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Citrus Heights Messenger

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Sunrise Tomorrow Promises New Downtown



An artistic rendering of the 21st Century Main Street vision shows a vibrant center for community life. Image courtesy of the City of Citrus Heights/Gensler.

Story by Shaunna Boyd

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - The City of Citrus Heights is creating a Specific Plan to guide redevelopment of the 100-acre Sunrise Mall site. The project, Sunrise Tomorrow, will define a vision for transforming the site into a regional destination and a flourishing center of community engagement.

The Sunrise Tomorrow team saw unprecedented turnout at its first community outreach meeting back in February at the old Sears building. There have also been thousands of website engagements at SunriseTomorrow.net, where residents engage with the project and share their priorities for the plan.

Based on all the feedback from the community, the team established a clear vision for the plan, which they presented at their second outreach meeting on June 30. As the coronavirus pandemic continues, the meeting

was held online through Zoom to meet social distancing guidelines. Virtual attendance exceeded expectations, with 122 residents joining the meeting to learn about the plan vision, answer poll questions, and ask questions in a real-time Q&A chat.

Through public outreach, the Sunrise Tomorrow team (led by international architecture firm Gensler) identified the community's top priorities. "The community has given us really strong direction on how to think about changing the site and how to change its perception over time," said Gensler's Project Manager, Nate Cherry. "The key theme is ... the idea of creating a new heart. How can we create a place where people come together that feels like the center of Citrus Heights?"

The Sunrise Tomorrow vision is a 21st Century Main Street. Cherry described it as "forward looking but also familiar ... Not only a regional

destination that visitors want to visit, but ... a local place, a place that Citrus Heights residents really feel is theirs."

The mall has seen a 44% decrease in visitors in the last decade, leading to a 28% decline in taxable retail sales in the city. In January 2020, the mall had a 40% vacancy rate. The mall is largely a vacant building in a sea of parking lots. For the mall to become a thriving community center, retail is not enough - there must be a mix of uses to attract more visitors. Hotels, employment centers, a variety of housing options, family-friendly activities, diverse dining and retail options, tree-lined streets, an outdoor event center, and abundant green spaces will combine quality of life with economic growth.

Cherry explained that job creation is vital to this plan: "It has to be an economic engine, has to generate

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Taxpayers Should File by July 15

By David A. Tucker II, IRS

WASHINGTON, DC (MPG) - The Department of the Treasury and IRS announced the tax filing and payment deadline of July 15 will not be postponed. Individual taxpayers unable to meet the July 15 due date can request an automatic extension of time to file until Oct. 15.

The IRS reminds taxpayers filing Form 1040 series returns that they must file Form 4868 by July 15 to obtain the automatic extension to Oct. 15. The extension provides additional time to file the tax return - it is not an extension to pay any taxes due.

The IRS urges people who owe taxes, even if they have a filing extension, to carefully review their situation and pay what they can by July 15 to avoid penalties and interest. For people facing hardships, including those affected by COVID-19, who cannot pay in full, the IRS has several options available to help. To avoid interest and penalties, the IRS encourages them to pay what they can and consider a variety of payment options available for the remaining balance.

Individual taxpayers have several easy ways to file Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, by the July 15 deadline. The IRS also reminds taxpayers to check their state filing and payment deadlines, which may differ from the federal July 15 deadline.

IRS Direct Pay allows payment directly from a checking or savings account. This service is free; Electronic Federal Tax Payment System, or EFTPS. Pay by phone or online. This service is free; Debit or credit card payment. This service is free, but the processing company may charge a fee. Fees vary by company; Check or money order made payable to the United States Treasury (or U.S. Treasury) through the mail.

Several payment options are available on IRS.gov/ payments to help taxpayers

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Masks for Sacramento Seniors is a Grassroots Effort

By Patrick Larenas

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As California attempts to reopen to its more normal economic, recreational and occupational activities, Seniors should keep in mind that those who are 65 years and older are still the most vulnerable to COVID-19. Arising to the task of protecting those most at risk, Cindy Rose of Rose Senior Placement organized Masks for Sacramento Seniors, a collaborative effort to

donate and produce masks for those in need.

Rose was inspired by the great enthusiasm demonstrated by some 300 members who joined the mask-making effort. Seamstresses who regularly create Christmas stockings, Halloween costumes, sports outfits and a number of other hobbies all converged to make "a dynamic workforce".

"My mom taught me to sew when I was young,

Continued on page 4



A positive and enthusiastic ethos overtook some 300 members, including Jennifer Maurer, who joined the mask-making effort. Photo provided by Cindy Rose



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A Message from Chief Lawrence to the Business Community



CHPD Chief Ron Lawrence

Dear Business Owners/Operators,

I want to start by thanking you for making our community home to your business – I know that the State and County’s health order updates have made things complicated and I am amazed at the adaptability and commitment to safety that I’ve witnessed among the majority of our Citrus Heights businesses.

Your Police Department is committed to keeping our workforce and community safe, as always. With limited resources, the Citrus Heights Police Department (CHPD) does not have the capacity to proactively enforce wearing masks in the general public, and broad

enforcement would be difficult to achieve. However, CHPD encourages and supports business owner efforts to comply with the Public Health Order (PHO) and enforce your own rules on your property.

You may refuse to serve a customer for not complying with store rules; You may also refuse to allow customers entrance or ask them to leave for failing to follow store rules, to include the PHO; If a person refuses to leave your private property, CHPD can assist you with trespass advisements; Beyond advisements, you may make a citizen’s arrest for trespassing, which CHPD would facilitate within the law.

It is important to keep in mind that the PHO regarding the mandated wearing of face-coverings or masks has exemptions outlined within the order, and people should take care when dealing with a person who may have a legitimate need to not wear a face-covering or mask. CHPD encourages businesses and residents to follow the PHO guidelines by

making themselves familiar with the most up to date PHO issued by the State by visiting their website at www.covid19.ca.gov, and Sacramento County Public Health Order by visiting their website at www.sac-county.net/COVID-19/.

I am excited to share that our free mask program for local businesses has re-launched, in an effort to continue to support your operations during this time. In partnership with the City, the CHPD has given out more than 13,100 free face masks to local Citrus Heights businesses, and we’d like to continue to help those who have not received masks from us yet. Please email LoveLocal@CitrusHeights.net to learn more.

It is truly is an honor to serve Citrus Heights and, together with City officials and staff, the Police Department remains committed to the safety of our community.

Sincerely,

Chief Ron Lawrence
Citrus Heights
Police Department

Council Approves TOP Program to Help Restaurants & Retail

By Nichole Baxter,
City of Citrus Heights

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - As Citrus Heights moves further along in the stages of California’s Pandemic Resilience Roadmap, various industries in our City are resuming operations. During this transition, the City’s top priority remains the health and safety of our workforce and community. To help dine-in restaurants and retail shops adapt to the State and County guidelines for re-opening, the City of Citrus Heights has established criteria for utilizing existing outdoor space.

The City’s Temporary Outdoor Program (TOP) relaxes regulations concerning use of outdoor spaces. This outdoor program aims to help Citrus Heights businesses adhere to State and County health orders and guidelines, like regulations requiring a six foot clearance between groups at restaurants.

