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Gum Ranch Will See New Homes and New Park



Above: The Heritage at Gum Ranch, a new housing community developed by Elliott Homes, is currently under construction on the south end of the Gum Ranch property, northeast of Bella Vista High School. Right: The existing oak grove will be preserved as part of the Gum Ranch Park. Photos provided by Elliott Homes

Story by Shaunna Boyd

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - The Heritage at Gum Ranch, a new housing community developed by Elliott Homes, is currently under construction on the south end of the Gum Ranch property, northeast of Bella Vista High School. The project will add approximately 250 new homes to the area.

Many streets in the development have been paved and some street signs are already in place. The community's main entrance, off Kenneth Ave., will be "Gum Ranch Road." Secondary access will be from Treecrest Ave. to the west and from Madison Ave. to the south.

Ralph Carhart, chairman of the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District (FORPD) Board, said that "the Gum Ranch property has been like the

elephant in the room for decades...Everybody has been curious what would happen there. So there's some relief that we finally know what is going in." Carhart explained that various developments have been proposed for the Gum Ranch property throughout the years, but they were opposed by the neighboring residents. Carhart said that he believes this project has been "pretty well supported because it's consistent with what's been expected as part of the special planning area." Carhart described prior proposals that pushed for the development of high-density housing, such as apartments, but Elliott Homes has "evened out the density," which he believes is very

important to the people who live in adjacent neighborhoods.

As part of their development of The Heritage at Gum Ranch community, Elliott Homes will also be building Gum Ranch Park, which will be dedicated to FORPD upon completion. Carhart said that as the density of housing in Fair Oaks increases it is critical to maintain parks and open spaces. He said, "Acres of native oaks have been saved in the area

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Raising Your Awareness of Human Trafficking

**By ANDREA HANSEN,
SACRAMENTO
COUNTY**

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - During the month of January, advocates, organizations and individuals unite to raise awareness about human trafficking. Human trafficking is an issue that touches every community, including Sacramento County youth.

Since September 2015, Sacramento County Child Protective Services has identified 199 adolescents who were sexually exploited or at risk of being sexually exploited. 98 percent of those youth are female with the median age of 13-17, and a disproportionately high number of these youth - 45 percent are African American.

Child Protective Services (CPS) is the lead agency charged with providing services and support, including placement, for these vulnerable youth. CPS has a significant need for Foster Families, now called Resource Families, to provide loving and stable homes for all children and youth that enter foster care. There is a specific need for youth that have been sexually exploited. Learn more about becoming a Resource Family and/or adoptive parent by attending a Resource Family/Adoptive Parent Orientation or call 916-875-5543.

In 2015, the District Attorney's Office created Sacramento Together - a Human Trafficking Task Force coalition. Sacramento Together wants to raise awareness about this issue and encourage all members of the public to attend a showing of the documentary entitled, "California's Forgotten Children." This film gives viewers the tools to combat this epidemic.

The Sacramento County District Attorney's Office is also part of a number of collaborative efforts to rescue and assist victims including; Sacramento Together Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition.

"California's Forgotten Children" is a feature documentary about child sex trafficking.

LOCAL SHOWING: CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) and University of the Pacific George School of Law on January 31 at 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. The address is 3200 5th Ave, Sacramento, CA 95817, Classroom C. There are 150 seats available, first come first served. There is free street parking. ★

Meet FORPD Board's Newest Member: Raymond James Irwin

Story by Shaunna Boyd

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Rayond James Irwin is the newly elected member of the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District (FORPD) Board. At 27 years old, Irwin is one of the youngest people to be elected to the Board.

Irwin's term on the Board will not be his first time in public service; he was appointed to the Fair Oaks Community Planning Advisory Council (CPAC) in 2016 by the Board of Supervisors. The CPAC is a planning commission that approves local projects, and Irwin believes his time on CPAC will help inform his decisions on the FORPD Board "because I have super local experience in government specifically for Fair Oaks and have seen

projects that have come up that positively or negatively impact our community."

Irwin was "born and raised in Fair Oaks" and described why he chose to run for election to the Board: "I've seen the community grow, develop, and change. I've used the parks many times in my life. I thought it was time to have a millennial voice on the board, to offer another voice that hadn't been there before."

Four people were running for two open seats on the board, but Irwin assumed that incumbent Ralph Carhart would be re-elected, so he viewed it as three people running for one seat: "It was something...I'm grateful to have been elected, especially considering I didn't put out any signage or raise any money for the



Raymond James Irwin, the newest board member of the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District, at Fair Oak's annual Chicken Festival in Village Park. Photo provided by Raymond James Irwin.

campaign. I just talked to people and put my information into the voters' guide. I was just a presence in the community."

Irwin said he is "excited, thrilled that Measure J passed." He is looking forward to the good that his

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Limit One Coupon Per Family
Price Valid Only With Coupon Effective 1/23/19 - 1/29/19

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New Homes and New Park for Fair Oaks



The future park land is studded with beautiful native oak trees that will be preserved as a nature area. Photo by Ralph Carhart.

