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# Citrus Heights

**VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 34** 

Serving the City of Citrus Heights & Sacramento County

AUGUST 21, **2020** 

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## A Century of Women's Vote



One of the rights women were fighting for was better education for their children. Here a volunteer is teaching young men the importance of voting when they get older. Public domain photo/wildwestwomen.org

By Elise Spleiss

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) -August 26, 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. the official ratification of the 19th amendment which gave American women the right to vote at all levels. electorate forever.

In the 72-year struggle, women had been forced to organize in each state as the U.S. Supreme Court took the phrase "all men are created equal" literally. It ruled that protection under the U.S. Constitution did not include women.

The national women's suffrage campaign began in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848, led by Elizabeth younger stable, middle class citizens.

Cady Stanton. The cause advanced with five western states preceding California: Wyoming -1890; Colorado - 1893; Utah and Idaho -1896; Washington - 1910.

launched an unsuccessful campaign to win the vote in 1896. Amendment changing the face of the American 6 was defeated by over 20,000 votes with eight women graduates in 1901 due to the better organized, large northern cities which easily outvoted those in the more rural south.

Much was to change, however, as the new railroad was bringing 50,000 new residents to California each year, many seeing in it a great land of opportunity. California had gone from being a wild frontier to a cultured and diverse 20th century home for

At this same time, young women were beginning to leave the farm for textile, food service, retail and clerical jobs in the city. They were demanding more education to create nurses California women had previously and teachers, health care and business professionals. Stanford University answered their call, opening in 1895 and more than 200 by 1910.

> By 1910, as a more progressive Republican administration came into power, women acted quickly to again put the question of the vote before the voters – all men. The time was right.

> On February 2, 1911 the California State Senate and House voted to hold an election on October 10, 1911, giving suffragettes only eight Continued on page 10

### **Scammers** Targeting **SMUD Customers**

SMUD News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - SMUD urges customers to be on the lookout for scammers claiming to represent SMUD and threatening disconnection if immediate payments are not made.

A common scam currently being used works like this:

Scammers contact a customer — sometimes from a phone number that appears to be SMUD's customer service number — and threaten disconnection if a payment is not made immediately via a pre-paid debit card, often at a pay station such as CVS or Safeway stores (not authorized SMUD pay stations). Some scammers have even asked for a cash payment to be made in person at a public location;

Then the scammer demands that the customer call back a non-SMUD number with payment details; When the customer calls the number, it is answered with a recording of SMUD's phone-based customer service menu; When the customer chooses a menu option, the call will go to voicemail or will be answered by a scammer posing as a SMUD employee.

Please note that SMUD representatives will never call a customer and direct them to a non-SMUD payment facility or require a specific method of payment such as cash, wire payment or money card.

A list of authorized SMUD pay stations can be viewed by visiting SMUD.org/Pay. The following are not SMUD authorized pay stations: CVS, RiteAid, Walgreens and Safeway. Also, SMUD does not accept payment via Green Dot, Money Pak, MoneyGram or Reloadit.

If customers receive a suspicious call, SMUD asks them to ask for a name and number, then hang up and call SMUD at one of the following published numbers:

Residential customers: 1-888-742-SMUD (7683) Business customers: 1-877-622-SMUD (7683)

Customers can also email SMUD at scamreporting@ smud.org with the same information.

To learn more about how to protect yourself from fraud, visit SMUD.org/ Scam.



## **Council Allocates Funds** to Help Seniors and Renters

Story by Shaunna Boyd

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)

- The Citrus Heights City Council August 13 Regular Meeting was held via Zoom to comply with social distancing guidelines. Stephanie Cotter of the Community Development Council to consider the final phase of funding allocations for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program under the CARES Act Amendment.

The City of Citrus Heights received a onetime special allocation of \$376,026 in CBDG funding in March as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The City Council already approved Phase 1 of the funding allocations: \$200,750 to public services—Sunrise Christian Food Ministry emergency food closet,

response team, Campus Life Connection Sayonara Center, and a supplemental fund for Citrus Heights Police Department's homeless Navigator Program—and \$75,205.60 for administration costs.

For Phase 2, Cotter Department asked the recommended that the Council approve the following allocation of the remaining \$100,072: As part of a regional partnership between Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, and Rancho Cordova, \$8,400 for Sacramento Self-Help Housing Renters Hotline to cover partial funding for temporary staff to meet the high call volume during the pandemic. The remainder, up to \$91,672, would provide the 6.25% local match for the Great Plates Delivered program, provides delivery of three restaurant meals each day to qualifying seniors.

WEAVE domestic violence Cotter explained that if a high proportion of seniors Great Plates Delivered is for some reason ineligible under the terms of the funding, or if the City doesn't need all the funds for matching, the remaining funds would be distributed to local non-profits.

The Council voted unaniallocation of the CBDG CARES ACT funds.

The Council heard the Second Reading of the Transactions and Use Tax (Sales Tax) Ordinance that will be submitted to voters in the upcoming election in November. The Council first approved the promeeting.

Bruce Lee, president of the Sacramento Taxpayer Association, spoke again during public comment on this item: "I truly believe this is a bad tax at a bad time for bad reasons." Lee said that Citrus Heights has

on fixed incomes, and 12% of the Citrus Heights population lived in poverty even before the pandemic. He called it a "regressive tax," stating that it makes CH look "heartless and uncaring."

Tim Schaefer called in to mously to approve the final the meeting and said he's spoken with many constituents since the last meeting, and he hadn't found support for a tax. Many people are out of work and struggling financially, and Schaefer said this tax would "add insult to injury."

Nine written comments were submitted by Citrus posal at the July 23, 2020, Heights residents, all in opposition to the sales tax measure.

> Councilmember Bret Daniels, the only dissenting vote on the resolution, asked that the Council consider a sunset on the tax instead of allowing it to Continued on page 3

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## 5 Ways Seniors Can Safeguard Sacramento CARES **Against Cyber Criminals**

By Ashley Pontius, **News and Experts** 

As the use of personal computers and cell phones has grown over the last two decades, identity theft has surged. One study found that over 14 million consumers were victims of identity fraud in 2018, and that their out-of-pocket costs totaled \$1.7 billion.

Seniors have been particularly vulnerable in recent years to online scams and telemarketing tricks. Unfortunately, another negative effect of COVID-19 has been scammers targeting seniors and the elderly by developing coronavirus hoaxes that prey on fears of

The growing problem of identity theft for all age groups makes it vital for consumers to develop a strategy to protect their devices, and those of their loved ones, although no system is perfect, says suspicious activity on your Chris Orestis (www.retirementgenius.com), a senior care advocate known as the "Retirement Genius" and president of LifeCare Xchange.

At a minimum, no one should give out their Social Security number to a stranger and should never click a link in an email from an unknown source. But cyberthieves have many ways to steal your identity, invade your computer, or raid your bank account and credit cards. What should you do to protect yourself from these scam artists and criminals?

"First, it's important to understand that identitytheft protection services don't actually stop identity

theft," Orestis says. "There is no fool-proof way to stop identity theft from happening; there are just too many different types of valuable information and avenues for cyberthieves to hack them.

