



No Fourth of July?  
Public or Private,  
Fireworks this year  
will be Different

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# Citrus Heights Messenger

VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 24

Serving the City of Citrus Heights & Sacramento County

JUNE 12, 2020

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TREES AND BRUSH  
NEAR HIGH-  
VOLTAGE LINES



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## Having the All-In Attitude *New Firefighters Graduate to Join Metro Fire*



The Sacramento Area Fire Fighters Local 522 Honor Guard marked the opening of the ceremony with the presentation of the Colors. Photo: Captain Mark Nunez/Metro Fire

**By Captain Chris Vestal,  
Sacramento Metropolitan  
Fire District**

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - On Friday, May 29, 2020, the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (Metro Fire or the District) welcomed eighteen new Firefighters, as Recruit Class 20-1 graduates from the Metro Fire Recruit Academy, a California State Fire Marshal Accredited Fire Fighter 1 Academy. Metro Fire Chief

Todd Harms highlighted to the new recruits the fact that it was a memorable moment in which “you all are starting your careers and this [same] weekend members are [also] retiring from their careers.”

The Sacramento Area Fire Fighters Local 522 Honor Guard marked the opening of the ceremony with the presentation of the Colors and a procession by a bagpiper from its Pipes and Drums Society.

This was a special class, challenged

not only by the usual grueling physical demands and intense academics but by the COVID-19 pandemic. Metro Fire is particularly proud of these new Firefighters for their ability to adapt; ensuring they continued to be successful on the academy grounds while maintaining obligations to their families and other loved ones during this atypical period in all of our lives.

Under the direction of Metro Fire Assistant Chief/Director of Training

*Continued on page 3*

## Water District Approves By-District Elections

**By Madeline Henry,  
Citrus Heights  
Water District**

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - To better represent its ratepayers, the Citrus Heights Water District (CHWD) unanimously adopted a resolution in May to change to a “by-district” election system. The CHWD historically elected its Board of Directors through an “of-division” electoral system, by which each Board Member was required to reside within a separate division, but each Board member was elected by the voters of the entire electorate within District boundaries to provide District-wide representation.

“This is a necessary step to comply the California Voting Rights Act” said Board President Ray Riehle. “By taking action now we implemented by-district representation in 2020 and avoided a lawsuit and saved our ratepayers at least \$30,000.”

The California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) was passed by the State Legislature in 2003 to ensure fair representation for voters in California, and its impact is being most felt in changes to governance at the local level. Cities and special districts throughout the State have been shifting to this model following a series of lawsuits successfully brought against multiple agencies for non-compliance. The CHWD Board held two duly noticed public hearings on March 2nd and March 18th to allow the public to provide input regarding the location of each of the new voting districts. Proposed boundaries for each voting district were discussed at additional hearings on May 6th and May 20th. Each voting district is intended to have a roughly equal number of people.

Both CHWD and neighboring Fair Oaks Water Districts (FOWD) will be holding district-based elections this November and have recently adopted resolutions committing to assist their wholesaler, the San Juan Water District, as it moves through this process

*Continued on page 3*

## City of Citrus Heights Offers Free Masks for Businesses

**By Nichole Baxter,  
City of Citrus Heights**

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - The City of Citrus Heights and the Citrus Heights Police Department have partnered to distribute free face masks to the business community. This state run, locally administered program allows businesses to receive two face coverings per employee, while supplies last.

“The goal of the City’s Love Local campaign is to encourage residents to shop right here in Citrus Heights, and make that as easy and safe as possible,” said Meghan Huber, Economic Development and Communications Manager for the City. “When we shop local, the economic impact of our



Citrus Heights Police Department Code Enforcement Team delivering masks to local businesses. Photo: City of Citrus Heights

purchases supports our own community. We have heard from so many residents that they’re ready for the next stage of opening businesses

up, and we want to ensure that everyone stays safe during this transition.”

Business owners will need to have their

Employer Identification Number, and can request masks by completing an online form at <https://www.chwd.org>

*Continued on page 5*



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Read More at [www.CitrusHeightsMessenger.com](http://www.CitrusHeightsMessenger.com)



# SMUD Clearing Trees and Brush near High-voltage Lines

SMUD Press Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - SMUD vegetation management crews are busy clearing large areas of trees with high fuel loads and elevated fire risk in the Sierra foothills under and near high-voltage transmission lines. With the 2020 fire season approaching, tree and brush work is essential to SMUD’s efforts to mitigate wildfire danger during the hot summer months.

Crews working in the Rescue area east of El Dorado Hills are conducting the latest in planned vegetation management work in El Dorado County that’s been going on for several years. SMUD owns rights-of-way in its transmission line corridors that span forested areas all the way to Loon Lake in the Crystal Basin area.

The transmission lines move electricity from SMUD’s hydroelectric plants in the Upper American River Project (UARP), which produce about 700 megawatts of electricity or about 20 percent of SMUD’s customer demand. This carbon-free resource is especially valuable in the hot summer months when air conditioning load in SMUD’s service territory can push demand to near peak levels.

Though SMUD doesn’t serve El Dorado County, the community-owned electric company works directly with property owners to plan the work, which in some cases crosses private property near homes and businesses including orchards and vineyards. In many cases, property owners request the removal of trees and brush on their properties as wildfire danger has become considerably more threatening in recent years.