Continued from page 1
adjacent to Arcade Creek where the late Claudia and Irving Gum formerly sold pumpkins and provided hay rides through the pumpkin patches. The protected oak woodland will be incorporated in the new park as nature walk areas.”
Carhart expressed gratitude that the natural beauty of the property will be preserved, stating how important the property was to the late Irving Gum: “That land was his love.”
Carhart explained that Elliott Homes is developing the park but it will be maintained by the FORPD, funded through district assessments paid by the property owners of the Gum Ranch community. The collected funds are required to be spent maintaining the Gum Ranch Park and cannot be spent

elsewhere in the District. While Elliott Homes is paying all the costs associated with development, the FORPD has been involved in the park design and worked with the landscape architects. Carhart said, “It will provide a nice transition from Kenneth Ave., with paths off Kenneth into the nature area that will be preserved with the oaks, and then into the developed park.”
Price Walker, vice president of project development for Elliott Homes, said that the model homes are currently under construction, but work on the park has not yet started. “We plan to start work on the park later this year,” said Walker. “The park will be a great amenity...It will be about four acres in total.” Walker said that native grasses and “the existing oak grove will

be preserved,” and Elliott Homes plans to create walkways for easy access through the extensive nature area.
The FORPD has approved the design of the park, and Walker said, “Per our park development agreement with the District we are required to complete the park by April 1, 2020. So we should be under construction this summer.”
The park will have numerous amenities, including an open-turf play area, a tot lot designed with rubber safety material, a spin merry-go-round, a water play area, a wooden climbing structure, an outdoor fitness complex, picnic pavilions with tables and BBQs, and various paths and benches. The park will also have security lighting for increased safety. ★



By County Supervisor Susan Peters

Through the generosity of *The American River Messenger* this column serves to provide an update about matters affecting the unincorporated community of Fair Oaks.

January Community Coffee Meeting

On Wednesday, January 30, I will be holding my first Community Coffee Meeting for 2019 and the guest speaker will be Captain Santos Ramos, the commander of the Sheriff’s North Division. Among the unincorporated communities served by his division are Arden Arcade, Carmichael, Fair Oaks, Foothill Farms and North Highlands.

The meeting will be held in the Fair Oaks

FAIR OAKS COMMUNITY UPDATE

Water District Conference Room in Old Fair Oaks Village (10326 Fair Oaks Blvd) at 7:30 am. As usual, I’ll provide a brief update on County issues and then we’ll have our guest speaker followed by Questions and Answers.

Besides being responsible for the area’s patrol activities, Captain Ramos has the Problem Oriented Policing (POP) and the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) Units under his command. It should be an interesting discussion.

And coffee, of course, will be provided.

The Grand Jury Needs You

Grand Jury service is often referred to as being a “citizen watchdog” of local government with the crucial role of monitoring and reviewing government actions.

The Sacramento County Superior Court is now accepting applications for Grand Jury service for the 2019-20 Term. To be eligible you must be a U.S. Citizen, at least 18 years old, a resident of Sacramento County, and not currently serving in any elected office.

For more information,

call the Office of the Civil Grand Jury at 916-874-7578, or go online to sacgrandjury.org where you can also download an application.

The application deadline is January 25, 2019.

Check Before You Burn

In effect now through February, wood burning is restricted in the unincorporated area as well as in the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento in accordance with air quality regulations. The restrictions are applicable to fireplaces, wood stoves, fire pits or chimneys. Implementation of these restrictions has helped reduce pollution and allowed our area to stay in compliance with federal air quality standards. Before you burn, please check the daily status by calling 1-877-No Burn-5 or go online to airquality.org.

Susan Peters represents the Third District on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. She can be reached at susanpeters@saccounty.net. ★



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Our next monthly meeting
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at
North Highlands Park and Recreation
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Meeting starts at 1030 hrs and we have a speaker **Vivian Gonzales**.
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A Vital Emergency Bridge Program for Foster Children

By Andrea Hansen,
Sacramento County
Media

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Counties throughout California are working to recruit loving families to care for foster children, but some families may feel they cannot afford to bring a foster child into their home due to budget constraints. To increase the number of foster parents and meet the needs of foster children, the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children was established for counties to help caregivers pay for child care until they find other subsidized child care or are able to pay for child care themselves.

Introduced in January 2018, the Bridge Program aims to increase the number of stable, sustainable family placements for children in foster care. The program provides eligible caregivers vouchers to pay for child care. These vouchers help ensure that caregivers have adequate support to balance work and home lives and increase the likelihood of a smooth transition.

In 2018-19, 46 counties opted in to receive a portion of the \$31 million allocated to provide Bridge Program services. As of November 30, the program in Sacramento County had served 72 foster children in nearly 60 foster families.

On December 11, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors approved a nearly \$500,000 increase of the Bridge Program contract funding to expand child care support services. The \$1.3 million budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19 will be used to contract with Child Action, Inc., the local child care



Counties throughout California are working to recruit loving families to care for foster children.

resource and referral agency, for Child Care Vouchers, Navigator Services and Trauma-Informed Care Training/Coaching.

“With more parents working outside the home, the ability to recruit and retain foster parents is becoming more challenging,” said Michelle Callejas, Sacramento County Director of Child, Family and Adult Services. “The Bridge Program is vital to help the Department of Child, Family and Adult Services place more local foster children in homes where they will receive high-quality care. The amendment of the contract will allow our department to support even more families who open their homes and hearts to foster children.”

The Bridge Program is comprised of three major components. This includes emergency child care vouchers that are issued to eligible families to cover child care costs for children ages 0-12 for 6 to 12 months; support from a child care navigator who will work with families to find a child care provider, assist with completion of child care applications, and develop a plan for long-term child care; as well as trauma-informed care training so child care providers

can learn strategies for working with children in foster care, many of whom have experienced trauma.

