to provide care for many people. The CIM and SRA also support the SPCA and the NEC Society.

The California International Marathon was a success once again. Registration is already open for the 2024 race. To sign up, visit the Sacramento Running Association website. ★

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California Slips in National Ranking of Judicial Hellholes

Area Doctor Charged with Distribution and Possession of Child Pornography

NFIB California News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The American Tort Reform Foundation today released its latest Judicial Hellholes report showing California now the third worst jurisdiction in the nation, a two-place drop from its previous perch at No. 1 in last year's report.

"It's nice to see California drop a few rungs on the Judicial Hellholes ladder," said John Kabateck, California state director for the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the state's leading small business association. "But it wasn't because our Legislature tried. Business owners, especially small business owners, still are in the crosshairs of the most egregious PAGA, Prop. 65, ADA, and now Consumer Privacy Act lawsuits, which give trial attorneys full rein to sue Main Street employers."

PAGA, the Private Attorneys General Act, comes in for justified criticism in the Judicial Hellholes report, the California section of which begins on Page 30, but just as troubling is the "Trial Lawyers' Newest Statutory Gold Mine" section (Page 33), which forewarns:

"On January 1, 2023, the California Privacy Rights Act of 2020 (CPRA) went into effect. This Act replaced the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) and addressed some of the CCPA's ambiguities. It eliminates a business' 30-day window to cure, grants new rights to consumers, and increases business's

contractual obligations. It also creates the California Privacy Protection Agency to enforce the CPRA, which will fine businesses \$2,500 for violations and \$7,500 for intentional violations and those involving a minor. While the Act took effect in 2023, it applies to data collected beginning on January 1, 2022. In July, California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced that his office was doing an 'investigative sweep' of all large employers in the state to ensure they are in compliance with the Act. Apart from the attorney general investigations, consumers can sue for cash awards following a data breach without proving an actual injury, making it easy for trial lawyers to bring massive class actions. The law also provides for treble damages and attorneys' fees, creating a large incentive for the plaintiffs' bar to file lawsuits."

From the Executive Summary, "Endless Prop-65 litigation targets a variety of industries and no-injury Private Attorney General Act (PAGA) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility lawsuits bog down business. The state's unique Lemon Law is a gold mine for plaintiffs' lawyers and arbitration is under attack in both the courts and the legislature. California also is at the forefront of the environmental litigation battle."

Keep up with the latest on California small-business news at www.nfib.com/california or by following NFIB on Twitter @NFIB_CA or on Facebook @NFIB.CA. ★

Sacramento FBI News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A federal grand jury returned a two-count indictment on Thursday, November 30, 2023 against Khursheed Haider, 48, of Roseville, charging him with distribution of child pornography and possession of child pornography, U.S. Attorney Phillip A. Talbert announced.

According to court documents, Haider, a Sacramento Area pulmonologist, used an application called Wire to post, distribute, and request child pornography that included videos and images of pre-pubescent boys and girls being sexually abused. After a search warrant was executed, agents discovered additional prepubescent child sexual abuse material on one or more of Haider's electronic devices.

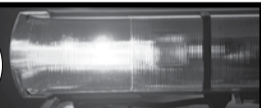
This case is the product of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Alexis Klein is prosecuting the case.

If convicted of distribution of child pornography, Haider faces a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison, a maximum statutory penalty of 20 years in prison, a lifetime of supervised release, restitution, and a \$250,000

fine. If convicted of possession of child pornography, Haider faces a maximum statutory penalty of 20 years in prison, a lifetime of supervised release, restitution, and a \$250,000 fine. Any sentence, however, would be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of any applicable statutory factors and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables. The charges are only allegations; the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute those who sexually exploit children, and to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.usdoj.gov/psc. Click on the "resources" tab for information about internet-safety education. ★