To allow for timely implementation, businesses will not need a permit from the City to participate in TOP. City staff have created an easy-to-follow guide, providing detailed information and allowing businesses to self-certify, which can be found on the City’s website home page: CitrusHeights.net. Businesses who follow the City’s guide are able to participate in TOP.

Please note that a permit from Sacramento



This outdoor program aims to help Citrus Heights businesses adhere to State and County health orders and guidelines, like regulations requiring a six foot clearance between groups at restaurants. Photo courtesy City of Citrus Heights

Metropolitan Fire District and clearance from the Sacramento Area Sewer District may be required. Prior to implementing this program, please contact the following to discuss your project:

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District at (916) 859-4330; Sacramento Area Sewer District & Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, at permitservices@sac-sewer.com or (916) 876-6100.

The program will run through December 31, 2020, unless amended. Key factors of the program include...

- (1) Encouraging outdoor dining by using outdoor spaces such as parking spaces and sidewalks (not including sidewalks within the rights-of-way);
- (2) Subject to the rules of Alcoholic Beverage Control, allowing outdoor consumption of alcohol at restaurants where indoor consumption of alcohol was already allowed;
- (3)

Parking may be reduced to allow for increased outdoor dining space, creation of pick-up areas, or similar activities needed to comply with the recovery phase; (4) Adding signage on a temporary basis to help communicate that your business is open, indicate curbside pick-up areas, and other similar messages that will aid in the recovery process. Temporary signage cannot impede accessible pedestrian access along the sidewalk or into the business (5) Allowing restaurants with access to private sidewalks or private parking to utilize these areas for dining activities in accordance with guidelines published by California Department of Public Health: Covid19.ca.gov. (6) Requiring a valid Citrus Heights General Business License to participate in the program.

For questions regarding this program, please contact the Planning Division at (916) 727-4740 or Planning@CitrusHeights.net. ★



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Crime Reports

Citrus Heights Police Report

June 29th
July 4th



06/29/2020 • Time: 7:52 PM • IR Number: 12005127
Crime: **10851(A) VC: Vehicle Theft**
Location Type: Parking Lot • Public Address: 73xx Greenback Ln
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

06/29/2020 • Time: 3:23 PM • IR Number: 12005150
Crime: **459 PC: Burglary - Commercial**
Location Type: Other Public Premise • Public Address: 62xx Sylvan Rd
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

07/02/2020 • Time: 11:37 PM • IR Number: 12005279
Crime: **451(D) PC: Arson:property**
Location Type: Parking Lot • Public Address: 63xx San Pablo Dr
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

07/02/2020 • Time: 6:10 PM • IR Number: 12005273
Crime: **10851(A) VC: Vehicle Theft**
Location Type: Parking Lot • Public Address: Greenback Ln/Auburn Bl
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

07/03/2020 • Time: 8:00 PM • IR Number: 12005298
Crime: **459 PC: Burglary - Commercial**
Location Type: Office Building • Public Address: 80xx Greenback Ln
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

07/03/2020 • Time: 2:32 AM • IR Number: 12005280
Crime: **459 PC: Burglary - Commercial**
Location Type: Convenience Store • Public Address: 81xx Auburn
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

07/04/2020 • Time: 10:00 PM • IR Number: 12005341
Crime: **10851(A) VC: Vehicle Theft**
Location Type: Street/Highway • Public Address: 55xx Primrose Dr
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

07/04/2020 • Time: 8:22 PM • IR Number: 12005326
Crime: **211 PC: Robbery**
Location Type: Street/Highway • Public Address: Fountain Square Dr/Greenback Ln
Agency: Sacramento County Sheriff's Department

Find more info at citrusheights.net

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Anti-Catholicism
Spikes In California

Sunrise Tomorrow
Promises New Downtown

Catholic League Press Release

NEW YORK, NY (MPG) - Catholic League president Bill Donohue comments on the status of Catholicism in California:

Anti-Catholicism is sweeping California. Attacks on Catholic statues, public complaints about Catholics attending Mass, the selective enforcement of executive orders on religious gatherings, and politicians seeking to intimidate priests and bishops, are commonplace.

A mob of anti-Catholics celebrated the 4th of July by destroying a statue of St. Junipero Serra in Sacramento, the state's capitol. The statue was set on fire and smashed with sledgehammers. Though Serra did more to defend the rights of Indians in the 18th century against Spanish colonizers than all the protesters have ever done for American Indians today, Serra is a demon. That is why statues of him were previously destroyed in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

What's feeding this frenzy? Citing COVID-19 concerns, restrictive measures on religious gatherings have been mandated throughout the state. The tone has been set by politicians: There is one rule for people of faith and another for protesters. This has not been lost on the anti-Catholics. Protesters by the thousands, many of them violent, have been allowed to march in big cities across California – without a permit – as public health officials and politicians said nary a word.

According to the *New York Times*, 1,300 epidemiologists and health workers from across the nation recently signed a letter saying that those who protested stay-at-home orders were “rooted in white nationalism and run contrary to respect for Black Lives Matter.” But when it comes to the protesters, they said, “we do not

condemn these gatherings as risky for Covid-19 transmission. We support them as vital to the national public health.”

The mayor of Sacramento, Darrell Steinberg, shares the same position. He said in late May that he supported the Sacramento City Council's refusal to impose a curfew after two nights of violence and looting. He contended that it would be useless to do so because “those who are perpetrating looting and violence would probably ignore the curfew anyway.” But in early April he said it may be permissible to have the police disperse church-goers if they assembled in prayer.

Meanwhile, public officials in San Francisco are now doing a headcount of Catholics attending Mass. The San Francisco city attorney, Dennis Herrera, says he has received complaints that more than 12 Catholics have been seen at a Mass. He sent a cease-and-desist letter to the Archdiocese of San Francisco ordering it to stop indoor religious services.

Herrera did not say whether he has done a headcount of Protestants going to church, Jews going to synagogues, or Muslims going to mosques. But we do know that his office is fielding complaints from the public that one Catholic church actually held six Masses in one day! Why Herrera did not send in a SWAT team remains a puzzle.

We know who is contacting Herrera's office, and we know they are not public health fanatics. Moreover, we wouldn't be surprised to learn that some of them were among the 1,300 doctors and health care workers who signed the letter giving the protesters a pass while condemning everyone else who refused to abide by their highly politicized directives.

Contact Herrera: cityattorney@sfcity-atty.org ★

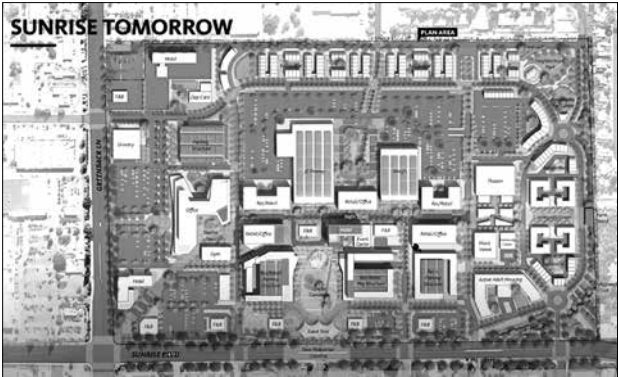
Continued from page 1

jobs and prosperity for the area.” The plan is projected to create more than 3,400 jobs – including approximately 350 annual construction jobs over the next 20 years.

