



SacRT Unveils
Holiday Bus

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Standing Strong
at the Crossroads

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Citrus Heights Messenger

VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 50 Serving the City of Citrus Heights & Sacramento County DECEMBER 11, 2020

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INSIDE

NOTHING BUT
“BLUE SKIES”
DO I SEE



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SUSAN SAVAGE,
INSPIRE ABC COMEDY



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SANTA’S MAGIC
TRAIL COMES
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Miracle at the Square



Santa knows our kids have been good this year. Photo: City of Citrus Heights



Master Sgt. Janet Schaefer shares holiday gifts with kids. Photo: City of Citrus Heights

Submitted by Janet Schaefer, CHPAL

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - The Citrus Heights Police Activities League (CHPAL) hosted “Miracle on Fountain Square Drive” at the Citrus Heights Police Department on Thursday, December 10, 2020. The large family-friendly event allowed families to weave through 30 brightly lit themed Christmas trees decorated by members of our department and

community in order to raise funds to purchase trees, decorations, lights, and inflatables.

This year has been quite challenging for everyone, especially youth. With community help, “Miracle on Fountain Square Drive” was a great way to close the year out with holiday cheer never seen before.

With shining patrol vehicle lights, a machine to blow snow flurries, holiday music, and holiday characters including Santa Claus, Grinch, and the Conductor from the Polar Express,



Det. Dave Moranz is out in full teddy bear force. Photo: City of Citrus Heights

the department collected canned food and toy donations to benefit families in need.

Officers volunteered their time to be positive role models and connect with kids through the PAL event while educating them on drug and gang awareness. “Miracle on Fountain Square Drive” is a safe environment for children developing new friendships, discovering new hobbies, improving life skills, learning the importance of making smart choices and being leaders.

The Citrus Heights Police Activities League is committed to fostering positive relationships, based on trust and respect, between youth and law enforcement through activities and programs because today’s children will be tomorrow’s leaders, business owners, and police officers.

For more information, contact Police Activities League Coordinator, Cheyenne Sardon, at (916) 727-4820 or Sgt. Janet Schaefer at (916) 727-5576

Citrus Heights Police Activities League is a registered non-profit 501(c)(3) Tax ID # 80-0470129 ★

Sac County Assists Transitional Aged Youth

By Sacramento County Health & Social Services

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Growing up isn’t easy, even under the best of circumstances. Unfortunately, not everyone gets the support and guidance they need to take on life’s adult responsibilities. For some transitional-aged youth (TAY) between the ages of 18 and 24, that steep learning curve can result in housing instability or homelessness.

According to a 2019 Sacramento County homeless population count, approximately 415 TAY – 8 percent of the total population – were experiencing homelessness. Of those counted: 59 percent were unsheltered and sleeping outdoors; 41 percent were staying in a transitional housing program, a hotel/motel or vehicle; 42 percent were experiencing long-term continuous homelessness lasting over a year.

“There are so many different milestones that occur during that time frame and a lot of youth may not have the healthiest support system or they might not have any at all. That presents a great challenge in understanding how to navigate those new worlds they’re entering at that age,” says Angel Uhercik, Homeless Services Program Planner with the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance. “That’s where the guidance from our case managers and our Prevention and Intervention specialists is so key in helping them be successful.”

Sacramento County’s Prevention and Intervention Program offers housing and a hand up. Partnering with Lutheran Social Services, Waking the Village, Wind Youth Services and the Sacramento LGBT Community Center, they connect clients with housing, short-term financial assistance and services to help youth to navigate resources, including employment, education and anything else clients may need.

“The partners are really well resourced to bridge the access from Prevention and Intervention assistance to a lot of different groups in our community,” Uhercik says.

Last year, Chardonnay Blakes, 24, a new mother and college student, found herself homeless. While she was able to couch surf with family, it wasn’t sustainable.

“The apartment was way too small, it was a one-bedroom,” she remembers.

Continued on page 4

Citrus Heights Voters Do Not Adopt Measure M

City of Citrus Heights

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County election results have been finalized and Citrus Heights voters opted not to approve Measure M. If adopted, Measure M would have enacted a local one-cent sales tax increase to generate revenue to fund City services and community priorities, with a resident Oversight Committee and third-party financial audits.

“As always, City officials and staff take direction from our

residents,” said City Manager Chris Boyd. “City Council voted to place Measure M on the ballot to let our community make this important decision and the voters have shared their voice. We are grateful to the residents who participated in this unique election, and our dedicated staff will continue to work closely with the community as important budget decisions are considered. The City’s extensive survey efforts demonstrated that our community prioritizes services like crime investigation

and prevention, school safety and security, street maintenance and pot-hole repair, homelessness reduction programs, and local business and jobs support. As we head into strategic planning and budget updates, we will look to balance and align with what our community prioritizes.”