"The Federal Trade Commission actually prohibits identity-theft services from using the word 'prevention,' and if a company is promoting that as part of their service they should not be trusted. But regardless of any service you might use, no one can be disengaged from protecting their own identity. It's important to take care of your identity and credit health with smart and regular maintenance, just like you do with your physical health."

Orestis offers a five-step plan to help protect your identity:

Register for fraud alerts. "You want these alerts on credit cards and bank accounts so you can be notified quickly of any accounts," Orestis says. "With fraud alerts, data security companies and financial services will text, email or phone you if there is a suspected security breach, or if they detect spending on a card or account that doesn't align with your spending habits or your location."

Review accounts reg**ularly.** Vigilance of your identity protection means you should go over your monthly bank and credit card statements and review online account activity weekly. "Immediately notify your bank or credit companies if you detect fraudulent activity," Orestis says. "Either freeze your

card. If you believe there could be a problem with your credit, you can place a credit freeze by phone with each credit agency's customer service line."

Monitor your credit reports. Orestis says monitoring credit reports from Experian, Equifax and TransUnion is another way to find discrepancies that may indicate fraud.

Don't leave a paper trail. "It's a good idea to get rid of physical private records and statements that include personal or financial data," Orestis says. "Identity thieves get into mailboxes and trash. They can use receipts to piece together your personal data, so it's smart to shred those and avoid any kind of paper

Create strong passwords. Orestis suggests mixing upper and lowercase letters with numbers and symbols, and to avoid using the same password for every account. "Not having a strong password on vour smartphone or computer is like leaving your house with the front door wide open," Orestis says. "Identity thieves are counting on people to use the same or similar passwords for their electronic devices and financial accounts. Mix up your passwords, and change them whenever you suspect an account has been compromised."

"Identity theft and cyber security are a very real threat in today's internetconnected world," Orestis says. "We all live online and are exposed to a lot of risk if we don't do the right things account or cancel your to protect ourselves."

## **Act Funding**



Written by Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost

Ιn recent days, Sacramento County and other local governments have been under the spotlight regarding how we have used our portion of the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) money from the federal government via the CARES Act. Sacramento County received \$181 million, and I want to take this opportunity to explain to you how Sacramento County is spending this money and to clear up some confusion that people

may have. The confusion stems from an article in a local Sacramento newspaper that misleadingly stated that Sacramento County is using most of the CRF funding to pay for law enforcement. The article downplayed some simple truths that need to be pointed out and left people with the incorrect belief that we hired more public safety officers instead of spending money on much needed public health priorities.

As a direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we activated the County Office of Emergency a n d Services

Countywide Emergency Operations. All departments were instructed to submit their COVID-19 expenditures as the crisis evolved. Expenditures that were eligible for CRF money were approved, while others were eligible for other State and Federal funds. Importantly, all requests submitted by the Department of Health Services (which includes Public Health) were approved. Our number one priority was the health and safety of the people of Sacramento County, and nothing got in the way of that.

Additionally, CRF money only covered existing positions in qualified classifications. We prioritized CRF requests to General Fund relief so that we could preserve those General Fund dollars for future needs. Public Safety and Health did not receive funding for new positions from the \$132 million. Rather, the County used \$132 million of Coronavirus Relief Fund money for payroll that would have come from our General Fund. The reason the Sheriff's office received so much money is that the Sheriff's office happens to be by far the largest percentage of our general fund payroll. That is the case for a variety of reasons, chiefly being that you usually cannot use state/federal money to pay for it. It's that way for other public jurisdictions also.

to use that \$132 million to avoid significant reductions in services from General Fund Departments, such as our Child and Adult Protective Oaks

PRODUCE

Services, Health Services, Public Safety, Human Assistance, In-Home Supportive Services, and Homeless Services. General Fund dollars are more flexible than CRF dollars, so we are being strategic in where we spend them so we can free up other money elsewhere.

With law enforcement being a majority of our general fund, they are also likely the one that gets cut the most during economic downturns. With the County projecting, a loss of over \$160 million in revenue, not putting the \$132 million into payroll could have meant laying off a devastating amount of Sheriff's Deputies and staff. That is a grim reality that I do not wish upon the communities of Sacramento County, under any circumstance.

We still have around \$33 million left to spend out of our CRF money. You have my promise that I will continue to advocate for funding public health, public safety, and all other vital departments who are on the front line during this

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

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





OR PICTORIAL ERRORS, All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY, Sorry NO RAINCHECKS, PRICES EFFECTIVE AUGUST 19 - AUGUST 25, 2020

AUGUST 21, 2020 CITRUS HEIGHTS MESSENGER • 3

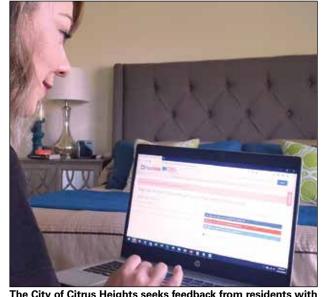
## **Citrus Heights Launches FlashVote**

City of Citrus Heights

#### CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) -

The City of Citrus Heights has launched FlashVote, a third-party, scientific survey platform that makes civic engagement accessible and easy. City staff are asking residents to sign up for the platform and provide about a minute per month of time to weigh-in on local topics by visiting FlashVote.com/ CitrusHeights.

"In alignment with our strategic planning goals, City staff are more focused on community outreach, listening, and responsiveness than ever," said Meghan Huber, Economic Development and Communications Manager for the City of Citrus Heights. "This year, the City analyzed results from our largest engagement effort in history, which collected nearly 2,000 feedback forms on community priorities. So, we know firsthand how truly valuable community feedback is. We want to ensure we have a way to continue to foster civic engagement, and promote communication channels that are easy and accessible."



The City of Citrus Heights seeks feedback from residents with topics such as COVID-19 recovery, budget, City services, and more. Photo: City of Citrus Heights

be five questions or less and take no more than one to two minutes to complete. The surveys will cover a wide range of topics such as COVID-19 recovery, budget, City services, and more.

When residents sign up, they get to select their preferred method of engagement: email, text, or phone call. Each person who signs up will receive a notification whenever there is a new City survey, and residents will have 48 hours to participate before voting closes. Once The City's surveys will the survey is closed, anyone

who participated will receive the results and will see how his or her responses compare to the group.

"Our hope is that we will get feedback from as many residents as possible," said Huber. "The surveys are easy and quick, and the FlashVote platform has really high engagement rates for participating cities. The information we're gathering will provide valuable insight for our officials and staff."

To learn more and sign up, please visit FlashVote. com/CitrusHeights

#### **Council Allocates Funds** to Help Seniors and Renters

Continued from page 1

continue unless later repealed by the voters. He also asked for clarification on the Citizens' Oversight Committee, asking who will choose the members and how they will

City Manager Chris Boyd said that the City Council would appoint the committee members and would define the guidelines of membership.

Vice Mayor Steve Miller said that he has listened to the concerns that this tax will hurt the poor, but he disagreed with that assessment. He said the tax would not apply to essential items like water, groceries, baby formula, diapers, utilities, rent, or house payments: "It's not regressive."