SMUD contract tree pruning workers clear high-fuel vegetation and brush under and near high-voltage transmission lines in Rescue, El Dorado County. Photo: SMUD

“Managing this vegetation near our transmission lines that feed the SMUD grid is critical to keeping our system reliable,” said SMUD Chief Energy Delivery Officer Frankie McDermott. “This exhaustive planning and work execution also go a long way in mitigating potential wildfire danger.”

In fact, SMUD’s comprehensive approach to vegetation management using industry best practices has delivered life- and property-saving results. The work aided firefighters in gaining control of the King Fire in 2014, which impacted SMUD’s transmission lines near Camino. A key turning point came as SMUD’s already-managed transmission line rights-of-way provided critical fire breaks for firefighters to stop the fire’s spread. CAL FIRE officials even publicly acknowledged SMUD’s vegetation management programs as critical factors in protecting the foothill communities of Camino, Pollock Pines and Apple Hill from the catastrophic King Fire.

SMUD patrols these lines annually, by truck, on foot

and by helicopter. To identify trees proven to be historically associated with causing power outages. SMUD uses Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology and a helicopter to efficiently and strategically pinpoint those trees for pruning or removal that are within defined clearance limits of SMUD’s power poles, towers and lines. LiDAR measures distance to a target by illuminating it with an FAA-approved pulsed laser light and measuring the reflected pulse – like SONAR but with light instead of sound – producing digital 3D pictures of the target. The imaging technology is even capable of identifying chlorophyll, which makes plants green and is an accurate measurement of plant health, which is utilized to identify potential hazards from weak, dying or dead trees, the result of recent drought years.

SMUD also manages trees and brush below and near clearances in the neighborhoods with overhead lines in the SMUD service territory at least every 36 months. Some trees grow faster, and

any potential situation that can cause an outage or safety issue is prioritized and addressed to ensure public safety and reliability.

Trees are beautiful and provide excellent natural benefits including comfort and energy savings from the shading canopy, but their growth needs to be managed in an environmentally friendly way. The elected SMUD Board of Directors makes Environmental Stewardship a Core Value. SMUD’s “Do No Harm” edict coincides with public safety and electric reliability.

SMUD has also been recognized by the Right-of-Way Stewardship Council (ROWSC) for demonstrated excellence in managing the vegetation growth near the SMUD electrical system.

Remember, during this time of heightened concern over COVID-19, if you see our field personnel out, please greet them from afar with a thumbs up or a wave.

For more information about SMUD and its vegetation management programs, visit SMUD.org.

# Vitalant Begins Testing Donations for Antibodies to COVID-19

By Drew Fowler, Vitalant

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Vitalant became the first national blood bank to test all blood donations for antibodies to SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. The nation’s largest independent, non-profit blood collector – serving hospital patients across the country, including Northern California and the Central Coast – is providing the test results to donors who complete successful blood donations, which are critically needed now.

The antibody test – authorized by the Food and Drug Administration – will indicate if the donor’s immune system has produced antibodies to the virus, regardless of whether they ever showed symptoms. It is possible that over time, the broad use of antibody tests and clinical follow-up will provide the medical community with more information on whether a person who has recovered from COVID-19 is at a lower risk of infection, and if so, for how long.

“While a positive antibody test does not mean that someone is immune to COVID-19, it does mean that they may be eligible to donate convalescent plasma in the future and help people with the disease,” said Cliff Numark, Vitalant’s Chief of Marketing. “Convalescent plasma can be given directly to patients currently battling COVID-19 to help boost their ability to fight their illness.” Vitalant began collecting and distributing convalescent plasma in April. For

more information, visit [vitalant.org/COVIDfree](https://vitalant.org/COVIDfree).

Donations of all blood types are critically needed right now, with an especially high need for type O, A- negative and B-negative red blood cells. In addition, platelets are always needed by patients for cancer treatments, surgeries and emergencies. Because of its short shelf life – only 5 days – the supply of platelets must be continually replenished.

Donors are urged to give blood as soon as possible. Appointments are strongly recommended: visit [vitalant.org](https://vitalant.org) or call 877-25-VITAL (877-258-4825).

The antibody tests are part of a full panel of tests that Vitalant performs on successful blood donations. Donors are not charged for the tests and costs are subsidized, in part, by The Blood Center Foundation of the Inland Northwest and The Bonfils Blood Center Donor Advised Fund. Donors will be able to see their results approximately 2 weeks after donating by logging into their online donor accounts.

In addition to Vitalant providing lifesaving blood to patients in need, Vitalant Research Institute is leading several research initiatives related to SARS-CoV-2 antibodies.

June 14 is World Blood Donor Day, a campaign developed by the World Health Organization to raise awareness of the ongoing need for blood. Vitalant strongly encourages donors in the U.S. to step up and give blood to support patients undergoing emergency procedures and receiving ongoing treatments.