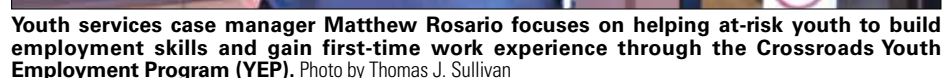
The City’s in-depth strategic planning process culminates in the City Council setting three-year goals which provide guidance for all City efforts. After the three-year goals are set, City staff establish

strategic objectives to serve as benchmarks every six months. Throughout the pandemic, City efforts have remained aligned with strategic goals. To view a recap of initiatives from 2020 and learn about the strategic goals set for 2017-2020, please watch a recording of the State of the City Broadcast by visiting CitrusHeights.net/SOTC.

City staff will continue to keep the community informed and engaged amid important budget decisions over the coming months. ★

By Thomas J. Sullivan

“We’re helping at-risk youth with



“When Covid hit, many local employers we had been working with significantly scaled back their hiring,” he said. “That is starting to change as employers are looking again to hire. We chiefly work with employers to find entry-level positions where participants in our program can

"Our goal is to have all the participants in the YEP program fully commit to the year-long program," he said.

For more information on the Crossroads Youth Employment Program (YEP) contact Matthew Rosario, youth services case manager at 916-676-2540, extension 322. The Crossroads Job Center at 7011 Sylvan Road, Suite A, urges all job seekers to contact a workforce development representative at 916-676-2540 to schedule an appointment. ★

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River Cats, Susan Savage, Inspire ABC Comedy



Susan Savage, CEO of the Sacramento River Cats. Photo: Sacramento River Cats

By Chip Maxson, Sacramento River Cats

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Felicity Huffman looks to return to TV in a new baseball comedy based on the story of Susan Savage and the Sacramento River Cats. ABC has committed to producing a pilot written by Becky Hartman Edwards and stars, alongside Huffman, *The Peanut Butter Falcon's* Zack Gottsagen. Aaron Kaplan of Kapital Entertainment saw the potential and brought together the group that attracted many offers before deciding to partner with ABC.

Based in Sacramento, the project will focus on the life of Susan Savage, CEO and majority owner of the River Cats, a Triple-A minor league baseball team. Savage took over as CEO of the River Cats when her late

husband, Art Savage, passed away and asked her not to sell the team.

Susan runs the team with her two sons, Jeff and Brent. The story will highlight overcoming loss and grief, family dynamics at work, and the humor, fun, and surprises that go along with minor league baseball.

“There is still a long way to go,” reminds Savage, “but it is truly exciting to be at this point. Over the years, whether in an executive meeting or simply talking with one of our longtime fans, something uniquely funny would happen and we would always say that someone should put it in a TV show. Well, I decided to start writing it down and here we are.”

“When Art passed away, there were a lot of questions and I didn’t have the answers,” Susan continued. “However, this

team was his dream so I jumped right in alongside my boys (Jeff and Brent) and we were going to figure this out one way or another. I am so proud of what we have been able to accomplish as a family, but along the way there are plenty of goofs and gaffs that we can laugh at now. Add that to our favorite fans, cheeky players, and quirky promotions, and I’m sure there is something everyone can laugh at and relate to.”

Savage also added that although the script was inspired by her story, Hartman Edwards writes with her own flare and creativity using new characters and loose interpretations.

The pilot filming is set to begin in the spring.

Sutter Health Park is the West Sacramento home of the 2019 Triple-A Champion Sacramento River Cats, and proud affiliate of the three-time World Champion San Francisco Giants. Sutter Health Park is consistently voted one of the top ballparks in America. Gift certificates, 2021 Memberships as well as private event bookings are available by calling the River Cats Ticket Hotline at (916) 371-HITS (4487). The only place to guarantee official River Cats tickets is at www.rivercats.com or by visiting the Tri Counties Bank Ticket Office. For information on other events at Sutter Health Park, visit www.sutterhealthpark.com. ★

Santa’s Magic Trail Comes to Citrus Town Center



Heather, Santa's helper takes photos of all the cars passing through, as kids interact with Santa, excited to give him their letters and tell him what they want for Christmas." Photo by Elise Spleiss

By Elise Spleiss

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - A reverse Christmas parade for Citrus Heights families appeared at the corner of Sunrise and Arcadia on the afternoon of Saturday, December 5.

This year the parade was created by 330 vehicles carrying 834 children traveling slowly down Santa’s Magic Trail at the Citrus Town Center surrounded by towering balloons, glittery lights, fairies, loud music, entertainment and finally Santa Claus, which if the times were different this season would be the ones moving slowly down the parade route.