Housing is also a critical need in Citrus Heights, so the plan proposes a mix of 220 townhomes, 195 apartment units, 125 units for active seniors, and 585 mixed-use residential units for on-site professionals. The variety of on-site activities and amenities, along with enhanced pedestrian safety measures along Sunrise Blvd., would attract people to these new neighborhoods.

A network of parks and plazas would offer a variety of outdoor experiences, all connected by a walkable and bikeable green loop. Fresh foods could be grown in community gardens, creating a farm-to-fork partnership with the on-site restaurants. With 25 acres of potential parks and green spaces, up to 30% of the site would be active, open space. The plan even includes the excavation of a creek that was paved over when the mall was originally built.

Participant polls during the meeting revealed that residents are most excited for the Main Street atmosphere, indoor/outdoor dining options, and on-site events. Cherry said there are currently around a half dozen events on site throughout the year. A large, open green space with an event tent would act as a front door to the site (right along Sunrise Blvd.) where the



The Sunrise Tomorrow revitalization plan would transform the mall into a 21st Century Main Street, filled with green spaces, community gathering places, and diverse retail and dining experiences. Image courtesy of the City of Citrus Heights/Gensler.

community could gather for concerts and large events. The variety of open spaces throughout the site would create “a pulse of weekly, monthly, holiday time, and seasonal events that would really generate a tremendous amount of foot traffic throughout the year,” said Cherry.

With the potential for more than 100 events each year, up to 25 new restaurants, and diverse retail opportunities, the revitalized mall could draw 12 million annual visitors. The goal is to transform the site into a downtown for Citrus Heights while generating a new tax base to create new revenue for the city.

While the City of Citrus Heights does not own any land on the mall site, they have collaborated with the various mall owners to reach the shared vision of 21st Century Main Street. The actual development of the plan will be funded by the mall owners and any private or public development partners they bring in.

The plan will be implemented in phases over the next 20 years. Phase 1 will roll out over the next

five years with projects that can commence without disturbing existing businesses, such as development of the old Sears building and stand-alone retail and restaurants in the parking areas along Sunrise Blvd. Phase 2 would begin in five to 10 years with the development of the employment anchors along Greenback Lane, townhomes to the east, and various green spaces. The Main Street development is planned in the area of the existing mall, so it cannot move forward while businesses are operating with current leases; development will commence in Phase 3, in 10–15 years. While JC Penny and Macy's are both committed to remaining in their current locations as part of the 21st Century Main Street project, Phase 4 includes potential redevelopment of the department stores in 15–20 years if the markets should change over the coming decades.

Visit SunriseTomorrow.net to participate in the online engagement process, view an interactive project map, and provide feedback on the plan. ★

Masks for Sacramento Seniors
is a Grassroots Effort



Senior support groups are a very collaborative workforce. In the photo: Jennifer Davis (left) and Evelyn McGrath (right). Photo provided by Cindy Rose

Continued from page 1

but people don't sew anymore,” Rose said, “so it's been fun to have the opportunity to connect with different personalities who enjoy contributing their own unique work.”

Masks for Sacramento Seniors contributor Dot Boyd, a Senior Safety Specialist for Electronic Caregiver for the Sacramento area, said, “Because we are

all working individually from home, we have a cadre of fabric cutters, seamstresses, delivery drivers, and donations. We're a tight-knit community filled with big hearts and busy hands.”

So as governors and public officials remain under great economic and political pressure to reopen their respective states, counties and cities, adding uncertainty about COVID-19, make sure

that you are protected.

The masks at Masks for Sacramento Seniors are free of cost according to its Facebook page: “We are all volunteers and run off donations and people's charity. The masks that are donated are donated for free. No community will ever pay for the masks from this group.”

For more information call (916) 582-1654 or visit roseseniiorplacement.com ★

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Taxpayers Should File by July 15

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who can't pay in full and some can offer taxpayers smaller penalties. Though interest and late-payment penalties continue to accrue on any unpaid taxes after July 15, the failure to pay tax penalty rate

is cut in half while an installment agreement is in effect. The usual penalty rate of 0.5% per month is reduced to 0.25% For the calendar quarter beginning July 1, 2020, the interest rate for underpayment is 3%. For more info see IRS.gov. ★

Board of Equalization Member Ted Gaines Criticizes Gas Tax Increase



Ted Gaines

By **Betsey Hodges,**
*California State Board
of Equalization*

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - State Board of Equalization Member Ted Gaines issued the following statement on the July 1 gas tax increase of three cents per gallon:

“California already had among the highest gas taxes in the country before the state Legislature passed SB 1 and essentially guaranteed increasing gas taxes every year. But we also had some of the worst roads. That’s a rotten

combination for taxpayers, who have gotten no value from their government.

“Before raising taxes a single penny, legislators should have reformed labor and environmental rules that make California road building so incredibly expensive compared to other states. They should have redirected the billion dollars a year of diverted weight fees to road maintenance and construction. And they should have prioritized practical road building over high-speed rail service that most drivers will never use but will pay for.

“But instead of reforms or cost savings, they just reached their hands deeper into taxpayers’ wallets.

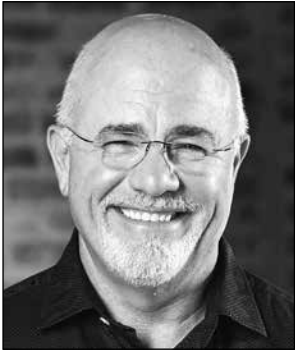
“Three cents a gallon might not break the bank itself, but when you add it to our highest-in-the-nation sales tax, astronomical rents and housing costs, and electricity rates that are 50 percent higher than the national average, it adds

up to a cost-of-living nightmare for California families and businesses.

“With California’s unemployment rate at its highest level since the Great Recession in 2010, I can’t imagine a more ill-advised time to make daily life even more expensive, when families are simply trying to pay rent and keep food on the table.

“California politicians shouldn’t be filling up their own tanks while family budgets are running on empty. Drivers were already paying nearly 80 cents a gallon in combined state and federal taxes before today’s increase. We can build better infrastructure and a brighter future for our state with existing revenues and without higher taxes, at the pump or anywhere else.”

Ted Gaines represents 10 million people across 30 counties as the Board Member for the First Equalization District. ★



This Kid’s A Planner!

Dear Dave,

What would be your advice for someone who is renting an apartment but has never rented before? I’m 16, and I’m trying to create a plan for when I get out on my own in a couple of years. I’ve never had any debt, and don’t have a credit score. Is it going to be hard to find a place to live?

– Riley

Dear Riley

I get where you’re coming from. A lot of people believe it’s hard to get an apartment without a credit score, and that’s just not the case. In most cases, if you’ve got money for a deposit and proof of employment, you can find a little apartment somewhere.

Anytime you’re renting it should be because you’re in a stage of your life where you’re not going to be in

Dave Ramsey Says

the area long, you’re saving money to buy a home, or you’re working your way out from under a lot of debt. Think of it as “rent patience.” Renting should be a temporary stop along the road, not a way of life. You’re parked and you’re on hold until you’re ready for a house or you get your finances in order.

I don’t hate apartments, and renting isn’t evil. But renting for a decade or two is not a smart move. How much do you want to pay for patience? The least amount possible. You want something clean and safe, but nothing too fancy. You don’t need a racquetball court, skylight or hot tub.