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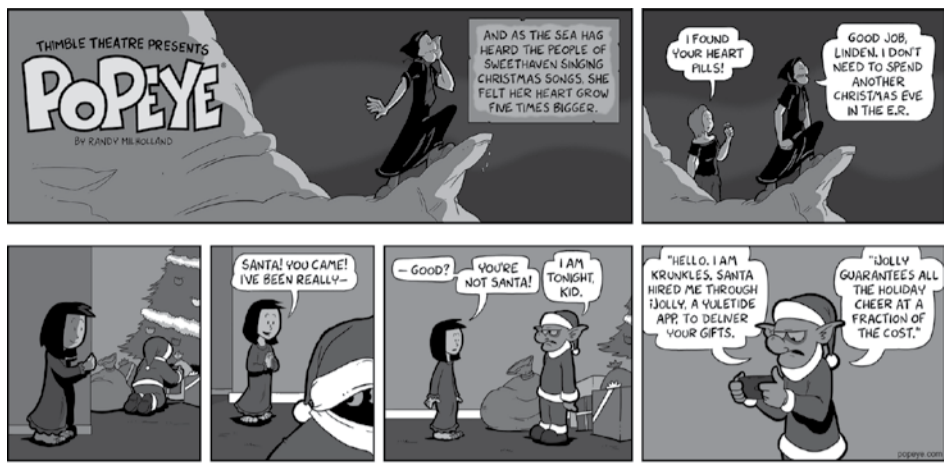
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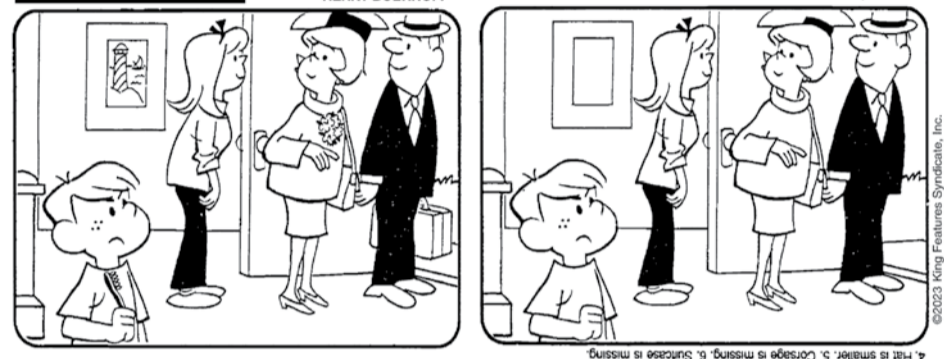
by Dave T. Phipps



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BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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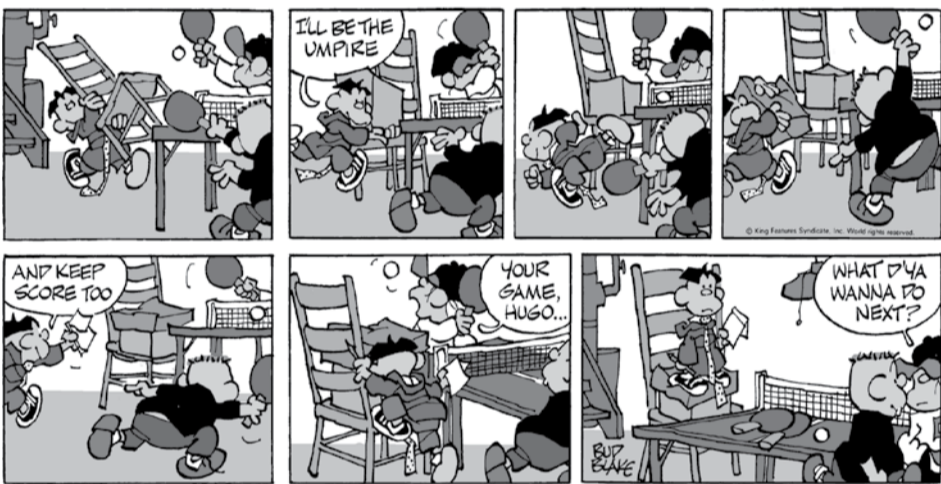


