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# AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

*"Written by the people, for the people"*

VOLUME 13 • ISSUE 24 Serving Fair Oaks, Orangevale & Sacramento County DECEMBER 21, 2018

**SOCIETY FOR THE  
BLIND MEMBERS  
TO JOIN NATIONAL  
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## Intervention Saves Lives



Rotary Club Supports Dignity Health's Fight Against Human Trafficking. Stock image

**By Shaunna Boyd**

**FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG)** - Clubs throughout the local Rotary District 5180 are funding an education and public awareness campaign to combat human trafficking in the Sacramento region. As part of District 5180, Rotary Club of Fair Oaks is supporting this important project. In an effort to better understand the scope of the problem, they welcomed Dr. Ron Chambers as a guest speaker to their meeting on December 10.

Dr. Chambers is a family physician who is involved in the District 5180 project to combat human trafficking. Dr. Chambers practices through Dignity Health and is the medical director for Mercy Human Trafficking Clinic, a medical safe haven for victims of human trafficking.

In 2014, Dignity Health launched a program to identify victims of human trafficking when they are treated in

the healthcare system. This program focuses on victim-centered, trauma-informed care. Every staff member of Mercy Human Trafficking Clinic is trained to identify and respond to signs that a patient has been trafficked. All the doctors, nurses, administrators, and janitors undergo this training.

Dr. Chambers explained that most trafficking victims are treated by healthcare professionals during the time of their abuse, but most are not identified. Dr. Chambers shared a story about one of his current patients, an 18-year-old trafficking victim with a 5-year-old daughter. The notes in this patient's chart show that she delivered her daughter in a Dignity Health hospital and that the signs of trafficking were noted but not recognized. She was not identified as a victim at that time. But with the new protocol, "We don't miss these [signs] anymore," said Dr. Chambers.

Dr. Chambers explained that the goal of the Mercy Human Trafficking Clinic is to create protocols that can be implemented in healthcare programs across the country.

Each year in the United States approximately 1.7 million children run away from home, and only 21% are reported missing by their parents or caregivers. "So for the majority of these kids, the people who are supposed to love and care for them don't even bother to report them missing," said Dr. Chambers. They are running away from homes of abuse and neglect, and they end up on the streets. Dr. Chambers explained that the traffickers know where to look for these kids. They give them a place to stay, buy them food and clothes, and make them feel special. Once they've gained the victim's trust, they beat her up, strip her, and then dump her on the side of the road in the cold.

*Continued on page 3*

## Vote Now! The Best of Fair Oaks Coming Soon

**By MPG Staff**

**FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG)** - Time is running out to vote for your favorite businesses in Fair Oaks. Presented by the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce, the event exceeded expectations each year. The business event of the year, "The Best of Fair Oaks" has been a crowd pleaser, with great food, fun and surprising winners of the annual awards.

The rules to become a "Best of Fair Oaks" award winner are simple. A business must be located in the Fair Oaks zip code 95628, or must be a member of the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce to be recognized as "The Best".

Businesses can promote the vote at their stores, through their social media contacts or other means to get people to cast their votes to win. The award winners are voted on by Chamber members, Fair Oaks citizens and readers of the American River Messenger newspaper. All the votes cast are tabulated to verify authenticity.

Get your tickets and enjoy the evening in your favorite cocktail or business attire. Come and enjoy the great food, great fun, and great recognition of the best businesses in the community. To buy tickets contact the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce at 916-967-2903 or go to [www.fairoakschamber.com](http://www.fairoakschamber.com)

This year's event will be held at the North Ridge Country Club in Fair Oaks. The program is scheduled for January 24th, 2019 from 5:30 to 7:30pm, and it is sure to be every bit as exciting. Voting ends December 31st. ★

## Rotary Donates Holiday Food Baskets to Local Families

**Story by Shaunna Boyd**

**FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG)** - On December 20, the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks held their annual holiday food basket donation for local students and their families. Jim Erickson, a member of the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks, explained why he volunteered to lead the food basket project for the second year in a row: "I've been in Rotary for about two years, and my primary focus is things that will benefit the local

community."

The volunteers from Rotary started their day at 7:00 AM, picking up food from Sacramento Food Bank and purchasing some additional food items at local grocery stores. From 8:30 AM until around noon, volunteers assembled the food boxes in empty classrooms at Northridge Elementary School.

Local parents and former school employees often volunteer to join the Rotarians for the assembly. *Continued on page 12*



Rotarians fill a truck with jugs of milk for distribution to local families. Photo provided by Rotary Club of Fair Oaks



# Holiday Magic Lights Up Old Sacramento Waterfront

By Traci Rockefeller Cusack

**OLD SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - This holiday season, DOCO (Downtown Commons) proudly presents the 10th Anniversary “Macy’s Theatre of Lights,” an electrifying and family-friendly holiday tradition. Taking place on K Street between Front and 2nd Streets, the ever-popular (and FREE) performances return to dazzle guests to the Old Sacramento Waterfront for more than 20 magical evenings this year.

Each holiday season, it takes many dedicated partners, sponsors and supporting businesses to make this elaborate and FREE holiday light show happen. The spectacular annual event is proudly presented by DOCO (Downtown Commons), Old Sacramento Waterfront and the Downtown Sacramento Partnership with generous support from the California State Railroad Museum Foundation, City of Sacramento, Embassy Suites, Evangeline’s, Sacramento Kings Kids Club, SacPark, SMUD, Steamers and Tri Counties Bank. Additional support is provided by many actively involved Old Sacramento merchants and small business owners.

With the 60’ tall Christmas tree serving as a visually exciting centerpiece, “Macy’s Theatre of Lights” was conceived and created by Stage Nine Entertainment’s Troy Carlson and is produced by some of California’s finest talents in the field of light and sound: Sacramento Theatrical Lighting (STL),



**Spectacular family-friendly performances will continue through Christmas Eve.** Photo by Charr Crail, courtesy of the Downtown Sacramento Partnership

Associated Sound and Skywalker Sound, and Emmy-nominated voice actor Bill Farmer, the voice of Disney’s Goofy.

The “Macy’s Theatre of Lights” artfully mixes the historic charm of the Old Sacramento Waterfront with state-of-the-art sound and lighting technology to create a memorable holiday experience for visitors of all ages. Old Sacramento Waterfront’s “Macy’s Theatre of Lights” blends a symphony of lights, sounds and visual effects that transport the audience back in time with a reading of the famous poem The Night Before Christmas by Clement Clarke Moore. The narrated reading of the powerful and nostalgic poem is brought to life through theatrical elements and visually-exciting lighting choreography that takes place on the balconies and rooftops of the historic buildings. With updated props and show surprises including “snow” falling on spectators below, the crowd-favorite villain Jack Frost returns this year (always with new tricks up his sleeve) to add dramatic tension and suspense to the show.

