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Citrus Heights Messenger

VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 46 Serving the City of Citrus Heights & Sacramento County NOVEMBER 13, 2020

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Change Service Requested

Safe Ways to Celebrate

San Juan Hosts Day of the Dead Drive-thru Event for Students



San Juan High School teachers and staff greeted more than 100 students and their families at a Day of the Dead Drive-thru event. Photo by Shaunna Boyd

Story by Shaunna Boyd

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - With the continuing pandemic, local schools are still practicing distance learning – and teachers, staff, and students have missed the personal interactions that are typically a hallmark of education at San Juan High School (SJHS) in Citrus Heights.

So, teachers and staff at SJHS found a creative way to connect to students and boost morale during such trying times. On November 4, SJHS hosted a Day of the Dead Drive-thru, serving Mexican sweet bread (pan dulce), Mexican hot

chocolate, chips and salsa, rice crispy treats, and Halloween goody bags. The event also featured music, decorations, and a traditional Dia de los Muertos altar.

The sweet bread, from Carnicería Tikal, was funded by the San Juan Alumni Association, and the Halloween goody bags were donated by Citrus Heights HART (Homeless Assistance Resource Team).

More than 100 students and their families participated in the event, waving through the vehicle windows – excited to see familiar faces once again. To maintain social distancing, cars drove up to each station and

were served by masked volunteers. After hosting their first drive-thru in September (a drive-thru ice cream sundae event), SJHS Vice Principal Jennifer Hill said the teachers and staff enjoyed it so much they wanted to hold one every month. They are now planning for a holiday drive-thru in December.

Hill said that the reason the teachers and staff chose to work in education is “for the kids,” so seeing the students again brought them so much joy: “It brings everyone’s spirits up.” And the student’s delight was evident in their smiling faces and their shouts of “Thank you!” ★

Studio Movie Grill Stalls During Pandemic

Local Theater Faced with Liens, Court Actions, and Bankruptcy



Construction has halted on the new Studio Movie Grill location in Citrus Heights, and multiple liens have been claimed against the property. The devastating financial impacts of COVID-19 has led Studio Movie Grill to file for voluntary bankruptcy to reorganize and plan for the company’s future

**Story and photo
by Shaunna Boyd**

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Many businesses locally and across the nation are

struggling due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public safety closures. The pandemic has even delayed the opening of the highly anticipated Studio Movie

Grill location in Citrus Heights.

The Texas-based company started in 1993, offering new movie screenings with full-service, in-theater dining.

Studio Movie Grill expanded to 33 locations across 10 states. The Citrus Heights location will be the eighth in California and the second in

Continued on page 3

His Mission to Sniff Out Pests and Disease



Kernul
**By Kim Nava,
Sacramento County**

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - To protect against possible crop contamination from the interstate and international shipping of fruits, vegetables and plants, tight controls have been established among trading partners for product inspection and certification. But for those who do not follow the rules, California has K9 detectors on the front-line, and Sacramento County has a new pup on the block.

Like most of the Agricultural Detector K9’s in California, “Kernul” was rescued from an animal shelter and given a very important job: to protect the California economy and environment from devastating agricultural pests.

Kernul’s handler is Michelle King, who worked hard for the opportunity to become a K9 Handler. After a few years of excellent performance as an Inspector for the Sacramento County Department of Agriculture Pest Exclusion program, she landed this very exclusive role.

King’s first task was to attend a 10-week course at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Detector Dog Training Center, where she was matched up with Kernul, who was certified through AKC Canine Partners as a “Canine Good Citizen.”

“Kernul had a personality that was very sweet and sensitive, and possessed a very strong drive for treats,” said King. “He was a perfect match for me, and together we excelled at everything we were challenged with.”

When the team returned to Sacramento at the beginning of November 2019, they began their on-the-job training. Kernul’s first few months were spent memorizing the scents of target items such as nursery plants, flowers, bulbs, seeds, roots and a large variety of fruits and vegetables. Michelle worked on strengthened relationships with parcel shipping facilities and strategized the best places to intercept contraband.

The two are now an expert team; one of 13 Agricultural Detector K9 pairs in California. Almost daily, the unit discovers unmarked packages containing non-native pests and diseases, harmful to our environment and agricultural systems. The good news is that Kernul has a nose for this type of work! When he’s not working, he likes to snuggle, swim, jog and play ball. ★

Story and photos by Shaunna Boyd

This new book builds on that foundation with the goal of creating a “national fraternity of Playmakers coaches all working under the umbrella of coaching character,” said Roz, who sees the book as a call to action. It’s written as an introduction to the coaching clinics they plan to host across the country, with coaches as “the catalyst of a systemic change.” Roz writes: “We could use the most effective laboratory invented (the field of play) to make life changes in our society. We could be treating each other better, respectfully. We could be developing



Beyond Coaching also “speaks more directly to helping at-risk kids and kids with developmental differences and the

The book is available on ThePlaymakers.org and Amazon.com. You can follow The Playmakers Organization on social media on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. ★

FRESH PRODUCE

SALES FOR PRODUCE WILL BEGIN ON WEDNESDAYS @ 12:00PM

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Satsuma Mandarins **79¢** /lb

Russet Potato 10 lb Bag **2.69** /bag

King Oyster Mushrooms **2.49** /lb

Tomatillo Milperio 1 lb **1.29** /lb

Novel Oranges 10 lb Bag **4.99** /bag

Quince **99¢** /lb

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Del Monte Tomato Ketchup 24 oz **\$1.39** /ea

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Garden of Eatin' Carnation Evaporated Milk 12 fl oz **\$1.99** /ea

Rao's Homemade Arribabita Sauce 24 oz **\$6.99** /ea

ASIAN GROCERY

ABC Brand Sweet Soy Sauce 21 fl oz **\$4.49** /ea

Butterfly Brand Peanut Butter 19 oz **\$1.99** /ea

Butterfly Brand Sesame Oil 12.5 fl oz **\$3.99** /ea

Dragonfly Brand Coconut Cream 19 fl oz **\$2.29** /ea

Dragonfly Brand Auto Jelly 43.5 oz **\$5.99** /ea

EUROPEAN GROCERY

Chetani Tomato Juice 1.5 Liters **\$3.69** /ea

Small Krenn Gubersky 1.5 Liters **\$1.99** /ea

Barbora Choco Krenn Biscuits 780 gr **\$3.49** /ea

Landsa Topping 400 gr **\$4.29** /ea

Wild Rose Wildflower 4 oz **\$2.79** /ea

KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY

Ramen Noodles 10.99 /ea

Nagasaki Shiro Ramen 16 x 4.2 oz **14.99** /ea

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Chicken Siew with Gingers 900 g **3.49** /ea

Nagasaki Peanut Crunch Snack 11.49 oz **2.89** /ea

Gumpo Woon Fun 5.5 lb Bag **3.99** /ea

Onion Pie 2 Kinds 15.05 oz **2.89** /ea

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Nori Kani 17 oz **2.49** /ea

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FROZEN & FISH DEPT

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Columbus Maple Syrup & Honey Ham **\$7.19** /lb

Columbus Oven Roasted Chicken Breast **\$6.99** /lb

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What’s the Future of Housing in Citrus Heights?

By Nichole Baxter,
City of Citrus Heights

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - The City of Citrus Heights is in the process of updating the Housing Element of its General Plan. Updated every eight years, the Housing Element outlines how the City plans to meet existing and projected future housing needs for all segments of the community and will govern housing policy between 2021 and 2029.

The projected housing need for Citrus Heights is defined by State Housing Law. The California Housing and Community Development Department (HCD) estimates future housing needs based on population projections for the entire state. Once the state’s projections are finalized, the HCD works with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments to finalize the regional housing need. Of the 153,512



City staff during a remote Q&A Zoom interview with (top left) Casey Kempenaar, Planning Manager, (top right) Stephanie Cotter, Housing and Human Services Program Coordinator, (bottom center) Nichole Baxter, Communications Officer. Photo: City of Citrus Heights

units allocated to the greater Sacramento region, Citrus Heights has been allocated a total of 697 new dwelling units. Dwelling units can be in the form of homes, apartments, accessory dwelling units, or other housing types. The City is not responsible for building these units, but must plan accordingly to demonstrate there is available space to accommodate the allocated units.

To gather input from residents about housing

needs, City staff launched a FlashVote survey, which received 445 responses. Community members can still weigh in on the future of housing in Citrus Heights by visiting CitrusHeights.net/HE to take an extended survey.