The parking lot in front of Staples was magically transformed into Santa’s Magic Trail on both sides of the parking lot, running the full length in front of Staples. Towering inflatable Toy Soldiers, Frosty, Abominable Snowman, Rudolf, and Grinch balloons and a myriad of smaller balloon scenes led to the different stops along the way.

You could see the delight in the faces of the children as they proceeded down the trail. Dressed in their pajamas they excitedly received a Santa hat and candy from ‘socially distanced’ Quill—the head fairy. They had their picture taken in their car by Santa’s helper Heather. They put their letters to Santa in his big red bag and got

a hearty “Hello” and wave from him. At the end of the Santa’s Trail, Rick Svensen accepted spare change from the families to the tune of \$543 to be donated to The Homeless Assistance Resourced Team (HART) which provides services for the homeless in Citrus Heights. A good time was had by all!

This event was made possible thanks to a collaboration between Sunrise Marketplace (SMP), Citrus Town Center, and Creative Marketing Arts (CMA) who put on the event. With most children’s events of all kinds being cancelled in 2020 CMA wanted to do something special and magical for the holiday this year and give the children something to look forward to.

The timing was perfect as this was the same weekend children would have been attending the annual Christmas Tree Lighting at City Hall. The same atmosphere of excitement and wonder found its way to this event and possibly the same number of children to enjoy it.

Citrus Town Center landlord, InterCal Real Estate funded the event. Owner Peter Bollinger also wanted to make the children happy during this time and give hope back to the community.

Other Christmas events are being planned in Citrus Heights. Check them out on the City of Citrus Heights, Citrus Town Center and Sunrise Marketplace websites. ★



My decisions now keep the holidays safer.

Taking action today protects all of us tomorrow.

Give the gift of a healthier, safer holiday season. As cold weather gets closer, keep your loved ones safe by getting tested for COVID-19, wearing a mask, physical

distancing and avoiding large gatherings. Practice good habits and take care of each other.

Visit SacCountyCOVID.com to learn how you can make a difference.



Social Security Matters

Should I Claim Social Security at 62?



By Russell Gloor,
AMAC Certified Social
Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I'm looking for information about retiring and starting my Social Security very soon at age 62. I'm not sure if I want to do it because I'm not sure if I can. Can you help me figure this out? **Signed: Hesitant**

Dear Hesitant: I know it can be daunting trying to figure out whether and when to claim your Social Security benefits. I'll give you some of the basics:

First, you should know that if you claim your benefits at age 62, your benefit amount will be considerably reduced from what it would be if you waited longer to claim. At 62, your benefit will be about 28% less than it would be at your full retirement age (FRA) which, for you is 66 years and 8 months. Your benefit will continue to grow by a fraction of a percentage point each month you wait, until it reaches 100% at your FRA. You can choose to delay even longer than your FRA, and your benefit will continue to grow up to age 70 when you reach your maximum benefit amount. For you, that maximum at age 70 would be about 28% more than you would get at your FRA and about 75% more than you would get at age 62. There is a considerable financial advantage to waiting to claim.

If you continue working, and you claim at age 62 (or



at any age before your FRA), you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much you can earn before they take back some of your benefits. Starting at age 62 and continuing until the year you attain FRA, there will be an annual limit to your earnings (the 2021 limit is \$18,960) and, if you exceed that, SS will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. That could mean you will go some number of months without receiving benefits until Social Security recovers what you owe because you exceeded the earnings limit. Of course, if you fully retire from work now that is not a concern, but it may influence a future decision to return to work. Social Security's earnings limit no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.

Your marital status also comes into play. If you are married, and your benefit as a spouse will be more than your personal benefit will be, then there are some special considerations which might affect your claiming decision. Generally, if your spousal benefit will be more than your own benefit (from your lifetime work record), and your husband isn't yet collecting benefits, it's often wise to claim your own earlier and take the larger spouse benefit later. Of course, if you're not married you need only be concerned about your personal benefit from your own lifetime earnings record and waiting

for a larger life-long benefit, if possible, is often the most prudent choice.

Those are the basic things you should consider when trying to decide when to claim your benefits. But your need for the money now, plus your health and life expectancy are also key to your decision. If you need the money earlier to make ends meet, and you won't be severely affected by the earnings limit, then claiming early can be your most prudent choice. Or, if you are not enjoying good health and have reason to believe that you won't live at least until today's average age for a woman (about 87), then that also suggests claiming early. But, if you are working and don't really need the money, and you are in good health and expect to live to a ripe old age, then waiting longer to claim a higher benefit is usually a better strategy.