Two 20-minute performances are offered on

Thursdays through Sundays at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and also on Tuesday, December 18 and Wednesday, December 19. With only one performance only on Christmas Eve, the final “Macy’s Theatre of Lights” performance for the season takes place on December 24 at 6 p.m.

As a special – and often surprising – treat on many nights, local celebrities and influential community members will entertain the audience in the guest role of “papa” or “mama” wearing a stocking cap and oftentimes decked out in holiday pajamas. Community members are encouraged to make the Old Sacramento Waterfront a must-visit holiday destination to experience the magical “Macy’s Theatre of Lights” performances every season while also supporting the array of locally-owned businesses, shops and eateries available in the historic district.

More information about “Macy’s Theatre of Lights” performances and/or other events and activities happening in historic Sacramento is available by calling 916-970-5226 or visiting [www.oldsacramento.com](http://www.oldsacramento.com).

Source: T-Rock Communications ★

# SMUD Protecting Power Poles from Cars and Trucks

Sharp Rise in “Car-Into-Pole” Accidents Jeopardize Public Safety and Power Reliability

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - SMUD has seen a considerable increase in the number of incidents that involve vehicles crashing into the electric utility’s infrastructure, especially power poles. In an effort to mitigate some of those “car-pole” accidents and promote public and worker safety, SMUD is expanding measures designed to reduce the number of vehicle accidents that involve SMUD equipment, thereby reducing the number of associated power outages. The measures are part of an ongoing five-year pilot program that started in 2017.

SMUD data shows an increasing trend of these incidents annually. In 2006 for example, there were 153 accidents where vehicles crashed into SMUD electrical equipment—mostly into power poles. In 2016, there were almost double that number annually—271. Many reasons are cited like increased traffic volume, and distracted and unsafe driving. The result is increased potential for public and worker safety hazards and more power outages.

SMUD is focusing its mitigation efforts on power poles and electrical equipment that has been crashed into multiple times over the years. The preventive and protective measures include removing and relocating power poles; redesigning them; installing higher-visibility reflective strips; and installing large, highly visible protective barriers around the power poles, known as “Raptor” technology.

The Raptor is probably the most noticeable power protection tool SMUD is using. It is big and yellow and



**SMUD has seen an increase in “car-pole” accidents in recent years, so the electric utility is installing some measures to mitigate damage to power poles and other electrical equipment. The work is part of SMUD’s efforts to enhance public and worker safety and the SMUD grid’s reliability.** Photo courtesy SMUD

plastic, and resembles a large wedge of cheddar cheese wrapped around the bottom of the power pole. Some even liken it to the cartoon character “Sponge Bob.”

The Raptor is easily installed and is designed to absorb the impact of a vehicle crash, sparing the power pole and preventing a power outage for SMUD customers. The Raptor has been used successfully by other utilities and SMUD has seen benefits too following the first year and during the second year of the pilot program. By year’s end, SMUD will have installed three more Raptors to add to the first three that were installed in 2017, making six in all and more are coming.

Safety is a guiding principle for SMUD. Power reliability is also a top priority. SMUD’s Board of Directors, elected by SMUD customers to set policy, has made reliability one of SMUD’s core values. While car-pole accidents comprise about five percent of all types of SMUD outages annually, they account for about a quarter of the overall average duration

of outages for SMUD’s customers. Car-pole accidents also mean lost revenue for SMUD in terms of increased costs for labor and materials to repair and replace damaged electrical infrastructure. A single pole replacement on average costs \$15,000, and in some cases up to \$40,000, for the five-member crew to replace it and other associated expenses for each incident.

Beyond SMUD’s costs, pole replacements can take eight hours or more and cost the community’s businesses lost revenue from power outages and associated traffic jams due to lane closures to make the repairs.

SMUD is doing its part to increase public and worker safety and reduce the frequency and duration of outages due to these traffic accidents. SMUD also urges motorists to do their part by driving safely, obeying traffic laws and avoiding anything that may cause distractions. For more information about SMUD and its commitment to public and worker safety, visit [SMUD.org](http://SMUD.org). ★





# FUTURE FORWARD


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# Intervention Saves Lives

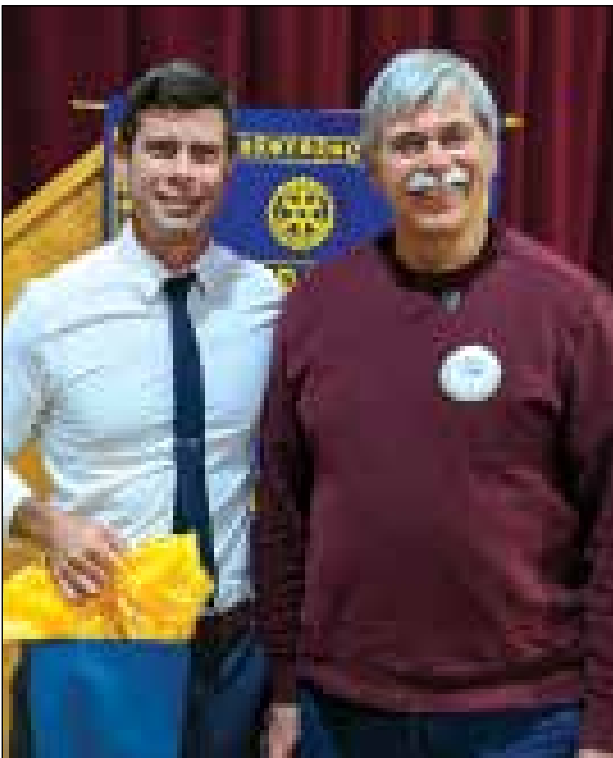
Rotary Club Supports Dignity Health's Fight Against Human Trafficking

Continued from page 1

Hours later, the trafficker comes back for her; he buys her dinner, gets her a new dress, and takes care of her. Medical professionals refer to this ongoing cycle of reward and punishment as trauma bonding. This traumatic process creates powerful emotional bonds that are extremely resistant to change, which is why the majority of victims who are rescued will return to their abuser up to seven times.

Dr. Chambers explained that the abuse is typically committed against young girls during a time of significant brain development, so the process of trauma bonding literally rewires their brains. "That's why when I see a young girl on the streets I don't think 'Oh, she's making bad choices.' I think, 'She was never rescued.'" But intervention and treatment can change everything for these victims. Dr. Chambers said, "Survivors go through horrific trauma, but they can heal... Intervention saves lives."

After Dr. Chambers' speech, he answered questions from the Rotary members. One member recounted an experience when he might have encountered a trafficking victim when he was driving his car one morning. He said he didn't know what to do and regrets that he didn't offer her some assistance. He asked, "What should I have done to help her?"