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# Curbside Pickup by Appointment Available at 8 Library Locations

**Sacramento Public Library News**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Starting May 26, The Sacramento Public Library will offer scheduled curbside pickup of library materials at eight locations. This service is available at Arden-Dimick, Belle Cooledge, Carmichael, Colonial Heights, Galt-Marian O. Lawrence, North Highlands-Antelope, Sylvan Oaks and Walnut Grove Libraries. Patrons may also return materials to these locations during hours of operations. Library staff will contact patrons who have items

available for pickup to schedule an appointment. Curbside pickup by appointment is available Tuesdays through Saturdays from noon to 6 p.m. Materials will be checked out to patrons for 6 weeks with no overdue fines applied to these materials. We are currently unable to transfer items between library locations. Wait times for holds placed online may take longer than usual for pickup as we have a large backlog. We appreciate your patience. More locations offering curbside pickup by appointment will be announced soon. **How does curbside pick-up work?**

If a Sacramento Public Library patron has an item on hold: Patron will be notified by email or phone that their item on hold is available for pickup; Upon notification, patron will schedule a pickup time; At scheduled pickup time, patron will park curbside, and retrieve their items at the designated curbside pickup area at the branch. Items will be checked-out to patrons in advance and staged in a bag for your convenience. For more information visit [www.saclibrary.org/About/News/2020/Curbside-service-Expands](http://www.saclibrary.org/About/News/2020/Curbside-service-Expands) ★



**Firefighter Recruit Class 20-1 graduated from the Metro Fire Recruit Academy, receiving their badges and first station assignments.** Photo: Captain Mark Nunez/Metro Fire

*Continued from page 1*  
Adam House and Drill Master/Captain Jason Harris, the sixteen-week academy included hundreds of hours on the drill ground and classroom combining the knowledge and skills critical for performing emergency operations on scene at fires, emergency medical incidents, and motor vehicle accidents. Recruits also trained in live structural fires, simulated structural collapses, wildland fire suppression, and learned countless other firefighting and rescue skills. Captain Harris noted that “all these things are simple in concept, but they are very difficult to execute, especially when you are at the limits of mental and physical endurance... and all under time constraints.” Physical fitness and overall health was also emphasized to reinforce proper physical training for the rigors of firefighting and the healthy lifestyle and

nutrition choices required to ensure a long and healthy career. Many fire service traditions were on display. Graduating Firefighters received their badges, took their oaths to serve the public, and received their probationary station and shift assignments. Chief Harms told the recruits, “You’ve each earned your badge; the challenge now is to live up to the traditions and standards that go along with that badge that will go along with you.” Chief Harms said to the 20-1 class passing on the advice of Metro Fire retirees, “Thirty years comes and goes by really quickly. Enjoy the good times, and know that there is going to be bad times along the way.” Due to restrictions on large gatherings the event was celebrated without families of the graduates and only District staff essential to the graduation ceremony was in attendance. ★

# Water District Approves By-District Elections

*Continued from page 1*  
for the 2022 election cycle. “San Juan Water District – the agency that treats our customer’s water – chose not to convert to by-district until 2022 delaying full implementation of district-based elections until 2024. Both CHWD and FOWD are committed to ensure that our ratepayers understand the importance of fair representation on the SJWD Board of Directors. Four of the five current members of the SJWD Board live in Granite Bay. By-district representation put off for many years is not fair representation and

denies SJWD’s voters the opportunity to elect members of that Board who are representative of those voter’s interests as ratepayers and taxpayers. This disproportionate representation is not good for the agencies who pay SJWD to treat their water, like CHWD,” added Riehle. Both Citrus Heights and Fair Oaks Districts encourage their rate-payers to attend public hearings that will be held by San Juan Water District on June 10th, July 8th, September 9th and October 14th. For information on how to attend the hearings please visit: [www.sjwd.org/transitioning-to-division-based-elections](http://www.sjwd.org/transitioning-to-division-based-elections). ★

# Citrus Heights Looting and Arrests

**By Larissa Wasilevsky, Citrus Heights Police Department**  
**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - Sunday night 5/31/20 into the early morning hours of 6/1/20 we had 2 isolated incidents at a mobile phone store and mall in Citrus Heights. 4 adults and 8

juveniles were arrested for various charges including felony commercial burglary and felony looting/ theft during a state of emergency. None of the arrested appeared to have been residents of Citrus Heights and we have had no other incidents of looting since. We sincerely thank all of our

residents and community members for your unwavering support. The Citrus Heights Police Department is committed to keeping our community and businesses safe. We encourage our community members to continue to call to report suspicious activity and crime in our city. ★




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# iHeartmedia Sacramento’s Sam Shane Wins Murrow Award For Best Podcast



Sam Shane of News 93.1 KFBK received the Murrow Award for “Best Podcast”. Photo: iHeartmedia

By John Nelson, iHeartMedia Sacramento

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - News 93.1 KFBK, Sacramento’s News, Weather and Traffic Station, is excited to announce that top on-air personality Sam Shane’s podcast, “The New Angle: Jim Jones and The People’s Temple,” has received a Large Market Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) Murrow Award for “Best Podcast.” The Murrow Awards recognize local and national news stories that uphold the RTDNA Code of Ethics, demonstrate technical expertise and exemplify the importance and impact of journalism as a service to the community.

Hosted by Shane and produced by Zac Foster, “The New Angle: Jim Jones and The People’s Temple” tells the story of how San Francisco detective David Reuben uncovered the disturbing allegations against Jim Jones, a man who led a cult in a South American jungle and convinced his followers to take their own lives in November 1978. As detailed in the podcast, Reuben tried to warn top city officials

with allegations against Jones including theft, sexual misconduct and even murder, and he still wonders to this day if the Jonestown massacre could have been avoided.

“A good podcast doesn’t just inform, it takes you along an emotional ride,” said Curtiss Johnson, Vice President of Programming for iHeartMedia Sacramento. “It makes you feel and think many times, long after you’ve finished listening. Sam Shane certainly did that with his provocative ‘The New Angle: Jim Jones and the People’s Temple.’”