I love that you’re a planner, Riley. Keep looking ahead and thinking toward the future!

– Dave

Don’t fall for it!

Dear Dave,

Could you explain why buying a new car at 0% interest isn’t a good idea?

– Raina

Dear Raina

The only way you have a chance of getting 0% interest on a new car is if you have perfect credit and pay full MSRP (manufacturer’s

suggested retail price). But, if you walk onto a car lot with cash, and haggle with the salesperson a little bit, they’ll knock a bunch off the sticker price. If you can buy the car for less than the 0% interest gimmick, how is that 0%? See what I’m saying? The cash buyer pays less.

Besides, you shouldn’t even consider buying a brand new car, unless you’re debt-free and have \$1 million or more in the bank. You lose a ton in value the second you drive a new car off the lot. How is that 0%? A new car also loses about 60% of its value in the first four years after you buy it. How is that 0%?

The whole 0% interest gimmick tricks a lot of unsuspecting folks into buying something they don’t need and can’t afford!

– 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. ★

Railroad Museum Calls Out for Railroad Stories

By **Traci Rockefeller Cusack,**
T-Rock Communications

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The California State Railroad Museum & Foundation are proud to launch an interactive community building initiative titled “Our Lives Are Made of Railroad Stories” that includes a new 20-page brochure and a call-out for railroad stories and connections. Produced in partnership with Sactown magazine, the new brochure uses compelling stories to highlight how the dedicated museum staff, volunteers, community and valued partners work collaboratively to

connect in ways that extend beyond the walls of the world-class museum.

The new brochure is available as a special pull-out section in the July/August issue of the bi-monthly publication that is available now at all major grocery stores and bookstores in the Sacramento area. Once the museum reopens, the complimentary brochure will also be available at the museum in a total of 10 languages, including Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Hindi, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish, while supplies last.

For more see www.californiarailroadmuseum.com. ★



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CITY OF CITRUS HEIGHTS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that on **July 22, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the **Planning Commission** of the City of Citrus Heights will hold a Public Hearing for the consideration of the project listed below.

- Project: Zoning Code Update- Revisions to Various Sections of the Zoning Code**
The Planning Commission will review a variety of updates to the city’s Zoning Code and forward a recommendation to the City Council. The project includes revisions to sections pertaining to creekside setbacks, fencing, parking, home occupations as well as a variety of other amendments. A complete list of changes can be obtained from the Planning Division. Environmental Determination: The project is Categorically Exempt from CEQA under Section 15061(b)(3) of the Guidelines. Project Planner: Alison Bermudez

PLEASE NOTE: In order to minimize the spread of the COVID 19 virus, Governor Newsom has issued Executive Orders that temporarily suspend some requirements of the Brown Act. Please be advised that the Council Chambers are closed to the public and that some, or all, Planning Commissioners may attend Planning Commission meetings telephonically or otherwise electronically. The meeting will be held via webcast with NO PHYSICAL LOCATION FOR PUBLIC ATTENDANCE.

If you would like to watch the meeting webcast, please contact the Planning Division at (916) 727-4740 or by email at planning@citrusheights.net to obtain information on if a webcast will be available for this meeting.

If you wish to make a public comment, please submit your comment via email to planning@citrusheights.net or by completion of an online Speaker Card at <https://www.citrusheights.net/FormCenter/City-Council-Meetings-Speaker-Card-30>. Public comments shall be limited to 250 words or less. Each comment will be read aloud by the Secretary.

Following the Public Hearing, the **Planning Commission** may take such action on the project as it deems appropriate. If the matter is continued for any reason to a later date, written comments and public testimony will be accepted until the close of the final Public Hearing. All comments will be considered by the Approving Authority.

If you challenge the action of the **Planning Commission** on this matter in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Department at, or prior to the Public Hearing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Planning Division at (916) 727-4740. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. TTY/TDD users with questions or comments can call the California Relay Service by dialing 7-1-1.

Dated: July 2, 2020
Publish: July 10, 2020

Citrus Heights Messenger 7-10-2020

NOTICE OF GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

in the

CITY OF CITRUS HEIGHTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Municipal Election will be held in the City of Citrus Heights on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, 2020, for the following officers:

City Council Member District 1	Full Term of Four Years
City Council Member District 3	Full Term of Four Years

The polls will be open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

QUALIFICATIONS: Each candidate must meet the following qualifications for office as specified in the principal act or applicable code:

Be a registered voter, reside in the eligible District, and are otherwise qualified to vote for the office of City Council Member at the time that nomination papers are issued.

CODE REFERENCE: California Elections Code Section 201.

Official nominating petitions for eligible candidates desiring to file for any of the elective offices may be obtained from and filed with the Citrus Heights City Clerk at 6360 Fountain Square Drive, Citrus Heights, CA during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Nomination documents will be available on and after July 13, 2020, and must be filed not later than 5:00 p.m. on August 7, 2020. However, if nomination documents for an incumbent are not filed by 5:00 p.m. on August 7, 2020, any qualified person other than the incumbent shall have until 5:00 p.m. on August 12, 2020 to file nomination documents for the office.

In the event there are insufficient or no nominees for any office, the City Clerk shall submit a certificate of these facts to the Citrus Heights City Council; and the City Council, at a regular or special meeting, shall adopt a course of action as prescribed by Elections Code Section 10229.

Dated this 10 day of July, 2020.

Amy Van
City Clerk

Citrus Heights Messenger 7-10-2020

Legals Ads for Sacramento County We Can Do That ! 916 773-1111

It Was A Week That Was Shot To Pieces

By Rev. James L. Snyder

I only made one mistake last week, which is something of a record for me. I try limiting mistakes to one at a time, but not always in sequential order. I once tried to make my mistakes in a logical order, but it turned out to be a mistake.

Monday, we decided to have a “loafing contest” to see who was the best loafer.

My wife won the best loafer contest, but it was all in good fun, and we certainly enjoyed our day off.

On Tuesday, my week took a decidedly different turn.

First, my computer crashed.

I set off to take my computer to the repair shop. On the way, the car radiator broke.

I barely got the car to the garage. When the mechanic lifted the hood and examined my engine, he rubbed his hands with mischievous glee.

“Reverend,” he taunted, “Your radiator is shot to pieces.”

I had no idea what that meant, but knew it involved lots of money being transferred from my account to his.

I left my car there.

When the repair person looked at my computer, she rubbed her hands with mischievous glee and looked at me with a smile splotched all over her kisser. I knew I was in trouble again.

“Reverend,” she sneered, “your hard drive is shot to pieces.”

I had no idea what that meant, but knew it involved lots of money being transferred from my account to hers.

I left my computer at the repair shop and wnet to the optometrist to have my eyes checked. When the doctor saw me, he rubbed his hands with mischievous glee and looked at me with a smile glowing all over his face. I knew I was in trouble.

“Reverend,” he observed, “your glasses are shot to pieces.”

I knew what that meant and perceived it involved lots of money being transferred from my account to his.

I left my glasses at the eye doctor’s office to be repaired.

Between my car, my computer, and my glasses, the week was drenched with out-of-pocket expenses of which I had run out of pockets. To make matters worse, or better depending on your perspective, I had a wedding to perform toward the end of the week.

Nothing seemed to go right for me, plus I did not know where I was going to get the money to pay for these unforeseen expenses.