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by Gary Kopervas

TIGER



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 - Meme dance move
 - Feudal laborer
 - Plant louse
 - Inflated feeling
 - Signaling flare
 - She turned to stone, Greek mythology
 - Barn call
 - L in AWOL
 - *Zodiac sign for those born on Halloween
 - *Ford "Zodiac"
 - Cash machine, acr.
 - Island
 - Short for although
 - Cul de ____, pl.
 - Owing something (2 words)
 - Argo's propellers
 - Mature
 - Passed
 - Guilty, e.g.
 - Presidential promises, e.g.
 - Those against
 - Waker-upper
 - Skin infection
 - King of beasts
 - *1960s California serial killer
 - Address a deity
 - Short for ensign
 - Hoodwink
 - New Zealand parrot
 - *Fish sign
 - *Half man/half horse sign
 - Blood vessel
 - This is well if it ends well
 - Body trunk
 - Move like ivy
 - Grazing field
 - Plant with liquorice-flavored seeds
 - Catch one's breath
 - Trim the lawn
 - Roebuck's partner
- DOWN**
- Sun kisses
 - Colossal
 - Pest command
 - *Zodiac sign or Don DeLillo's 1988 novel
 - One who is skilled at something
 - Visual presentation
 - "Four score and seven years ____"
 - Dora the Explorer's simian friend
 - Court petitioner
 - Genesis twin
 - RPMS
 - Extra charge
 - Like a native speaker
 - Insect, post-metamorphosis
 - Prince in Disney's "Aladdin" movie
 - Heavy hydrogen, e.g.
 - *Birthstone for some born under Scorpio or Sagittarius
 - Hello, alt. sp.
 - Mountain nymph
 - *Cancer crustacean
 - Lentil soup
 - Golfer Els
 - Take a chance (2 words)
 - *Gemini
 - Delhi dress
 - Sound of a fan

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Sacramento County Opens 2nd Safe Stay Shelter



The second cabin-style shelter campus has opened after approval by the Board of Supervisors at 7001 East Parkway, in the parking lot of the County's Department of Health Services. From Left to right: Brad Fieldhouse – Executive Director City Net; Jessica Bruce – City Net; Emily Halcon – Director of Department of Homeless Services and Housing; Rich Desmond – County Supervisor District 3; Patrick Kennedy – County Supervisor District 2; Ann Edwards – Outgoing County CEO; David Villanueva – Incoming County CEO; Kelli Bennett – CEO of Community Health Works and Tim Lutz – Director Department of Health Services. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - On Thursday, December 14, 2023, Sacramento County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy cut the ribbon on the County's second Safe Stay Community for people experiencing homelessness. The sleeping cabin-style shelter campus has a capacity of 56-34 single cabins and 11 double occupancy cabins and was approved by the Board of Supervisors in June 2022. The Safe Stay is located at 7001 East Parkway, in the parking lot of the County's Department of Health Services.

"I'm thrilled to open up a second Safe Stay Community in my district." Said District 2 Supervisor Patrick Kennedy "We've already had really positive results at our first location – both for the guests and the neighborhood, that I'm hopeful we'll see an immediate impact once this opens next week."

WHAT CAN GUESTS EXPECT?

On-premises guests can use the bathroom and shower trailers, laundry services and eat three meals a day in the common area. The campus also has a pet relief area, a computer lab, an entertainment space, employment development and housing-focused case management. Guests will also connect with transportation resources for off-site needs such as medical appointments or jobs.

Each cabin is outfitted with a bed that folds down from the wall, two storage containers, basic toiletry supplies, a desk and chair, overhead light, HVAC, power outlets, smoke alarm and fire extinguisher and a locking door. Cabins also have enough space to accommodate a dog bed or pet crate. The campus has storage containers for possessions that do not fit in the sleeping cabins.

The East Parkway Safe Stay community is operated by City Net. City Net is also running the County's first Safe Stay

Community on Florin and Power Inn. The Florin Safe Stay opened in August 2023, has served 137 people, 32 pets and had five people exit to permanent housing.

HOW ARE GUESTS REFERRED?

The East Parkway Safe Stay Community is currently a closed referral process, through homeless services providers engaging with people living outside near the shelter. Existing street outreach providers will engage with people living outside to evaluate what services and shelter programs they are eligible for and that will best meet their needs.

People experiencing homelessness and looking for shelter resources should contact the Housing Crisis Line by calling 2-1-1 and pressing 8 or the toll-free number at 1-844-546-1464.

HOW CAN THE COMMUNITY GET INVOLVED?

City Net accepts in-kind donations by appointment only. To schedule a donation drop-off or volunteer, email getinvolved@citynet.org.

Accepted donations include, but aren't limited to:

Hygiene supplies (shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine hygiene, incontinence supplies, etc.); NEW emergency clothing staples (t-shirts, sweats/shorts, socks, undergarments, etc.) Gift cards of various values; Animal supplies (dog food, cat food, toys, collars, leashes, beds)

The minimum age for volunteers is 18 years of age. Each volunteer must complete a volunteer application/waiver and be cleared prior to arrival. No walk-up volunteers will be permitted on-site.

Looking for a job? City Net is hiring! Be part of positive change in Sacramento.