There are many types of families in the foster care system who are eligible for the Bridge Program: Resource families that have completed the Resource Family Approval (RFA) process; Foster Family Agency-approved or County-approved homes; families who care for foster children in an emergency placement; an approved relative or a non-related extended family member; parenting youth and non-minor dependents; or those who have children placed with them for a compelling reason.

For additional information on the Bridge Program, contact Bridge Program Contract Monitor, Gloria Bedford.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a resource family or adoptive parent for local foster children, attend the next Resource Family/Adoptive Parent Orientation, or call 916-875-5543, and visit the Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services Resource Family web page. ★

bizfile California Filing Tool Continues to Expand

Secretary of State Encourages California Entrepreneurs

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Secretary of State’s online business entity document filing and search hub — bizfile California — serves as an important tool for California entrepreneurs. In the past year, bizfile was expanded to allow Californians to file trademarks and servicemarks and form Limited Liability Companies (LLCs) online. Now, Californians can use an online form to terminate their LLC. Click here for the new LLC Termination tool.

“Bizfile California is making it easier to do business in our state,” Secretary of State Alex Padilla said. “Expanding bizfile California helps entrepreneurs avoid the lengthier review turnaround time associated with paper filings. As we increase our online business tool offerings, we’re also decreasing

the rejection rate for common business filings. As California business owners and entrepreneurs are preparing for end of year filings, they can avoid the lines at the office by going online and utilizing bizfile California.”

Tools available through bizfile California:

- LLC Statement of Information Online Submission Tool. Since the initial bizfile launch in June 2017, 606,285 online LLC Statements of Information filings have been processed.
- California Business Search Tool. Over 13.6 million Corporation, LLC, and LP records are available for free download.
- How to Start a Business in California brochure and

- check list.
 - Online Trademark Submission Tool. There have been over 4,626 submissions since tool was launched January 2018.
 - LLC Formation Online Submission Tool. Launched in May 2018, the documents required to form an LLC can now be filed online. Since launch, we have processed 54,693 LLC Formation online submissions
 - Eureka Chatbot. Our new artificial intelligence search assistant—launched May 2018—helps customers easily navigate business resources on the Secretary of State’s website. Eureka has already answered over 29,778 questions.
- Source: SOS Press Office ★

Influenza is Increasing throughout California

By Corey Egel, CDPH

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) today announced that influenza activity is increasing throughout California. Health officials encourage Californians to get vaccinated.

“It is important to get vaccinated now if you have not done so already,” said CDPH Director and State Public Health Officer Dr. Karen Smith. “I encourage everyone six months of age and older to be vaccinated to help protect themselves and others from the dangers of flu.”

Flu activity is occurring throughout every region of the state and above expected levels for this time of year.

Although the severity of the flu season cannot yet be determined, Californians should take precautions, including vaccination.

“Flu activity usually reaches its peak January and February, but typically continues to spread through the spring,” said Dr. Smith.

Each year, the flu causes millions of illnesses, hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations and thousands or sometimes tens of thousands of deaths in the United States.


Common symptoms of the flu include fever or feeling feverish, a cough and/or sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, chills, fatigue and body aches. Children may also have nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

To stop the spread of flu and other respiratory illnesses, CDPH recommends these steps: Stay home when sick; Cover a cough or sneeze with an elbow or tissue and throw the tissue in the trash; Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer; Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

Californians should contact their health care provider, pharmacy or a clinic about obtaining the flu vaccine. Some local health departments may also offer low- or no-cost flu shots. For more information about the flu, including weekly updates on flu activity, visit the CDPH influenza web page.

Source: www.cdph.ca.gov ★

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Game Plots

Approaching "Fun" in the Digital West

By Noah Howard

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Red Dead Redemption 2 has been universally considered the best game of the year, if not one of the best of all time. Its sweeping vision of the Old West in 1899 is as visually impressive as it is rich with stories, wrapping the player in a Spaghetti Western straight from the mind of Sergio Leone. It is undoubtedly one of the most ambitious and fully realized games ever created, and despite its near perfection, it isn't very much fun.

I've been playing through *Red Dead Redemption 2* at the same time as another big-budget rural-America open-world: Ubisoft's *Far Cry 5*, released earlier this year. While the former is a complete artistic vision, *Far Cry 5* is an utter mess, sometimes deathly serious, sometimes ridiculously goofy (my two in-game companions are a grim hunter who speaks of how the villains gruesomely murder innocents and a diabetic grizzly bear named "Cheeseburger"), and always cowardly stepping back from any sort of commentary or message. Nevertheless, *Far Cry 5*, though inferior as a piece of art, is unarguably the better "game," delivering thrill after thrill, fun moment after fun moment, and, despite its juvenile nature, consistently treating the player like an adult capable of creativity and improvisation.

Red Dead Redemption

2 does none of the above.

It has been so lovingly crafted that the developers are clearly paranoid about ensuring that the player experiences it the “right” way. Story missions keep tight control over the player. Small instructions on the bottom of the screen micromanage every move; while *Far Cry 5* might tell you to “Get to X” and allow you to do so by any means possible, *Red Dead Redemption 2* will individually tell you to “Get on your horse,” “Ride with Y to X,” “Get off your horse,” “Hitch your horse,” and “Enter the building.” Attempts at improvisation or creativity are most often met with instant mission failure.

Even while randomly exploring the open world, the two games take vastly different approaches. While *Far Cry 5* has only a few simple repeating scenarios that can be approached in dozens of ways, *Red Dead Redemption 2* uses its vast landscapes like a canvas on which to tell numerous structured short stories, all well-written, but all of which are experienced in the exact same way for every player.