The wedding rehearsal on Friday was set for 6:30, and my computer was ready at 6:15. Now, that’s cutting the wedding cake rather close.

Between the car and

computer repairs, I did not know how I would pay for both. Have you ever noticed when everything seems to go wrong, something unexpected happens?

While I was bemoaning my unfortunate week, several things happened.

One, I received an unexpected check from a magazine publishing some of my articles.

Two, I received an honorarium for the wedding – something I wasn’t expecting.

These two checks covered my unexpected expenses for the week.

Third, the hard drive on my computer had a warranty, and I did not have to pay for it.

Thinking about my week, a wonderful verse of scripture romped through my mind. “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not”(Galatians 6:9).

Fainting is always an option, but the person who refuses to allow his week to make him weary will reap God’s blessing.

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. ★



The virus crisis didn’t come to stay, it came to pass, it’s not going to last. We’re going to get through this. We need to do the things that the doctors tell us to do. Do the commonsense things but realize the crisis will not last. Every virus has a bell curve, and they’re trying to knock that bell down through isolation, and quarantining, and things like that. The Bible says it like this in 2 Corinthians 4:17-18, “For our temporary and momentary troubles will not last, but they are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we focus not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” Paul says, I focus on what is unseen, what is eternal, what does not change.

We’ve been through an incredible amount of change over the last few days. Maybe your schedule has changed, maybe your income has changed, your social life has

Pastor Ray's Encouraging Words

Focus on What Will Never Change

changed, your job may have changed, and we know there are going to be other changes in the days ahead. The key to stability is to focus on what will never change. Focus on what never changes in the days ahead, that’ll give you stability. Don’t focus on what’s ever changing, because that will only produce insecurity, worry and even depression.

So, what are the unchangeable truths that I should focus on? The Bible is full of them, but there’s a small list: First, God sees everything you’re going through. That will never change. Second, God cares about everything you’re going through. That’s unchangeable. God sees and He cares. Third, God has the power to answer your prayers. That’s unchangeable. Fourth, God always acts out of His goodness towards you. That’s never going to change. Fifth, no matter what happens, God is always in control. You don’t have to be in control when I know He is. That will never change. Sixth, God’s plan is always better than

our plan. I may not see it, but it’s better because He’s a good God. Seventh, God will never stop loving you. That’s what the Bible says. These are things you need to focus on, the things that never change.

Let me give you another one. Remember that no matter what you go through, God will go through it with you. Every stage, every phase, every crisis, no matter what you go through, you will never ever be alone. God is with you. It doesn’t mean you feel Him all the time, but God is with you. He’s with you right now. God has never been closer to you than He is right now.

That’s what you want to focus on. Maybe a little less reading the news, the Internet, and a little bit more reading Gods’ Word in the days ahead. That will give you the confidence, peace and faith that you need during this crisis.

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By Marlys Johnsen Norris,
Christian Author

Every one has burdens to carry in life. God’s Word tells us to take them to the Lord and leave them with Him. It is no secret what God can miraculously do to remove any burden from someone’s life forever. God speaks to us in His Word – *“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”* (Phil. 4:6-7) Read on. . .

We all are struggling with the onset of the corona virus and the many ways it has changed our lives regardless of where we live or work. Never in our lives have we had our government dictate so many things we must do

God Will Lift Your Burdens

in our lives. Medical people have encouraged us to do certain things to spare us from experiencing this terrible illness that causes some to die prematurely.

Unfortunately some people disregard the warnings and do whatever they want to do. Then, Who is it that gives them a right to break the laws of our land? They may be causing the virus to spread even faster than it would otherwise. Others are doing their best to follow the rules and guidelines. Still others are not respecting others and robbing, ransacking and destroying properties of others with no regard for anything or anyone. They all need to be placed in prison cells for years.

In these unsettled times one needs to look to the Creator/God of all that exists and claim His Word! *“And we know that all things work together to them that love the Lord, to them who are the called according to His (God’s)*

purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

Police are now under attack throughout our country and they have been the ones who have brought peace and justice into our lives for years and especially when these kinds of situations arise. Policemen doing their job arresting people caught breaking the laws who have taken off running away after they were arrested. Then, a distance away, trying to stop them, they were shot in the back. Unfortunately the bullet hit a vital area and they were killed. How is true justice awarded? Regretfully consequences came!

There is no such thing as “peace at any price”. No matter what there is a price to pay for breaking the laws of our land and someone always must pay, either in jail or with their life! *Biblical truth is eternal and it is time people adhere to it.*

Marlys Johnsen Norris
Christian Author
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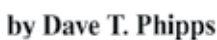
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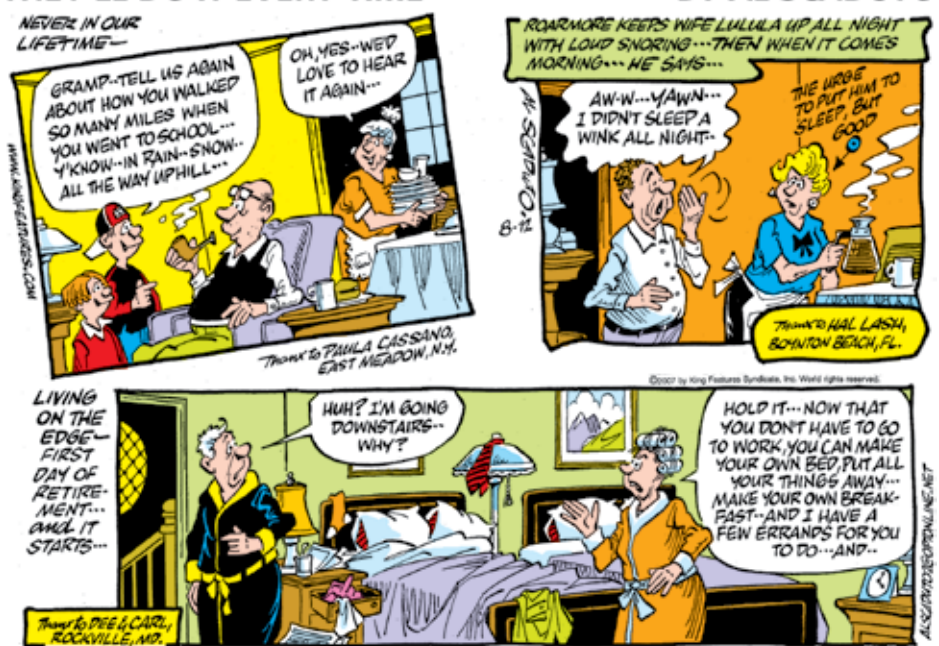
Amber Waves