Review the Safe Stay FAQs at schs.sac-county.gov/Documents.

Read the Client Flier for more information on amenities and guest requirements. ★

Social Security Matters

I'm 65 and Working; Can I Collect Ex-spouse Benefits?



By Russell Gloor,
AMAC Certified Social
Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I turned 65 earlier this year, and I still work full time. I was divorced four years ago after 38 years of marriage, but my ex-husband has been collecting Social Security for at least 10 years now. Can I start collecting Social Security and still work full time? And can I collect my ex-husband's amount if it is more than mine (and what is the best way to achieve this)? When I went to my local SSA office, they said they had no way of knowing that.

Signed: Working Divorcee

Dear Working Divorcee:

Although you are eligible to claim Social Security at age 65, because you are working full time you may wish to wait a bit longer to do so. That's because Social Security has an "earnings test" which applies to anyone who collects benefits before full retirement age, and you have not yet reached yours.

The earnings test imposes a limit on how much you can earn before SS takes away some of your benefits. If you exceed the annual earnings limit (\$22,320 for 2024), Social Security will want back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the

limit and you will need to repay that, usually by having future benefits withheld. If you significantly exceed the limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible to receive SS benefits until you either earn less or reach your full retirement age (FRA) of 66 years and 8 months. So, if your earnings from working will significantly exceed the annual earnings limit (which changes yearly), it's likely that your wisest move would be to wait longer to claim your Social Security. As a bonus for doing so, your monthly payment will have grown and will be higher when you claim later. The earnings test no longer applies after you reach FRA.

Regarding benefits from your ex-husband, you cannot collect his instead of yours. What you may be able to do, when you claim your own benefit, is to get an additional amount which brings your monthly payment up to 50% of his. In order for that to happen, you would need to satisfy the following criteria:

- You are not currently married.

- The personal benefit you are entitled to at your FRA must be less than 50% of your ex-husband's FRA entitlement.

If the above are true, when you claim your own SS retirement benefit you will also get a "spousal boost" to bring your payment up to what you're entitled to as an ex-spouse. The amount of the spousal boost, if you claim Social Security at your FRA, will be the difference between half of his FRA entitlement and your FRA entitlement. If you claim your benefit before

your FRA, not only will your own benefit be reduced for claiming early, but the amount of your spousal boost will also be reduced (benefits claimed before FRA are always reduced).

Whenever you decide to claim Social Security, you will be automatically deemed to be filing for benefits from your ex-husband as well (you shouldn't need to apply separately). You've already satisfied the basic criteria of at least 10 years married to get benefits from an ex-spouse and, if you satisfy the above criteria as well, you will be entitled to a spousal boost when you claim. But your current earnings from working full time will likely affect your eligibility to collect Social Security benefits at this time, so waiting until your full retirement age to claim may be your best choice.

If you will only slightly exceed the annual earnings limit you can consider claiming earlier, as long as you are comfortable with receiving a permanently reduced amount, and the prospect of not getting benefits for a number of months if you exceed the earnings limit (the number of months you will go without benefits depends on how much you exceed the limit by).

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

Board Approves Regulations for Converting Wastewater to High Quality Drinking Water

State Water Resources Control Board News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Further advancing the Administration's all-of-the-above Water Supply Strategy to make California more resilient to hotter, drier conditions, the State Water Resources Control Board approved regulations on Dec. 19, 2023, that will allow water systems to develop treatment protocols to convert wastewater into high quality drinking water.

The board's unanimous vote gives California the most advanced standards in the nation for treating wastewater to such an extent that the finished product meets or exceeds current drinking water standards. Known as direct potable reuse, the process will enable water systems throughout the state to generate a climate-resilient water source while reducing the amount of wastewater discharged to rivers and the ocean. In fact, recycling water allows water systems to add millions of gallons of additional drinking water to their supplies over time while avoiding costlier and more energy intensive water supplies.

"This is an exciting development in the state's ongoing efforts to find innovative solutions to the challenges of extreme weather driven by climate change," said E. Joaquin Esquivel, chair of the State Water Board. "On top of helping us build drought-resilient water supplies, direct potable reuse offers energy savings and environmental benefits. And most importantly, these regulations ensure that the water produced is not only safe, but purer than many drinking water sources we now rely on."