The reality is that everyone's personal situation is different and there is no single answer to the question of when to claim Social Security. I hope the above gives you at least a starting point for your decision.

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Biden's Radicalism on Immigration

One of Joe Biden's first priorities as president will be to risk stoking a new migrant crisis.

After much trial and error, President Donald Trump came up with cooperative arrangements with Mexico and Central American countries that drastically diminished the pressure from asylum-seekers on our southern border.

Biden is pledged to overturn these policies, as well as undermine enforcement and boost immigration numbers across the board. The lie about Biden is that he's "a moderate," when the truth is that he's always been smack in the middle of his party, which is increasingly radical on immigration policy.

The new Democratic Party bristles with contempt for borders and the agents who police them, and its attitude will color everything Biden does.

The migrant crisis that had Trump adopt, then quickly abandon, a zero-tolerance policy that separated children from their parents wasn't of his making. President Barack Obama struggled with the same surge at the border, and many of the photos of

children in cages used to condemn Trump date from the Obama years.

Trump only got a handle on the border when he secured deals for help. Mexico agreed to allow migrants seeking asylum in this country to remain in Mexico while their claims were adjudicated. Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, meanwhile, signed safe-third-country agreements, meaning migrants seeking asylum could be sent to those countries to pursue their claims rather than doing so in the U.S.

All of this was necessary to try to close effectively an open-border for migrants from Central America. Once they showed up and claimed asylum here, they were waived into the country and rarely, if ever, removed, even if their asylum claims ultimately failed (as the vast majority did).

Biden has promised a 100-day moratorium on deportations, a measure that will keep us from removing illegal immigrants even when they are released from jails after committing crimes. This is presumably a step toward re-instituting the Obama administration's policy of gutting interior enforcement.

He will restore DACA, the amnesty for illegal immigrants who came here as minors that Obama lawlessly imposed by diktat.

He will propose to Congress a broader amnesty for more than 10 million illegal immigrants. If the

Senate balks, as is likely, Biden will be tempted to follow Obama's (and Trump's) example and implement as much as possible through his own authority.

He will boost the number of refugees to more than 100,000 a year, the highest level in 30 years.

Trump's signature failure on immigration was missing the opportunity to pass significant legislation reflecting his priorities through Congress when Republicans controlled both chambers. But, as Steven Camarota of the restrictionist Center for Immigration Studies notes, the net growth of the immigration population still declined markedly.

Despite all of Trump's incendiary rhetoric, the upshot of his approach was entirely reasonable – levels of immigration shouldn't inexorably increase, and immigration policy should be subject to a rigorous test of national interest.

Biden represents a return to the old status-quo assumption that more immigration is, ipso facto, a good thing, at the same time he leads a party that is more zealous on the issue than ever before.

Democrats aren't much interested in immigration controls, and it's entirely possible that, soon enough at the border, it will again be uncontrolled.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2020 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

Sacramento County Assists Transitional – Aged Youth

Continued from page 1

"My brother also takes care of his little brother who is in high school so I had to sleep on the couch with my son."

She reached out to Lutheran Social Services for help. Fortunately, they were able to find her an apartment and connected her with County services. She was able to qualify for a housing voucher. Blakes says she's not only grateful for her new home but for the welcoming and non-judgmental help she received.

"I'm going to school and I'm in housing and I feel like I've come a long way in a short amount of time," she says. "I've had ups and downs and I'm glad that I'm not struggling with my child. They made it easier for me and they eased my worries of being a new parent and doing it by myself."

Transitional Aged Youth that need help can contact: Lutheran Social Services, Waking the Village, Wind Youth Services, Sacramento LGBT Community Center.

Helping Youth – Partner Spotlight

Deisy Madrigal, Prevention and Intervention coordinator with Lutheran

Social Services, answers questions about the program:

How do you help clients?

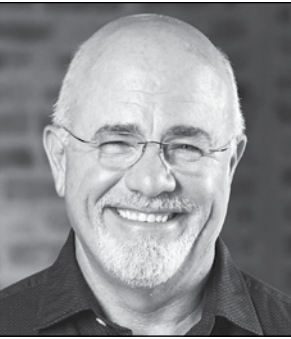
We tend to take a very individualized approach. The Prevention and Intervention Program itself is a collaboration between four agencies. Because we're a collaborative, we have the ability to leverage our collective resources and knowledge to work toward the best-fit services for youth.

What are some of the biggest challenges your clients face?

Obviously, the high rent prices that we have here make it nearly impossible for someone who's just starting out in a minimum wage job to even afford an apartment. Even if they're able to get a job, they're having a hard time securing housing because of the large amount of rent they're being required to pay.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I do love the prevention aspect the most because I feel like it's important to be able to stabilize someone's housing whenever the circumstances allow for it because it minimizes the trauma.