Here is one of the questions from the FlashVote survey:

Which of the following housing types would you like to see more of, if any? (You can choose up to THREE)

Options	Responses
Single family homes	55.8%
Condos/townhomes/duplexes	31.0%
Multi-family apartments	8.4%
Accessory Dwelling Units (In-law/Granny Flats)	31.5%
Housing for seniors and persons with disabilities	37.7%
Supportive housing for the homeless	33.4%
Other:	7.3%

To help residents learn more about the City’s Housing Element, staff have created a series of

educational materials, including a recorded Q&A interview, an informational flyer, and more. All

the resources related to the City’s Housing Element are available at CitrusHeights.net/HE. ★

SMUD Lists Unclaimed Checks

SMUD Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - SMUD has published the names of customers and vendors who have not yet cashed checks dated September 30, 2017 or earlier. The list of names will be posted on SMUD’s website, SMUD.org, until December 21, 2020.

In order to file a claim on an uncashed check, claimant’s name must be included on this list, or they do not have a valid claim.

To make a claim, call 916-732-7440 and supply the claimant’s name, current address, telephone number and the address for the time period between October 1, 2016 and September 30, 2017. Claimants can also mail a claim to:

Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Unclaimed Monies

6201 S Street, Mail Stop B352
Sacramento, CA 95817-1818

Each year, SMUD posts this information in an effort to find the money’s rightful owner. Claims must be made by 5 p.m. on December 21, 2020 or they become the property of SMUD under California Code Section 50050-50057.

Replacement checks will be issued only to the payee or upon proof of death, to the payee’s beneficiary.

About SMUD - As the nation’s sixth-largest community-owned, not-for-profit, electric service provider, SMUD has been providing low-cost, reliable electricity for more than 70 years to Sacramento County and small adjoining portions of Placer and Yolo Counties. For more information, visit SMUD.org. ★

Studio Movie Grill

Continued from page 1

the Sacramento region – joining the Rocklin location, which opened in 2014.

Construction was underway in Citrus Heights at the 8501 Auburn Blvd. location, and the 49,000-square-foot theater – featuring 12 screens and 1,252 luxury recliners – was scheduled to open in summer 2020.

But with the sudden downturn in company profits caused by the pandemic, progress halted on the Citrus Heights project. The location is locked behind construction fencing as the company faces mechanics’ liens and court actions.

According to lien documents recorded by the Sacramento County Clerk’s Office, since April 2020, there have been 26 mechanics’ liens filed against Studio Movie Grill’s Citrus Heights location – totaling \$6,897,820.83 unpaid to contractors and sub-contractors that have worked on the project. The filing of a lien is the first step toward a legal action seeking a court-ordered foreclosure sale of the property.

The largest lien amount is claimed by the project’s general contractor, Construct & Maintain Corp. (CM Corp.), at \$4,489,111.21. Nine subcontractors hired by CM Corp. have also filed liens on the property for lack of payment, including \$640,275.40 by Juan Torres Construction Inc.

Lien documents show that Sacramento County’s Department of Finance (Consolidated Utilities Billing and Service) has even filed a utility lien against the property for “nonpayment of utility services” at \$1,912.80.

While many of the mechanics’ liens now have pending actions in the court, two of the liens have been officially released. Papé Material Handling, which claimed \$2,559.05, and C. R. Laurence Co. Inc., which claimed \$8,552.58, both filed documents stating the lien amounts had been paid.

In an emailed response to this MPG reporter on October 19, Lynne McQuaker, Senior Director of Public Relations and Outreach for Studio Movie Grill, stated, “The

Citrus Heights project delays are entirely caused by COVID-19, which everyone knows has had a devastating impact on the theater and restaurant industry since March of 2020. We are working closely with our general contractor and subs and other partners – whose patience, understanding and support we deeply appreciate – to restart the project as soon as circumstances allow.”

Studio Movie Grill (SMG) Chairman Brian Schultz released a statement on the company’s website on October 23, announcing that the company had filed a “voluntary petition for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.” Schultz wrote that the company had reached an agreement with its lenders for financial support during the restructuring process and terms had been set for “a plan that will provide a sustainable path forward.”

Schultz continued: “We plan to use this filing to strengthen our business by reducing liabilities and reposition SMG to emerge a stronger organization built for the future as we recover from the unparalleled impact of COVID-19. We intend to move through the process as quickly as possible.”

He assured the public that Studio Movie Grill remains “committed to continuing to provide exceptional and safe guest experiences for the communities we serve. ... Film and all creative arts are an integral and powerful part of the joy of the human experience, a way for us to better understand the lives of those around us and to come together, which we cannot afford to lose.”

The City of Citrus Heights has increased efforts to support local businesses during the pandemic while maintaining focus on attracting new businesses and revitalizing the Auburn Blvd. corridor. Meghan Huber, Economic Development and Communications Manager for the City of Citrus Heights, said, “City staff have not received notice from Studio Movie Grill that their project in Citrus Heights has been cancelled. Our Economic Development team has reached out to SMG to offer any assistance we can provide.” ★

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Social Security Matters

Younger Wife is the Higher Earner

Sacramento Public Library to Reopen



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I’ve seen examples of how to maximize Social Security, but I’ve never seen an analysis for our situation. I’m 61 and my wife is 57, but she has been the primary breadwinner, while I just barely made eligibility. Our plan is for me to start at age 62 (\$500 a month) and then switch to my spousal benefit at age 74 when she starts her benefits at age 70 (her benefits should be \$2,500 a month). Are we missing anything? We are both in good health with an average life expectancy but there is a very good chance my wife will exceed the “average.”

Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning: Well first, be aware that Social Security’s rules are “gender neutral” – that is, the rules are the same regardless of which of you is the higher earner. That said, you and your wife seem to have a good strategy, for with her as the higher earner with the highest benefit, maximizing her SS payment by waiting until age 70 is an excellent plan. Since her longevity outlook is very good, she should get the most in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting. Your plan to claim at age 62 is also prudent if you will not be working full time. That’s because if you claim before your full retirement age (FRA), you’ll be



subject to an earnings test, which limits how much you can earn before SS takes back some of your benefits.

If you exceed the earnings limit, Social Security will assess a penalty of \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit and take back benefits equal to that amount. For example, if you were collecting SS this year the earnings limit is \$18,240. If you earned \$25,000, you’d be \$6,760 over the limit and SS would take back benefits equal to \$3,380. And at your \$500 monthly benefit rate, they would withhold benefits for 7 months to recover what you owe. And that’s true until you reach your full retirement age when the earnings limit goes away (born in 1959, your FRA is 66 years and 10 months). At your FRA you would get time credit for any withheld months, but if you’re planning on that SS income starting at age 62, and you’re still working, the earnings limit could derail your benefit income plan. Of course, if you won’t be working after you claim early benefits, the earnings limit doesn’t apply. And for clarity, your wife’s earnings from working don’t count toward your personal earnings limit, and the limit goes up considerably in the year you reach your FRA. If you plan to continue working and the earnings limit is an issue, you might choose to wait until your FRA to claim your benefit. By doing so you would avoid the earnings limit,

and you would also assure that you would receive the full 50% of your wife’s FRA benefit amount when she claims.

If you claim at age 62, your spousal benefit (when your wife claims) will be less than half of your wife’s FRA benefit amount because you claimed your own benefit early. Your spousal benefit will consist of both your own (reduced) benefit and a spousal boost to bring you up to your spouse benefit amount. When your wife claims at age 70, your spousal boost (the difference between your full FRA benefit amount and half of her FRA benefit amount) will be added to your own (reduced) early SS benefit, yielding a spousal benefit less than half of your wife’s FRA benefit amount. The only way you can get the full 50% spouse benefit is to wait until your own FRA to claim your own Social Security and later get the higher spouse benefit for the rest of your life.

In the end, your health, financial need and life expectancy should be the primary factors considered when deciding when to claim.

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

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Public Library has reopened 14 locations to the public on November 5, with limited occupancy, including Belle Cooledge, Colonial Heights, Elk Grove, Isleton, Martin Luther King Jr., Nonie Wetzel Courtland, North Highlands-Antelope, Rancho Cordova, Rio Linda, Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven, Southgate, South Natomas, Sylvan Oaks and Walnut Grove. Three more locations will open on November 12, including Arcade, Arden-Dimick and Carmichael.

Patrons may visit the library for browsing and computer use for up to one hour. These locations will operate Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Isleton, Nonie Wetzel Courtland, and Walnut Grove hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 1 to 6 p.m.