The final version of the regulations came

together over many years and after an expert panel of 12 scientists and engineers evaluated work by the board's Division of Drinking Water and determined the standards are protective of public health. Proposed regulations were released to the public in July; board staff gathered public comment and made adjustments based on that input. These revisions include added flexibility for alternative treatment techniques and clarifications about the collaboration among partner agencies on reuse projects.

Direct potable reuse relies entirely on immediate, multi-barrier treatment that can recycle wastewater to drinking water standards in a matter of hours. This contrasts with the method currently being deployed in major projects launched throughout the state, called indirect potable reuse, which further improves treated wastewater over time through groundwater recharge or dilution with surface water. While no formal direct potable reuse projects could be initiated in California until the regulations were adopted, water agencies in Santa Clara, San Diego and the city of Los Angeles have launched pilot projects in recent years.

The newly adopted regulations comply with California's Safe Drinking Water Act, which ensures that the water delivered by public water systems in California shall at all times be pure, wholesome, and safe to drink.

Once the new regulations are finalized through the Office of Administrative Law in 2024, water systems can submit plans for direct potable use projects to the board for approval.

More information about direct potable reuse can be found on the board's website. ★



Employment Opportunities

Employment and Independent Contractor Positions at Messenger Publishing Group

We publish 18 local newspapers in the Sacramento Region. Our main office is in Carmichael. We have been publishing for 17 years and are seeking new qualified employees.

CURRENT WORK OPPORTUNITIES

Office Administration – We are seeking a full-time administrative support person for our newspaper group. This position works in the Carmichael office and works directly with the Office Manager. Work hours are between 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Previous office management experience is required.

Production Layout/Graphic Design – This part-time position assists with the layout of the newspapers and works with the production staff to create our weekly newspapers. Must have good working knowledge of InDesign production programs. Must be able to work within our current system and be able to take direction to meet our deadlines. Previous layout experience is a must. This is an entry level position. Work hours are between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm. This position is in our Gridley office and begins in January.

Copy Editor – We are seeking a part-time copy editor for our newspaper group. This position works in the Carmichael office and works directly with Editor. Work hours are flexible between 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Previous editing experience is required.

City Reporter – We are seeking a part-time City Reporter for our newspaper group. This position may be assigned to work in the Carmichael office or another area office and works directly with the Editor. Work hours are flexible depending on assignments. Previous reporting experience is required.

Advertising Services Support – We are seeking a part-time Advertising Services Support person for our newspaper group. This position works in the Carmichael office and works directly with the owner of the company and the advertising/graphics staff. Work hours are flexible between 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Previous office experience is required.

Delivery Driver – We are seeking a part-time Delivery Driver for our newspaper group. This position would transport newspapers from our Carmichael office to our offices in Marysville and Gridley. Work hours are from 8:30 to 4:00 every Thursday. Must be able to lift and move bundles of newspapers without assistance. Must have your own reliable cargo van. This is an independent contractor position and pays a flat rate for your service.

Newsstand Delivery Driver – We are seeking a part-time Newsstand Delivery Driver for our newspaper group. This position works from the Carmichael office and delivers to our locations in the West Sacramento/Sacramento Region. Work hours are from 8:30 to 5:00 Thursday and/or Friday. Must be able to lift and move bundles of newspapers without assistance. You must have a reliable vehicle. This is an independent contractor position.

To find out more or to apply:

Email your questions or resume to Publisher@MPG8.com

Citrus Heights Man Arrested for Actions During Jan. 6 Capitol Breach

Sacramento FBI News Release

WASHINGTON, DC (MPG) - A California man has been arrested on felony and misdemeanor charges related to his conduct during the breach of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. His actions and the actions of others disrupted a joint session of the U.S. Congress convened to ascertain and count the electoral votes related to the 2020 presidential election.

Kyle Travis Colton, 36, of Citrus Heights, California, is charged in a criminal complaint filed in the District of Columbia with a felony offense of obstruction of law enforcement during civil disorder and misdemeanor offenses of entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds, disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds, disorderly conduct in a Capitol building or grounds, and parading, demonstrating, or picketing in a Capitol building. Colton was arrested on Dec. 15, 2023, in Folsom, California, and made his initial appearance in the Eastern District of California.

According to allegations contained in court documents, Colton was identified on closed-circuit video (CCV) footage taken from within the United States Capitol building on Jan. 6, 2021, taking pictures in the Capitol with what appeared to be a mobile telephone. Colton was later identified among a crowd of rioters in the Capitol Rotunda engaged in a physical confrontation with law enforcement officers.