Councilmember Jeannie Bruins said that the tax is an "investment in our community" because the funds will only be used in Citrus Heights.

The Council again voted 4 to 1 on the sales tax measure, with Councilmember Daniels

The Council also considered whether to approve \$35,238 for the fiscal year 2020-2021 partnership with the Greater Sacramento Area Economic Council (GSEC), an economic development organization that works to retain, attract, grow, and create sustainable business in the Sacramento Region.

Meghan Huber, the City's economic development and communications manager, said, Successful economies don't just happen.

They are intentional." Huber said that GSEC helps to set that regional strategy. Huber was recently elected to serve as the vice chair of the Economic Development Directors Task Force with GSEC for this fiscal year. As the incumbent, she'll serve as chair in the following fiscal year, with a seat of the GSEC Board. She introduced Danielle Casey, executive vice president for GSEC, who presented the Council with a Return on Investment and Service Delivery Report.

Casey said since GSEC's inception in 2015, Citrus Heights has invested a total of \$138,224. During that five-year period, Casey said GSEC has delivered the following impacts to Citrus Heights' economy: Five-year local tax revenue of \$2,368,018 (calculated with economic impact models), a return on investment at \$17 to \$1 on direct local tax revenue and \$453 to \$1 on economic output. They've generated 166 direct and indirect jobs, \$19 million in payroll, and \$62 million in total economic output. They also provide customized regional marketing impressions and meet unique research requests for the Citv.

Both Councilmember Bruins and Mayor Jeff Slowey commented on the value of the City's partnership with GSEC, which is paid through the Economic Development Fund, so it does not affect the General Fund. The Council voted unanimously to approve the cost of continuing the GSEC

#### We Invite You to Join the District LCAP PAC

San Juan Unified **School District** 

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The San Juan Unified School District Local Control Accountability Plan Parent Advisory Council (LCAP PAC) is looking for new members.

Being part of this council is important to ensure we, as a district, are meeting the needs of all students

- especially English language learners, foster and homeless youth, and lowincome students. As a member, you will have important responsibilities such as:

Providing feedback and input to the Board of Education regarding our district's progress towards meeting its goals outlined in our Local Control Accountability Plan member application.

(LCAP); Gathering information from other parents/ guardians, community members, and students; Attending a monthly Thursday evening meeting to work with other members and district staff.

To apply to be a committee member please visit our LCAP website https://www. sanjuan.edu/Page/31379 and fill out the adult/community

#### Meal Service Launches at 44 School Sites

San Juan Unified **School District** 

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On Thursday, August 13, Nutrition Services began distributing curbside meals at 44 school sites throughout the district. Meal service will be Monday – Friday, from 7:00 - 8:30 a.m., not including holidays and non-instructional days. Meals for same-day consumption will include breakfast and lunch for SJUSD enrolled students. Meals cannot be consumed

on site and social distanc- can be obtained at any followed at all times.

Each student, parent or guardian must provide Nutrition Services staff with the student name and district issued ID number. Meals will be charged based on the status of each student; free, reduced-price, or full pay. Meal applications must be completed for the current school year. Applications can be completed online (preferred method) at https://mealapps.sanjuan. edu. Paper applications

ing protocols must be meal pickup site and returned to any meal pickup site. Reducedprice and full pay students paying by cash or check: payment must be in a sealed envelope, with the student(s) name and ID number written on top of the envelope. The full amount will be applied to the student account change will not be given.

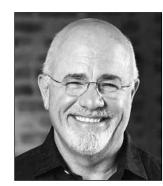
> Questions may be directed to Nutrition Services at 916-979-8966 or Nutritionservices@san-







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A Very Generous Offer

Dear Dave,

My in-laws have very generously offered my wife and I \$250,000 to help with a down payment on a home. I know the amount exceeds the IRS's yearly gift allowance, but they want to structure it as a family loan and have already told us they don't care if we pay it back. If we accept, we technically owe them a lot of money. If we say no, they may be offended. What do you think about this and how it might impact the relationship?

James

Dear James

Well, it makes sense your wife would be onboard with the whole thing. It's her dad making the offer, so of course she would be a lot more comfortable with the idea than you are.

This is a big deal, and it's something you two should have a very serious conversation about. Get

#### Dave Ramsey Says Social Security Matters

on the same page in every regard. Also, I'd recommend making sure you get everything in writing. See to it, as well, that it can be forgiven at the maximum allowable annual gift rate.

In addition, in the event of death make sure it's included in the estate, it's forgiven, and there will be zero call on the note. In effect, that would make it an advance on your inheritance instead of debt. Under no circumstances should they, or any other heirs, have grounds to call the note.

That's a good question, James. And a nice gift

-Dave

#### **Keeping The Side** Hustle Alive

Dear Dave,

I have a full-time job, but I also have a side job providing firewood to help pay off debt. I make \$600 to \$1,000 a month with this project. My log splitter went down recently when a hydraulic line burst, and the machine caught on fire. I'm not sure how much it will cost to get it going again. Should I invest in a new one that will increase my productivity and help me pay off debt faster?

-Chris

Dear Chris

If I'm in your shoes, I'm going to fix the old one. Even it means duct tape and glue, I'm going to try to find a way to repair it instead of spending a bunch of money or going deeper into debt.

If you can't do that at a reasonable price out of pocket, I'd be in the market for a decent, used log splitter. And pay cash! I get your line of thinking when it comes to increasing productivity. Splitting wood is real work. But don't try to justify buying an expensive, new piece of equipment when it's just not necessary.

If you're making that much with a side hustle, you can make your money back on a used splitter in a month or two - three at the most. Be smart about it,

- Dave

Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 16 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey. ★

#### The Virtues of Claiming Benefits Early



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: It seems like we are always encouraged to wait until our full retirement age or age 70 to claim our Social Security. For me, benefits at age 62 were a good jump start to my retirement. How about listing the many benefits to early (age 62) retirement? And at what age does it become a liability, if ever? Signed: Happily Retired at

Dear Happily Retired: You're correct that most financial advisors and Social Security Advisors, including me, frequently encourage people to delay claiming Social Security until at least their full retirement age (FRA). And but making an informed that's because far too many claim their benefits as soon should consider your estias they are available at age 62 "because it's there," without evaluating whether that's a smart move for them personally. There are many reasons why it's best to wait, but there are also some very good reasons for claiming benefits at age 62. Let's explore those.

Claiming at age 62 is exactly the right move if you are in poor health and don't expect to live a long life. Benefits taken age 62 are 25% less for those with a full retirement age (FRA) of 66, and 30% less if your FRA is 67. But those reductions become insignificant if you don't expect you to begin enjoying your from that point forward. If than you might have otheryou wait until your FRA, wise been able to. There's social-security-advisory) collect the same amount in benefits early to fulfill your amacfoundation.org.

total benefits as if you had claimed at age 62.

Even if you are in decent health now, if your family history and your lifestyle suggest less than average longevity, claiming before your FRA, as early as 62, may be a prudent choice. By "lifestyle" I mean, for example, whether you exercise regularly, smoke or drink excessively or drive without a seatbelt. There are several life expectancy calculators available which can assist with predicting your life expectancy by evaluating your family history and lifestyle, including those available at this website: https:// socialsecurityreport.org/ tools/life-expectancy-cal-

culator/. Just remember that no one can accurately forecast how long they will live decision on when to claim mated longevity, among other things.