Rotary Club of Fair Oaks president Bruce Vincent (right) offers guest speaker Dr. Ron Chambers (left) a thank you gift for educating Rotary members about the issue of human trafficking. Photo by Shauanna Boyd

Dr. Chambers said that without education or training to effectively help a trafficking victim, offers of assistance can sometimes put the victim at greater risk from their abuser. "The best way to help is to memorize the phone number for the National Human Trafficking Hotline: 888-373-7888."

One member said that 23 years ago her 5-year-old daughter was almost taken by traffickers. She arrived at the bus stop just as a man and woman were approaching her daughter to try to get her in their car. She said that law enforcement

declined to pursue a case against this couple at that time, and six years later the couple attempted to abduct students from Northridge Elementary. She said they were eventually arrested in Nevada after they were caught with a child in their car. She said she hopes things have changed in law enforcement in the past 20 years, but "it doesn't sound like there has been a coordinated effort."

Another member explained her strong support for the District's project to combat human trafficking, stating, "They didn't choose this. They're real victims."★



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 Carmichael.

### Good Cause Holiday Shopping

Need help looking for some unique gifts this holiday season? Here are few suggestions that may help you with your shopping and assist a good cause at the same time.

The Sacramento Sheriff K-9 Association has an online store featuring a number of specialty items. Proceeds benefit this non-profit organization that supports our four-legged canine deputies. For more information, please visit [ssdk9.com](http://ssdk9.com).

Show your support for the American River Parkway by purchasing a yearlong unlimited

### FAIR OAKS COMMUNITY UPDATE

Parks Passport. This convenient annual parking/day use pass is a great gift for joggers, bicyclists as well as outdoor recreationists who frequent the Parkway. Parks Passes are sold at The American River Parkway Foundation Office in the William B. Pond Recreation Area or online. More information is available at [arpf.org](http://arpf.org).

And the Effie Yeaw Nature Center offers a wide selection of unique and personal gifts for nature-lovers through the center's Discovery Shop. Items include books, cards, games, toys, or jewelry. Visit [sacnaturecenter.net](http://sacnaturecenter.net) for more information.

### Airport Holiday Travel Tips

Traveling via the airlines or picking up family and friends arriving at Sacramento International Airport for the holidays?

Remember you can avoid circling around the terminals to pick up passengers by using the Free Waiting Area – also known as the Cell Phone Lot. Located near the Interstate 5 entrance/exit, this lot has convenient access to both terminals. And once your intended arrival is ready all they have to do is call you on your cell phone and you can proceed to pick them

up at curb side. You also can check on your departing flight status or get current information about flights arriving at Sacramento International by going online. That information is available at [sacramento.aero](http://sacramento.aero).

### 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](http://sacgrandjury.org) where you can also download an application.

The application deadline is January 25, 2019.

Susan Peters represents the Third District on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. She can be reached at [susanpeters@saccounty.net](mailto:susanpeters@saccounty.net). ★

# Fair Oaks Chamber Happenings

By Dot Boyd  
Ambassador Chair  
Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce

If you missed our 35th Christmas in the Village event, you missed a very special day in Fair Oaks! The clouds parted, and it was a glorious day of family fun in Fair Oaks Village. Thousands of spectators lined Fair Oaks Blvd, jockeying for the best view of the spectacular parade followed by caroling and the lighting of the huge tree in Plaza Park! We could not do it without hundreds of volunteers including Chamber members, service organizations, Clean & Sober volunteers, high school students, our sponsors and FO Parks & Rec staff. A special thank you goes to Charles Miller, of William Charles Salon for organizing the parade the past five years since the passing of Kathy Jones.

Brag alert! I've been a member of Fair Oaks Chamber since 2014, and I am very proud of



our contributions to our community, from the free events we host like Christmas in the Village, Fair Oaks Fiesta, to the gala events, honorary mayor events, business events and last but definitely not least, our generous financial contributions and scholarships! I asked our President, Rose Barbray and our Executive Director, Kim Pitillo, for the financial breakdown for 2018. It's impressive! Through our various events and member donations, we gave out \$32,363.39 this year! OV-FO Food Bank - Honorary Mayor \$14,015.53 + \$500 for Thanksgiving meals; Rotary Foundation - Honorary Mayor \$11,627.02 + \$500 for

food baskets for Northridge school; Mercey Springs Foundation - Taste of Fair Oaks \$3,720.84 plus \$1000 raised for Butte County fire relief; 2 -\$500.00 scholarships, 1 each - Miss Fair Oaks and Jr. Honorary Mayor. A record-breaking year for sure!

Time is running out to vote for your favorite Fair Oaks businesses in our 3rd Annual Best of Fair Oaks contest! It's easy to do at [www.bestoffairoaks.com](http://www.bestoffairoaks.com) by 12/31/18. The winners will be revealed at a gala reception at North Ridge Country Club on Thursday, January 24th, 2019! Save the date and come cheer on your favorites!

We invite you to "shop locally" throughout the year and during this holiday season. Please check out our Member Directory at [www.fairoakschamber.com](http://www.fairoakschamber.com). Your support of our member businesses helps us give back to our community year after year. Thank you!!

Happy Holidays! ★

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## Best of Fair Oaks 2018

Go & Vote online! [BestofFairOaks.com](http://BestofFairOaks.com)

**Publisher, Paul V. Scholl**

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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.

## AMERICAN RIVER Messenger

Serving Fair Oaks, Orangevale and Sacramento County since 2006

It is the intent of the American River Messenger to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.

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**MPG**

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.

# You're Invited!

Tickets will sell out fast so don't miss your chance to attend the "Best of Fair Oaks" event. This year's event will be held:

**Where:** North Ridge Country Club, 7600 Madison Ave, Fair Oaks, CA 95628

**When:** Thursday January 24, 2019 • 5:30 to PM-7:30PM

**Cost:** Contact the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce for details. To purchase tickets for this event please call 916-967-2903 or go to [FairOaksChamber.com](http://FairOaksChamber.com).

**VOTE NOW! Contest Rules**

Business must be located in Fair Oaks or be a Chamber of Commerce Member.

All votes must be received no later than December 31, 2018 at 5:00 pm at the office of Messenger Publishing Group.

Only one vote per category per person. All voting entries must have complete information or the votes will not be counted.

Best of Fair Oaks winners will be presented at this year's "Best of Fair Oaks" event.