Body-worn camera footage taken from Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers in the Rotunda revealed Colton failing to obey orders given by law enforcement officers to leave the Rotunda. Instead, Colton stood in line as rioters continued confrontations with police officers.

Court documents say that officers then initiated crowd-clearing measures, including forming a police line, giving loud verbal commands, and using batons to move persons toward the exit door. However, Colton only moved when the crowd was physically pushed towards the exit and remained standing side-by-side with other rioters who were combating law enforcement officers. At one point, Colton grabbed a flagpole that a rioter was using to assault an MPD officer. Colton gained control of the flagpole, which the officer had also grabbed, and then gave it back to the rioter, who then fled into the crowd of rioters with the flagpole.

Colton exited the Capitol building at approximately 3:30 p.m.

This case is being prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia and the Department of Justice National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section. Valuable assistance was provided by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California.

This case is being investigated by the FBI's Sacramento and Washington Field Offices. Valuable assistance was provided by the U.S. Capitol Police and the Metropolitan Police Department.

In the 35 months since Jan. 6, 2021, more than 1,230 individuals have been charged in nearly all 50 states for crimes related to the breach of the U.S. Capitol, including more than 440 individuals charged with assaulting or impeding law enforcement, a felony. The investigation remains ongoing.

Anyone with tips can call 1-800-CALL-FBI (800-225-5324) or visit tips.fbi.gov.

A complaint is merely an allegation, and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law. ★

Sac Diocese to Seek Bankruptcy Protection, Facing over 250 Sexual-Abuse Cases

By Matthew Malone, MPG Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento will seek Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection next year, Bishop Jaime Soto announced on Dec. 9, as it faces hundreds of lawsuits alleging child sexual abuse by clergy. The diocese oversees Catholic parishes in much of Northern California, including Sacramento County.

In a letter published online and distributed to parishioners at local churches, Soto said he expects to file for bankruptcy protection in March 2024.

"It is now clear to me that the only respectful, transparent, and fair way to address the substantial number of claims by those who have been abused by clergy and other members of the Church is to seek a court-supervised reorganization. This process will also allow me to sustain the sanctifying, teaching, and charitable work of the Catholic community in Northern California," the letter read.

Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection generally allows an organization to continue operating while negotiating with creditors to restructure its debts. The letter noted as much and said parishes and schools in the diocese "would continue their operations uninterrupted."

Soto said more than 250 lawsuits alleging abuse have been filed against the diocese. Without reorganization, "it is likely that not all the abuse victim-survivors would receive a fair consideration of their claim," he said, with available funds being "depleted" in the first



The Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, the seat of the Diocese of Sacramento, is seen in 2011. Bishop Jaime Soto has announced his intention to seek Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on behalf of the diocese, in response to hundreds of lawsuits claiming clergy sexual abuse. Photo courtesy of Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament - Sacramento, California by TravelingOtter used under CC BY-SA 2.0.

cases brought forward.

"Bankruptcy is a costly and lengthy process, but it also provides supervision and transparency for all the parties involved so that a fair resolution is offered to the victim-survivors of abuse," Soto continued. He expressed hope that the diocese would "emerge from this necessary, penitential exercise with greater resolve to be a humble sanctuary of holiness and healing for all the sons and daughters of God in Northern California."

Law Group Decries Plan

A law firm that represents people alleging clerical abuse, including cases in the Sacramento diocese, criticized the decision.

"On behalf of the many survivors who were gravely hurt, we react with deep disappointment in the choice made by the Bishop of Sacramento to seek bankruptcy protection from accountability," Jeff Anderson and Associates said in a press release. "We know from all the work

we have done with survivors across the country that bishops and dioceses have continuously utilized Chapter 11 to shamefully protect themselves."

The release said other dioceses have used bankruptcy filings to delay court cases and prevent "full disclosure."

"The Diocese might change, but their motivations for filing bankruptcy remain the same - the desire to protect their reputation and their assets, no matter the moral expense," attorney Jeff Anderson said in a statement.

The Sacramento diocese is the fourth in California to seek bankruptcy protection after a wave of sexual-abuse claims under state Assembly Bill 218. The legislation took effect in 2020 and extended the statute of limitations on childhood sexual abuse, allowing much more time for accusers to come forward after reaching adulthood.

The other dioceses filing for Chapter 11 protection are Santa Rosa, San Francisco and Oakland. ★

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