If collecting your Social Security benefits early is needed to help pay for life's necessities, such as food, housing, and outof-pocket medical costs, then claiming as early as age 62, or any other time before your FRA, could be exactly the right choice. In other words, the need for the money now is a driving force in deciding when to claim.

Which brings me to your point that claiming at age 62 was a "jump start" to your retirement, allowing

bucket list while you're still young enough to enjoy it. And, from your signature, it looks like you've been putting that extra Social Security money to good use for many years now. Good for you! Now. at age 78, you've reached your "breakeven point" where, if you had waited until your FRA to claim, your cumulative lifetime benefits would hereafter be more than they will be because you claimed at 62. That may not, however, offset the many years of happy retirement you've been able to enjoy because you took your benefits early.

In the end, deciding when to claim Social Security should be done after carefully evaluating vour personal situation. Anyone who claims benefits before their full retirement age must beware of Social Security's "earnings test" which limits how much vou can earn before your benefits are affected. But those who can afford to wait and who expect to live to a ripe old age would do well to consider delaying until their full retirement age, or even beyond, to claim their Social Security benefits. If their life expectancy is at least "average" they'll collect much more in cumulative lifetime benefits by doing so.

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. to live a long, healthy life golden years much earlier visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/ it takes about 12 years to a lot to be said for taking or email us at ssadvisor@

## **Operation Backpack Provides School Supplies to Area Children**

By Christie Holderegger, Volunteers of America Northern California & Northern Nevada

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Operation Backpack, Volunteer of America's (VOA) annual school supply drive for students in need, collected over \$97,000 in a virtual drive to purchase school supplies for more than 2,100 children through a collaborative effort between 19 local businesses, 9 corporate sponsors, and 1,000 donors.

COVID-19 has presented many challenges and changes to education for students everywhere, and it has been especially difficult for those living in transition from homelessness, in foster care, or in low-income communities. Operation Backpack provides supply-kits with brand new, grade-appropriate school supplies to all of in VOA's shelters and programs. Additional supply kits will be distributed to 14 partner agencies, nonprofits and school districts, including Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services, Healthy Start Family Resource Center, and the Youth Service



**Operation Backpack provides** supply-kits with brand new, grade-appropriate school supplies to all of the families and children in VOA's shelters and programs. Photo courtesy Pexels

partnerships in the community ensure as many children as possible get the tools they need to start the school year off on the right foot.

"Having new school supthe families and children plies provides confidence and helps a child's self-esteem," says Ana Bankert, Director of Development, VOA. "Feeling prepared alongside every other child in the classroom is crucial to their ability to thrive. VOA is very grateful to work with sponsors, partners, volunteers, and Bureau. VOA's longstanding donors who understand the

importance of this cause and the children it supports."

Operation Backpack would not be possible without the support and generosity of campaign partners CBS, CW13, and Good Day Sacramento and sponsors Sutter Health, Niagara Bottling, American River Bank, Kids Care Dental, Phoong Law, and Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield as well as individual donors and businesses who have hosted fundraisers.

Founded locally in 1911, the Northern California & Northern Nevada office of Volunteers of America is one of the largest providers of social services in the region. The professional paid staff operates more than 50 programs: homeless services and shelters; substance abuse treatment and mental health services; senior, veteran, and family services; transitional, permanent supportive, and affordable housing. Volunteers of America provides shelter or housing to 4,500 men, women and children every night in Northern California and Northern Nevada. Learn more about Volunteers of America Northern California & Northern Nevada at www.

## Capital Airshow Cancels



The California Capital Airshow looks to the future after cancelling the 2020 event. Photo courtesy CCA

#### **Speaker is Sent Letter for Oversight Hearing** and Investigation of COVID-19 "Data Glitch"



By Joshua Hoover, Office of Assemblymember Kevin Kiley

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Assemblyman Kevin Kiley (R-Rocklin) submitted a letter to Assembly

Speaker Anthony Rendon calling for an immediate joint oversight hearing and investigation of the recent COVID-19 "data glitch."

The letter requests that a hearing include testimony from Governor Gavin Newsom himself, as well as former Public Health Director Sonia Angell, who resigned from her position Sunday evening.

"Oversight is a vital role of the Legislature, never more so than in the wake of a failure by the Executive branch that could impact the lives and livelihoods of 40 mil- Penrvn.

said. "To restore public confidence, it is critical that the Legislature determine the full extent of the state's COVID-19 'data glitch' and receive a full account of the steps taken to assure we now have accurate data to guide decision-making."

Assemblyman Kevin Kiley represents the 6th Assembly District, which includes the Sacramento, Placer, and El Dorado County communities of Cameron Park, El Dorado Hills, Fair Oaks, Folsom, Granite Bay, Lincoln, Loomis, Orangevale, Rocklin, lion Californians," Kiley Roseville, and Sheridan. ★

Special Release from CCA

After more than a year of planning the 2020 California Capital Airshow, presented by Sacramento County in partnership with the City of Rancho Cordova, it is with heavy hearts that we announce the cancellation of this year's event scheduled for October 3-4.

The safety of our guests, performers, exhibitors and volunteers is always our top priority. This is demonstrated by the safe and successful airshows we have hosted for the past 14 years.

We explored numerous options with our partners to provide a highly modified and socially distant event that would also work within established COVID-19 public health parameters. Unfortunately, we are not

minimize the coronavirus risk to a level that meets our standards for health and safety. Please know we did not want to let you down - but ultimately, it is the right call for the safety of everyone.

The California Capital Airshow Board of Directors would like to thank ALL our partners at the state, county and local levels for helping us do everything possible to deliver a safe and responsible event. We all put in many hours towards a workable solution, and we are all deeply and equally saddened.

Despite this disappointing news, plans are well underway for the 2021 California Capital Airshow, which is scheduled for September 25-26 featuring the worldfamous United States Air fully confident we can Force Thunderbirds!

Until then, as a nonprofit organization, we will turn our attention back to the mission of inspiring the next generation through free educational programs and scholarships, as well as honoring our region's rich aviation heritage.

We are tremendously grateful for your patience, support and encouragement during these trying times. Although we will miss our big and crazy airshow family, our team will use this time to make next year better than ever before. Can't wait to see you in 2021 - be ready to celebrate!

Stay safe, California Capital

Airshow For more information: California Capital Airshow, see:CaliforniaCapitalAirshow.



# Is your family prepared for any EMERGENCY?

CREATE YOUR OWN PLAN TO STAY SAFE.

#### **Emergency supply kit checklist**

Drin	Lina	water
ווווע	KIIIU	water

- Drinking water
- Non-perishable food, including baby and pet food
- Tools and utensils
- Batteries

#### Radio

- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Mobile phone and portable charger

## Medication and eyeglasses

- Blankets
  and clothing
- Children's activities

## Cash and credit cards

- Toiletries
- Important documents



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from your home and establish a location where your family or roommates can reunite after evacuating.