These differences aren't a criticism of *Red Dead Redemption 2*; the idea that a game must be "fun" is one of the primary restrictions that has held back the medium of video games from developing artistically. The two games, released only a year apart, are simply a case study in



Bethesda and Electronic Arts/DICE have underestimated how quality-discerning their fanbase is, and even if *Battlefield V* and *Fallout 76* earned enough from pre-release orders to cover their costs the stain on both companies' reputations could prevent that from happening again down the road.

how attitudes towards games have evolved and changed. *Far Cry 5* couldn't care less about immersion or realism, shooting only towards a simple, stupid, repetitive, but incredibly entertaining and player-driven, concept of fun. *Red Dead Redemption 2* does precisely the opposite, telling poignant, beautifully realized stories, but stories where the player feels almost like an unwanted chaotic variable in this otherwise perfect world. It seems to ask the player to simply be the projectionist on its set-in-stone film reel.

“Fun” was considered such an integral concept to video games because, as the only truly interactive medium, games are uniquely equipped to create it, even if they sacrifice artistic quality in the process. The fact that *Red Dead Redemption 2* and *Far Cry 5* were released so close together shows that the market still has room for both types of experiences, but also that both should take lessons from the other. *To respond to noah’s articles, email him at digitalarts-noah@yahoo.Com* ★

PG & E Bankruptcy

Political Leaders Respond to PG&E's Intentions to File Bankruptcy

Governor Newsom

California Governor Gavin Newsom issued the following statement after the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) announced its intention to file for bankruptcy:

"PG&E provides gas and electric service to 16 million Californians. From the moment I was elected, I have been closely monitoring the impact of PG&E's existing and potential future liability for the deadly wildfires on the victims of the fires and the consumers who rely on PG&E for their electric and gas service.

"When I took office one week ago today, I immediately instructed my team to meet with the California Public Utilities Commission, CAISO, PG&E, and labor unions representing the workers who work for PG&E. My staff and I have been in constant contact throughout the week and over the weekend with these stakeholders and regulators. Everyone's immediate focus is, rightfully, on ensuring Californians have continuous, reliable and safe electric and gas service.

“While PG&E announced its intent to file bankruptcy today, the company

should continue to honor promises made to energy suppliers and to our community. Throughout the months ahead, I will be working with the Legislature and all stakeholders on a solution that ensures consumers have access to safe, affordable and reliable service, fire victims are treated fairly, and California can continue to make progress toward our climate goals.”

Assemblyman Gallagher

Assemblyman James Gallagher (R-Yuba City) issued the following statement after the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) announced its intention to file for bankruptcy:

“PG&E should not be allowed to come out of bankruptcy in the same form. Strong consideration must be given to substantially reform or break up this quasi-government monopoly.

“Furthermore, California cannot allow PG&E to declare bankruptcy and then make fire victims stand in line at bankruptcy court. If PG&E is determined to be liable for these recent disasters, fire victims and ratepayers must be the priority. No Wall Street creditors should get paid until fire

victims have been properly compensated."

Assemblyman James Gallagher represents the 3rd Assembly District, which encompasses all of Glenn, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba counties as well as portions of Butte and Colusa counties.

Senator Jim Nielsen

Senator Jim Nielsen (R-Tehama), who represents the Town of Paradise and the surrounding communities devastated by Camp Fire, issued the following statement:

“The horrific Camp Fire has had a devastating impact on thousands of lives, and survivors are earnestly putting their lives back together. They are my first, and only, concern.

“As PG&E prepares its intent to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on or by January 29, I will closely monitor the proceedings and work with the Governor and the Legislature to ensure that fire victims are prioritized and residents continue to receive reliable energy.”

Senator Nielsen represents the Fourth Senate District, which includes the counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba. ★



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Solutions on Page 7						



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By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

Have you ever thought about it? In the first book of the Bible the words tell us that every one of us is created in the likeness or image of God. (Ref. Gen. 1:26) And doesn't that also fall true when a little baby is born to one of us humans? Our bodies then become the "Temple of the Holy Spirit". So if those words are true, aren't we also pleased when our children resemble our likeness? Meditate on those words a while and you might ask yourself questions as to why we ever do things that dishonor our bodies! Why do we say or do unkind things to it and dishonor how God designed us? Why does God even allow us to even do those things and dishonor and destroy His creation?

In our world today we observe that many people do not even know who

God Created "You" in His Image

God IS, nor do they even acknowledge God as the Creator of all that exists. The very presence of a Christian who exemplifies the Light and Love of God to them presents a sense of "conviction" that they do not understand when they experience it! Instead those people ridicule, accuse and sometimes even persecute them, never realizing a Christian's desire is to exemplify and introduce them to the love of Jesus Christ.

Every Christian's journey is to know and love God is on the same path of Salvation because of Jesus shed blood and death on the Cross. Yet due to each personality and ability to surrender yield to His Will for life, we all travel that road a bit similar but at a different speed. For some they grow quickly and for others it takes a lifetime. We do not judge each other because of it, we are filled with joy at every level of progress.

Are you a person with curiosity about this question? Have you been guilty of eating too much or the wrong things and you have gained weight? Or maybe you have been drinking the wrong things or take drugs that give you a false sense of being? Dear one - they are destroying you! Maybe

you have been covering your body with tattoos trying to cover-up or don't like how God made you. Dear one, God loves you and He wants you to know it and that is why you are reading this article. God is speaking to your heart right now and He wants you to find a group of people who will love you and help you to know and love Him because He desires a personal relationship with you.