Out on a Limb



by Jeff Pickering

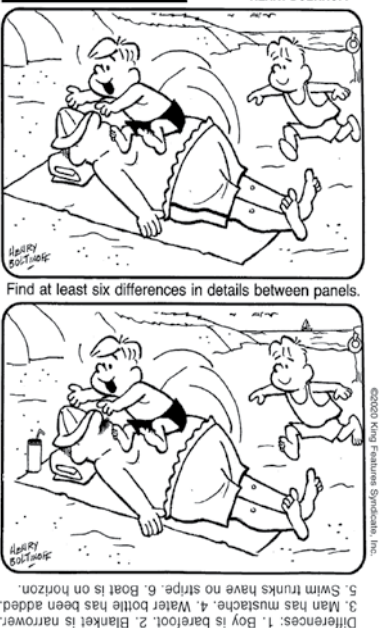


by Dave T. Phipps



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



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CLUES

ACROSS

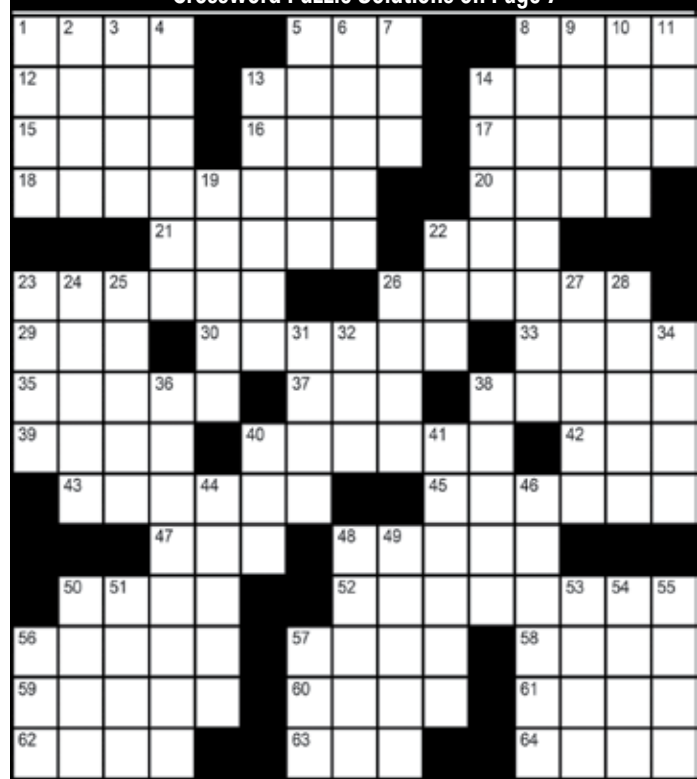
1. It's often breaking
5. Pilgrimage to Mecca
8. Bog deposit
12. Mine entrance
13. "Fluid fluids"
14. Sinbad the Sailor's home
15. Delhi dress
16. Ball of yarn
17. On the radio
18. "Brain's "fear factory"
20. Gulf War missile
21. Monkeys, in Spain
22. "____ Elise"
23. Capital of Tasmania
26. Unlike Pinocchio
29. Be mistaken
30. Meteorologist's line
31. Radiant light
35. Popular horse breed, pl.
37. Vill predecessor
38. Lit test format
39. Prima donna
40. Like meters and kilograms
42. Step on it
43. a.k.a. association football
45. ____ Hood and Christopher ____
47. "Result of UV exposure
48. Southern chicken stew
50. Staff leader
52. "The smallest bones
56. Social media button
57. Mange carrier
58. Plumber's sealant
59. Fuzzy fruit, pl.
60. a.k.a. The Islamic State
61. Antioxidants-rich berry
62. Tolstoy's Karenina
63. Grazing spot
64. Country singer-songwriter Loretta

DOWN

1. "For the Benefit of All" org.
2. Cheese in red casing
3. Lean like an athlete
4. Bad rep

5. Address to Kitty
6. A in A=ab, pl.
7. *Location of strongest muscle
8. *Part of both digestive and endocrine systems
9. Genesis twin
10. Like a desert
11. Used to fix a leaky roof
13. Limit in quality
14. Same as boatswain
19. "Pillow Talk" (1960) star
22. Same as #22 Across, in English
23. *It loses 80% of body heat
24. Root of iris
25. Music to a performer's ears
26. *Fastest growing tissue
27. Popular Japanese dish
28. Orient Express, e.g.
31. Walkie-talkie word
32. *The teeth did it
34. "The ____ have it"
36. *Gut dwellers
38. *One of #36 Down
40. Males
41. Van Gogh's famous flower painting
44. Coffee shops
46. * ____ cavity, a.k.a. mouth
48. Aplomb
49. Harbor city of Ancient Rome
50. *Humans are the only animals that have it
51. Field of grass
53. Having lace
54. Zeal
55. *The largest organ
56. Reggae precursor
57. mL

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 7





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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7

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

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Solutions on Page 7

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United Way Offers Virtual Free Tax Help with Get Your Refund Website

By Kristin Thébaud, Thébaud Communications

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - With the tax deadline extended to July 15, households throughout the Sacramento region are still eligible for free virtual help preparing taxes and claiming credits this year, saving an average of \$200 in preparer fees and earning up to \$6,500 in credits. United Way California Capital Region’s Free Tax Prep program is partnering with GetYourRefund.org to provide virtual assistance. More households are eligible to participate through the partnership – those earning \$66,000 or less in 2019. Qualified households can upload documents online and a United Way IRS-certified volunteer will call them to help claim the maximum tax credits for which they are eligible before submission, including the federal and state Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC and CalEITC). To get started: GetYourRefund.org/?s=UWCCR.

“More than a third of households in the Sacramento region were a paycheck away from homelessness before the pandemic hit – that number is going to rise in the coming months,” said Stephanie Bray, president and CEO, United Way California Capital Region. “United Way’s Free Tax Prep program not only saves them preparer fees, it puts money back in their pockets through tax credits that many people don’t even know they are eligible for. For some families, receiving \$6,500 in tax credits can mean the difference between paying rent and

living on the streets.”

Age qualification for CalEITC expanded last year to include ages 18-24 and working adults ages 65 and up, giving more taxpayers the opportunity to earn credits, including those who are self-employed. Many CalEITC-eligible households are not legally required to file taxes due to low income; however if they file, they can claim state and federal credits.

This tax year, California introduced the new Young Child Tax Credit. To qualify for the credit, taxpayers must be able to claim a child under age 6 on their 2019 tax return and have earned less than \$30,000 for the year. The Young Child Tax Credit can increase the state refund by an additional \$1,000.

More than \$11 million in refunds were claimed across the Sacramento region in 2019 through United Way’s program, up more than \$1 million from the previous year. More than 9,000 local households received free help from nearly 500 volunteers in 2019, saving a

total of \$1.8 million in tax preparation fees. Last year, \$18.6 million was received in Sacramento County from CalEITC refunds. With new increases to CalEITC and the Young Child Tax Credit, Franchise Tax Board estimates that Sacramento County could receive up to \$40 million this coming tax season.

For nearly 100 years, United Way California Capital Region has brought local people together to make community change happen. Today, the nonprofit is bringing people together across Amador, El Dorado, Sacramento, Placer and Yolo counties for its Square One Project, a 20-year promise to significantly increase the number of students in our region who graduate from high school ready for success in college and beyond. United Way believes ending poverty starts in school and is working to ensure kids meet important milestones and their families receive support and resources. To learn more and make a donation, visit YourLocalUnitedWay.org. ★



United Way’s Free Tax Prep program volunteers prepare to assist a local family with filing their taxes for free last year. Photo courtesy: Thébaud Communications

Census Bureau Reveals Which Workers Are Hardest Hit by COVID-19

United States Census Bureau Press Release

WASHINGTON, DC (MPG) - Self-employed workers in states where businesses are hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic are more likely to face economic hardships, according to new findings from the U.S. Census Bureau’s experimental Household and Small Business Pulse surveys.