#### **PLAN FOR YOUR PETS**

by including them in practice drills and helping them get comfortable with a leash or carrier during stressful situations.



#### LEARN HOW TO OPEN YOUR GARAGE DOOR MANUALLY

in the event the door is unable to open automatically during an outage.



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and ensure that it is working properly because it can help avoid damage to personal property and keep emergency first responders safe.



To learn more ways to keep you and your community safe, visit safetyactioncenter.pge.com.

#### What It Was, Was a Peach Tree

By Rev. James L. Snyder

For some reason, this week, I had been thinking of my maternal grandfather. I was named after him, and therefore we had a connection.

As a young boy, I would spend a month, every summer at my grandparents. They lived up in the mountains of Pennsylvania in a was a farmer, and his primary income was his dairy cows. He taught me how to milk cows, and he did it the old-fashioned, hands-on way.

As a farmer up in the mountains of Pennsylvania, he was very adept at growing things.

One day he came home and in his truck were four little bushes. At least they looked like bushes. I helped him plant them on the left side of the driveway. I never saw my grandfather so happy in all his life.

I asked my grandfather what we were planting, and he simply said, "Peach trees." The next day a friend of my grandfather stopped in and saw the "bushes" along the driveway.

said, "what's that there that you planted?"

Grandfather just looked and said, "Peach trees."

The friend laughed and looked at my grandfather and

trees here. And they don't even look like a peach tree." And he continued laughing.

It wasn't long before everybody in the valley was making fun of his "peach

The rumor developed that they were not, but my grandfather was simply trying to fool everybody. After all, he was like that.

A year later, I was back at long valley. My grandfather my grandparents during the summer, and several people would stop, look at those peach trees and asked my grandfather, "Jim, where are those peaches?" Then they would laugh at him and drive on. Nobody believed any peaches would grow on those trees. After all, they looked like small bushes.

> "Where's them peaches," people would ask as they would drive by and stop for a moment. "I want a peach."

> My grandfather would smile, and it didn't seem to bother him that he was the point of many a joke throughout the valley.

> Then I went up on the fourth summer, and to my surprise, those peach trees had peaches all over them.

Everybody would stop by "Hey, Jim," the friend and ask my grandfather for a

peaches aren't ready to pick

When they left, he picked said, "We don't grow peach a peach from the tree, gave it whatafellowship.com.

to me, and told me, "Here's the first peach from my peach tree." I ate it and boy was it delicious.

Day by day, he would take the peaches off the tree, and when people would stop, he would tell them, "They ain't ready to pick today." Then they would drive away.

Within a week, all the peaches were harvested from

Then the fun began. People would stop by and ask, "Where's those peaches?"

My grandfather would stare back and say, "What peaches?"

Then he would laugh as they drove away.

He said to me, "Don't let anybody tell you what you can or cannot do." And he walked away, smiling.

As I was thinking about him today, I thought of the Scripture; "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" (Colossians 3:23).

If you know what you're doing, do it to God's glory, and don't let men distract

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with the Gracious Mistress of My grandfather would the Parsonage in Silver smile and say, "Those Springs Shores. Call him at 352-216-3025 or e-mail jamessnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.



There are people who feel guilty if they are successful and happy. They believe it's not fair that they succeed while others are struggling. Then there are those who are not happy unless they are miserable.

These mindsets cause you to subconsciously sabotage your success, which then produces endless struggling. You cannot, and will not succeed as long as you are averse to success. Your mind does not permit you to accomplish anything you don't believe in.

Your suffering helps no one. Does your being hungry provide more food to others? If you are struggling financially, will other people be well off? You should strive to be successful in every aspect of your life. There's no reason to feel guilty for doing well.

You can't help anyone else when you are struggling. Being successful is a prerequisite for providing assistance to others. Charitable organizations solicit from those who have, in order to give to those who are in need.

Fear of failure inhibits success because it prevents you from pursuing goals. The reasoning is that if you don't start, you can't fail. However, if you don't start you will never succeed. The road to success always begins with the first step.

Guilt about having more than someone else causes suffering. This mindset is another basis for self-sabotage. Guilt may emanate time with no intention of

from the erroneous belief ever beginning. that the only way for you to have more is for others to have less.

Another cause for selfsabotage is not believing you are worthy of success, or feeling you don't deserve it. Growing up, some people have been told they're not that smart or won't ever amount to anything. Whether internally or externally imposed, these self-loathing doubts are a roadblock to progress.

Another falsehood is that it's not fair for you to be better than someone else. Success is an endless well. There is more than enough for everyone. The only way for you to be in a position to help another person is by being successful.

Conversely, if you are struggling, then you may be in a position of having to be dependent on someone else for assistance. So, instead of being able to contribute, you are requiring assistance. Suffering and failure on your part serves no purpose whatsoever.

Your success will never diminish anyone else's. Your being happy doesn't make others sad. Your financial achievements do not make anyone poor. Your good health doesn't create sickness in others.

Procrastination is a common component of self-sabotage. You never openly object to getting started. Instead, you keep putting it off, one day at a

Perfectionism contributes to procrastination. You are constantly waiting for the exact right time to get started because there is always something you find lacking.

Self-sabotage can be defeated, if you want to. Start by deciding you are tired of suffering. Develop a belief that you are worthy of success. Make a commitment to take positive action to reach your desired objectives. Purge any guilt you associate with achieving your goals.

Displace self-sabotaging negative thoughts with positive self-talk. Constantly tell yourself that you can and will be successful. Tell yourself you are willing to do whatever is required, for as long as necessary to reach your objectives.

Self-sabotage is vanquished by continuously moving forward one step at a time. No more procrastinating or excuses. Just keep going. As you stop suffering while working toward your objectives, you will experience exhilaration as the great weight you have been carrying around fades away.

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By Marlys Johnsen Norris, **Christian Author** 

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue. And those who love it (the inspirational words of God) will eat its fruit." (Proverb 18:21)

Words spoken out loud CAN AND WILL prove to be a blessing from God OR a curse from Satan. Positive words of truth spoken in faith bring a smile to the face of God. Positive words of truth honor and glorify Father

Stop speaking about the mountains in your life! The mountain will be removed by God when you are speaking His chosen loving words of truth, hope and joy. They will

#### A Miracle from Your Mouth

always bless them and bring enslaves and imprisons, but an inner-peace.

God is our Heavenly "FATHER." Acknowledging race with God and win! God as our Father will always draw His presence those who run in the race nearer to us.

When truth is proclaimed blessings follow. Words of faith then become powerful words divinely spoken and bring peace. In offering a special prayer for a child or someone, when a friend uses with oil they will experience "God's Prophetic Blessing" they will experience in their

WIN THE PRIZE OF GOD Walk away from the word "religion" into a personal relationship with God our

Father, Jesus the Son and

God's Son, Jesus brings freedom! Run the race to accept Father. When we pray He and know Him as your loves hearing us call Him Savior and Lord. Run a new

"Do you not know that all run, but the one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it." (I Cor. 9:24) " Press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Phil 3:13)

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## WEEKLY COMICS



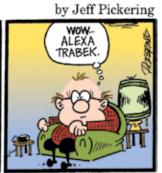












Out on a Limb

R.F.D.