“The story of Jim Jones and The People’s Temple has been told many times, but never how David Reuben told it to me,” said Shane. “He described in riveting detail how top political leaders in San Francisco and California ignored warnings about Jim Jones. This podcast wouldn’t have been possible had it not been for Reuben’s courage and honesty in telling this sad yet remarkable tale. Editor Zac Foster and I are honored and thankful to win this award.”

Shane joined co-host Cristina Mendonsa on “The KFBK Morning News” in March of 2019 and delivers the latest local, national, and breaking news and analysis. In addition to reporting on-air, Shane is featured on the station’s website, KFBK.com, social media channels and “The New Angle: Jim Jones and The People’s Temple.” A University of Minnesota alum, Shane has more than 30 years of experience in broadcast journalism and investigative reporting. His career includes stints at KCRA-TV, CBS 13 Sacramento, KGO-TV San Francisco, FOX-TV Seattle and as a national anchor at MSNBC.

The award-winning podcast can be heard on the station’s website and the full list of Murrow Award winners can be viewed at iHeartMedia.com. ★

# Ask Toni Doctor’s Advice ... Get Traditional Medicare ... What’s That?



Toni King Good Morning Toni:

Have been reading your column for over a year and now I need some Medicare help. I am retiring and turning 65 in October. I had a triple bi-pass in April of this year. Last week I talked with the office manager at my cardiologist’s office about me getting on Medicare and what I should do. She said for me to enroll in “Traditional Medicare”. I have no idea what “Traditional Medicare” is? Could you please explain this and make it easy to understand? I do not want to enroll in the wrong plan and help me shape my Medicare.

~ Thank You, Samuel

Hello Samuel:

I will make this as simple as I can. I have consulted with confused Americans who have a PHD in higher education and understanding Medicare just frustrates them. It can make a grown man want to “cry”!

I sense confusion on this subject because doctor’s office managers advise current patients to enroll in “Traditional Medicare”. Let’s examine just what “Traditional Medicare” is and we will do this together.

Most healthcare professionals call Medicare,

“Traditional” Medicare, but Medicare refers to it as “Original” Medicare. You will not find “Traditional” Medicare anywhere in the medicare.gov website or in the Medicare & You handbook.

Original or Traditional Medicare consists of only Medicare Parts A and B, and not the rest of the alphabet soup such as Parts C or D. Original/Traditional Medicare is also known as your Medicare card or as many on Medicare refer it as the “red, white and blue card.”

There is not a network with “Original/Traditional” Medicare and this is very hard for those who have retired with employer group health insurance to understand, “NO Network”! If your hospital, doctor, or healthcare provider accepts Original Medicare or Medicare assignment, then they will accept Traditional Medicare because both are the same thing.

**Original/Traditional Medicare... Parts A and B are explained below:**

**MEDICARE PART A (In-patient Hospital Insurance)** comes at no cost. Part A is for an in-patient hospital stay. Part A deductible for 2020 is \$1,408 and has **6 deductibles** in a year. Yes, Part A has a benefit period of 60 days, so every 60 days; there is a new deductible of \$1408. Skilled nursing has a \$0 co pay for days 1-20, but from days 21-100, there is \$176 co pay per day. After day 100 in a skilled nursing facility, you pay the cost. Medicare Part A also includes hospice and home healthcare with a \$0 co pay.

**MEDICARE PART B (Medical Insurance)** has a premium of \$144.60 which is based on income. One must enroll in Part B the correct way especially after turning 65 and “still working.” Part B covers “medically necessary” services such as doctor charges for office visits, surgery for inpatient or outpatient hospital stays, outpatient hospital care/services, tests, durable medical equipment and other medical services.

Part B has a yearly one-time deductible of \$198 for 2020. Medicare pays 80% of the Medicare approved amount and you or will pay 20% of the Medicare approved amount. A Medical provider may charge \$1,000.00 for a service, but Medicare may approve \$623.00, it is the \$623.00 that the 20% is applied to.

If you see a doctor who does not accept Medicare-approved amounts, you will pay more-possibly up to full cost for the doctor’s visit and care. Original/Traditional Medicare is expanded on in my Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced edition available at [www.tonisays.com](http://www.tonisays.com).

A Medicare Supplement works only with Original/Traditional Medicare and does have a monthly premium based on which Medicare Supplement plan one selects.

Toni King, author of the Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced edition is giving a \$5 discount to the Toni Says® readers on the Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced book at [www.tonisays.com](http://www.tonisays.com). ★




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# Crime Reports

## Citrus Heights Police Report

May 31<sup>st</sup>

June 6<sup>th</sup>



**05/31/2020** • Time: 10:00 PM • IR Number: 12004375  
Crime: **484(A) PC: Petty Theft**  
Location Type: Street/Highway • Public Address: 65xx Bremen Dr  
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

**05/31/2020** • Time: 5:00 PM • IR Number: 12004371  
Crime: **0851(A) VC: Vehicle Theft**  
Location Type: Street/Highway • Public Address: 64xx Bremen Dr  
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

**06/01/2020** • Time: 3:11 AM • IR Number: 12004370  
Crime: **10851(A) VC: Vehicle Theft**  
Location Type: Street/Highway • Public Address: Auburn Bl/Carleton Ln  
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