“While we have been able to serve the



Welcome Back to the Library!!

community with curbside service and virtual programming, we know that it has been a struggle for many without access to our services,” said Library Director and CEO Rivkah Sass. “We are so excited to open our doors and welcome you back. Your next visit may look a little different, but know that restoring access and keeping you safe is our top priority.”

The library has implemented a number of safety measures to protect public health. This includes

requiring all staff and patrons two years or older to wear a face covering, reducing occupancy and seating to allow for proper social distancing, providing hand sanitizing stations prior to entry, and frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces.

Curbside service is available at 26 locations during hours of operations. Patrons can call (916) 264-2920 to make computer appointments. Ella K. McClatchy and Orangevale are currently closed. ★

Residential Wood Burning

Restrictions Start November

By Tyler Bushnell, Sac Metro Air District

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Check Before You Burn starts on Sunday, November 1, and runs through February. During this time, the Sac Metro Air District will restrict or prohibit burning any solid fuel, including wood, pellets or manufactured firelogs, on days when fine particle pollution (PM2.5) is forecast to be high. The law applies to residents and businesses in Sacramento County and the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento. These residents and businesses are required to check the daily burn status before using a wood burning fireplace or other wood burning device to make sure it’s legal to burn.

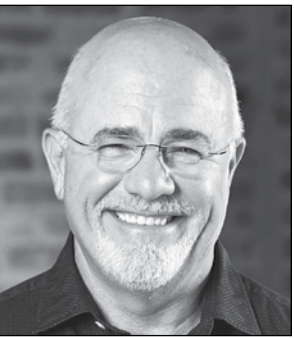
Wood burning causes over 50 percent of the winter air pollution in Sacramento County. Fine particle pollution poses a serious health threat, and everyone breathes unhealthy air when weather conditions trap pollution close to the ground. Wood smoke, much like the smoke from the wildfires that have been plaguing California, contains invisible particles that are small enough to enter the bloodstream. It is especially harmful for children, older adults and anyone with a pre-existing heart

or lung condition. Breathing wood smoke increases the risk of asthma, heart attack, stroke and many other health problems.

How to Check Before You Burn: Download the free Sacramento Region Air Quality app. Visit www.AirQuality.org. Follow on Twitter @AQMD. Call 1-877-NO-BURN-5 (1-877-662-8765). Sign up to get a daily Air Alert email at www.SpareTheAir.com – input your Sacramento County zip code and check the “Daily Air Quality Forecast” box.

Exemptions: If wood burning is your sole source of heat, or if you have received an approved financial hardship waiver from the Sac Metro Air District, you may use your wood burning device on Stage 1 or Stage 2 No Burn days. Both the sole source exemption request form and hardship waiver are available at www.AirQuality.org or by calling 1-800-880-9025. Those with EPA-certified fireplace inserts, wood stoves or pellet stoves may use them on Stage 1 days provided the devices do not emit visible smoke.

To file an air quality complaint, visit www.AirQuality.org/Residents/Complaints or call 1-800-880-9025. First time violations will result in a \$50 fine or the option to pass a wood smoke awareness exam. Subsequent violations are higher. ★



Dave Ramsey Says

Dear Rachel,

Not at all. You can seek employment in anything you want anytime you want. But I think you’re putting the cart before the horse a little bit here. It sounds like you’re assuming you won’t be able to find an employer in the finance world that will understand your situation and work with you where you dad is concerned.

If you were interviewing at my company, and we determined you were an amazing person and a perfect fit for the job, we’d take a look at things and do what we could to work things out to where we could bring you on and help you through the situation. So, in my mind, it doesn’t reflect badly on you at all to be seeking a better job now.

Now, if you found yourself in an interview where the company reeked of that hardcore, corporate, no-days-off-no-matter-what crap, well, you obviously wouldn’t take the job.

Always remember that in a job interview you’re interviewing them just as much as they’re interviewing you. You have to decide if they’re a good fit for you as much as they need to see if you’re the right person for them.

Honestly? It sounds to me a little like you’re just trying to stay in your comfort zone, kiddo. I think you need to go swimming. Jump in! The water’s fine.

– 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. ★

\$1 Million in Grants

Available for Area Nonprofits

By Kim Nava, Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The County Board of Supervisors will provide \$1 million through the 2020 TOT Grant Program to support nonprofit organizations located in Sacramento County that carry out community-based programs and/or services in the areas of economic and workforce development, arts and culture, community development, or health and human services. The County began setting aside funding for this purpose in 2017.

Grants will be allocated through a competitive process and applicants must meet eligibility and funding requirements. Applications will be accepted online beginning Nov. 6 through the County’s Office of Budget and Debt Management with a deadline of Dec. 7, 2020.

Funding for the TOT Grant Program will come from County Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenues. Transient Occupancy Taxes are levied on guests who occupy rooms in hotels, motels and other temporary lodging accommodations in the unincorporated area of the County.

TOT Grant Program Application Dates & Details: Deadline – December 7, 2020, 5 p.m. Grant Application Period: November 6 – December 7, 2020. All applications and documentation requested in the announcement must be submitted by 5 p.m. on December 7, 2020. Online Applications Only: All applications are only accepted electronically, apply online beginning November 6, duplicated and incomplete applications will be disqualified, applicants will receive electronic

receipt notification upon submission.

Grant Program and Application Virtual Workshop: Nov. 9, 2020. The workshop includes a review of the following:

- grant program and review process, application including what the Evaluation Panel looks for, timeline and submission information, and frequently asked questions.

- Grant Application Review Period: Nov. 6 – Dec. 7, 2020: County staff will review applications for completeness and compliance with minimum eligibility requirements. Applicants will be notified electronically if proposals do not meet the minimum qualifications and moved to the evaluation process. January/February 2021: Subject Area Expert Panel Application Review: Subject area experts will review, evaluate, and rank qualifying applications.

- Grantee Award Approval: March 2021. Grant Program Hearing Notification: Applicants will receive a second electronic notification of schedule for the Board of Supervisors Hearing where recommended award selections will be made.

The Board of Supervisors will make the final determination and approval for all TOT Grant Program recipients.

Budget & Debt Management will notify applicants of funding selections within 5 business days of Board Hearing approval. All notifications will be made electronically.

Budget & Debt Management will draft and administer agreements between the County and grantees.

For more information about the grant program, visit the TOT Grant Program website. ★



Sacramento Native Checks in with Naval Command in Europe



***By Megan Brown,
Navy Office of
Community Outreach***

Skelly is a 2008 Rio Americano High School graduate, a 2012 Cal Poly San Luis Obispo graduate and a native of

The Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa (NAVEURNAFAF) area of responsibility (AOR) covers approximately half of the Atlantic Ocean, from the North Pole

"Being in the Navy means respecting something bigger than myself," said Skelly. "Serving my country has been such an honor and something I'll never forget. Also, it's been really cool meeting people from all over the U.S. and seeing how they were raised and what they believe in." ★

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Things Have a Way of Catching up with Me

By Rev. James L. Snyder

I have learned in my life, and probably just one thing: things have a way of catching up with me. I can't get away with anything.

Last year someone hacked into the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's bank account and purchased a case of wine for around \$700. It took her a few days to see this in her bank account. When she saw it, she immediately went to the bank to dispute it.

It happened while she was playing the piano in church on a Sunday morning here in Florida, and the purchase was made at the same time in Southern California. I know my wife is terrific, but I did not believe she could do that. To be in two different places at the same time is magical.

Every once in a while, being the kind of person I am, I will ask her after the Sunday service, "Did you buy any wine today?"

I remember telling her at the time, "I didn't know you drank wine."

Several weeks ago, as I checked my bank account online, I noticed a transaction for \$159.32 for, of all things, cigars. But I don't smoke cigars!

I bought those cigars in New Jersey the same time I was preaching from the pulpit here in Florida. Is it possible that I have now risen to the height of the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage?

That, however, was not the end of it.

"After all these years you haven't told me everything about yourself," my wife said to me. "Why didn't you tell me you smoke cigars?" Then she laughed. I didn't.

She egged me into an intense conversation about the fact that I did not, in any way, smoke cigars; therefore, why in the world would I buy cigars. Looking at her, I could see she was enjoying this to the hilt.

"Is there anything else," she said rather soberly, "that you haven't told me?"

The next Sunday after the church service, on our way home, my wife looked at me rather soberly and said, "Honey, did you by any cigars today while you were preaching?" Then she laughed heartily, and I mumbled under my breath as I gritted my teeth.

I didn't understand where she was going with this, and then she said something else, "By the way, I did not buy any wine today

while playing the piano." Again she laughed.