You were born for a purpose! Believe me dear one. It took me 34 years to experience knowing and understanding God's love. For some it even takes longer. As the saying goes "STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES". Seek to find God and follow His teachings as written in the HOLY BIBLE. There are promises from God that will change, transform, heal and transform your life when you follow them. Possibly begin with the words of the Ten Commandments and surrender and go on from there.

Write me and share with me, I will be glad to help and encourage you in your personal journey.

Marlys Johnsen Norris
Author, Stephens Minister,
Teacher
Marlys@nj@gmail.com
PO Box 114, Orangevale, Ca ★



By Pastor Ray Dare

Usually we think that God only uses really gifted, multi-talented people. But that's not true! God uses ordinary people. God uses imperfect people. You don't have to be perfect to help other people. If that were true, nobody would get helped! You just must be headed in the right direction. If you are just one step ahead of somebody else, guess what? You're a leader! You can help that person take their next step.

If you're in recovery for one reason or another (and the truth is we all need recovery in some way), the proof of your recovery is when you begin to focus outside yourself. You're no longer self-absorbed with "my problems, my hurts, my needs," and your focus begins to shift, "How can I help other people?" The Bible says, "God comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are

Pastor Ray's Encouraging Words

Share Hope with Others

troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. So, when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your benefit...we can be an encouragement to you." 2 Cor. 1:1,4 (NLT)

Your greatest contribution to the world will not be through your strengths. It will be through your pain, through your problems, the difficulties that you've gone through. People are helped when you're honest, when you're authentic about your weaknesses, problems and pain. When people see your strengths they think, "Well that's great for him! That's great for her! But I'll never be that! I could never do that!" But when you share about your weaknesses, when you say, "I went through this pain...I went through this difficulty...I had this problem...but this is how God brought me through it. This is how God helped me." People can relate to that, and they begin to think, "Maybe God can help me too? Maybe God can see me through my situation too?"

Don't waste your pain. Begin to give hope to others. Everybody needs hope, because everybody is hurting in some way. People need hope to cope. That's why God wants you to share your story. Share how God has helped you. You don't have to be a Bible genius to share your story. You don't have to have all the answers. You simply say, "This is how God is changing me...this is what God is doing in my life."

I want to encourage you to begin sharing your hope with other people, your story. People could care less about your religion. They don't want to hear about religion. What people are starving for is hope. Share your story how God has given you hope, it's that simple. As you begin to share with others you will begin to see hope rise on the inside others and God will begin helping them the same way He's helped you.

Pastor Ray
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Senator Ted Gaines Sworn in as First District Board of Equalization Member

By Dave Titus

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Senator Ted Gaines (R-El Dorado) was sworn in as an elected Member of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE) during a ceremony held at the Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building in Downtown Sacramento. The oath of office was administered by Governor Gavin Newsom.

"I am excited to continue serving Californians as a taxpayer advocate," said Senator Gaines. "My new role as a BOE Member comes with different challenges and opportunities, but my number one priority is to ensure hardworking Californians are allowed fair tax policies that create jobs and grow our economy."

Senator Gaines will represent more than nine million California residents living in the 1st Equalization District, which spans inland California from



Senator Ted Gaines (R-El Dorado)

San Bernardino County to the Oregon border. The five-member BOE is a publicly elected tax board responsible for administering Property Tax, Alcoholic Beverage Tax, and Tax on Insurers programs.

"Californians should be treated with respect and fairness when it comes to tax administration. They are tired of being over-taxed, and over-regulated. I pledge to fight on their behalf," said Senator Gaines.

Prior to being elected to the BOE, Senator Gaines served 12 years in the State Legislature as a tireless advocate for California's taxpayers, ratepayers, businesses and families. He fought to protect citizen privacy and led major efforts to bring thousands of new jobs to the state, as well as support critical legislation to strengthen and expand California's infrastructure.

In addition to his life in public service, Senator Gaines is a successful small business owner, having owned Gaines Insurance for more than 30 years. He has been married to his wife Beth since 1986 and together they reside in El Dorado County and are blessed with six children and two grandchildren.

As a constitutional officer, Senator Gaines is currently the highest-ranking elected Republican state official in California.

Source: Office of Ted Gaines ★

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5	4	2	1	8	9	7	3	6
3	8	9	4	6	7	5	2	1
1	6	7	3	5	2	9	4	8
4	2	6	7	1	3	8	5	9
7	9	5	6	2	8	3	1	4
8	3	1	5	9	4	6	7	2

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Sacramento County DA Reports



Defendant Sentenced for Multiple Child Sexual Assaults

DATE: January 11, 2019
CASE: Johnathan Nesmon
(Case #18FE008225)

PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney
Bruce Chang, Cyber Crimes Unit

The Honorable Michael Sweet sentenced Johnathan Nesmon to 25 years to life in prison. On October 18, 2018, Nesmon pled no contest to committing a sex act with a child under the age of 10 and lewd and lascivious touching of a child under the age of 14.

On April 10, 2018, a citizen called the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department to report that she saw images of Nesmon sexually abusing a 7-year-old girl on Nesmon's cell phone. When the Sheriff's Department contacted the victim, she reported that Nesmon had been sexually assaulting her for several years. Nesmon assaulted the victim in a number of locations, including a toy store parking lot, a store dressing room and a motel. The Sacramento County Sheriff's High-Tech Crimes and Child Abuse Unit recovered thousands of child pornography digital images on Nesmon's devices.