**06/01/2020** • Time: 11:00 PM • IR Number: 12004386  
Crime: **10851(A) VC: Vehicle Theft**  
Location Type: Parking Lot • Public Address: 128xx Fair  
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

**06/1/2020** • Time: 11:49 AM • IR Number: 12004364  
Crime: **484(A) PC: Petty Theft**  
Location Type: House (Includes Driveway) • Public Address: 78xx Zenith Dr  
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

**06/02/2020** • Time: 6:00 PM • IR Number: 12004439  
Crime: **459 PC: Burglary - Residential**  
Location Type: Garage - Detached • Public Address: 70xx Rancho Mirage Ct  
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

**06/03/2020** • Time: 4:15 AM • IR Number: 112004425  
Crime: **459 PC: Burglary - Residential**  
Location Type: Garage - Attached • Public Address: 57xx Kingswood Dr  
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

**06/06/2020** • Time: 5:25 AM • IR Number: 12004511  
Crime: **459 PC: Burglary - Commercial**  
Location Type: Department Store/Big Box Store • Public Address: 75xx auburn  
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

**Find more info at [citrusheights.net](http://citrusheights.net)**

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# Astronauts, Riots, and Pandemics: 2020 vs. 1969

Commentary by Paul G. Kengor

In July 1969, three American astronauts landed on the moon. It wasn't just a great technical triumph. It was a much-needed respite amid social and political chaos.

America was already beset by Vietnam and civil rights struggles. That summer of 1969, things got worse. The nation was shocked by news of a riot after a confrontation between gay rights activists and police outside the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village on June 28. Then came news of the drowning of Mary Jo Kopechne in a fatal vehicle accident by an intoxicated Senator Ted Kennedy in Chappaquiddick, Massachusetts late-night July 18-19. August brought word of the hideous Manson "Family" murders of pregnant actress Sharon Tate and others in a brutal attack the night of August 9-10. A week later came the spectacle of Woodstock, where a half million gathered in rural New York in an unprecedented display of rock n' roll, drugs, and hedonism.

And still more was stirring beneath gathering storm clouds. The National Convention for Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) opened on June 18, 1969 at the Chicago Coliseum on South Wabash, just down the street from police headquarters, home of the so-called "pigs" with whom the radical Weathermen prepared for battle. A mighty clash ultimately erupted in October in what became known as the Days of Rage. The organized riot commenced on October 5, 1969 when the "flower children" dynamited the statue commemorating Chicago police killed in the 1886 Haymarket Riot. As far as the protesters were concerned, these men were not Chicago's finest, but jackbooted swine. Cops were bad. Violent clashes with over 1,000 policemen ensued. Americans watched on their televisions in horror.

Adding fuel to the fire, not only was there social and political chaos in 1969, but even a pandemic afoot. A malicious virus emanated from Asia. Known as the Hong Kong Flu, technically called "H3N2," it killed several million worldwide, including over 100,000 in America – a death toll chillingly similar to COVID-19. It was brutal on the respiratory system.

And thus, amid the turmoil, the moon landing on July 20 by the Apollo 11 crew of Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins was a wonderful respite. The whole of humanity watched with admiration and appreciation.

All of which seems very appropriate and very ironic context given current events. Once again, America has boldly gone forth with another historic space mission. In Florida, SpaceX lifted into orbit, heralding a new era. Here was a private company sending astronauts into orbit, almost a decade after the shelving of the space shuttle program.

Appropriately, the two astronauts shot off from the same Florida launchpad that had served the Apollo missions. This time, however, resurrecting the program was not the broke federal government but a private company called SpaceX, founded by billionaire Elon Musk. The impressive partnership between NASA and the private company breaks new ground in many ways. President Trump, who rightly called the feat "an inspiration for our country," noted that the launch "makes clear the commercial space industry is the future." Sightings are literally now set on Mars.

Of course, this launch in 2020, like that in 1969, likewise occurs during a time of social-political chaos and pandemic, with cities smoldering in protest over the police killing of George Floyd, with demonstrators masking up as COVID-19 continues its morbid march. The disease has robbed the lives over 100,000 in

America alone.

With such bad news, the SpaceX launch should have been a welcomed respite. And yet, unlike July 1969, this seems to have elicited comparatively little coverage. Sure, this launch wasn't as historic as July 1969. Apollo 11 is hard to surpass. What's striking, however, is how little attention SpaceX seemed to receive. You could've easily missed it.

This launch is likewise historic, particularly the horizons that can literally open up. Nonetheless, those hopes and dreams were overshadowed by the Floyd protests and by COVID-19. That's too bad. This should've been a moment of unity during a time of crisis. Today, it seems, all news is political news, or bad news. Well, here was some good news for a change.

The SpaceX launch says something promising about human achievement amid trial, about our humanity rising above our sinfulness. And yet, have we paused to recognize that? I think not. And that, too, seems a sign of our sinfulness.

The world is on fire in 2020. It was in 1969 as well. It's easy to focus on the negative. And we should rightly call out injustice. But we should also pause to reflect on what is good.

Dr. Paul Kengor is professor of political science and chief academic fellow of the Institute for Faith and Freedom at Grove City College. His latest book (April 2017) is *A Pope and a President: John Paul II, Ronald Reagan, and the Extraordinary Untold Story of the 20th Century*. He is also the author of *11 Principles of a Reagan Conservative*. His other books include *The Communist: Frank Marshall Davis, The Untold Story of Barack Obama's Mentor and Dupes: How America's Adversaries Have Manipulated Progressives for a Century*.