Right then and there, we made a pact. I won't ask her about buying wine if she doesn't ask me about buying cigars on a Sunday.

It just showed me that things have a way of coming back on me. I need to learn to let some things go even though I might be tempted to use them for my entertainment.

I'm sure down the road, somewhere, some time, there will be an opportunity for me to indulge in this entertainment. I must keep in mind, what I think I have, my wife also has.

I was reminded of what the apostle Paul said. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7).

I thought about that for a while. Whatever you do, has repercussions. How you treat one person is how, down the road somewhere, you will be treated as well.

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

The greatest agent for change in the world is not a political party. It's not a candidate or politician. The great agent for change in the world today is the church. The greatest agent for change in the world is YOU if you are a follower of Jesus Christ. The church is the only thing that will last forever. If I could personally give my life to a greater cause, I would. Because I decided a long time ago, I wasn't going to waste my life. At one time I had thoughts of becoming a politician or political activist. There's nothing wrong with that, but it's not the greatest thing I could do with my life.

Only the church will last forever. Nothing else is going to last. No business is going to last forever. No government is going to last forever. No nation is going to last forever. Only the church is going to last forever. Jesus said in Matthew 16:18 "I will build My

Pastor Ray's Encouraging Words

Greater Than Politics

church and all the powers of hell will not conquer it."

The church is the greatest concept that God ever thought up. The church is not a building. The church is a family. Do you want to know why everything exists? It exists because God wanted a family. He wanted the church. That's why everything in this world exists. It is why you exist, and He wants you to be a part of his family.

And a thousand years from today there probably won't be a Microsoft, Apple or even Amazon. Because nothing man-made lasts. But there will be God's church. A thousand years from today there will be no Republican Party, there will not be a Democratic Party. There most likely will not be a United States of America. It's not likely. Why? Because empires don't last forever. Where's the Roman Empire today? Where's the Greek Empire? Where is the Church? It's still here! And it will last forever in eternity even after the earth is gone. The point is, the church is the greatest agent for change in the

world today and it will be tomorrow as well.

Love is more important than personal differences in God's church. Love is more important than political differences. I'm sorry, but one day you're going to get to heaven and find there are Democrats there! And they're really going to be shocked when they see you! The fact is political ideas are not going to last through one election cycle. But the church will. Do not put your trust in a political system or kingdom; but put your trust in THE Kingdom.

By the way, I'm so glad this election cycle is over. Aren't you? Always remember the Bible says that nothing is as important as love. Politics are not as important as love. Personality is not as important as love. Even doctrinal differences aren't as important as love. If you love Jesus, we're on the same team. And this team we're on is the greatest agent for change in the world today. Never forget that.

Pastor Ray
New Beginnings Church
www.NBC4u.org ★



By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

Creator/God Almighty births the "life of a baby" in its mother of every single creature on this earth.

No matter what kind of animal or a human being, a mother loves and cares for her baby until it is able to fend for itself. Most always animal babies just automatically stay with the mother. The mother watches over them and keeps them safe. It doesn't matter what kind of animal it is, they all automatically instinctively do it.

Human mothers do it too, right into their old age. Just because our children grow up, get married and even have their own children, mother's can't help to love and care for them as much as possible. Sometimes out of love, concern and their compassion to see them happy and successful a parent may give and offer them

Life Is A Gift Of God

"advice that is not wanted."

There is a higher order for mankind to live by than most people understand! It comes from a very loving and caring God! My advice is: Consult God about everything if you have questions! He will provide the best answer possible. Asking God is honoring Him in your life because God does have all the answers to everything.

Note: Ironically Today: When did it become alright to kill anyone? Women's rights? Don't you wonder why murdering God's child is now acceptable?

Today our society murders babies but tries to "save the lives of all the animals."

Therefore don't be prideful or even self-righteous about your knowledge. David who killed the giant in the Old Testament was favored in the eyes of God. Yes, he did many things right, but he also did many things wrong (sinned) and when he realized the sinfulness in the actions he repented immediately.

Immediately he was again favored and restored in the forgiveness of God.

Today we know from the Holy Scriptures, those sinning acts any of us do are merely tactics given by God's enemy to keep people away from accepting the "way of the Cross". God wants us to be "free" and experience His peace and freedom only found in the sacrificial "blood" provided by Jesus death on the Cross. We all can only find it when we take His hand, listen to His still small voice and GO WITH HIM! Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life we need. (John 3:16) Only then will we find the VICTORY to become all we will become because of His Divine love forever and ever!

Marlys Johnsen Norris
Award Winning Christian Author of 7 Books,
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CHP Welcomes New Officers Equipped with Real-Life Experience



Pledge of Allegiance. Photo credit CHP

By Jaimee Coffee, CHP

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Highway Patrol (CHP) congratulates its 77 new officers who were sworn in today during an unprecedented socially distant graduation ceremony at the CHP Academy. The graduating class begins their new career with more hands-on experience than any class in Academy history.

As concerns of the COVID-19 pandemic intensified, the CHP closed its live-in Academy in West Sacramento on March 20, 2020. All cadets were sent home and assigned to work in CHP Area offices located as close to their residences as practicable. Prior to leaving, the seven women and 70 men of Cadet Training Class (CTC) III-19, who started October 21, 2019, had completed 23 weeks of their 29-week training at the Academy.

During the six months spent working in CHP Area offices throughout the state, cadets had an unprecedented opportunity to observe a wide variety of activities and tasks, enhancing their classroom work. On ride-alongs with officers, they experienced a CHP officer's shift in the field and learned firsthand how to complete crash reports and assist the public. They also learned the administrative side of the job – filing reports, answering the phone, and performing general tasks that may be unfamiliar to many officers. On September

14, 2020, all members of CTC III-19 who left in March returned to the Academy for their final weeks of training with enhanced health and safety protocols.

"We are all so proud of this class," CHP Commissioner Warren Stanley said. "These cadets faced the uncertainty of the pandemic with resolve and returned to the Academy energized about their new careers, benefiting from a wealth of real-life experience that no other cadets have had."

At the CHP Academy, cadet training starts with nobility in policing, leadership, professionalism and ethics, and cultural diversity. Training also includes mental illness response and crisis intervention techniques. Cadet instruction covers patrol operations, crash investigation, first aid, and the arrest of suspected violators, including those who drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The cadets also receive training in traffic control, report writing, recovery of stolen vehicles, assisting the motoring public, issuing citations, emergency scene management, and knowledge of various codes including the Vehicle Code, Penal Code, and Health and Safety Code.

Upon graduation, the cadets are assigned to CHP Area offices throughout the state.

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

Critical Recycled Water Project Now Complete in Sacramento

By Sharon Sargeant, Regional San

SACRAMENTO, CA. (MPG) - The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation (Regional San) was recognized this week by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) with a Peak Performance Award. These awards are presented to water utilities that have achieved excellence in operational performance and permit compliance. Regional San received a Gold Award, which is presented to facilities with no permit violations for the entire calendar year. This is Regional San's second consecutive year receiving a Gold award.

"Regional San is honored to receive this distinction for a second year," said Prabhakar Somavarapu, Regional San's District Engineer. "The Gold Award acknowledges our ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship and

demonstrates how we're working every day to protect public health and the environment."

Utilities recognized in the Peak Performance Awards represent the top performers in the country in terms of going above and beyond in their mission to ensure clean water for their regions.

"Our public utility members are the backbone of the communities they serve, providing safe, reliable access to clean water services day-in and day-out," said NACWA CEO Adam Krantz. "This year has seen unprecedented challenges in the wake of the pandemic, and the Peak Performance Award winners have more than risen to the occasion."

To learn more about Regional San, visit regionalsan.com. To learn more about NACWA and the Peak Performance Awards, visit nacwa.org. ★



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How Long will Newsom have One-Man Rule?



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

California has been a one-party state for the last decade, with Democratic governors and supermajorities in both legislative houses doing pretty much as they pleased without paying any attention to the relative handful of Republican legislators.

However, one-party rule gave way to one-man rule eight months ago when Gov. Gavin Newsom declared an emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, thus empowering himself to govern by decree and suspend any laws that stood in his way.

Democratic legislators were fully complicit, even suspending their proceedings and abandoning Sacramento for months. Eventually, however, even they chafed a bit at Newsom’s seeming endless string of emergency orders.

In effect, some of those orders essentially made new law and while Democratic lawmakers stood by, two Republican legislators, Kevin Kiley and James Gallagher, filed suit, alleging that Newsom had gone too far.