Creating jobs and running small businesses are just a couple of examples of the vital roles self-employed workers play in the U.S. economy.

Economic uncertainty related to COVID-19 has presented unique challenges for self-employed workers, from temporary closures to revenue losses.

We combined results from

two new surveys to shed light on these challenges, using the Small Business Pulse Survey to identify states with businesses most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and demographic data from the Household Pulse Survey.

Self-Employed Hit Harder Where More Businesses Closed Temporarily

In states where business conditions were hardest-hit by COVID-19 (states with 25% or more of businesses temporarily closed for one day or more), 13.9% of self-employed workers received free groceries or a free meal during the last seven days from sources such as food banks, religious organizations, community programs, or family, friends or neighbors.

In contrast, 8.7% of

non-self-employed workers in these states received free meals.

In the least-affected states (those where 10% or less businesses temporarily closed for one day or more), there was no statistical difference by self-employment status in the rate of those receiving free groceries or a free meal.

Self-employed workers in the hardest-hit states reported either “sometimes not having enough to eat” or “often not having enough to eat” 5.9% of the time in the past week, which is not statistically different from the rate reported by other workers in these states.

Similarly, there was no statistical difference in food insufficiency by self-employment status in states least affected by the pandemic. ★

What is California Thinking by Adding to its Small-Business Owners’ Woes?

Commentary by Anthony Malandra

On the day California hit motorists with its annual increase in the gas tax and on the eve its state Senate is looking to pass a greatly expanded family leave law socking small-business owners with new costs, NFIB’s month Jobs Report showed, to little surprise, a worsening economy.

“You have to ask if California’s policymakers think the whole COVID-19 crisis is just a minor, ephemeral distraction that shouldn’t stop their regulatory agenda from proceeding at its breakneck pace,” said John Kabateck, California state director for NFIB, the nation’s leading small-business association. “As our Jobs Report cries out, every effort should be made to make re-opening small businesses and fostering their ability to stay open Priority No. 1, but instead we get things like Senate Bill 1383, which expands leave time for employees who may never get it if they don’t have jobs to return to. State leaders talk a good game about the need to help small business, but then pass bills like SB 1383, which is opposed by more than 100 business organizations. Just

because you can force new mandates on small employers doesn’t make it right.”

Today’s Jobs Report showed the small business labor market has further weakened in June. Firms reduced employment by 0.28 workers per firm over the past month, weaker than the decrease of 0.17 workers per firm in May. Unchanged from last month, 6% reported increasing employment an average of 2.6 workers per firm and 22% (up one point) reported reducing employment an average of 4.6 workers per firm (seasonally adjusted).

Commented NFIB Chief Economist Bill Dunkelberg, “As states change reopening rules and dates, sometimes easing restrictions, small businesses are feeling various levels of uncertainty as to what comes next. With recent COVID-19 spikes in some cases, many state governments are reversing prior decisions and reducing the potential for small business to earn needed revenue.”

Keep up with the latest on California small-business at www.nfib.com/california or by following NFIB. ★

Ask Toni

Need Help Selecting the Right Medicare Advantage Plan for Mom!!



Toni King

Dear Toni:

My mother has recently been laid off and losing her company benefits effective August 1. I need help finding a Medicare Advantage plan that can better meet her medical needs. She receives \$1,350 on her Social Security check and cannot afford to purchase a Medicare supplement. Can you please advise me what I can do to help my mother make a better choice in picking a Medicare Advantage plan? I look forward to what you have to discuss since you counsel people every day on the maze of Medicare.

Thank you,
Becky from Katy area

Hello Becky:

I know how confusing enrolling in the right Medicare Advantage plan is for your mother because I talk to clients every day who ask the same question. I also help my own mother with her Medicare Advantage plan!!

Here is step by step advice on what you can do to help your mother make the correct choice for her Medicare Advantage plan or Medicare health plan as it is called in the Medicare and You Handbook.

1) Talk to your mother’s primary care physician or specialists to see which

Medicare Advantage plans, they are still accepting.

2) Go to www.Medicare.gov which has the best tool for helping you narrow your search for a Medicare Advantage or Medicare Part D drug plan.

• Click on “Find Plans” which is next to “What’s Covered” and click on “Continue without logging in” then follow the steps.

You can use the plan finder to compare the different Medicare Advantage plans or even compare stand-alone (Part D) Medicare Prescription Drug plans. The Medicare Supplement area is a little confusing and may not be a good option to view.

3) With Medicare HMOs, there is less out of pocket, but you may have more restrictions because some Medicare HMOs must have “Referrals” and some HMOs have “Open Access” options which says that you can go to any specialist without referrals.

4) Medicare PPOs and PFFS plans may have less restrictions but may have more out of pocket when choosing out of network VS in-network providers.

5) Areas in the summary of benefits for Medicare Advantage plan you need to review:

- a. Maximum out of pocket-This is the most she will have to pay in a year. Many are not aware that Medicare Advantage plans have maximum out of pocket.
- b. Inpatient hospital care:
 - Some plans have a single co-pay such as \$300 or \$500 per stay for

inpatient hospital stay. (example only)

- Some plans may be \$150 co-pay per day for days 1-5 with a maximum of \$750 maximum stay if you are inpatient hospital for more than 5 days. Some plans may have more out of pocket. (examples only)
- c. Outpatient services/surgery:

- Some plans have 1 co-pay for \$100 per stay. (example only)
- Some plans have 20% or 30% outpatient charge for out of network charge. (example only)

d. Ask what the co-pay is for Chemotherapy or radiation. This may meet maximum out of pocket.

e. Prescription drug has a formulary with co-pays so make sure her prescriptions are covered.

f. Skilled nursing out of pocket-this varies with each Medicare Advantage plan. Plans are \$175 co-pay per day for 21 to 100 days which can be a maximum \$3500 if you are in the hospital for over 21 days. (example only)

To understanding the maze of Medicare and discover which Medicare plan meets your needs, call the Toni Says® Medicare office at 832/519-8664 or email info@tonisays.com.

Toni King, author of the Medicare Survival Guide® is giving a \$5 discount on the Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced book and bundle package for the Toni Says® readers and friends at www.tonisays.com. ★

Sac Zoo Remains OPEN after Health Update

By Leslie Kirrene, Sacramento Zoo

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Zoo wants to make sure our community is aware that the zoo remains open to the public with reserved tickets.

Based on updated guidelines from the California Department of Public Health, the zoo remains open to guests, with the exception of indoor facilities. Given the updated guidance, released on July 1, the zoo’s gift shop and indoor dining facilities are now closed however, a wide assortment of gift items, as well as food items will be available for purchase through outdoor kiosks and stands.

The Sacramento Zoo remains open with enhanced protocols and procedures in place to ensure the health and safety of zoo guests, staff and animals including:

All tickets must be purchased and reserved

in advance online. Timed tickets will be available for specific dates to ensure that appropriate visitor capacities and physical distancing are maintained throughout the day;

Zoo members must reserve tickets in advance online as well. Ticket price included in membership;

Visit the zoo’s website at “Plan Your Visit” to reserve timed tickets;

Face coverings are required to enter the zoo for visitors over the age of two;

Guests will be asked to maintain a six-foot distance between your group and others when visiting. Physical distancing signage will be placed throughout the zoo;

The zoo is instituting a paperless system – both for transactions and zoo maps.