# Society for the Blind Members to Join National Fitness Challenge



The grant enables Society for the Blind to become one of only 17 organizations nationwide to participate in National Fitness Challenge for people with visual disabilities. Photo courtesy Society for the Blind

***By Kristin Thebaud***

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Society for the Blind, a Sacramento-based nonprofit serving blind and low vision people in Northern California, has received a grant from Anthem Blue Cross and CareMore Foundations to create opportunities for individuals to participate in the National Fitness Challenge, an initiative founded by the United States Association of Blind Athletes and the parent Foundation of Anthem Blue Cross and CareMore. Society for the Blind is one of 17 organizations across the nation that is participating in the National Fitness Challenge and is using grant funding to offer adaptive yoga classes, walking

groups, running clinics and other sports and fitness activities that can help people who are blind or low-vision to maximize healthy lifestyles. These activities will be offered over the course of eight months to help hundreds of youth and adults to increase physical fitness levels and live healthier lives.

“The goal of the National Fitness Challenge is to help people with visual disabilities to live more active lifestyles,” said Shari Roeseler, executive director, Society for the Blind. “The program launched during Blindness Awareness Month in October, and through May 31, 2019, will highlight what people with visual disabilities can do, rather than what they cannot do. We are lucky to live in an

age where a person with vision loss can achieve most anything they set their mind to doing, and we are grateful to Anthem Blue Cross Foundation and CareMore Foundation for helping us to empower this year's participants."

This year's challenge integrates technology and social media to inspire participants to set goals, create team environments and encourage leadership. Each participant has been provided with a Fitbit Flex 2 wearable – a universal way to measure activities, calories burned and number of steps taken. Participants also have the opportunity to utilize Fitbit Coach, which is a personalized training app that provides adaptive video workouts and audio coaching. Foundation grant funding is being used to

provide Fitbits, fitness and nutritional instruction, performance prizes as well as technical and financial support for all participants.

“Research has consistently shown that individuals who participate in regular physical activity to improve their health have higher energy levels, lower risk of health-related diseases, improved psychological health, and lower rates of depression and anxiety,” said Ricardo Young, CareMore Health Medical Director. “We are proud to support members of the Society for the Blind through our collaboration with the National Fitness Challenge, and to create access to activities supporting healthier individuals and stronger communities.”

More than half of those who are blind or low vision

in the United States do not participate in even a limited physical fitness routine, mostly due to barriers to accessible fitness or misconceptions about their abilities. Individuals of all abilities should have equal opportunities to engage in activities that improve health outcomes, so the National Fitness Challenge aims to increase access to fitness and health for blind and low vision people.

“Anthem Blue Cross Foundation is committed to removing barriers and increasing access to critical programs and services that help individuals and communities to lead healthier lives,” said Dr. Barsam Kasravi, Interim Anthem Blue Cross Medicaid Plan President. “We are proud of our Foundation’s ongoing support of people with

visual disabilities and are confident that this support will go a long way in helping Californians to improve their overall wellness while enjoying the physical and emotional benefits of exercise and group sports.”

Since 2011, the parent Foundation of Anthem Blue Cross and CareMore has provided \$1.3 million in grant funding to U.S. Association of Blind Athletes for the National Fitness Challenge initiative and has impacted thousands of Americans with visual disabilities by partnering with 40 different agencies across the country. To learn more about the National Fitness Challenge, visit [www.usaba.org/NationalFitnessChallenge](http://www.usaba.org/NationalFitnessChallenge).

For more than 60 years, Society for the Blind has created innovative ways to empower individuals living with low vision or blindness to discover, develop and achieve their full potential. Society for the Blind has grown from a dedicated group of volunteers to a nationally recognized agency and the only comprehensive rehabilitative teaching center that provides services for a 27-county region of northern California. The nonprofit provides low-vision eye care, life and job skills training, mentorship, and access to tools to maintain independence for more than 5,000 youth, adults and seniors experiencing vision loss each year. For more information: [SocietyfortheBlind.org](http://SocietyfortheBlind.org). ★

★

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## 2nd Saturday



## Artisan & Crafts Show

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**ILoveMyFarmersMarket.com**



# SAFE Credit Union Awards City Year Sacramento with \$20,000 Grant

By Carole Ferguson,  
SAFE Credit Union

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Calling out the cheer, “Two, four, six, eight, who do we appreciate? City Year! City Year!” staff members from SAFE Credit Union marched into the Oak Park, California, offices of City Year on a recent rainy morning to surprise the nonprofit with a \$20,000 grant.

City Year Executive Director Jeff Owen and Development Manager Maggie Lawrence were on hand to accept the donation. “This is going to go a long way in our work to help students who really need some support, and our amazing AmeriCorps members who are working 10 hours a day for peanuts,” Owen said.

City Year sends near-peer mentors to under-served schools in Sacramento to help students succeed. City Year representatives cheer students as they arrive to school each day to honor them for their hard work and to pump them up for the day. During class time, AmeriCorps members use positive coaching to help



SAFE Credit Union employees making the donation to City Year. Photo courtesy SAFE CU

students overcome challenges that may lead them to dropping out of school. They also assist with tutoring students in math and English to stay on track to graduate with their peers.

“City Year shines in its mission,” said SAFE Credit Union Community and Advocacy Engagement Manager Amanda Merz. “City Year’s dedication to helping at-risk students over hurdles and standing

by them to ensure their success really spoke to us here at SAFE. By staying in school, these students will have a better foundation to build a more financially secure and personally satisfying life. We are proud to be able to assist City Year with its efforts to help our community’s students.”

SAFE Credit Union is a leading financial institution in Northern California with more than \$2.8 billion

in assets and more than 229,000 members. SAFE is a not-for-profit, community-chartered credit union with membership open to businesses and individuals living or working in Sacramento, Placer, Yolo, El Dorado, Sutter, Butte, Nevada, Solano, San Joaquin, Contra Costa, Yuba, Amador, and Alameda counties. Insured by the NCUA. [www.safecu.org](http://www.safecu.org)

# Thunder Valley Resort Announces New Year’s Eve Celebrations

BY Doug Elmets

**LINCOLN, CA (MPG)** - Thunder Valley Casino Resort is proud to announce a weekend of New Year’s Eve Celebrations. Tickets are on sale now for the New Year’s Eve Headliner Creedence Clearwater Revisited, and for the New Year’s Eve Celebration at Illusions featuring a Live DJ and Radio Host.

Creedence Clearwater Revisited will be performing two shows in Thunder Valley’s Pano Hall on New Year’s Eve – one at 8:00 p.m. and the other at 10:30 p.m. Countdowns to 2019 will be held in Pano Hall, Illusions, and multiple additional locations throughout Thunder Valley.

In addition to exciting performances, Thunder

Valley will host a variety of promotions on the days leading up to 2019, including a weekend full of daily \$25,000 giveaways.