Last week, Sutter County Superior Court Judge Sarah Heckman sided with the Republicans, declaring that Newsom’s order changing procedures for the

November election, including a mandate that every voter be sent a mail ballot, crossed the line.

Although the Legislature later ratified the election changes, Heckman wrote that it was still important to place limits on a governor’s powers under the California Emergency Services Act. Heckman indicated that in her final ruling, she would permanently enjoin Newsom from issuing any order “which amends, alters, or changes existing statutory law or makes new statutory law or legislative policy.”

“The doctrine of the separation of powers prohibits any of the three branches of government exercising the complete power constitutionally vested in another or exercising power in a way which undermines the authority and independence of another,” Heckman, who was elected in 2012, wrote.

The law empowering a governor to declare an emergency and suspend laws that impeded a rapid response was clearly aimed at some immediate catastrophe such as a flood, an earthquake or a riot. It envisioned something like then-Gov. Pete Wilson’s suspension of contract bidding laws to quickly rebuild a major freeway after the 1994 Northridge Earthquake.

COVID-19 required a rapid response, but it’s also something that could last, in one form or another, for years. Conceivably, Newsom could continue governing under his emergency decree for the remainder of his first four-year term.

Even before pandemic struck, Newsom was prone to sidestepping laws that could impede whatever he

might want to do. He boasts, for instance, of ignoring state law when, as mayor of San Francisco, he unilaterally authorized same-sex marriages. More recently, he declared that there would be no executions of murderers during his governorship even though California’s death penalty is still law – one that voters refused to repeal just four years ago.

Newsom claims moral imperative as justification for his acts, but if elected officials ignore laws they don’t happen to like or find inconvenient, they undermine the concept of governance under law and encourage disrespect for legal authority. Ironically, this is the same governor who demands that 40 million Californians obey his pandemic decrees, such as shutting down small businesses.

Judge Heckman’s order will certainly be appealed and the issue will probably wind up in the state Supreme Court. Newsom press secretary Jesse Melgar said Newsom and his advisers “strongly disagree” with “specific limitations” on the governor’s emergency authority.

Meanwhile, it’s time for the entire Legislature, not just Kiley and Gallagher, to reassert its co-equal authority rather than allowing Newsom to operate indefinitely as a one-man band.

The law that gives Newsom the authority to declare an emergency also allows the Legislature, on its own, to end such an order.

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

CLG NEWS UPDATES

Provided by Citizens for Legitimate Government (CLG) See legitgov.org

If Trump concedes election, Republicans will ‘never’ elect another president | 08 Nov 2020 | Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) warned that President Trump should not concede defeat in the 2020 presidential election in part because Republicans will “never” be able to elect another president from their party again. “If Republicans don’t challenge and change the U.S. election system, there will never be another Republican president elected again,” Graham said Sunday on Fox News. “President Trump should not concede. We’re down to less – 10,000 votes in Georgia. He’s going to win North Carolina. We have gone from 93,000 votes to less than 20,000 votes in Arizona, where more –more votes to be counted.” Every major news network and The Associated Press on Saturday projected Joe Biden as the winner of the 2020 race for the White House. Trump has said he will not concede, alleging widespread voter fraud led to tens of thousands of illegal ballots being cast against him.

Rep. Doug Collins to lead Trump campaign’s Georgia recount effort | 08 Nov 2020 | Georgia Rep. Doug Collins – who just lost his bid for a Senate seat – will lead the Trump campaign’s recount effort in the state that was too close to call. The move was announced Sunday night and the recount in The Peach State will begin when “the canvassing has concluded,” according to President Trump’s campaign. “Republicans stand by the ideal that every eligible voter should be able to vote legally and have it be counted,” Collins said in a statement. Collins and the Trump campaign both claimed that ballots were “improperly harvested” in Georgia.

99.6% of Mail Ballots Went to Joe Biden in Pennsylvania? | 08 Nov 2020 | Democratic Absentee: 1,704,817 Republican Absentee: 625,766 Independent Absentee: 303,355 (votespa.com/About-Elections/Pages/Counting-Dashboard.aspx) % of Absentee Ballots that were Returned from Registered Democrats and Non-Republicans: (1,704,817 + 303,355) / (1,704,817 + 625,766 + 303,355) = 76.24% % of Absentee Ballots that were Returned from Registered Republicans and Non-Democrats: (625,766 + 303,355) / (1,704,817 + 625,766 + 303,355) = 35.27% Total Biden Mail Votes: 1,942,596 Total Trump Mail Votes: 582,430 Total Joe Mail Votes: 23,996 (electionreturns.pa.gov/) % of Absentee Ballots that voted for Biden: 1,942,596 / (1,942,596 + 582,430 + 23,996) = 0.7623 = 76.21% % of Absentee Ballots that voted for Trump: 582,430 / (1,942,596 + 582,430 + 23,996) = 0.7623 = 22.85% % of **Democratic and Non-Republican Absentee Voters who voted for Joe Biden: 76.21% / 76.24% = 99.96%** % of Republican and Non-Democratic Absentee Voters who voted for Donald Trump: 22.85% / 35.27% = 64.79%

Trump Campaign to Name David Bossie to Lead Legal Election Fight - Report | 06 Nov 2020 | President Donald Trump’s re-election campaign is expected to name seasoned conservative operative David Bossie to lead its post-2020 presidential election legal efforts, according to reports. The *New York Times*, CBS News, and ABC News all reported the development Friday afternoon as the Trump campaign continues to wage legal battles in key battleground states over concerns of voter fraud and inadequate observation of ballot counting in the November 3rd election.

Candace Owens targets Facebook 3rd-party fact-checkers with lawsuit | 06 Nov 2020 | Conservative activist Candace Owens said Thursday that she plans to sue Facebook’s third-party fact-checkers over perceived censorship of her social media posts. “It is time to fact-check the fact-checkers,” Owens said in a video posted to her Twitter account. “I’m going to put these suckers through discovery and figure out what the relationship is that they have with Facebook.” Owens gave an example of an instance that she alleged crossed the line. “Quite literally a doctor gave his opinion about COVID-19, which I shared, and Facebook issued a strike on my account because they said only information that they agree with about COVID-19...was acceptable,” she said.

Supreme Court Orders Pennsylvania to Separate Late-Arriving Ballots – Alito orders that ‘all such ballots, if counted, be counted separately’ | 07 Nov 2020 | U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito late Friday ordered Pennsylvania election officials to segregate and separately count ballots that arrived after Election Day. Alito granted a request by the state’s Republican party to separate mail-in ballots received between 8 p.m. Nov. 3 and 5 p.m. Nov. 6 from those that arrived by 8p.m. Nov. 3, in accordance with state guidance. He ordered that those segregated ballots must be kept “in a secure, safe and sealed container separate from other voted ballots.” The justice, however, did not order the counties to stop counting but instead ordered “all such ballots, if counted, be counted separately.” Alito also directed any responses to the application by 2 p.m. Nov. 7. The Republican Party of Pennsylvania had filed a request earlier on Friday asking the court for an order to log, segregate, and not take any actions over mail-in ballots received after Election Day.

Two ‘Bomb Threats’ Force Trump Supporters to Move Locations of Detroit Rally; Detroit Police Arrest Trump Unity Bridge Driver, Falsely Accuse Him of Having Two Outstanding Warrants | 06 Nov 2020 | WalkAway founder Brandon Straka and other local Michigan grassroots groups organized a rally to show their support for President Trump in front of the TCF Center in Detroit, where the process of ‘counting’ absentee ballots took place for the past 3 days. Shortly after Trump supporters arrived, they were told by Detroit Police that they had to leave because there was a bomb threat at the TCF Center. The group moved to the Detroit City Hall, where they reorganized and began to show their support for President Trump when they were told to move AGAIN because there was another bomb threat... Avid Trump supporter Scott Hagerstrom was with Rob Cortis, when he arrested. Hagerstrom told us that although the police told them there was a bomb threat at Detroit City Hall, none of the workers inside City Hall were being evacuated.

Fixed ‘computer glitch’ turns losing Republican into a winner in Oakland County | 06 Nov 2020 | (MI) A ‘computer error’ led election officials in Oakland County to hand an upset victory Wednesday to a Democrat, only to switch the win back to an incumbent Republican a day later. In Oakland County’s 15th County Commission District – representing Rochester and Rochester Hills – the initial count gave a 104-vote margin to the Democrat, Melanie Hartman, amounting to a razor-thin majority of 50.08%. That stunned the incumbent, Adam Kochenderfer, giving him a sure sense that he’d lost in a district long deemed a Republican stronghold. “Apparently, there was a technical glitch in Rochester Hills. And so I actually ended up winning by a little over 1,100 votes,” said a chuckling Kochenderfer. The margin was 1,127 votes, to be exact. That gave him a 51.67% share of the total (with 48.23% going to his opponent, Hartman).