Defendant Convicted of Sexual Assaults, Kidnapping

DATE: January 9, 2019
CASE: Raphael Garcia
(Case #15F06936)

PROSECUTOR: Deputy District
Attorney Paris Coleman, Adult Sexual
Assault Prosecution Unit

Raphael Garcia was convicted by a jury of kidnapping with intent to commit rape, two counts of sexual penetration, attempted rape, and lewd acts with a minor.

On October 26, 2015, Garcia dragged a female Cosumnes River College student into a men's bathroom on campus and sexually assaulted her. The next day, Garcia touched and sexually propositioned a 15-year-old high school student near the same campus.

Los Rios police and Sacramento police detectives connected Garcia to these crimes through DNA evidence and a photograph taken by the quick-thinking 15-year-old victim, who took a photo of Garcia with her cell phone.

Garcia faces a maximum sentence of 27 years to life in prison. Sentencing is set for February 4, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. in

Department 9 before the Honorable Sharon Lueras.

Defendants Plead Guilty in Three Separate Animal Cruelty Cases

DATE: January 8, 2019
CASE: Dezhi Zheng
(Case #18FE012951),
Tyler Blankenship
(Case #18FE022659),
Elias Rocco
(Case #18FE018041)

PROSECUTOR: Supervising Deputy
District Attorney Hilary Bagley-Franzoia,
Animal Cruelty Unit

Three defendants pled guilty in separate animal cruelty cases:

Forty-three-year-old Dezhi Zheng pled to felony animal neglect after three dogs were seized in November 2017 from the backyard of a house Zheng and others used as a marijuana grow in south Sacramento. One dog was allowed to suffer a deep laceration to its neck from an embedded wire, which was used as a collar. Surgery at the Bradshaw Sacramento County Animal Shelter was required to remove necrotic tissue. Zheng was the primary 'caretaker' for the dogs.

Twenty-three-year-old Tyler Blankenship pled to felony animal cruelty from his malicious treatment of a kitten. On November 12, 2018, Blankenship became irate when he learned that his girlfriend could not keep a 6 to 8-month-old kitten that he had gifted to her. Blankenship grabbed the kitten from his girlfriend and threw the animal as hard as possible into a fence. The kitten died immediately from multiple skull fractures.

Twenty-two-year-old Elias Rocco pled to felony animal neglect stemming from his abandonment of a dog and cat in an apartment from which he had been evicted. The adult dog had been left in its own filth within a small crate. When found in June 2018, neither animal had food or water and both animals were in very poor condition.

All three defendants will be placed on 5 years formal probation and will be prohibited from owning, possessing, residing with, maintaining or caring for any animal for 10 years. Blankenship will also be ordered to complete 12 anger management classes.

Sentencings and periods of incarceration for Zheng and Blankenship are pending in Department 62 before the Honorable Patrick Marlette. ★



POPPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

Can you be you?

Little girls are raised to be accommodating, understanding, and nurturing. Little boys are raised to be confident, commanding, and successful. But have these antiquated toxic ways of thinking ruined our identities as individuals?

Cheryl Lacey Donovan says yes. Why? Because she believes all of us should live authentically in purpose on purpose. So how do we change our attitudes and head to that authentic self, regardless of what society demands? **Cheryl** tackled these issues in "Can I Be Me?" She pointed out ten ways to discover who you are and who you want to be to achieve your authenticity when she visited me on my POPPOFF Radio Show on FM-104.5 and AM-950 KAHl. Try these on for size.

1) BE MORE POSITIVE. A negative outlook brings out the worst in all of us. Be uplifting and allow your Personality to shine. **2) EXAMINE YOUR FRIENDSHIPS.** Where

do you find your friends? Are most of your friendships long term or short? When your friendships end, what is the common cause? What types of people do you prefer to be friends with? What types of people do you avoid? **3) KEEP A JOURNAL.** There's no better way to learn about yourself than to record your thoughts, feelings and experiences each day. Studies have shown we do not remember our past very accurately, so record it while it's still fresh in your mind. Be sure to include your high and low points for the day. **4) WRITE YOUR OWN PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENT.** Think about and then document your views on life, your goals, and your intentions. It's a great step for understanding yourself and your beliefs. **5) BE YOURSELF.** Just like your mom said. Pretending to be someone you're not is dishonest. It's also hard on your self-esteem. Embrace the parts of you that are unique and share them with others. Some people will like you while others do not. That's true regardless of your personality. **6) IDENTIFY YOUR PRIORITIES IN LIFE.** Be intentional each day

about doing something that honors those priorities. **7) BE MINDFUL OF YOUR THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS.** Ask yourself, "What is going on in my head right now?" Is it positive or negative and why? **8) LEARN TO LOVE YOURSELF.** Instead of beating yourself up over every mistake, learn to accept your faults. **9) PRACTICE FORGIVENESS OF YOURSELF AND OTHERS.** Not always easy to do, but necessary. **10) LEARN TO LET GO OF MISTAKES ONCE YOU HAVE LEARNED THE LESSON.** It's important not to hang on to negative ideas and experiences.

That should get you started. Add that you should love yourself emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. And, **Cheryl** told me it is important to stop comparing ourselves to others and free yourself from seeking approval. There's lots more too. Check out more of the tenants that will put you to the path to being YOU! www.Cherylspeaks.org will help you get there. Don't forget...living authentically in purpose on purpose will SET YOU FREE. ★



Dave Ramsey Says

not what the typical financial planner tells you to do. For the most part, they'll tell you to get super conservative with your money as you get older. But from what you've said, she's not going to use this money. She's going to use the income from this money. So, the money's going to be left alone. If she's in good mutual funds, and not single stocks, I'm not worried about her.