TIME TO GET OUT

OF THE POOL, JUNE

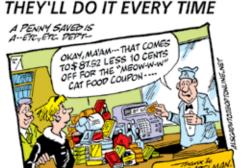
by Gary Kopervas

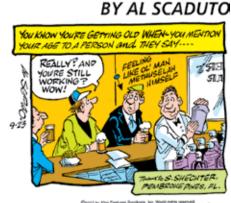
by Mike Marland



AWWW. DO

WE HAVE TO?





YUP. THESE GALS LOOK PRETTY THIRSTY.



by Dave T. Phipps





"Can you hold a moment? I have another annoying call on the other line."

LAFF - A - DAY

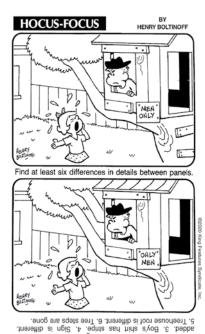


"You're broke before taxes and I'm broke

Just Like Cats & Dogs

WELL, IT'S A VIRUS. I WOULD ASK OUR I.T. DEPARTMENT WHERE IT CAME FROM BUT LEVEL 5 ON GALAXIA IS A GOOD INDICATOR.





Crossword Puzzle on Page 7 lΒ Ε S R Ν Ε R С R 0 Ε Ε Ε Μ S Ε Η O В Α G S Ε S Ε S R S R M 0 D 0 0 Ν Α S Ε О В 0 Α G Ν R G Ε Α Α Н Α D O S Ε Ρ Ε S Ρ Ε Ε Α R Т R M S Ε Μ Ρ Ε Ε O R 0 Ε Ε R Ε R Μ Ν Т 0 R R Ε S Ρ Ν 0 G S D

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • LABOR DAY

#### **CLUES**

**ACROSS** 

. Delivery org 5. \*U.N. workers' grp.

8. Pressure unit

11. Prune, previously 12. Congregation's echo

13. Lusitania's destroyer 15. Samoan money 16. Enthusiastic review

17. Police informers 18. \*More than 40 hours

20. First Nation nation

21. Not these 22. Paper or plastic?

23. Lads' girlfriends

26. Meal 29. Morsel

30. \*Labor Day, always 33. International Civil

Aviation Org. 35. She turned to stone,

Greek mythology 37. Quaker grain

38. Same as gnarls 39. Toothy wheel

40. Capital of Canada

42. Homer Simpson exclamation

43. Russia's plain 45. Zoroastrian archives

47. Simon & Garfunkel

48. Sheik's bevy

50. Goes with sushi

52. \*Part of labor force

56. Jewish folklore creature 57. European sea eagle

58. Millimeter of mercury 59. Impolite dinner sound

60. "Dark" movie 61. Armor chest plate

62. Cupid's action 63. Type of evidence on. By \_\_\_\_ of" or "by means of"

**DOWN** 

no good 2. Bohemian, e.g.

3. Whimper

4. "That\_ \_!" and hurts 5. Mosque officials 6. Don McLean: "Drove my chevy to

7. Comes before first Mississippi 8. Minute opening 9. "For Pete's \_

10. Belonging to it 12. Not aria nor recitative

13. Open a beer bottle 14. \*Union responsibility 19. \*Labor Day is this puzzle's \_

22. Beyoncé, a.k.a. Queen 23. \*Like Labor Day weekend

24. Ovine sign of the zodiac 25. Type of weasel

26. "Pro" follower

27. Oodles 28. Fortune-teller's card

31. Sol, or la, or ti 32. Digital audiotape, acr.

34. \*Health and safety org. 36. \*Strike

38. Courtroom silencer

41. One who bends out of shape 44. Groom one's feathers

46. Used an emoji, technically 48. Long-necked wader 49. Embryo sacs

## **Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 7** 39



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**Solutions on Page 7** 

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#### Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7

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



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## Ask Joni

#### **Enrolled in Medicare Part B...**

#### **NOW I'm Receiving a Part D Penalty...Why?**



Hello Toni: Turned 65 in August 2018, continued to work fulltime with company benefits, until I was laid off on May 10th and that is when my employer benefits ended. I have enrolled in a Medicare supplement plan G and a Part D prescription drug plan with a September 1 st start date because that is when my Medicare Part B starts.

Now my troubles are beginning because I have received a notice from CMS (Medicare) saying they do not have record of me having prescription drug coverage that "met Medicare's minimum standards from 8/1/2018 when my Medicare Part A started to 9/1/2020 and I amreceiving a Part D late enrollment penalty.

I do not understand why I am receiving a Medicare Part D penalty. I thought applyingfor Part B keep me from a Medicare penalty. What is the 63-day window that the Part D prescription drug plan is talking about?

I have been quarantined due to contracting coronavirus and was not able to explore my Medicare options. Is there a way that I can appeal this Part D penalty due to COVID-19 issues?

~ Thank You, Sydney from St. Louis, MO

Generally, when there are Medicare special enrollment problems due to weather issues, Medicare will give extra time for enrollment periods such as Medicare Annual Enrollment in October. My advice to you is to call Medicare at 1/800-633-4227 or the Medicare Part D plan which you have enrolled in and explain that you have been in quarantine due begin exposed to coronavirus. IRS extended the April 15 tax filing date due to COVID-19, so I would ask for an appeal to the penalty due to being unable to take care of your personal Medicare business because of being in quarantined.

Taking the "Request for Employment Information" form to Social Security to avoid the "famous" Medicare Part B penalty informs Medicare that you have had employer benefits since turning 65. The form does **NOT** inform Medicare that you had "creditable" prescription drug coverage. The Medicare & You handbook states: "Creditable prescription drug coverage could include drug coverage from a current or former employer or union, TRICARE, Indian Health Service, the VA or health insurance coverage. Your plan must tell you each year if your drug coverage is "creditable coverage." Keep this information because you may need it when or if you join a Medicare drug plan

Creditable drug coverage should "meet or exceed" what Medicare's Part D plan minimums are for that current year.

Medicare does not regard discount prescription drug cards or low-cost generics programs such as GoodRX as "creditable coverage". These types of plans cannot keep you from the Late Enrollment Penalty.

Your Late Enrollment Period (LEP) does not begin from the day you lose or leave your company health plan, BUT from the month you turned 65 or began your Medicare or is based on when Part A of Medicare begins not Part B.

This LEP Enrollment Period) penalty can be because:

1) You waited past 63 days without "creditable" prescription drug coverage when you are leaving company benefits and you are older than 65 vears old and 90 days. (which technically is what you did, Sydney) Do not wait past 63 days to get Part D when leaving company health plans.

2) Your company prescription drug benefits (not health benefits) are not "creditable" as Medicare declares.

3) You simply never enrolled in Medicare Part D when you were first eligible and want to enroll.

Toni King, author of the Medicare Survival Guide® is giving a \$5 discount on the Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced book and bundle packages for the Toni Says® newspaper article readers at www.tonisays.com. Email info@tonisays.com for Medicare questions.

POLICE

## California's Crisis of Competence



By Dan Walters, Cal Matters

Year by year and article by article, Ralph Vartabedian has revealed to Californians the woeful shortcomings of the state's largest public works project, a north-south bullet train.