 ★

Don't Let Money Fights Steal Your Joy

Dear Dave,
My husband and I usually have a few disagreements around the holidays when it comes to Christmas spending. Do you have any advice for eliminating this kind of thing, and making the financial side of Christmas a little less stressful?

– Kellie
Dear Kellie,

I imagine every couple has a few disagreements over Christmas spending. The trick is in how you handle them, and come to a compromise you each feel is fair, smart, and affordable.

One of the keys is to start talking before you start shopping. Being on the same page – and creating a plan and sticking to it – are great ways to bring peace and togetherness into the picture. Honestly, Christmas spending can be part of your monthly

Dave Ramsey Says

cash flow plan the whole year. Get the picture? I'm talking about living on a written, monthly budget. You know Christmas is December 25th every, single, year, so why not set aside a little each month leading up to the holidays?

If you haven't planned ahead, now is a great time to become a unified team. Huddle up, not only to talk about Christmas priorities, but devise a game plan moving forward so that this doesn't happen again next year. Together, figure all your regular monthly income and expenses into a budget. If you've saved anything at all for Christmas, include that, as well. We've all got necessities, so take of those first. Then, make a general list of everything you'd like to spend money on for Christmas – I'm talking about the things we often overlook like food, cards, party expenses, and decorations. Now, make a gift list. Write a dollar amount beside each name or expense on your lists, and if the grand total is the same as – or less than – your Christmas budget total, you're ready to roll!

If you can't agree, or the numbers don't work,

run through things again. This doesn't mean to repeat your positions until you get what you want. It means both of you acting like mature, responsible adults, finding some middle ground, and making sacrifices. If you really want to show your commitment, you and your spouse can sign your new budget. Signing your name is a simple, psychological signal that means you're committed to your agreement. Then, post it somewhere you'll both see it regularly.

Give it a try, Kellie. It just might help reinforce your commitment to the budget – and each other – when the shopping frenzy sets in!

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Dave Ramsey Show, heard by more than 16 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions. ★



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It Was a Shoofly Pie Moment

By Rev. James L. Snyder

During holiday seasons, I enjoy indulging in special food. My favorite during this time of year is the Shoofly Pie. Nothing hits the spot quite like this.

I don't remember when I had my first shoofly pie, I only focus on my next piece.

When I first brought it into the home, my wife asked me what in the world it was. I told her it was a Shoofly Pie.

Looking at me rather quizzically, she said, "What is a Shoofly Pie?"

Not even thinking about it, I smiled and replied, "It is a piece of heaven this side of heaven."

Then she wanted to know where in the world that name "Shoofly Pie" came from.

Not really knowing, I "baked up" a story I thought would please her.

The story went something like this. A lady in Pennsylvania was trying to make a special pie for her husband.

When presented to her husband, he was dumbfounded and said, "What is that pie?"

Before she could answer, a fly seemed to hover over the pie, and she swatted it and said, "shoofly." The husband looked at her

and said, "That is marvelous. Whoever heard of a shoofly pie? You're a genius."

And thus, the Shoofly Pie adventure began. Whether that comes near the story or not, it sounded good to me at the time, and I presented it to my wife.

As I was thinking about this shoofly pie mystery, I thought of how this concept would work in other aspects of life.

For example. I would like to develop a Shoo-Politician Pie. Perhaps this would be a great experience for us. Every time we see a politician, we present him with a Shoo-Politician Pie. How much greater our life would be if politicians would not be the center focus of our life.

When a politician gives a speech, he or she will be charged one dollar per word. After all, one dollar isn't much and neither is there speech. Of course, this would need to be paid upfront. As soon as the politician reaches the end of his word count, everybody would say, "Shoo-Politician."

I think this would bring a lot of sanity back to our country today.

Then I thought of another pie to develop. I'll call this the Shoo-Telemarketer Pie. This is

second only to politicians.

To date, I have received over 1 million calls that said, "This is the last call you'll get to renew your car warranty."

I don't know why they call them telemarketers, but I sure would like to tell them a thing or two.

Thinking about this, my list is getting longer and longer. There are so many things that I would like to Shoo from my life that I probably need to go into the "Shoo Pie Baking Business."

Thinking along this line I remembered a verse in the Bible. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (2 Corinthians 6:17).

The older I get the more things I see that I need to "shoo" from my life. At times, it's difficult, but the end result is what really matters. One last pie would be the "Shoo-Sin Pie."