GOP Claims Software Error Switched 6,000 Republican Votes to Democratic, Used in 47 Michigan Counties | 06 Nov 2020 | Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel and other GOP officials said the fight over the presidential election isn’t over, saying that 47 counties in Michigan may have used software that was detected to have allocated votes to Democrat Joe Biden instead of President Donald Trump in one county. “In Antrim County, ballots were counted for Democrats that were meant for Republicans causing a 6,000-vote swing against our candidates,” Michigan GOP Chairwoman Laura Cox said in a news conference Friday. “The county clerk came forward and said tabulating software glitched and caused a miscalculation of the votes.” Cox added: “Since then, we have now discovered that 47 counties use this same software in the same capacity. Antrim County had to hand count all of the ballots, and these counties that use this software needs to closely examine their results for similar discrepancies.”

New blacklist of 'Trump sycophants' inspired by AOC being compiled | 06 Nov 2020 | At the behest of ‘squad’ member and New York Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D), a blacklist of “Trump sycophants” – entitled “The Trump Accountability Project” – is archiving the names of individuals who “elected, served, funded, supported, and represented” President Donald Trump. “Is anyone archiving these Trump sycophants for when they try to downplay or deny their complicity in the future? I foresee decent probability of many deleted Tweets, writings, photos in the future,” the US representative tweeted Friday afternoon. “Yes, we are,” answered former Obama administration staffer Michael Simon, citing the Trump Accountability Project. “Every Administration staffer, campaign staffer, bundler, lawyer who represented them – everyone.” On the website’s landing page, it urges that “[w]e must never forget those who helped further the Trump agenda.” The site is a self-described “permanent record” of those who elected the president, including Trump campaign staffers, Republican National Committee members, and affiliated PACs in 2016 or 2020.

Nevada Republican Party sends criminal referral to DOJ alleging thousands of cases of voter fraud | 05 Nov 2020 | The Nevada Republican Party announced Thursday evening that it has sent a criminal referral to U.S. Attorney General William Barr with allegations that the state had 3,602 cases of voter fraud. The criminal complaint comes as news outlets have yet to announce a projected winner in the race between President Trump and Democratic nominee Joe Biden, with the Trump campaign and the GOP having already filed multiple unsuccessful legal challenges in the Southwestern state. “Our lawyers just sent a criminal referral to AG Barr regarding at least 3,062 instances of voter fraud,” the Nevada Republican Party wrote in a tweet. “We expect that number to grow substantially. Thousands of individuals have been identified who appear to have violated the law by casting ballots after they moved from NV.” ★

Ask Toni Group Health Insurance . . . Who Pays First with Medicare?



Toni King

Toni,
I am 67 and have group health insurance through my current employer. I have talked with friends, my company HR, and my insurance agent. I am receiving answers from “I don’t know” to “I’m not sure but I think ...”. My company health insurance has a \$2,500 deductible. If I have a medical claim and I have Medicare Part A and my employer medical insurance, who will pay the claim first and how much will I have to pay? Also, should I have enrolled in Medicare Part B since I am still working?

I have just started following your Medicare column in our local paper and am finding you are answering problems, I never knew I could have. Thank You so much. ~ Roxanne, New Orleans

Roxanne,

Let’s start with discussing enrolling in Medicare Part B when working with an employer group health plan. On page 22 of the 2018 Medicare & You handbook, it discusses “Should I Get Part B” with employer or union coverage and states... “If you or your spouse is still working, and you have health coverage through that employer or union, contact your employer or union benefits administrator to find out how your coverage works with Medicare ... It might be to your advantage to delay Part B enrollment.”

To answer about enrolling in Medicare Part B, it is optional because when you leave your or your spouse’s employer group health plan, then you can enroll in Medicare Part B with a Special Enrollment Period.

Now let’s talk about who will pay your claim first and this depends on how many employees are on your company’s group health plan:

1. Your employer has 20 or more employees. Your group health plan will generally be primary. Should your group health plan not pay all the bill, you may need to ask the health

care provider or your doctor to send the remainder of the bill to Medicare if you are enrolled in Medicare Parts A and/or B for secondary payment. Should there be any cost your health insurance or Medicare didn’t cover, you will have to pay the balance.

Your employer has 20 or more employees. The employer must offer their employees 65 and older the same health benefits, under the same conditions that the company offers employees under 65. If the employer offers coverage to under 65 employees’ spouses, the employers must offer over 65 employees’ spouses the same coverage.

Medicare will generally pay second if the following applies:

- If your employer joins forces with other employers or employer organizations i.e., unions, to sponsor a multi-employer plan (group health plan). Sometimes employers with less than 100 employees will band together to form a multi- employer plan. Medicare pays second.

2. Your employer has less than 20 employees. Medicare pays first.

3. You and Retiree Insurance (insurance from your or your spouse’s former employer): Medicare pays first.

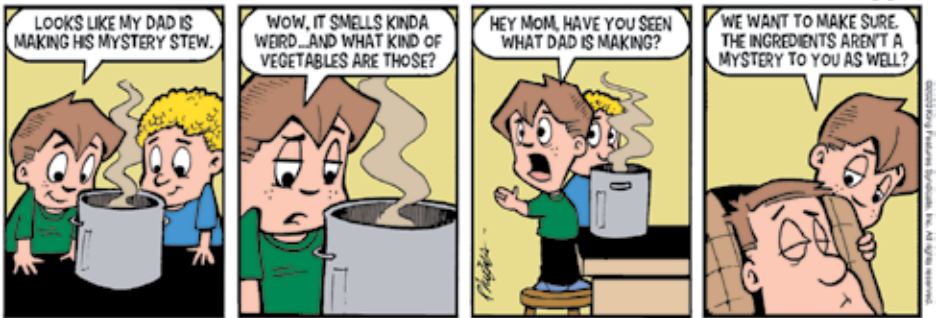
Always verify with your Human Resources if the Insurance Company will pay first when the employees or employees’ spouses are over 65 and on company health benefits. One thing to know is that if you should go outside your employer’s network, it is possible that neither the company’s plan nor Medicare will pay.

Is the maze of Medicare confusing you? Call the Toni Says® Medicare hotline at 832-519-8664 or visit the Medicare Annual Enrollment Toni Says® webinars which explain what Medicare is and how to properly find your Medicare Part D plan at www.toni-says.com.

Toni King, author of the Medicare Survival Guide® is giving a \$5 discount on the Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced book to Toni Says Medicare column readers. ★

WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



CRIM BEAR IT



LAFF-A-DAY



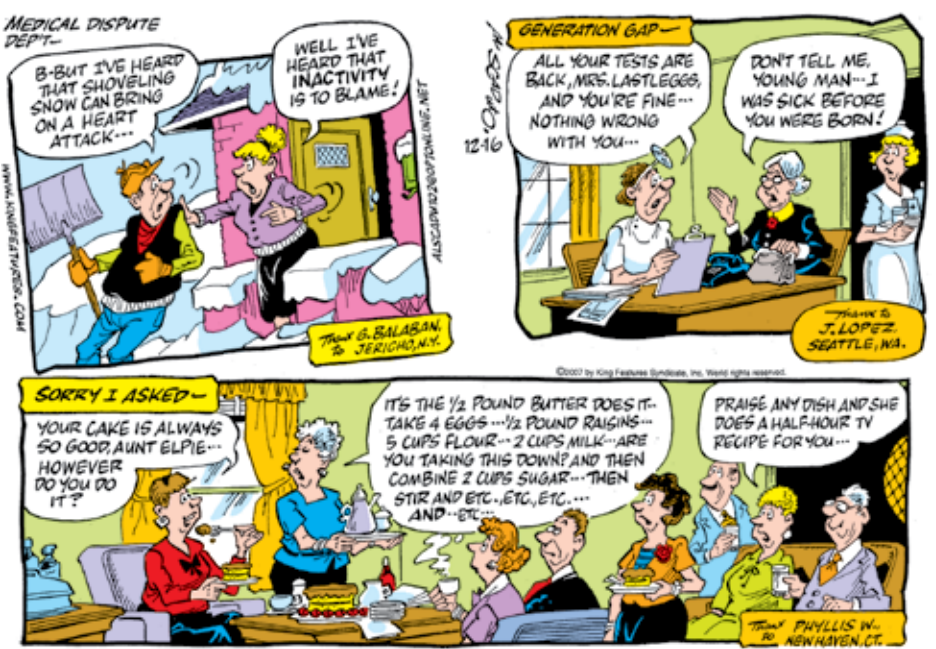
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO

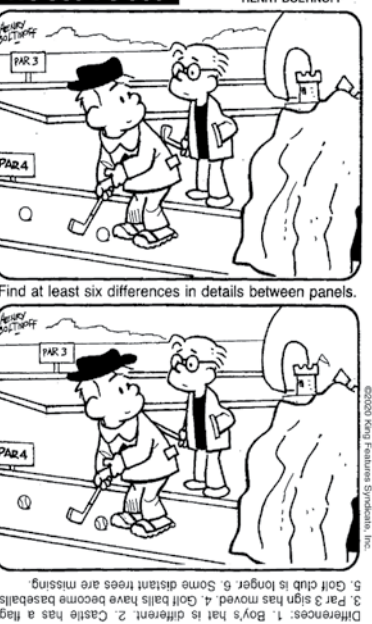


by Dave T. Phipps



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTHOFF



Crossword Puzzle on Page 9

L	D	O	P	A		O	P	S		H	O	S	E		
I	R	K	E	D		B	I	T		L	A	P	E	L	
B	U	R	R	O		E	G	O		U	N	A	R	M	
	B	A	R	N	E	Y		P	I	C	K	L	E	S	
		Y	I	N			I	S	L	E					
V	O	W		S	A	P	S		K	N	E	A	D	S	
E	C	R	U		T	O	O	L		T	E	R	R	A	
L	E	E	R		E	N	T	E	R		L	E	A	N	
M	A	N	G	O		Y	O	G	A		S	A	N	D	
A	N	S	E	L	M		P	O	D	S		S	K	Y	
					D	O	V	E		I	I	I			
C	A	R	T	M	A	N		T	I	T	A	N	S		
O	P	E	R	A			E	A	R		S	M	O	K	E
L	E	T	O	N			C	P	A		U	B	O	A	T
A	X	E	D				K	E	Y		P	I	N	T	A

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Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 9

CLUES

ACROSS

- Brocadopa or Larodopa
- They are often covert
- Used for watering
- Vexed
- Took the bait
- Spot for boutonniere
- Old West pack animal
- Big-headedness
- Render harmless
- Bamm-Bamm's dad
- *Angelica, Tommy and Dil
- Opposite of yang
- Archipelago unit
- Solemn pledge
- Depletes
- Works, as in a bakery
- Kind of beige
- Hammer or sickle
- ____ firma
- Lecherous look
- Computer key
- Lure for a dieter, on a package
- Tropical smoothie flavor
- Health club offering
- Hourglass filler
- Popular saint's name
- Pea ____ pl.
- Limit, to some
- Peace symbol
- Like King George, 1760-1820
- *Ill-tempered fourth-grader's last name
- *Beast Boy and Starfire
- Rossini's offering
- Lobe locale
- Sure sign of fire
- Pretend, two words
- Number cruncher, acr.
- Lusitania destroyer
- Gave the boot
- Pivotal
- Santa Maria's companion

DOWN

- Party choice, abbr.
- Clobber
- Southern stew staple
- *Stepbrothers' bipedal platypus
- Apollo Creed's son
- Toe the line
- *Peppa's or George's last name
- "The buck ____ here"
- *King of the Hill
- Milky-white gem
- Dry as dust
- Popular street-lining trees
- Aglow
- Related on mother's side
- Type
- Carbon-12 or carbon-13
- *The "brains" of Scooby-Doo's group
- Billy of '80s Billboard charts
- Small songbirds
- *Pinky Pie or Fluttershy
- Unagi, pl.
- A in A-ab, pl.
- Did it to Kool-Aid
- *Land mammal in Bikini Bottom
- Give a pep talk
- *Emmet Brickowski's brick
- Spokes of a wheel, e.g.
- *Mr. Magoo or Mr. Burns, e.g.
- Bygone bird of New Zealand
- Opposite of 'lies down'
- Sweater style
- More than one iamb
- Float liquid
- Mt. Everest to Earth
- Network of nerves
- Walked on
- Cafeteria carrier
- High part of day
- 3-handed card game
- *Magilla Gorilla, e.g.
- Pilot's announcement

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 9

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

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Solutions on Page 9

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ASK THE DMV

What you need to know about accessing DMV services online

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the DMV is prioritizing customer and employee safety and increasing the number of transactions that can be completed without a visit to a DMV field office. The DMV has several channels to better serve customers, including self-service options online or at DMV kiosks, the ability to complete transactions online or over the phone with help from a DMV representative, or via a DMV business partner so that customers can “visit” the DMV by other means. The following questions address the most convenient ways to access DMV services and complete essential transactions without stepping foot in a field office.

Q: HOW CAN I RENEW MY EXPIRING VEHICLE REGISTRATION?

A: In an effort to keep customers and employees safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, the California Department of Motor Vehicles is encouraging Californians to utilize online services for all vehicle registration renewals. Most online registration services are self-serve, meaning you can complete them on your own from start to finish. Others are “assisted”, meaning they are done with help from a virtual DMV representative. Online registration is convenient and safe. Customers can avoid a trip to a DMV office by visiting dmv.ca.gov and clicking on “Vehicle Registration” at the top of the page.

Additionally, for even greater convenience, DMV customers can visit a DMV Now kiosk to complete their vehicle registration renewal instantly, including printing tags on the spot. With hundreds of locations throughout the state, customers can also use a DMV Now kiosk to submit proof of insurance, receive a driver or vehicle record, and much more. To locate a DMV Now kiosk nearest you, please visit: www.cadmynowkiosk.com/kiosks. Customers can also find DMV business partners, such as AAA and others, to complete selected transactions by visiting dmv.ca.gov and clicking on “Locations” to find nearby options.

Please note that some customers who opt to renew their registration by mail may experience delays in receiving their valid registration card and sticker due to COVID-19 impacts on DMV mail sorting operations. Online and DMV Now kiosk registration renewals are not subject to any processing delays at this time.

Learn more about online registration renewals at www.dmv.ca.gov/online.

Q: I WOULD PREFER TO VISIT THE DMV IN PERSON, IS THAT AN OPTION FOR ME?

A: The health and safety of all customers and Californians is top priority for the DMV during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the DMV has reopened its field offices to assist customers with appointments and selected service needs that must be completed in a field office. The DMV is urging customers to use their expanded online services and DMV Now Kiosks to complete transactions, including driver’s license and vehicle registration renewals.

There are hundreds of DMV Now kiosks locations throughout the state which can help customers complete their vehicle registration renewal, submit proof of insurance, receive a driver or vehicle record, and more. To locate a DMV Now kiosk nearest you, please visit: www.cadmynowkiosk.com/kiosks. Customers can also find DMV business partners to complete selected transactions by visiting dmv.ca.gov and clicking on “Locations” to find nearby partners.

Customers who come into a DMV office during this time for service needs that must be completed in a DMV field office during the COVID-19 pandemic will find increased health and safety protocols, including the use of infrared thermometers to conduct temperature checks before scheduled appointments for customers, and before a shift starts for employees. Additionally, all employees and customers are required to wear a face covering while inside an office and during a behind-the-wheel drive test exam, and practice six feet of physical distancing. Customers should anticipate longer than usual wait times while these preventive measures are in place.

Visit the DMV’s online portal to use the DMV’s Service Advisor tool to learn what options are available to you at www.dmv.ca.gov/online.

Sacramento County DA Reports

Defendant Convicted of First-Degree Murder, Attempted Voluntary Manslaughter

DATE: November 6, 2020
CASE: Akeim McFadden (Case #20FE003314)
PROSECUTOR: Principal Criminal Attorney Thomas Asker, Homicide Unit

Akeim McFadden was convicted by a jury of the first-degree murder of George Nixon. McFadden was also convicted of attempted voluntary manslaughter and two counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm. The jury found true use of firearm and use of a firearm causing death allegations. The Court also found that McFadden has a 2016 prior strike conviction for spousal battery and personally inflicting great bodily injury.

On June 24, 2019, Akeim McFadden shot the victim in the stomach at point blank range over a bicycle in Rancho Cordova. Paramedics transported the victim to UC Davis Medical Center, where he survived his injury. On November 19, 2019, McFadden shot and killed George Nixon while Mr. Nixon was asleep in a tent in the backyard of a Rancho Cordova residence. The District Attorney’s Crime Lab matched casings found at the crime scene to casings found at the June 24th crime scene.