Let's pay off the mortgage, and then she can start taking her income off the remainder. With the house payment out of the way, she won't need as much in terms of income, because she won't be sending money to the bank to pay the note on the house anymore. I'm comfortable with that. I'm 58, and I'm 100 percent into stocks through mutual funds. I don't have anything else, and I really don't ever plan on changing that! —Dave

Changing jobs and retirement savings

Dear Dave,
What happens to my Roth 401(k) when I change jobs and go to a company that doesn't offer this type of investment savings account? How should you proceed in

this situation?
—Jamie

Dear Jamie,
I know what you mean, man. We're in the media business, too, and around my office it seems like we buy more and newer technology every day. Really, it's like a black hole. You could throw money into it the rest of your life, because practically the very moment you open the box it's obsolete.

We finally decided to designate a percentage of our revenues to equipment replacement. Something is always being replaced, but this way we've got a limit and we've got something set aside to make our technology needs happen. It's like the envelope system. If the envelope's empty, we have to stop buying and put off whatever it is until the cash is available again.

I hope this helps!
—Dave

Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 13 million listeners each week on 585 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey. ★

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TV GUIDE MAGAZINE

CHEERS & JEERS

by Damian Holbrook

Jeers to a 90210 Reboot
that is just the (peach) pits. Instead of reviving the classic Fox soap, the proposed update currently being considered is a mockumentary featuring most of original cast playing fictionalized versions of themselves trying to get a reboot started. It's like Donna Martin's graduation doesn't even matter anymore!

Jeers to ignoring one of the faces of Eve.

Yes, BBC America's Killing Eve scored Emmy, Golden Globe and SAG nominations for the awesome Sandra Oh, but she wasn't the only powerhouse putting in 100 percent. Jodie Comer (pictured) totally deserves

accolades for her turn as assassin Villanelle, and it kills us that she was overlooked.

Cheers to The Arrowverse

for putting the comic into comic-book TV. The CW's epic "Elseworlds" crossover event saw Supergirl, Arrow and The Flash take on a body-swapping bad-die with the heroic help of a Batwoman (Ruby Rose) worthy of her own show, an out-of-this-world Superman (Tyler Hoechlin) and more humor than ever. Who knew Oliver Queen (Stephen Amell) was so funny?

Cheers to Megan Mullally

for hosting the SAG Awards. She's fierce, funny and so far hasn't



A mockumentary featuring most of original cast playing fictionalized versions of themselves trying to get a reboot started.

tweeted anything offensive enough to get her booted. Finally, a reason to watch two hours of famous people telling other famous people how great they are ★

ASK MATT

BY MATT ROUSH TV Guide Senior Critic

Are Netflix Shows Too Short?

Question: Is *The Passage* worth watching? I could see it done well on HBO or Netflix, who are good at turning books into good TV, but Fox? —Warren

Matt Roush: I can only report on the first three episodes, and they're solid. I've read the first two books in Justin Cronin's epic horror trilogy, so I have an idea of the incredible scope of the story,

which spans many years. My understanding from last summer's Television Critics Association session is that the first season will deal primarily with the sinister doings in the labs of Project NOAH, which bring about the vampire apocalypse. And what I've seen so far has stayed tightly focused on NOAH's search for young Amy (Saniyya Sidney) and her protector, Agent Brad Wolgast (Mark-Paul Gosselaar), with subplots

involving various NOAH scientists and test subjects. I understand there's skepticism when it comes to network TV's commitment to stories this big—there's a reason *Game of Thrones* ended up on HBO—and if Fox drops the ball before *The Passage* goes to the next level, it would seem a very hot prospect for a streaming service. But for now, I'll give Fox the benefit of the doubt. Network TV ought to be tackling more ambitious projects, and we should encourage them instead of letting all the best stuff go to cable and Netflix

To submit questions to TV Critic Matt Roush, go to: tvinsider.com ★

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Meet FORPD Board’s Newest Member: Raymond James Irwin

Continued from page 1

money can do in the community. He said, “Residents saw the need for that... They’ll be paying a little more, but putting so much into the community.” He is eager to see a rec center built, and for the updates to Village Park and Plaza Park. Irwin also wants to see the Fair Oaks Clubhouse—which is currently a 1930s mission-style building atop a steep hill—updated for better ADA compliance.

“I would also like to champion WiFi in the parks, which we could turn off at sunset to ensure it’s being used properly. Parents these days work very hard, and sometimes work very different hours. I don’t want them to miss their kids’ games because they have to work. I want them to be able to bring their laptop to the park so they can do both,” said Irwin.

Although Irwin wants to make sure the parks offer plenty of fun and recreation for families, he said the park district “needs to think of everyone. There are many single people without children living in Fair Oaks, and parks and recreation shouldn’t just be focused on kids and

families. We have a lot of opportunities to create recreation opportunities for everyone.”

Irwin is also a local business owner. In October 2018, he opened Sacramento’s only champagne and bubbles bar—Fizz—which is located just across the walkway from the Golden 1 Center downtown. Irwin said, “It’s a great location. It’s been amazing, truly a blessing. It’s been going better than anticipated.”

“As the owner of a bar, it’s so joyous to see people get together to share a drink and spend time together. I would like to see events in the parks where people can bring food and wine and enjoy an evening out,” said Irwin. “I want the parks to create community through recreation. And offer options that can speak to a younger demographic.”