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-216-3025 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com. ★



By Pastor Ray Dare

Life is not an unbroke series of victories. Everybody experiences failure in life. We all have setbacks, failures, defeats, losses. Sometimes a defeat can overwhelm you. This is the way Job felt when he said, "My days have passed. My plans are shattered and so are the desires of my heart." Job 17:11

What do you do when you feel like "your days are past and your plans have been shattered"? God says, "Forget what happened before, and do not think about the past. Look at the new thing the I am going to do. It is already happening. Don't you see it? I will make a road in the desert and rivers in the dry land." Isaiah 43:18-19. God says there are three ways you can make a fresh start this year.

Forget the Past. Your past is past. You cannot change the past by worrying about it or by resenting it. If you failed

Pastor Ray's Encouraging Words

You Can Make a Fresh Start

at something, you're not washed up unless you choose to quit and reject God's grace. God will forgive you; you need to learn to forgive yourself. If someone has failed you, then the only way you're going to get on with your future is when you forgive them.

Forgiveness is a choice, not a feeling. You choose to forgive them by choosing not to focus on the hurt, the offense. That's what God means when he says, "... don't think about the past."

Perceive Your Possibilities. God says, "Look at the new..." Don't ponder your past - Perceive your possibilities. Be positive and expect God to complete what He started in you. "God began doing a good work in you, and I am sure he will continue it until it is finished when Jesus Christ comes again." Philippians 1:6 (NCV) You may think, "It's too late, I've lost too much time, I'll never recover, my life is half over, I'm not even going to try to try again!"

Don't even think that way - not for a minute! Yes, you may have blown it. You may have fallen out of the race. You may have even been pushed out by other people. But God is not through with you! It's not how you start the race of life that matters - it's how you finish.

Expect God's Help. God says, "I will make a road in the desert and rivers in dry land." God says "I will do it." I will do for you what you cannot do for yourself. God says, 'I will make a road...a way out.' Maybe you've felt emotionally overwhelmed, God says, 'I will make rivers in dry places...I will refresh you.'

One of my favorite verses in the Bible is Jonah 3:1, "And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah a second time." God is the God of second chances. I don't care how many times you've failed, God never gets tired of forgiving and it's never too late to start over!

Pastor Ray
New Beginnings Church
www.NBC4u.org ★



By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

The love, grace, mercy and forgiveness of our Creator/Heavenly Father provides the faith to trust and believe in Jesus Christ who died on a Cross to deliver us from sin and birth faith in our lives. It is when we accept God's provision through Jesus Christ a new birth occurs within us and we know and believe because an inner-change happens within our being, just as God planned long ago.

When we recognize a rebirth within us has occurred, we desire to

Nail It To The Cross!

acknowledge it and honor God. Introduced to the Holy Word of God and water baptism, we desire to be obedient and ask to be baptized as our first physical act to do.

Nothing we do can ever earn or pay for the price Jesus paid to bring us into His family of believers. What ever we do is done out of love and appreciation for what He did for us. It is an example and basis of our new born faith in our Creator/God.

Before we accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior our life was filled with sin we lived doing all kinds of sin. NAIL IT TO THE CROSS! No longer do those sins govern our way of life as we desire to live a life that is pleasing unto God. The

Devine nature of God has implanted within us a new environment and the old nature is gone!

Continuous spiritual growth immerses one in Jesus Christ as one prays, studies and is obedient to His Word. The older one gets, blessing after blessing occurs because Jesus, God's Beloved Son paid for them all on the Cross for you and I. Remember to thank Him in your personal prayer time!

To God Be The Honor and Glory!

Marlys Johnsen Norris
Award Winning Christian Author of 7 Books,
Stephen's Minister
Columnist, Teacher, Speaker
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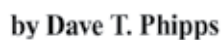
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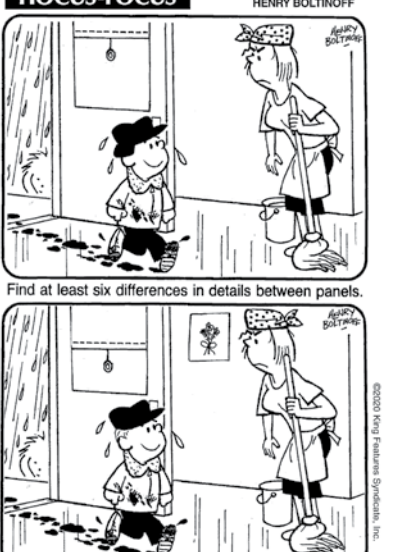
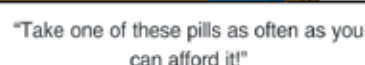
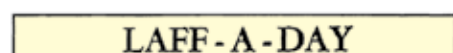
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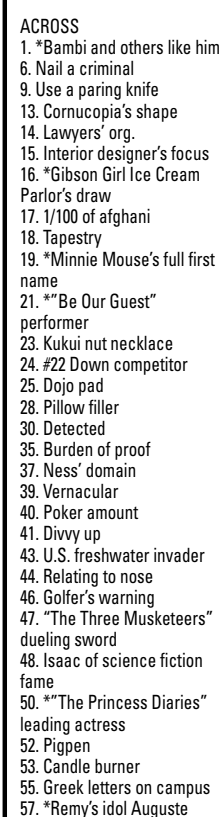
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CLUES