“New Year’s Eve is going to be a huge celebration this year at Thunder Valley,” said Dawn Clayton, General Manager of Thunder Valley Casino Resort. “While our New Year’s Eve headliner Creedence Clearwater Revisited will be a huge draw, Thunder Valley will also offer diverse entertainment options and promotions throughout the casino, so there is sure to be an option for all Thunder Valley guests.”

For more information on upcoming New Year’s Eve celebration, visit [www.thundervalleysresort.com](http://www.thundervalleysresort.com).

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By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

When a person claims to have “faith in God” their life and actions as well as their words no longer please the world of unbelievers. Even family members may reject them and they experience the pain of rejection similar to what Jesus experienced when He came and died for all of us.

Jesus life taught us how to endure the worst kind of rejection and to continue to love those who do not know or understand the amazing love of God He exemplified for us to live. Mankind needed a tangible person to do this teaching us the infinite loving ways of God. Living examples prove

### Why God Loves You My Friend

to us the incredible values God desires our lives of faith to teach others the depth of His personal love for each of them.

People with the true faith and love of God in their hearts do not go about to destroy the lives of others who do not believe, think or understand. Instead they watch and listen to the pains they have endured as well. Then, as God’s Holy Spirit opens doors for them to share the Love of God with them, they may share their own story of hope, salvation, healing and transformation. Jesus is the “bread” of life and all must take it.

Jesus is the “door” of a brand new life awaiting those who will invite them into their heart and life. He is the “way” one must choose to experience what the Bible states – being “Born-Again” with the Spirit of a loving God living in them. It is the beginning of a brand new life and adventure that lasts the rest of their life as His Spirit directs and teaches one to live in the “abundant

life” He promises.

**“You” dear one are the reason for this season of Christmas!** Jesus came to earth in human form to save us from our sins. God’s infinite plan IS when He created man/woman was to have a personal intimate relationship with every one of us. He did not create robots but human beings with free-will to make decisions for their lives. Some people think He made a mistake! No He did not make a mistake! Don’t you understand that when someone “chooses” to care and love someone, it has the quality of being the real thing? **True love always originates in the loving heart of God and it is real and everlasting.** The love of God will take a person to living with Him in heaven one day. That is how important it is to God that we all experience His kind of love.

Marlys Johnsen Norris  
Christian Author of 7 Books  
“Recipes for a Happy Marriage”  
Marlysjn@gmail.com PO Box 114, Orangevale, Ca 93552 ★



By Pastor Ray Dare

When the angel announced the birth of Christ he said, **“Don’t be afraid! I bring you good news of great joy for everyone!”** Lk. 2:10. Wow, what a promise! Great joy for everyone. But is that even possible? Is it possible for “everyone” to be joyful? Yes it is, and the Bible gives us the secrets:

**Resist Comparing Myself.** *“I have learned to be satisfied with the things I have...”* Vs.11 That can only happen when you don’t compare yourself. The moment you start comparing what you have, to what others have, you’re doomed! Your joy is gone! Our problem is we live with this myth that says, “I must have what others have to be happy.” That’s the myth behind all the adds you’ll see this shopping season. “Everybody else has one, so you need one too.” No, you don’t! Paul said,

### Pastor Ray's Encouraging Words

Christmas Joy is Possible

*“I’ve learned to be satisfied with what I have.”*

**Rejoice in What I Have.** Happiness is not getting whatever you want. Happiness is enjoying what you have. *“It is better to have only a little with peace of mind than to be busy all the time.”* Eccl. 4:6 You need to ask yourself a very frank question. “Will having more make me happier?” And the answer is NO. You cannot buy happiness. If you don’t understand this principle of rejoicing in what you have, you will fall into the trap of debt and the trap of when and then thinking. “WHEN I get this, WHEN this happens, THEN I’ll be happy.” The truth is this, you’re as happy as you choose to be.

**Realize the Source of True Joy.** There are things in life that keep us from believing that living joyfully is a possibility, things that we face daily. Like the bad that shouldn’t happen, and the good that doesn’t happen. And we lose our joy. The problem is we have a misconception of happiness. We tend to think, “If I could just get rid of all my problems,

then I’ll be happy!” Well duh! The only problem is there’s no such thing as a problem free life. You must learn to be joyful in the situation, in the circumstance. And that is a sign of spiritual maturity. My joy is not determined by or controlled by the circumstances around me. Do you want to know how spiritually mature you are? Check your JOY level. Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit within you. *“But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us ... joy...”* Gal. 5:22 (NLT) If your joy is based on your circumstances, guess what? You’re going to be miserable most of your life. True joy is independent of your circumstances because it comes from God – it’s a fruit of the Holy Spirit. And that’s what God wants to give you this Christmas season as you open the door of your life and invite Him in.

Pastor Ray  
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### My Little Dear, It’s Not Warm Outside!

Dr. James L. Snyder

Once again, it is the Christmas season, which means I have to put up with people offended by everything, particularly that pertains to Christmas.

Everybody is offended by something. I am offended by people who are offended by things I say, which makes no sense whatsoever to me.

Where people got this offend-itis disease is beyond me. I wonder if there is any cure for this kind of disease?

I was in the restaurant the other day and behind me, a person sneezed. Instinctively, I turned around and said, “God bless you.”

Of course, I was not ready for the reply when the man said to me, “I’m an atheist don’t you dare use that word ‘God’ around me.”

Another offensive phrase is, “Merry Christmas.” I happened to mention this to a person I was passing in the store and they looked at me kind of Scrooge-like and said, “Don’t you dare wish me a Merry Christmas.”

I would like to know why two words like “Merry Christmas” are offensive to anyone?

Those offended by those two words have a chimney

that is not smoking.

Just the other day I was going into a store and there was a lady behind me, so as a gentleman, I opened the door for her and said, “Ladies first.”

The lady looked at me and said, “That is the most sexist thing I have heard all day.”

I have been trying to find out what is sexist about those two words.

I heard recently that the song, “Baby, It’s Cold Outside,” is offensive to some people. I have listened to that for years and cannot figure out the offensive side of that song.

What’s crazy to me are those offended by that song are completely okay with some female singer getting on stage barely clothed, singing a depravity soaked song with lustful lyrics.

Why is that okay and not sexist, but when I open a door for a lady and say, “Ladies First,” that is sexist?

Some people refer to this as the war on Christmas. If that is true, I believe those people are losing that war. No matter what anybody says or thinks I still will celebrate Christmas, wish people “Merry Christmas” and say, “God bless you” when somebody sneezes and open a door for the ladies.

If those things offend people, I am happy and most delighted to keep doing them.

For years now, there has been a war on Christmas, but it seems that Christmas comes every year at the same time. Isn’t that simply amazing? No matter what people say or how offended they are by it, Christmas still comes.

I could think of quite a few things that would offend me. However, I have a thick skin and a tender heart. My life is not depended upon somebody being offended.