# Free Masks for Businesses

*Continued from page 1*

surveymonkey.com/r/CHfacecoverrequest. After the online form is filled out, a member of the Citrus Heights Police Department will contact applicants to provide a day and time to pick up face covers, or arrange a drop-off. This program is a one-time allocation of face coverings to help bridge the gap until businesses are able to order from their own vendors and suppliers.

"This partnership between City staff and the Police Department has allowed us to stand up this program quickly," said Lieutenant Jason Baldwin with the Citrus Heights Police Department. "We want to get these supplies to Citrus Heights businesses that need them as efficiently as possible, so they can keep both their employees and the community safe."

As always, the City of Citrus Heights remains committed to the community's health and safety – and this extends to the workforce and local shoppers. If Citrus Heights business owners have questions, or would like to learn more, they can email [LoveLocal@citrusheights.net](mailto:LoveLocal@citrusheights.net).

While Citrus Heights moves further into Stage 2 of California's Resilience Roadmap, and more businesses are permitted to resume operations, the City's Economic Development team has created a webpage to help local businesses navigate re-opening. Visit [CitrusHeights.net/1056/](https://CitrusHeights.net/1056/) for tools and resources to help Citrus Heights businesses prepare for the phased re-opening. ★

# FBI Seeks Information on Individuals Inciting Violence

**FBI National Press Office**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG) -** The FBI respects the rights of individuals to peacefully exercise their First Amendment rights. Our mission of protecting the American people and upholding the Constitution is dual and simultaneous, not contradictory.

Accordingly, we are committed to apprehending and charging violent instigators who are exploiting legitimate, peaceful protests and engaging in violations of federal law. The continued violence, potential threat to life, and destruction of property across the United States interferes with the rights and safety of

First Amendment-protected peaceful demonstrators, as well as all other citizens.

To help us identify actors who are actively instigating violence in the wake of Mr. George Floyd's death, the FBI is accepting tips and digital media depicting violent encounters surrounding the civil unrest that is happening throughout the country.

If you witness or have witnessed unlawful violent actions, we urge you to submit any information, photos, or videos that could be relevant to the case at [fbi.gov/violence](https://fbi.gov/violence).

You may also call 1-800-CALL-FBI (800-225-5324) to verbally report tips and/or information related to this investigation. ★

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# And Then It Was Silent No More

By Rev. James L. Snyder

During this time of exclusive lockdown, I and the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage have grown accustomed to silence.

Silence is wonderful and soothing, enabling me to sit back and enjoy a good read. There is nothing like reading a book, and from my point of view, I have not read a book unless I have read it ten times.

Just as I was getting adjusted to “The Sounds of Silence,” our routine changed drastically. I really did not see this coming.

Last Tuesday as my wife went to the front door, she turned, looked at me and said, “Honey,” (I think she calls me “Honey” because she can’t remember my name), “I’m going to go shopping this morning and use some of those wonderful gift cards I got.”

It was a long morning, and finally, I heard my wife backing into the driveway and parked her van. She came to the door and asked if I could help her put some things into the garage.

As we took the package out of her van, I asked, “What did you get?”

“I got a power saw for my workshop. Lowe’s was having a sale, and I couldn’t

refuse.”

“What do you need a power saw for?”

“I just have a few projects in my workshop, and this will come in handy.”

I was happy that she was happy, and that always makes for a good time.

I just settled in and was reading the next chapter in my book and enjoying the silence around me when suddenly I heard what sounded like an explosion.

Burrrrrrrrrrr. It seemed to get louder and louder. The very room where I was setting shook with the racket.

I jumped out of my chair and ran to the garage as fast as I could. The closer I got to the garage, the louder the sound was.

When I got into the garage where my wife was, the saw was running as loud as I have ever heard anything, and she was cutting boards. When I saw her, I noticed the biggest smile I’ve seen on her face in a long time.

“Is there anything wrong,” I shouted over the noise.

She heard me, turned off the power saw, looked at me with that smile still on her face and said, “Nothing. I’m only testing my power saw to make sure it works.”

Then she turned back to the power saw, turned it on, and the noise resumed. I

could see she was happy and enjoying herself, as I have not seen her lately. I guess all the silence in our home has come to an end, this will be our “new normal.”

I walked back to my chair, sat down, and listened to the sound coming from the garage.

For a few moments, I just sat there, thinking and listening, and I came to a marvelous conclusion. If this is what makes my wife happy, then I too, am happy. For the rest of the day, I enjoyed “The Absence of Silence” filling our home.

I remembered what I once read in the book of Proverbs. “Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding” (Proverbs 3:13).

Wisdom and understanding can have a practical application. When I have the wisdom to know what makes my wife happy, I will understand what true happiness is.

*Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-216-3025 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.* ★



## Pastor Ray's Encouraging Words

### How to Conquer Your Circumstances

to trust Him in spite of your circumstances.

A guy goes out mountain climbing and falls off a cliff. Half-way down he grabs on to a ledge and looks down, it’s 1000 feet down! He looks back up, it’s 2000 feet back up! He thinks, “How am I going to get out of this?” He starts praying, “God, please help me!” A voice from heaven comes down, “Trust me, let go and I will catch you.” He looks back up and says, “Is anybody else up there?”