Vartabedian, a writer for the Los Angeles Times, has made a virtual career of uncovering the project's managerial, financial and political failings, lending factual credence to the conclusion that the wisest course would be to cut our losses and give it up.

Although the project enjoyed strong personal support from two previous governors, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jerry Brown, Gov. Gavin Newsom came very close to calling it quits when he took office 19 months ago then backtracked and proposed a modified version

that's still unrealistic. Vartabedian's latest revelation in the Times underscores that fact, describing that "a series of errors by contractors and consultants on the California bullet train venture caused support cables to fail on a massive bridge, triggering an order to stop work that further delayed a project already years behind schedule...

"Hundreds of pages of documents obtained by the Times under a public

steel supports snapped as a result of neglect, work damage, miscommunications and possible design problems.'

"High-strength steel strands supporting the 636-foot-long structure began to snap on Oct. 22, one after another," Vartabedian wrote. "Ultimately, 23 of the strands, which are composed of seven individual wires each, broke unexpectedly, according to rail authority documents and officials. The order to stop work was issued Nov. 4.

"A forensic engineering analysis, obtained by the Times, found that the strands corroded from rainwater that had leaked into the internal structure of the bridge and then broke."

Vartabedian quotes Robert Bea, emeritus professor of civil engineering at UC Berkeley and co-founder of its Center for Catastrophic Risk Management, as calling it "a horrible sequence of mistakes."

Vartabedian's article not only once again demonstrates that the bullet train is a multibillion-dollar boondoggle, but exemplifies why a vigorous and unshackled press is invaluable in overseeing the conduct of public officials.

Unfortunately, the failings of the bullet train that Vartabedian has so consistently and thoroughly revealed are also emblematic of a larger malaise: the erosion of competence in a state government that once prided itself on doing big things well.

California once built highways, bridges, university campuses, dams, canals and other public works quickly and efficiently. It even dispatched its crack highway

records request show the engineers to other nations to provide can-do advice.

Those days are long gone. For example, it took two decades, with huge cost overruns, to replace one-third of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge even though building the entire bridge originally took just four years in the 1930s.

The bullet train's managerial shortcomings are also reflected in recent meltdowns in the Department of Motor Vehicles and the **Employment Development** Department, largely due to managerial neglect of their outmoded information technology systems, a condition that plagues numerous other state agencies.

The underlying syndrome is the obsession among bureaucrats and their political overseers with short-term actions to get public attention while ignoring consequences and long-term issues.

The bullet train is a prime example. It was launched without a well-thoughtout plan, without complete financing, without an effective organizational structure and without a valid factual need. The folks in charge have been making it up as they go along and the result has been a disaster.

It's something to ponder every time a politician proposes some grand scheme, such as the universal health care system that Newsom often touts. Why should we believe it would be any more functional than the DMV, EDD or the bullet train?

Email: dan@calmatters.org Dan Walters has been a journalist for nearly 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers.

## **Crime Reports**

#### Citrus Heights **Police Report**



08/10/2020 • Time: 12:00 PM • IR Number: 12006551

Crime: 459 PC: Burglary - Residential

Location Type: House (Includes Driveway) • Public Address: 6xx Mercedes Av Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

08/10/2020 • Time: 6:48 PM • IR Number: 12006510 Crime: 211 PC: Robbery

Location Type: Department Store/Big Box Store • Public Address: 61xx Sunrise Mall

Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

**08/11/2020** • Time: 9:00 AM • IR Number: 12006556 Crime: 484(A) PC: Petty Theft

Location Type: Street/Highway • Public Address: 77xx Ziebell Ct

Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

**08/11/2020** • Time: 4:40 PM • IR Number: 12006549

Crime: 484(A) PC: Petty Theft

Location Type: Parking Lot • Public Address: 70xx Auburn

Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

**08/11/2020 •** Time: 2:00 AM AM • IR Number: 12006609

Crime: 487(a) PC: Grnd Thft:prop/Etc \$950+

Location Type: Parking Lot • Public Address: 79xx Madison Av

Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

**08/12/2020** • Time: 2:30 AM • IR Number: 12006567 Crime: 487(a) PC: Grand Theft by Fraudulent

Location Type: Apt/Condo/Duplex • Public Address: 76xx Sunrise

Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

**08/12/2020** • Time: 10:00 AM • IR Number: 12006573

Crime: 484(A) PC: Petty Theft

Location Type: Parking Lot • Public Address: 78xx Greenback Ln

Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

**08/13/2020** • Time: 8:12 PM • IR Number: 12006655

Crime: 496d(a) PC: Possession of Stolen Veh

Location Type: Gas Station/Vehicle Maintenance • Public Address: 61xx Auburn

Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

**08/15/2020** • Time: 12:01 AM • IR Number: 12006697 Crime: 484(A) PC: Petty Theft

Location Type: House (Includes Driveway) • Public Address: 60xx Tall Brave Ct

Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

## **Enough Subsidies** for Electric Vehicles

Commentary by Robert L. Bradley Jr.

Americans are naturally wary of electric vehicles (EVs). Salespeople may pitch battery-powered cars as the future, but most drivers see them as an expensive, chancy alternative to petroleum-fueled automobiles. This has been true for more than a century.

Electric cars once stood on their own. "In the late 1890s, at the dawn of the automobile era, steam, gasoline, and electric cars all competed to become the dominant automotive technology," wrote David Kirsch in The Electric Vehicle and the Burden of History. "By the early 1900s, the battle was over, and internal combustion was poised to become the prime mover of the twenti-

In 1896, in fact, when a young Henry Ford asked Thomas Edison about electricity for his horseless carriage, Edison banged the table with a "no," citing reduced driving range from a heavy battery and inconvenient recharging.

Today, government policies have put EVs back into the market – for the elite. There are federal write-offs of \$7,500 per vehicle and 30 percent for EV refueling stations. Car dealers use EV credits to average down regular SUVs to meet Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards too.

Still, range is poor and recharging time-consuming for EVs, not to mention searching for scarce refueling stations. And far from emission-free, EVs are "elsewhere emission" vehicles since nearly two-thirds of U.S. electricity is generated from natural gas and coal.

Throwing good money after bad, states are handing out subsidies to EV buyers. New Jersey recently instituted rebates of up to \$5,000 per car. California offers up to \$7,000 in electric vehicle rebates, while Oregon provides \$2,500.

Will this change true ways of driving? New Jersey officials believe their plan will increase electric vehicles to 330,000 in just five years. By 2040, lawmakers hope that electric motors will power 85 percent of light vehicles sold or leased in the Garden State.

That's fantasy. Electric vehicles only accounted for 2 percent of new vehicle sales nationwide in 2019 even with a host of tax bribes. In fact, EV sales have stagnated; California, which provides the strongest incentives for purchasing electric vehicles, saw sales decline in 2019.

It should be no mystery. While gaspowered cars can travel up to 500 miles on a single tank, electric vehicles get a mere 100 to 300 miles per battery charge. Winter heating and summer cooling drain batteries, leading to "range anxiety" wherein drivers fear the engine might die before reaching its destination.