One of my favorite verses in the Bible is in the book of Proverbs.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

I refuse to let people who are offended by everything direct my path. My trust is not in man, but rather “in the Lord.”

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship Ocala, FL where he lives with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. His web site is www.jamesnsnyderministries.com. ★

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# Bye Bye Mattress Program Surpasses 3 Million Mattresses Recycled in California

Program Has Diverted More Than 100 Million Pounds of Materials From Landfills

By Scot Murdoch

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Mattress Recycling Council's (MRC) Bye Bye Mattress Program (Program) announced today it has recycled more than 3 million mattresses in California since its inception in 2016. The Program offers no-cost, environmentally friendly alternatives to Californians disposing of old mattresses through local collection sites, public events and collaborations with local retailers and solid waste providers.

"Reaching this milestone in less than three years of operation is a significant achievement," said MRC's Managing Director Mike O'Donnell. "We share the Program's success with our dedicated contractors and participating collection sites across California. We also have continued support from elected officials that voted for this law in 2013."

More than 80 percent of mattresses can be recycled and turned into new consumer and industrial products. For example, old mattress foam is recycled into carpet padding, mattress springs are sold as scrap steel, which is melted to make building materials and other steel products, and wood from box springs is chipped and used as landscape mulch.

"The MRC Program is one of the most effective Product Stewardship Programs Butte County is associated with," said Steve Rodowick, recycling coordinator with Butte County. "This program



More than 80 percent of mattresses can be recycled and turned into new consumer and industrial products. For example, old mattress foam is recycled into carpet padding, mattress springs are sold as scrap steel, which is melted to make building materials and other steel products, and wood from box springs is chipped and used as landscape mulch.

saves us money, manpower and above all, valuable landfill space."

A recycling fee collected when consumers buy mattresses and box springs in California funds the Program. MRC uses the fee to establish free drop-off locations and collection events throughout the state. Collected mattresses are then transported from these sites to regional recyclers that dismantle and recycle mattress components. Consumers may take their old mattresses to more than 230 drop-off locations and collection events throughout California. The Program also recycles mattresses collected

by retailers, hotels, universities and other sources that discard mattresses in large volumes.

"Our work with the Mattress Recycling Council fulfills our mission to provide youth in San Joaquin and Tuolumne counties with an opportunity to develop work skills and preserve California's environment," said Deborah Phillips with the Greater Valley Conservation Corps, a San Joaquin Office of Education program. "In less than a year, Greater Valley Conservation Corps crew members have helped recycle more than two thousand mattresses, while also

gaining the experience they need to move into green sector careers."

In addition to recycling, the Program works to prevent illegal dumping, which includes the Illegally Dumped Mattress Collection Initiative. By working with local communities, this \$1 million initiative has helped remove more than 63,000 improperly disposed-of mattresses from alleys, sidewalks and other public spaces throughout California since 2016.

"The Bye Bye Mattress Program exemplifies California's leadership in a sustainable and circular economy by creating green jobs," said O'Donnell. "After less than three years, we've made progress toward reducing our environmental footprint, conserving landfill space and supporting California's statewide recycling goals."

The Mattress Recycling Council was formed by the mattress industry to operate recycling programs (known as Bye Bye Mattress) in states that have enacted mattress recycling laws - California, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Since its inception in 2016, the program has recycled more than 3 million mattresses in California collected from a network consisting of local governments, solid waste facilities, nonprofit organizations and small and minority-owned businesses throughout the state. For more information, go to [www.ByeByeMattress.com](http://www.ByeByeMattress.com)

Source: Randle Communications

## CHP Goes "Online" to Help Alert the Public

By Fran Clader, CHP Media

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - When a person goes missing, every second counts. As the statewide coordinator for the AMBER, Silver, and Blue Alert programs, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) understands that time is of the essence and is using technology to help expedite the recovery process.

"Whether a child or at-risk adult has gone missing or a dangerous suspect is on the run, time and details are vital," said CHP Commissioner Warren Stanley. "Using technology gives everyone involved in the process another tool to reach the appropriate audience with the information."

As part of the various notification procedures when an alert occurs, the CHP's Emergency Notification and Tactical Alert Center (ENTAC) will distribute the critical information to cell phones in the affected geographic area through the Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) program. As a result, millions of consumers with WEA-capable devices and services are armed with potentially lifesaving information.

Due to the limited number of characters available through the WEA, the CHP is now embedding a link in each message that will direct the user to the public-facing Web site at <https://www.chp.ca.gov/news-alerts>. Once there, the user will find all active alerts, along with access to related flyers that can be downloaded and distributed.

Social media is also being used to help expedite and grow the audience for alerts distributed by the CHP. The public, media, and law enforcement are encouraged to follow a new Twitter account managed by ENTAC - @CHPAAlerts. Posts from this account will be limited to active AMBER, Silver, and Blue Alerts.

Since July 2002, the CHP has issued nearly 300 AMBER Alerts for abducted children. Less than a decade later, in January 2011, California enacted the Blue Alert system to apprehend individuals wanted following the violent attack of a law enforcement officer; eight Blue Alerts have been issued to date. Two years later, the Silver Alert system went online in California and there have been nearly 1,400 alerts issued for missing, at-risk adults since January 2013.

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

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TV GUIDE MAGAZINE

CHEERS & JEERS

by Damian Holbrook

**Cheers to NBC**  
for earning a spot in *The Good Place*. The heavenly comedy starring Kristen Bell and Ted Danson hasn't even finished its third season yet, but that hasn't stopped the network from renewing it for a fourth year. And that's the best forking news we've heard in weeks!

**Jeers to CBS**  
for not salvaging *Salvation*. The summer sci-fi drama starring Jennifer Finnigan ended Season 2 with a huge twist and tons of potential. Sadly, the plug has now officially been pulled, so we'll probably never know what that Earth-threatening asteroid really was—or if the network can ever successfully launch a scripted summer show.

**Jeers to The Flash**  
for making our flesh crawl. The Scarlet Speedster's November 13 episode got pulses racing by introducing Rag Doll (Troy James), a super-bendy baddie whose nightmarish mask and monstrous movements were not OK with viewers who rely on Barry Allen (Grant Gustin) and his team to be the sunniest heroes in The CW's Arrowverse.

**Cheers to Dancing With the Stars**  
for returning to form. After a few clumsy seasons, ABC's just-wrapped 27th edition popped with a stable of "stars" who actually moved us, including Juan Pablo Di Pace (*Fuller House*), *The Bachelorette*'s



If only all *Dancing With the Stars* cards could be this full of fan faves.