You may feel like you’re hanging from a ledge today and you see no way out of your present difficult circumstances. God says, “Let go and trust me.” See, our real problem is what we do with our circumstances. You get under your circumstances when you try to solve them in your own power and strength. How do you know when you’re trying to solve your problems in your own strength? You worry. Worry is a form of control. And you get stressed-out, sick, and

tired. You feel like you’re suffocating. That’s how you know you’re operating in your own strength and power. That’s how you know you’re *under* your circumstances.

The fact is, God wants to help you with the difficulties in your life. He wants to help you conquer your circumstances as you trust in His love. The more you get to know him, the more you will trust him. “*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship ...? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*” Romans 8:35-36(NIV) This verse says YOU are a circumstance conqueror! As you put your life in God’s hands and rely upon His love and power, as you let go and trust Him to care for you, nothing can devastate you in life. No matter how dark the situation is, God can help you conquer it.

**Pastor Ray**  
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## To “WHAT” If Anything ARE YOU COMMITTED?

By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

Just what does it mean to be “committed”? A person who is a Christian understands the meaning of the Cross and what it represents along with the sacrificial Blood of Jesus who died to purchase forgiveness and salvation for those who will believe and receive.

Becoming a “Committed Christian” means one is dedicated to follow and obey the precepts and instructions in the Holy Word of God, the Bible. Plus, they are also “willing to suffer for Christ’s sake!” Their prayer, commitment is a faithful testimony about how they live out their faith in front of others. They pray it is magnified in the eyes of someone who has not yet accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.

In all the circumstances and problems life brings, they choose to follow the beautiful example of Jesus to the best of their ability. Plus a deep inner desire exists to please God “*first*” in all the affairs of our lives. Making a decision about something Jesus taught about how to live life comes before the personal concerns. Therefore “counting others more worthy” is ultimately most important. It is constantly losing ones self for the betterment of another human being.

In the trials of life, the Word of God becomes: Bread, Meat and Water for the soul. They sustain, gives strength and courage and lifts one above every circumstance. The Word comes alive in the soul as God’s enduring

power brings refreshment to meet every need.

Believing the Word of God is to faithfully believe and follow the infallible true Word of God. Integrity, honesty and honor in clean wholesome living and being true in their daily walk and consistently obeying the Holy Word of God is most important to them. Claiming the promises in Scripture brings new life as one walks in God’s perfect will. God establishes His truth into ones personal journey.

The Word of God is the value system for making decisions. Searching the Scriptures for truth and guidelines rather than taking mans opinions of right and wrong. Faithfully they learn more of the written Scriptures to help solve life’s problems. They live life by the principles of God’s instructions receiving more knowledge of God’s Grace, Mercy and Loving Care from the Word.

When one faces the darkness, doubt and confusion one looks into the face of God and reads “All things work together for good to those who know His Word”. Looking through the eyes of God blesses with enabling power to face all things.

Thereby, having their life of obedient commitment giving Jesus Christ the Glory and Honor due Him for saving, healing, and delivering, transforming, changing, blessing teaching areas to abide in Him, in their personal life.

**Marlys Johnsen Norris**  
*Christian Author of 7 Books & Stephen’s Minister*  
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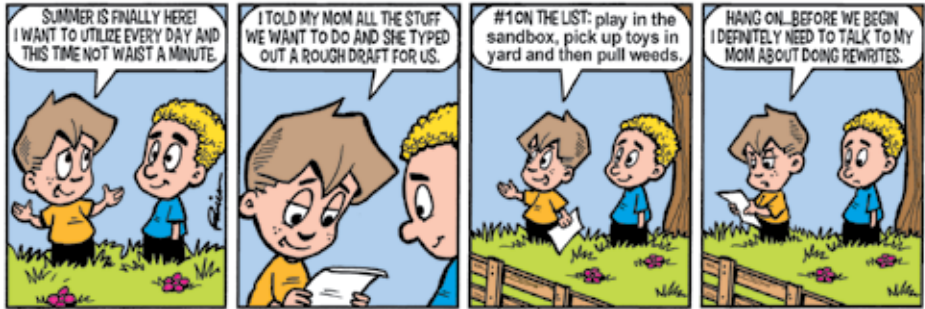
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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



GRIN & BEAR IT



LAFF-A-DAY



Crossword Puzzle on Page 7

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

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7

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

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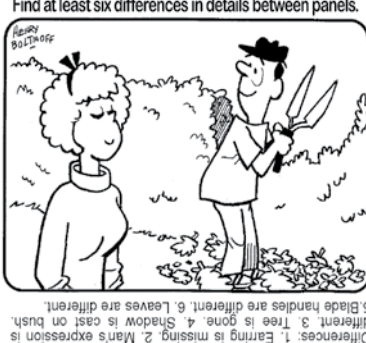
Just Like Cats & Dogs

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTONOFF



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Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 7