Future battery costs are unsettling to buyers. The Nissan Leaf, for example, requires a new battery every 10 years at a cost of as much as \$8,500. This is one reason why the average new EV loses more than half of its value in just three years, with some losing almost 70 percent. By comparison, the average three-year depreciation for all vehicles is just 38 percent.

Inexpensive gasoline and diesel have made traditional cars even more desirable. Advances in drilling and other technologies were behind gasoline's drop to below \$3 a gallon. Today, regular unleaded averages below \$2 per gallon nationally.

Post-pandemic, when oil demand returns to normal levels, gasoline will remain far below \$4 a gallon price in the summer of 2008, thanks to the shale-oil revolution. Car emissions, too, have significantly declined since the 1970s.

Environmentally conscious regulators and prudent lawmakers can let Americans buy regular cars. Taxpayers will be thankful too.

Robert L. Bradley Jr. is the founder and CEO of the Institute for Energy Research. ★



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## City Sets Strategy for Removing **Trash from Waterways**

Story by Shaunna Boyd

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - On August 13, the Citrus Heights City Council held a Special Meeting study session (via Zoom) regarding the Trash Amendment to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit – which is issued by the State Water Resources Control Board. Associate Civil Engineer Dirk Medema of the City's General Services Department presented the Council with an overview of the new requirement, what the City has done to meet the requirement, and what still needs to be done.

Medema explained that the MS4 regulates storm water discharges, beginning with the roadside ditches and curbside gutters that flow into the piped storm drain system and ending when the water flows into local creeks. Creeks are part of the City-maintained stormwater system, but "from a regulatory perspective, they're water of the state," said Medema. "Trash in the waterways is a problem for everyone because it affects all the water; it affects the water that we all rely upon."

The goal of the MS4 Trash Amendment, which was adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board in 2015, is to remove all trash greater than a quarter inch in diameter from local waterways. Medema explained that there are three ways trash enters the state waterways: airborne trash, direct trash deposits, and trash from stormwater runoff. Airborne trash, which blows directly into creeks, is relatively minor and hard to regulate. Direct trash deposits - which include dumping, littering, and refuse from homeless encampments – are a major problem but are also hard to regulate. The trash generated from storm drains and gutters is the easiest to regulate since it's governed by the MS4 permit.

The City paid for an On-land Visual Trash Assessment (OVTA) in 2018, which assessed the amount of trash at local water sites. Based on the OVTA

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assessment, the City must demonstrate the annual removal of 22,174 gallons of trash from the waterways, either by collecting it directly from the waterways or by preventing it from entering. The City created a Trash Implementation Plan, which identified commercial, industrial, and multifamily housing as priority land uses. Medema explained that those categories constitute 24% of the city acreage; 76% of the city is singlefamily home properties, which are exempt from the plan.

The State Water Control Board has mandated that all agencies must be in full compliance with the Trash Amendment by December 2030. The City's MS4 permit will be renewed in 2021, and the Trash Amendment specifics will be codified at that time.

To address the issue of trash polluting the waterways, the State recommendation was a structural approach: install full trash-capture devices to catch debris at each outfall before the trash enters the waterways. The City is pursuing an alternative approach: In addition to installing trash-capture devices, the City plans to institute program changes to reduce the amount of trash that ends up in the waterways: increased street sweeping, the placement of more public trash cans, outreach programs to increase awareness, creek cleanups, commercial development requirements, green streets infrastructure, landscape maintenance, possible product bans (such as plastic bags or plastic straws), interagency collaboration, more support for the interdepartmental homeless team, and working to develop underdeveloped properties.

The process will need to include a monitoring and documentation program to show the City is removing or preventing the required amount of trash from the waterways. The plan also includes reassessments at years 4 and 7 to evaluate the strategy's effectiveness. Based on the data, programs may be added or modified to ensure compliance by 2030.

Compliance with the Trash Amendment is not currently funded by the City's budget, said Medema. The costs of operations and maintenance, policy controls for trash reduction, management of facilities, and the design and installation of trash-capture devices and their maintenance are all additional funding requirements.

Possible funding sources could include collaborating on a regional facility through a Maintenance Assessment District managed by the City or implementing a trash franchise agreement to provide funding for the public program. The City's proposed sales tax is another possible funding source. The City could also amend the municipal code to require private developments include trashcapture devices.

The Study Session was informational, so no Council action was required. But Medema said that within this fiscal year, staff will need guidance from the Council on how to move forward. Medema said the requirements will "benefit our community, region, nation, and world. Water connects us all."

Vice Mayor Steve Miller asked about the cost of the full trash-capture devices and asked how many outfalls there are in the city. Medema said there are 753 mapped outlets; some are from single-family residences, which would be exempt. There are access issues at many of the outfalls making maintenance work difficult, and many are on private property.

As to the cost, Medema said that small grates installed in a catch basin cost around \$1,000, including installation. But end-of-pipe devices at outfalls with large pipes (for example, 30-inch diameters) can cost \$100,000, plus an additional \$100,000 for installation, plus maintenance costs twice a

Mayor Jeff Slowey said the mandate will be expensive, so it's "good you're getting ahead of it and giving us a heads up about some gray clouds that are down the road."

## A Century of Women's Vote

Continued from page 1 months to reach one million California voters over 1.000 miles with their message!

What took place was one of the most innovative, creative, well organized and strategically planned battles for a cause. Their plan was to split the state at the Tehachapi Mountains and focus on rural, previously unapproached cities and villages. Northern workers would work with the more established women's groups and southern workers would saturate cities, farms and towns in the rest of state

One group of men already knew of the importance of women voting: the men who had depended on the courage and partnership of women in the settlement of the untamed west. They knew equality was not only a right, but a necessity. They realized women's votes would help their own causes also.

Representatives

from 163 women's clubs, groups and organizations of women representing diverse ethnicities, religions, education, businesses, and social factions spread out throughout every part of California.

Well trained women were taught how to make 'cold calls' on homes and businesses, answering every objection put to them – even speaking from actual soap boxes.

Every means possible and some seemingly impossible was used to get the word before every resident of every city, town and farm in California. Suffragettes learned to do

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things they never imagined. The power of the press was used to reach citizens in five languages and via every vehicle possible.

What was not realized until women began going into the cities, small towns and villages, talking with every man and woman they met, was the myriad of unmet needs identified which existed in every county. The message had to be that, only through the vote can there be change!

When the election votes came in, the first news reports claimed defeat for the amendment, but over the next 2 days votes from the more rural and outlying cities and towns poured in. After three days, victory was announced.

The final vote was 125, 037 YES and 121,450 NO: a win of only 3,587 votes with only 50.7% of eligible voters (all men) voting. That is one vote per precinct or 1% of the vote! The farmer, miner and south had won the vote!

Following the vote, California became one of the foremost democracies in the world, with half a million women now able to vote. Immediately, 2,500 new full women citizens registered to vote and 16,000 more registered in the next 10 days. They soon were on juries and holding public office.

Whether man or woman, and no matter what the political party, the message was clear: VOTE!

We need to remember the price these women of California paid with their time, money, and stepping out into an unknown world. Don't waste your right to



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