Grocery Store guy Joe Amabile and radio host—and champion—Bobby Bones (pictured, with Sharna Burgess). If only all *Dancing* cards could be this full of fan faves. ★

**Question:** Why does Hallmark and Hallmark Movies and Mysteries have to overlap its Christmas movies by an hour? —Gloria

**Matt Roush:** I've wondered this same thing, although wouldn't it make more sense for the Hallmark channels to air their movies two hours apart (one at 7/6c, the other at 9/8c) instead of at the same hour? Recording and time-shifting solves the problem, of course, but starting Hallmark's week-end originals at 8/7c and Movies and Mysteries' movies at 9/8c does create an odd overlap.

To submit questions to TV Critic Matt Roush, go to: [tvinsider.com](http://tvinsider.com) ★



Why?

We shop til we drop. Gotta' find the perfect gift. Gotta' decorate to the max. Gotta' party hearty like you'll never party again. Gotta' shovel in all those goodies knowing we're probably gonna' put on anywhere from two to seven pounds during the holidays. Why? It's a question we all ask ourselves come December 31 as we make New Year's resolutions to never do that again. But you and I both know we'll do the same actions again next year. I'm as guilty as anyone. We get so obsessed with that word perfection. I catch myself adjusting one ornament on the Christmas tree or moving one of the Wise men an inch or so over so it looks just right. And I can't tell you how many times I walk away thinking, WHY? I must have OCB... Obsessive Christmas Behavior. That's a new one for the mental health community.

So the other day I sat down and started thinking about what I was doing and tried to explain to myself... WHY? I realized I wasn't thinking about the WHY at all. I wasn't even thinking about WHY we celebrate period. It was more about the stuff and the parties and the gifts. I knew then and there it was time to rethink what Christmas is really all about like caring and sharing. What about calling folks I haven't spoken to because I have been so busy with

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We need to give of ourselves not our purchases. It doesn't take big bucks. It's just paying attention.

all the trappings? And taking time to say I love you to that special person in your life, not expecting it back. WHY? Because you care.

It may sound like I'm preaching, but believe me I'm preaching to yours truly too. We need to give of ourselves not our purchases. It doesn't take big bucks. It's just paying attention. It reminds me of the song "Sounds of Silence" by Simon and Garfunkel. A couple of lines ring true...people talking without speaking... people hearing without listening. Sound familiar? WHY? Because we are so focused on things in our lives that we don't focus on life itself. Life is short. Don't say I'll do it tomorrow, do it today!

When you're at the mall, it doesn't cost a cent to smile at a passerby. You'll be surprised how

that smile comes back to you and how good it feels. I bet you don't remember most of the gifts you got last Christmas, but you remember a tender moment when a loved said I love you. So maybe the question of WHY is answered by WHY NOT! In the words of Norman Vincent Peale... "Christmas waves a magic wand over the world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful." Each one of us can be a part of making the world beautiful once more. So I'd like to leave you with the words of Comedian Bob Hope who spent decades on the road in war zones on Christmas... "My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?" We don't! **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!** ★

ASK MATT

BY MATT ROUSH TV Guide Senior Critic

When Will Live Musicals Be Back?

**Question:** Whatever happened to the live musicals over the holidays? —Gordon

**Matt Roush:** Live musicals are still a thing on NBC and other networks, but the holiday angle has been shelved for the time being as the subject matter has moved away from family musicals. (The first disruption was when Jennifer Lopez's busy schedule delayed NBC's

planned *Bye Bye Birdie* musical.) NBC's most recent December musical was the live *Hairspray* in 2016, and in lieu of a holiday musical in 2017, instead pegged its Emmy-winning *Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert* for Easter 2018. (Fox stepped in with a lackluster *A Christmas Story Live* musical last year.) Next year's musicals are decidedly more edgy. *Rent* on Fox Jan. 27 and a live version of *Hair* on NBC in May.

Sacramento County DA Reports



Stephon Clark Officer-Involved Shooting

On October 25, 2018, the DA's Office received the police report and related materials from the Sacramento Police Department regarding the Stephon Clark officer-involved shooting.

As with any officer-involved shooting incident, we strive to complete our review within 90 days of receiving all of the related reports and materials. The materials submitted by the Sacramento Police Department are voluminous and may take significant time to comprehensively examine. After reviewing these materials, we may determine that additional investigation or information is needed. Our review process may be delayed, depending on the circumstances. We will take whatever time is necessary to complete that process, as we balance our desire to complete this investigation review in a timely manner with the overarching need to ensure any conclusions we reach are the result of a thorough and methodical evaluation of the facts and the law.

As a reminder, the District Attorney's Office does not review these types of shootings or use of force incidents to determine whether the officers could have taken some other action, or used some other tactic, in addressing the situation. In addition, we do not review whether the agency could be civilly liable or whether any policy or procedure of the agency is the "best practice" for this type of incident. These are all valid areas for review, discussion, and potential outcome improvements. However, our review is strictly limited to an analysis of the action the officers actually took and whether that action is a prosecutable crime under the law.

If you have questions regarding the officer-involved shooting review process, a copy of the review protocol is available here and answers to Frequently Asked Questions are available here. If you would like to leave a message for the District Attorney's Office regarding our review of this shooting, you can send an email to [OIS@sacda.org](mailto:OIS@sacda.org) or call (916) 874-2000.

Defendant Sentenced for Attempted Murders of Police Officers, Shooting at Occupied Apartment

**DATE:** December 10, 2018  
**CASE:** Armani Lee (Case #17FE002754)

PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Matthew Moore, Career Criminal Prosecution Unit

The Honorable Richard Sueyoshi sentenced Armani Lee to 173 years to life in prison. On October 30, 2018, a jury convicted Lee of attempted murder of a police officer, attempted murder, shooting at an inhabited dwelling and felon in possession of a firearm.

On February 4, 2017, Armani Lee got into a physical altercation with a female victim. After the fight was over, Lee pulled out a gun and fired at the victim's apartment. Both the victim's boyfriend and friend were in the apartment at the time of the shooting.

On February 10, 2017, officers tracked Lee to a house and tried to arrest him for the shooting. Lee fled and fired multiple shots at the officers. Officers returned fire and hit Lee, who was then taken into custody.

Lee was sentenced pursuant to California's "Three strikes" law. Lee was previously convicted of two separate robberies, one in 2010 and the other in 2006.

Defendant Sentenced for Child Sexual Assaults Stemming from Use of Social Media

**DATE:** December 12, 2018  
**CASE:** Chris Cote (Case #16FE021377)  
**PROSECUTOR:** Deputy District Attorney Bruce Chang, Cyber Crimes Unit

The Honorable Jaime Román sentenced Chris Cote to 32 years and 4 months in prison. On October 15, 2018, Cote pled no contest to 23 sexual offenses committed against seven victims, including lewd and lascivious conduct with a child under 14 years of age, lewd and lascivious conduct with a child over 14 years of age, unlawful intercourse with a child under 18 years old and oral copulation of a minor under 16 years of age.