McFadden faces a maximum sentence of 98 years and 8 months to life in prison. Sentencing is set for December 11, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. in Department 10 before the Honorable Ernest Sawtelle.

through the house. Both victims were taken to the UCD Medical Center and treated for significant injuries. One victim suffered a broken nose, fractured orbital bone, scalp hematoma, wounds to her head requiring 20 staples, fractured ribs, fractured fingers on both hands, and multiple human bite marks to her face, arms, hands, and chest. The second victim suffered bleeding between her skull and her scalp, human bite marks to her face and arm, lacerations to her face requiring extensive suturing, and a fractured rib.

Child Sex Offender Convicted of Sexually Assaulting Two Sisters

DATE: November 6, 2020
CASE: Anthony Dougherty (Case #18FE000503)
PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney TeriAnn Grimes, Adult Sexual Assault Prosecution Unit

Anthony Dougherty was convicted by a jury of two counts of forcible rape and one count of lewd act upon a child with a multiple victim enhancement. The Court found that Dougherty has two prior 2001 strike convictions for lewd and lascivious act upon a child.

The two victims are sisters who were raised by their grandmother. When one of the sisters was 14 years old, she took a job working for Dougherty, who was a family member. When the two were working alone, Dougherty forcibly raped her. Dougherty forcibly raped her again when she was 15 years old. When the victim disclosed the sexual assaults to her sister, her sister confided that Dougherty also tried to “get at her” and put his hand up her shirt. She was able to fight Dougherty off and had not previously told anyone what happened. But, both girls reported the incidents when learning about the other. Dougherty previously molested a different child on multiple occasions in 2001.

Dougherty faces a maximum sentence of 240 years to life in prison. Sentencing is set for December 11, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in Department 10 before the Honorable Ernest Sawtelle. ★

Defendant Convicted of First-Degree Murder in Rio Linda Shooting

DATE: November 6, 2020
CASE: Joshua Imber (Case #17FE018232)
PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Timothy Carr, Homicide Unit

The Honorable James Arguelles sentenced Edward Thomas to 11 years and 8 months in state prison. On September 16, 2020, a jury convicted Thomas of two counts of elder abuse with great bodily injury enhancements and two counts of battery causing serious bodily injury.

On November 30, 2019, Edward Thomas attacked his elderly 72-year-old sister and 94-year-old mother. The attack occurred when his sister asked him to keep marijuana smoke from wafting

Crime Reports

Citrus Heights Police Report

November 2nd
November 7th

11/02/2020 • Time: 3:32 PM • IR Number: 12009023
Crime: **211 PC: Robbery**
Location Type: Department Store/Big Box Store • Public Address: 78xx Lichen Dr.
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

11/03/2020 • Time: 8:30 PM • IR Number: 12009081
Crime: **487(a) PC: Grnd Thft:prop/Etc \$950+**
Location Type: Garage - Attached • Public Address: 69xx Ranch House Wy.
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

11/04/2020 • Time: 3:48 PM • IR Number: 12009087
Crime: **484(A) PC: Petty Theft**
Location Type: Other • Public Address: 2xx Pau Hana Cr.
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

11/04/2020 • Time: 1:15 AM • IR Number: 12009068
Crime: **10851(A) VC: Vehicle Theft**
Location Type: Parking Lot • Public Address: 74xx Auburn
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

11/05/2020 • Time: 2:11 PM • IR Number: 12009171
Crime: **484(A) PC: Petty Theft**
Location Type: Shopping Mall • Public Address: 70xx Auburn
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

11/05/2020 • Time: 1:46 PM • IR Number: 12009127
Crime: **10851(A) VC: Vehicle Theft**
Location Type: Parking Lot • Public Address: 58xx Sunrise
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

11/06/2020 • Time: 3:19 AM • IR Number: 12009137
Crime: **459 PC: Burglary - Commercial**
Location Type: Other • Public Address: 85xx Auburn
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

11/06/2020 • Time: 12:01 AM • IR Number: 12009137
Crime: **10851(A) VC: Vehicle Theft**
Location Type: Street/Highway • Public Address: 54xx Bartig Wy.
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

11/07/2020 • Time: 3:30 PM • IR Number: 12009186
Crime: **10851(A) VC: Vehicle Theft**
Location Type: Garage - Attached • Public Address: 79xx Tangors Wy.
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

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Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids Readies for Holiday Giveaway

River City Food Bank Named Nonprofit of the Year by Asm. Cooley



The Kindergarten Project accepts blanket kits for kids. Photo: SBSK



From left to right: Mike Wiley, River City Food Bank past president of the Board of Directors, Assemblyman Ken Cooley (D), Amanda McCarthy, River City Food Bank executive director, and Laura Knauss vice president at the morning open house event. Photo by Patrick Larenas

By Claire Gliddon, SBSK

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Every September, SBSK picks the 7 lowest-income elementary schools and finds out how many kindergarteners they have, and they make double fleece blankets (about 40” x 60”) for ALL of them, and a little fleece pouch with a Beanie Baby in it to go with each blanket. SBSK gives these to the kids right before Christmas break. (Even during this time of distance learning, the teachers will get these to their students.) Some of these kids live in their cars or in places without heat. And this is ALL they get for Christmas. It is WILDLY popular with the teachers AND the kids! Spread the word, too! We've done this for 7 years and hope to continue doing it, as long as we can get Beanie Babies. In 2020, SBSK will need 998 blankets and Beanie Babies.

SBSK—SBSK is always



Volunteer Millie puts her heart into the gift blankets to be distributed. Photo: SBSK


looking for new volunteers to make blankets all year round for children in need. Kindergarten Project—SBSK is asking for donations of Joann’s fleece blanket kits (48 x 60) all year long. Beanie Baby Explanation—SBSK is asking for donations of new or “almost new” Beanie Babies all year long. If you’d like more information about SBSK, please go to www.sacblankets4kids.com and sign in!

No pressure, no timelines, no meetings...just people who enjoy blanket-making and helping a whole lot of children at the same time. Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids (SBSK) is a nonprofit organization that gets volunteers to make handmade blankets (sew, quilt, crochet, knit, no-sew fleece) for children in need from infants to 18-year-olds. They do this all year long! But they also have a “special” project they do around this time of year. ★

By Patrick Larenas

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Office of Assemblyman Ken Cooley (D) awarded River City Food Bank 501(c)(3) the 2020 Nonprofit of the Year recognition on Friday, October 30. Cooley joined the Arden Arcade food distribution facility located at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church to tour and witness the services rendered to those struggling with food insecurity. Families and individuals gathered at the open house while the Assemblyman took the early moments of the morning to reflect on the symbolism portrayed on the Capitol building’s pediment which inspires legislators to honor nonprofits. The statues he referred to depicted men on horseback fending off natural threats such as a mauling grizzly bear and a charging buffalo for Athena, goddess of wisdom and warfare, surrounded by the embodiments of Education, Justice, Industry and Mining. Organizations such as River City Food Bank said Cooley are subduing the great challenges that nature now presents humanity: “that has been the mission of the food bank,” to tame the raw forces of nature on behalf of the communities served. The Covid-19 pandemic has been such a challenge as the food distribution facility saw a 32 percent increase this year. According to the Office of Assemblyman Ken Cooley, “As employees continue

to be laid off or are forced to stay home to care for their children, and begin to deplete their financial reserves, the need for food assistance is skyrocketing.” River City Food Bank executive director Amanda McCarthy said, “the partnership here with the Episcopal Diocese has been really ideal since this area is practically a grocery store desert... and we make sure that at least 50 percent of what we provide is fresh produce.” She said residents, and especially refugees, without means for transportation, greatly benefit from the food bank’s presence there. Mike Wiley board of director and past president of River City Food Bank said they are very honored to receive the California Legislature Assembly Certificate of Recognition from the 8th District Assemblyman. “This is the first time since its founding in 1968 that we have received the Nonprofit of the Year recognition,” he said. River City Food Bank’s main distribution center is located in midtown at 1800 28th Street Sacramento, CA 95816 (916) 446-2627 Food distribution hours for midtown are Tuesday–Thursday: 10:30a.m.–1:30p.m. and at Arden Arcade: Friday-Saturday 10:30a.m.–1:30p.m. River City Food Bank Center at St. Matthew’s is located on 2300 Edison Ave. Sacramento, CA 95821 For more information visit rivercity-foodbank.org/ ★



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