Irwin is a graduate of Jesuit High School. From there, he entered the conservatory to study opera. Irwin said he loves to sing and has performed in Italy, France, and Canada. And although he enjoyed his time abroad, he wanted to come back home to the Sacramento area.

Using his talents to help the community, Irwin said,

“I have given several concerts in the community where I have raised money for the Alzheimer’s association, WEAVE, Women’s Empowerment, St. Vincent De Paul Society, and Blue Line Arts.”

While getting his degree in opera, Irwin also minored in marketing, which he said enabled him to “speak both languages.” He worked for the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra overseeing the daily operations of their marketing communication. He initiated live tweeting during performances, which led to Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra trending both locally and nationally.

“From opera, to champagne, to politics—it’s been a wild ride. But I’ve just always followed my passions,” said Irwin. “I’m in this position [on the Board] because I want to serve...If the community has ideas or input about what they want to see in the parks, I want to hear from them.” Irwin urges anyone who wants to speak to him about parks and recreation to contact him through the FORPD website: www.forpd.org. ★



By County Supervisor Sue Frost

Through the generosity of the American River Messenger, this column serves to provide an update about matters affecting the unincorporated community of Orangevale.

At the beginning of 2018, Sacramento County launched an ambitious new program that attempted to prioritize getting the 250 homeless people who cost the most amount of money each year in taxpayer dollars, into permanent housing. Some of these homeless people are costing the county upwards of \$150,000 a year, so it made sense to me to focus our efforts on getting them off the streets. Now that it’s been around a year since we launched that program, I wanted to explain to you how the program works, and share with you the exciting news regarding how successful it has been.

As soon as the program was established last year, the Sheriff’s department in coordination with Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services and the Sacramento County Department of Technology established the list of the 250 people costing the most money. These costs primarily come in the form of emergency room visits, jail visits, and utilizing alcohol, drug, and mental health services — all of which can be quite costly. Once the 250 people were

Orangevale Community Update

Tackling the High Cost of Homelessness

chosen, they were assigned to individual case managers, who then had the job of physically locating them in the community. This is no easy task, and can often be one of the largest obstacles to getting them treatment. Once they are found, they are told that they are eligible for fast-tracked housing and services, but convincing them to take part in it can be its own challenge. On average, this is the 7th housing program they have been affiliated with, and their level of trust with the government has often eroded. Many remain skeptical that they aren’t going to just get put on another list where nothing happens.

Once they sign up for the program, the case manager helps to clear any obstacles that may prevent them from getting the assistance they need. They will ensure they have met all their court requirements, are taking the proper medications, have a valid identification card, have a social security card, etc. After all these obstacles are lifted, they are then placed straight into housing that is wrapped in social services on-site.

The housing currently available to them are apartment style units that are located in the Del Paso Heights area and in South Sacramento. We are using apartment style housing for a couple key reasons. First, it allows us to acquire the number of units we need in a much faster and more affordable way. Second, it allows us to save on staffing costs, since our social services staff stays on-site instead of travelling long distances between visits.

Many of my constituents were skeptical when this program was announced because they thought it would be a waste of time. They felt that these 250 homeless people would never accept county services. To be honest with you I had some doubts as well, but remained optimistic that even if we were able to house a small portion of this segment of the homeless population, it would be a successful program.

I am thrilled to be able to report to you that 196 of the 250 have signed up for the program (including the #1 most expensive person), and 109 of them have already been housed! This is an incredible feat, and I am thrilled with the result thus far.

I know it is easy to become frustrated and jaded when trying to tackle the growing problem of homelessness in our community. The problem is so large that it can sometimes feel overwhelming. But if we focus on prudent solutions to this problem that are mindful of protecting taxpayer dollars, we can make some positive strides in the right direction, and this program is evidence of just that.

Thank you for reading – and as always, if you want to contact me call me at 916-874-5491, or e-mail me at SupervisorFrost@sac-county.net.

Sue Frost represents the 4th District, which includes all or part of the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, Rio Linda, Elverta, Gold River, Rancho Murieta, North Highlands, Carmichael, Foothill Farms, and Fair Oaks. ★

River Cats to Host Job Fairs

More than 400 open positions at annual Raley Field job fair



By Daniel Emmons, River Cats

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento River Cats will be hosting their annual job fairs on Saturday, January 26 and on Saturday, February 9 at Raley Field in West Sacramento. Those interested in working for the River Cats during the 2019 season are encouraged to attend these free events. Hiring managers will conduct interviews during each event and

will be prepared to extend job offers on the spot. The River Cats have some 400 part-time and seasonal positions available for the upcoming 2019 baseball season. Some of the available positions include bartenders, concessions, parking attendants, stadium operations, Cat Crew, On Deck Shop sales clerks, and more. A full list of available positions is available at rivercats.com.

All applicants must be at least 16 years of age. For positions that serve alcohol, applicants must be at least 21 years old. The two events are

to be held on the suite level at Raley Field on Saturday, January 26 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. and on Saturday, February 9 from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Interested applicants must submit an on-line application prior to attending the job fair by visiting rivercats.com/employment.

For questions and inquiries, please call (916) 376-4722.

The Sacramento River Cats are the Triple-A affiliate of the three-time World Champion San Francisco Giants. The team plays at Raley Field in West Sacramento, consistently voted one of the top ballparks in America. For more information about the River Cats, visit www.rivercats.com. ★

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