The Sacramento Zoo is home to nearly 500 rare, endangered and native animals. ★

SMUD’s Shine Program is Accepting Applications

SMUD Press Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - SMUD announced that the application period for its Shine program is now open. Shine is a community development program designed to improve and revitalize neighborhoods in the Sacramento region.

Shine awards will range from \$5,000 to \$100,000 and are very competitive. Any nonprofit organization — 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) — within SMUD’s service territory, is eligible to apply. Shine awards are available at three funding levels: Spark (up to \$10,000), Amplifier (up to \$50,000) and Transformer (up to \$100,000). Applications will be accepted through Monday, July 27.

While SMUD will consider a variety of projects, it is primarily interested in proposals in the following areas:

- (1) Community education related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, health and safety, technology skills, and STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math);
- (2) Neighborhood revitalization or beautification; Environmental, energy efficiency, energy conservation or greenhouse gas reduction;
- (3) Services provided to low-income electricity customers;
- (4) Community and workforce development, particularly for diverse and under-served communities;
- (5) Public transit access and safety, access and safety for walkability

SMUD will be holding informational webinars to help nonprofit organizations maximize their submissions. RSVP to Shine@smud.org with the

workshop you would like to attend.

Friday, June 5: 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday, June 15: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Wednesday, July 1: 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Monday, July 13: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Wednesday, July 22: 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

In 2019, SMUD awarded nearly \$400,000 in Shine sponsorships to 19 local nonprofits. SMUD received a wide range of applications, and the selected projects were able to demonstrate collaboration and broad neighborhood impact.

Each year SMUD contributes approximately \$3 million in cash and in-kind services to community-based organizations. SMUD will continue to support healthy, vibrant and economically sustainable neighborhoods for all of our customers with a special eye to improving equity in our region through SMUD’s Sustainable Communities Initiative. For more information and for access to the application, visit SMUD.org/Shine.

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. SMUD is a recognized industry leader and award winner for its innovative energy efficiency programs, renewable power technologies, and for its sustainable solutions for a healthier environment. SMUD’s power mix is about 50 percent non-carbon emitting. For more information, about SMUD, visit SMUD.org. ★



By Noah Howard

My girlfriend faced a problem that many people close to me have faced before. She was interested in learning more about the artistic medium that I, now a junior in college, have been writing about every month since middle school, a medium to which I have devoted countless hours of my time and endless quantities of mental energy. The question was, where to start? We briefly booted up *Star Wars: Battlefront II*, and she laughed as she spun Yoda in circles in the middle of a raging battle, unable to get enough of a handle on the controls to do much else. We high-fived after a round of *Dynasty Warriors*, the one-button simplicity enough to fit her skill level but the confusing level design still leaving much to be desired. She grew tired of the violence and the complexity.

That's when I remembered a humble game that had been given out for free by the PlayStation Plus subscription service years ago: *LittleBigPlanet 3*. Though I was a fan of the first two entries, the good-not-great critical reception of the third, and my growing desire for experiences that were more thematically and mechanically rich, led to the third in the trilogy

Game Plots

Artistic Medium

sitting untouched in my PlayStation's hard drive.

I booted it up, and a switch turned on in my girlfriend's brain. This was a game not about killing, but about creativity, where the avatars aren't grizzled warriors in a bleak world, but adorable dolls (called "sackboys") in a universe that looks made entirely out of materials found in a fabric store. It was approachable, teaching us the ropes of its inventive platforming while still unafraid to present a challenge. And most importantly, it was something we could play together, actively cooperating rather than fighting different wars on the same battlefield.

Even the smallest aspects of *LittleBigPlanet 3* seemed custom-made for co-op. One sackboy could grab another and drag them around the environment in a tiny tug-of-war. Though we could cleverly sabotage each other by running off-screen, nobody was ever "dead" for long before joyfully popping back into play. We quickly found that verbal communication was a big bonus when it came to challenging puzzles or sections that required relatively quick reflexes, but the difficulty was tuned such that she (as someone who has never played console video games) never felt overwhelmed and that I (as someone who plays console video games almost every day) never felt bored.

Though some aspects of the game are undeniably mediocre (a pointless story, overly long loading times, etc.), it was refreshing to see this type of game on a current-generation console. Nintendo has gotten so far in the lead in the genre of casual couch co-op games to play with your family that other developers have virtually given up. *LittleBigPlanet 3* is the only high-profile game of its type made for the PlayStation 4, leaving the console within the purview of hardcore gaming hobbyists rather than aiming for casual family settings (like the hugely successful Nintendo Wii).

The question on my mind now is, why not pursue both markets? With Nintendo still dominating among less frequent gamers, it may be wise for other companies not to compete, but we all miss out as a result. There has been a recent clamoring for more games that we can play with family and friends, but the critically acclaimed games *Cuphead* and *A Way Out*, both of which have developed a cult following, seem to be the only titles to have answered the call in the past few years. With a new generation of consoles around the corner, this is the time for PlayStation and Microsoft to up their game and do their best to fill the niche of titles that everyone and anyone can enjoy. ★

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CAT TREATS

•Churu (Creamy Pate) •Grilled Tuna Filet •Chicken Filet All Varieties

As Marked **25% OFF**

OUR REGULAR LOW PRICES

BOODA DOME

CLEAN-UP STEP COVERED LITTER BOX

\$22⁹⁹

KAYTEE

BIRD FOOD & SMALL ANIMAL FOOD

(Small bags 2 Lb-5 Lb) All Varieties •Fiesta •Forti-diet •Exact •Including Wild Bird 10 Lb Song Bird, Sunflower Seeds

15% OFF

OUR SUPER LOW PRICES

ZODIAC & FARNAM ADAMS

FLEA CONTROL PRODUCTS

- Spot-on •Collars •Foggers •Sprays •Shampoos All Varieties

20% OFF

OUR SUPER LOW PRICES

FLUVAL FILTER SALE

MODEL	TANK	PET CLUB SALE	PET CLUB SALE
107	25 GAL	\$87.99	307 70 GAL \$132.99
207	40 GAL	\$99.99	407 100 GAL \$169.99

AQUEON

BOXED 10 GALLON TANK With Economy Kit

Just add Heater For Tropical Fish **\$36.99**

Limit 1 Per Family

PENN PLAX

PLASTIC AQUA-PLANTS

20% OFF

OUR SUPER LOW PRICES

KORDON CORAL SEA

50 GAL SALT MIX WITH AMQUEL

\$12.99

FRISKIES BUFFET

CANNED CAT FOOD

5.5 Oz All Varieties Limit 1 Case With Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon **ON SALE Everyday**

Effective 7/8/20 - 7/14/20 CHM PLU 367

WHISKAS

TEMPTATIONS CAT TREATS

•Selected Varieties - 3 Oz Limit 2 Pkgs with Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon **\$1²⁵**

Effective 7/8/20 - 7/14/20 CHM PLU 569

JONNY CAT

CAT LINERS

Jumbo Drawstring - 5 Ct Limit 1 Box with Coupon Limit One Coupon Per Family Price Valid Only With Coupon **\$2⁰⁹**

Effective 7/8/20 - 7/14/20 CHM PLU 449