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 7



- 61. *Pongo's mate
- 65. Radio sign
- 66. J. Edgar Hoover's org.
- 68. Was dishonest with, two words
- 69. *Iago and Kevin
- 70. *Scar to Simba, e.g.
- 71. At the point of death, archaic
- 72. Command to Fido
- 73. Seed alternative, to a landscaper
- 74. Loses color

DOWN



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Solutions on Page 7

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7

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

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Nothing but “Blue Skies” Do I See



Business partners (left) Andrea Kopecky and Eric Bassett of Blue Sky SMOG & Repair located at 7601 Greenback Lane, Citrus Heights. Photo by Thomas J. Sullivan

By Thomas J. Sullivan

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)

A shuttered former auto repair shop at 7601 Greenback Lane at the corner of Mariposa Avenue opposite San Juan High School was given a refresh this spring with fresh coat of bright blue paint and a new name. Blue Sky SMOG & Repair, a licensed drive-in smog check station by the California State Bureau of Automotive Repair by the Department of Consumer Affairs opened mid-spring, just as the Covid crisis began. Since opening, the new automotive repair, which satisfies California required smog checks on vehicles 2000 and newer, is “building a reputation for service and quality general automotive repair work at an affordable price,” said its owner Eric Bassett. Bassett and his business partner, Andrea Kopecky, an environmental lawyer for the State of California, said they found the business listed for sale last January, contacted the property owner and made an offer. Bassett recognized the location’s high traffic potential and realized the then-shuttered repair shop needed quite a lot of work. “We had a challenging start, to say the least, but now our business is starting to grow, and we are getting an increasing number of first-time new customers,” Bassett said. Once the site of a busy gasoline station dating back to the 1950s and a much narrower Greenback Lane, Bassett said its fuel tanks had long since been removed and its four fueling bays enclosed by previous owners into smog and automotive repair stalls. Some \$75,000 in exterior renovations later, which

included new paint inside and out, smog equipment installation and the re-roofing of both buildings, Blue Sky SMOG and Repair opened its doors to the public in mid-March, just as the COVID-19 pandemic hit. In all, Blue Sky SMOG and Repair has four service bays, two which are dedicated for smog testing and two for general automotive repairs. “Andrea (Kopecky) suggested the new name, “Blue Sky”, which reflects our philosophy to help do our part to make the skies of California clearer.” Access to Blue Sky SMOG & Repair is by Mariposa Avenue, where customers can drive in for a smog test or to schedule general vehicle repairs, Bassett said. A refreshed customer reception area and service desk were created in the old station to welcome customers who wish to wait for their smog test or auto repairs to be completed, he said. The opening of Blue Sky SMOG and Repair is a career change for Bassett who before opening his automotive repair and smog testing facility pursued a professional career in informational technology. A long-time mechanic on his own, Bassett welcomed the move, and with Kopecky’s advice and support, sought to open an automotive repair business of his own. “I’ve always enjoyed working on vehicles and it’s a very rewarding and satisfying profession to help customers with their automotive repair needs,” he said. Bassett and Kopecky took a hands-on approach in creating the business’s new look, as truckloads of debris from the previous owners were cleared from the

premises and overdue physical repairs to a leaky roof were completed. The original service bays in the former gasoline station have been extended in length to handle repairs on larger-sized SUVs, and trucks customers may bring in. If you have received a notice for a required state SMOG check for your 2000 or newer gasoline vehicle, the cost is \$39.75 plus \$8.25 for the certificate, or \$48.00,” Bassett said. “It generally takes about 15-20 minutes to complete the test while the customer is waiting in their car,” he said. “Total cost for a diesel vehicle’s SMOG certification is \$10 more, or \$58.00. The diesel test is more extensive and takes a bit more time,” Bassett said. Blue Sky SMOG and Repair is registered with the California Bureau of Automotive Repair and soon with the state Better Business Bureau, Bassett said. “I am very hopeful that our business will continue to succeed in the months ahead as more customers get to know us, and our reputation for quality work at a competitive, affordable price continues to grow.” In addition to performing vehicle inspections, Blue Sky SMOG and Repair offers its customers oil changes, suspension, engine, electrical, transmission, brake, and air conditioning service. Blue Sky SMOG & Repair at 7601 Greenback Lane in Citrus Heights is open Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for drive-in smog testing. Contactless payments and hand sanitizer are offered to all customers. Social distancing is enforced. Call 916-744-SMOG (7664) for service appointments or email at blueskyautosmog@gmail.com ★