Starting in 2011, Cote used social media to contact minors all over Northern California. He represented himself as a teenage boy, engaged in grooming behavior and arranged sexual encounters with multiple children. In several cases, he encouraged the victims to sneak out of their house to meet with him and then drove them to either a hotel room or back to his house to commit the sexual crimes. ★

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# An Inside Look at the Inspector General Situation



By Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost

In August, the County Board of Supervisors were thrust into the local media spotlight after Sheriff Scott Jones lost faith in the Inspector General (an independent contractor retained by the County) and terminated his access to the Sheriff’s Department. Since then, the Board of Supervisors have held meetings to discuss how to move forward, with the issue finally finding a resolution on December 4th. Since this is the most controversial issue I have been involved with since being on the Board, I wanted to take a moment to try to clearly explain this complicated issue, and let you know my thoughts.

The County of Sacramento has had the position of Inspector General from 2007 until

2012 (when it was eliminated due to budget cuts), and then brought back in 2015 at the request of the Sheriff. Sacramento is one of only five California counties that has an Inspector General. The position was created to work with the Sheriff’s Department to improve services and review procedures - including but not limited to officer-involved shootings. The Inspector General has been a part-time contractor because, thankfully, there are very few shootings involving Sacramento County Sheriff’s Deputies.

One of the reports issued in 2018 was regarding a shooting that resulted in the death of a man named Mikel McIntyre. McIntyre had assaulted a family member, and in the process of evading arrest had struck an officer in the head with a large rock causing significant injury. Soon after, a 911 witness observed McIntyre throwing rocks at cars on the freeway and he began attacking another officer and a K9 unit with more rocks, hitting the K9 in the face. In an effort to protect the general public, officers continued to pursue him, and as he was evading arrest the suspect was shot 7 times and did not survive. The case was referred to the Inspector General whose investigative

authority involves constructive critique offering recommendations intended to improve the Department. It is not their job to determine if the shots fired were lawful. That is the sole responsibility of the DA’s office.

Months later in an unprecedented move, the Inspector General (under considerable political pressure) released his report before the DA had completed its investigation. His report gave evaluations and critiques (on use of force and decision making) that could be misleading if considered without the benefit of the DA’s full investigation. The Inspector General is not a use of force expert (neither is the Sheriff), and his findings were disputed by a nationally renowned use of force expert when the District Attorney Investigation and report was eventually released. Dismissing normal procedure was confusing for the public, has been damaging to the morale of the Sheriff’s department; and the Inspector General’s assessment will very likely be used in civil court against the County of Sacramento, with all legal fees and monetary judgments paid for by County taxpayers.

In the aftermath, the Sheriff questioned the ability of the Inspector General

to remain impartial to outside or political influences. He terminated the Inspector General’s access to the Sheriff’s Department and told the Board of Supervisors that he would like us to hire someone new. This put the Board of Supervisors in a difficult situation, as we were left with an Inspector General who we were paying \$10,000 a month to essentially do nothing.

As a result, the Board of Supervisors had a series of meetings to discuss how to proceed, given the Sheriff is a co-equal elected official who answers to the people of Sacramento (not the Board of Supervisors). Our discussions mostly revolved around what legal options we had, and what role we want the Inspector General’s office to play in the County. All five Supervisors and the Sheriff agreed that we need an Inspector General in the County.

Despite public and private statements from the Sheriff that he continues to support an independent IG, some members of the media choose to spin this issue as a show-down between the Sheriff and the Board of Supervisors — when it clearly is not — or to portray it as an attempt by the Sheriff to eliminate transparency from his department by permanently

shutting down the Office of Inspector General — which is also simply not the case. The Sheriff wanted to ensure we had a process for fair, independent investigations, and to not allow politics to endanger our Deputies and our communities. I completely agree with him.

The issue culminated on December 4th with a final meeting that was widely touted in the media as a showdown between the Sheriff and the Supervisors. But that was a mischaracterization because the Sheriff largely agreed with the majority of Supervisors. At the end of the day, all sides were able to come together to find a

workable solution despite the tense atmosphere. Nobody got everything they wanted, but nobody gave up too much either. That’s the sign of a good deal, and one I was willing

to support.

The County Supervisors will invite interested and qualified contractors to bid for the job of Inspector General, so we can restore that office. I believe that this process can and should begin immediately. The previous Inspector General is welcome to bid for it as well. The County clarified that while the Sheriff has autonomy over how to run his Department, the County Supervisors have the right to have an Inspector General who can have specified access to the Sheriff’s Department as an independent review to help inform our budget appropriations.

There are some small steps that will need to be taken in order to finalize all the agreements, but for all intents and purposes, this issue is now behind us with all parties in agreement.

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@saccounty.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, Fair Oaks, and Rancho Cordova. ★



Sheriff Scott Jones

## Rotary Donates Holiday Food Baskets to Local Families



Recipient families receive a frozen turkey and two boxes of food to help with their holiday meals. Photo provided by Rotary Club of Fair Oaks

*Continued from page 1*

With so many volunteers, the work goes quickly and Erickson said it is always a very fun and festive atmosphere. He said, “It’s a fun project. It’s one of those feel-good projects where everyone enjoys doing it and feels good about what we’re doing.”

Food baskets are distributed to approximately 100 families each year. The majority of the recipient families are from Northridge Elementary, and some are from Earl Legette Elementary. Teachers advertise the program through social media and word of mouth, and families are able to sign up anonymously. There are no qualifications needed to participate, families just have to sign up and they will receive food baskets to help them with their holiday meals. Each family receives a frozen turkey and two boxes of food, which include canned and boxed food, fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, and milk. “There’s enough that they can make at least a

few meals,” said Erickson. Distribution began right after school, and families were able to pick up their

at Northridge Elementary. Ortega is retiring at the end of the school year after 15 years of teaching



Volunteers assemble boxes of food for the annual holiday food donation held by the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks. Photo provided by Rotary Club of Fair Oaks

baskets from 2:30 until 6:00 PM. If families are ever unable to pick up their baskets during that time, the Rotarians will make a special delivery to the family’s home to ensure they receive their food for the holidays.

Erickson said that this year’s holiday food basket donation was particularly significant because it was the last year the project was coordinated by Marci Ortega, a teacher

at Northridge Elementary. Erickson acknowledged all the hard work Ortega has put into coordinating the food basket donations over the years: “Ever since it started, it’s been her project.”

Ortega said the project is “very near and dear to my heart...and we couldn’t do it without the assistance of Rotary.” She is now training two young teachers to take over the project and she is “so proud of our school.” ★

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