SacRT Unveils Holiday Bus



SacRT & Food Literacy Center unveiling this year’s SacRt Holiday Bus. SacRt Holiday Bus travels on different routes spreading goodwill from December 1, 2020 to January 1, 2021. Photo: SacRT

By Jessica Gonzalez, SacRT

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) and Food Literacy Center unveiled this year’s SacRt Holiday Bus on November 30, 2020. In keeping with the “season of giving,” the colorful 40-foot SacRT Holiday Bus is free to ride, but passengers have the option to donate in the farebox (cash accepted) or use a QR code or link to donate online. This year, all donations will benefit Food Literacy Center. The SacRT Holiday Bus travels on different routes throughout the Sacramento region spreading goodwill from Tuesday

December 1, 2020 through Friday, January 1, 2021. View the Holiday Bus schedule at sacrt.com. Food Literacy Center’s mission is to inspire kids to eat their vegetables. They teach children in low-income elementary schools cooking, nutrition, gardening, and active play to improve our health, environment, and economy. Did you know that only 4% of kids eat enough veggies and 1 in 3 have type 2 diabetes? Healthy eating is the most effective way to prevent diet related disease. During the pandemic, Food Literacy Center is distributing Veggie Recipe Kits to kids so they can cook a healthy meal at home with their families. ★

Sexual Assault Investigation

By Citrus Heights Police Department

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - On November 25, 2020, CHPD Detectives arrested Robert Mathis (33YOA) and Erin Mathis (36YO) for multiple counts of lewd acts with a child under ten years of age and possession of obscene matter.

At this time, three victims ranging between the ages of three and ten have been identified. Two of the victims were related to the suspects, and one was a family friend. If you have any information regarding this investigation or any potential additional victims, please call the CHPD Tip Line at 916-727-5524 and refer to case #20-9107. ★



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40 Lb Bag
•Chicken •Lamb & Rice •Beef •Large Breed •Senior •Skin & Coat •Lite 30 Lbs (Lrg Breed Lamb \$31.99) (Ex Athlete \$36.99)

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Effective 12/9/20 - 12/15/20

NUTRO WHOLESOME ESSENTIALS DRY DOG FOOD
•Chicken, Brown Rice & Oatmeal Formula (Reg & Lrg Breed) •Senior •Lite 30 Lb Bag

Limit 2 Bags Per Family

\$35.99

Effective 12/9/20 - 12/15/20

PEDIGREE DRY DOG FOOD
50 Lb Bonus Bag
•Chicken, Rice, &Vegetable •Steak & Vegetable

Limit 2 Bags Per Family

\$23.99

Effective 12/9/20 - 12/15/20

9 LIVES CANNED CAT FOOD
5.5 Oz All Varieties

Limit 1 Case Per Family

37¢

Effective 12/9/20 - 12/15/20

FANCY FEAST GOURMET CANNED CAT FOOD
All Varieties except Elegent Medley 3 Oz

Limit 2 Cases Per Family

ON SALE Everyday

Effective 12/9/20 - 12/15/20

PURINA CAT CHOW DRY CAT FOOD
•Regular •Indoor 15 Lb Bag

Limit 2 Bags Per Family

ON SALE Everyday

Effective 12/9/20 - 12/15/20

SCOOPAWAY FRESH STEP SCOOP CLUMPING CAT LITTER
Unscented 25 Lb Box
20 Lb Box
(SCOOPAWAY •Multi-Cat 20 Lb Box \$6.99) Limit 2 Boxes

Limit 2 Boxes Per Family

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•Original Choice 16 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags Per Family

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10 Lb Bag Limit 2 Bags Per Family

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15 Lb Jug Limit 2 Jugs

\$6.99

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CASCADE 150	35 Gal	\$25.99
CASCADE 200	50 Gal	\$29.99
CASCADE 300	100 Gal	\$39.99

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INSTANT OCEAN SEA SALT
50 Gal. Salt Mix

\$12.99

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CHM PLU 568

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1.4 Oz - All Varieties Limit 2 Pkgs With Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon Effective 12/9/20 - 12/15/20

89¢

CHM PLU 377

BONUS COUPON

ARM & HAMMER CAT LITTER DEODORIZER
20 Oz Box Limit 2 Boxes with Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon Effective 12/9/20 - 12/15/20

\$1.49

CHM PLU 422