CLUES

ACROSS

- Sacred song
- Chowed down
- Acoustic repetition
- Capital of Vietnam
- 4 qts.
- Teamsters' group
- Affair, in Paris
- Bit of binary code
- Part of TNT
- "Sleeping under the stars"
- "Horticulturist's hangout"
- Articulate
- Combustible pile
- Joe Louis move
- Epiphany guests
- Forgo
- WWII side
- "Bonfire fodder"
- Royal topper
- Tiny river
- Pond buildup
- Miners' passage
- Best not mentioned
- "What seekers do"
- Fairytale beginning
- Same as "slow down"
- Upper hand
- Toni Morrison's "\_\_\_ Baby"
- Threads
- Pie mode
- "a.k.a. shuttlecock"
- "Flying saucer"
- 2 halves of a diameter
- Pilot's deadline
- "Fire starter"
- Triangular road sign
- \_\_\_ Luis Obispo
- "Die Lorelei" poet
- Other than what is
- One laid
- Poker stakes

DOWN

- First-rate, slangily
- Ditto
- Soon, to a bard
- They are usually drunken
- Biblical prophethess
- Full of excitement
- "Sun kiss"
- Funereal lament
- "National Velvet" author \_\_\_ Bagnold
- Give a ticket
- Sound warning
- Lennon's wife
- State of agitation
- African antelope
- "Who \_\_\_ we kidding?"
- a.k.a. toes
- "Banned lawn darts"
- Type of rotation
- "The Hobbit" hobbit
- "Played with a driver"
- Bye in Palermo
- Lacked, for short
- The oldest Goldberg sibling
- "Skier's turf"
- Snail-like
- "Volleyball turf"
- Painter Deges
- Beat the Joneses
- Interesting person, acronym
- Eli Manning's first name
- Ganders' companions
- "Famous ski town"
- Get-out-of-jail money
- \_\_\_ of March
- Make someone angry
- Jack London's "White \_\_\_"
- "Fisherman's supply"
- Marine eagle
- Augments
- Pastrami partner
- "You're it!" game

Sudoku Solutions on Page 7

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



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# Public or Private, Fireworks this 4th will be Different



Social distancing is being added to the standard health and safety guidelines with this season’s private fireworks shows. Photo by Tracy Counts

By David Dickstein

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - *This is the first in a two-part series covering how the Sacramento Valley will celebrate Independence Day with traditional fireworks in an untraditional year. Watch for our annual fireworks buyers guide in the next issue.*

Between California’s months-long shelter-in-place order and other “don’ts” issued by governments of all levels during the coronavirus pandemic, citizens might feel that they’re living in the home of the brave, but not so much the land of the free. That sentiment could make this coming Independence Day the most important one since the first. “I don’t disagree with that,” said John Kelly, vice president of TNT Fireworks, the nation’s largest reseller of perhaps the most recognizable symbol of the Fourth of July after Old Glory. “People are feeling constrained in response to the coronavirus crisis. Social distancing has gone on since winter, and for those who have suffered through the loss of loved ones and jobs, this ordeal has been an especially painful journey.” One way humans cope through crisis is by sharing happy and entertaining physical experiences, even in the era of social distancing. It’s no surprise, then, that Kelly, part of a consumer industry hoping to salvage a season, proclaimed that “celebrating America’s birthday with fireworks is about as happy and entertaining as it gets.” Bought for therapeutic or patriotic purposes, consumer fireworks sold by non-profit organizations out of temporary stands in Sacramento County and other areas where legal will be how many Americans get their bang-boom on for the nation’s 244th birthday. The reason is scant few of the 16,000 public fireworks displays typically staged in country on the Fourth of July are expected to go forward, according to the American Pyrotechnics Association. “There have been widespread cancellations of Independence Day parades,

concerts and fireworks displays nationwide,” said APA Executive Director Julie Heckman. “Due to social distancing mandates related to COVID-19, the skies will be dark above the vast majority of cities, towns and municipalities. Giving a rare green light to skies of red, white and blue is Elk Grove. The city council approved an aerial show for July 4, but instead of setting off fireworks over Elk Grove Regional Park and the 22,000 or so gathered there, the staging area will be at an undisclosed location so that residents can watch from their homes. Elk Grove is lighting up, but from Rancho Cordova and Folsom to South Lake Tahoe and Davis, aerial displays were announced as grounded to the disappointment of pyro fans and the detriment of pyro producers. “The business is on life support. We are down 90 percent in sales and shows,” said James Souza, CEO of industry bellwether Pyro Spectaculars, which does have the Elk Grove gig. “Everyone wants a show but is not going to commit due to the state’s public gathering policy.” At press time, hope was being held out for the show to go on in a smattering of locations awaiting health data on the staged reopening approach. Even with favorable figures, putting on a professional firework display still might not be possible given the short fuse. “All the more reason for the general public to stock up on consumer fireworks and plan a backyard or neighborhood celebration – of course, abiding by social distancing guidelines,” said the APA’s Heckman. Many of the nearly 33 jurisdictions in Sacramento, Placer, Yolo and Yuba counties warm to consumer fireworks had left existing laws as-is at press time, while others may enact a one-year moratorium on sales that has no impact on use. Best to check with your local fire department before lighting. A list of “open” communities can be found at [www.ca-fireworks.presskit247.com](http://www.ca-fireworks.presskit247.com). For most of the state including Sacramento County, June 28 starts a



Cash-strapped non-profits are hoping for brisk business with so few professional displays being staged this season. Photo by David Dickstein

potentially big week for non-profits that could be more cash-strapped than usual. Whereas residents of other states can also let the sparks fly on New Year’s, if not year-round, celebrating the anniversary of our country’s fervent declaration of independence from Great Britain in 1776 is the occasion for which California consumers can legally light fireworks, and only the state-approved “safe and sane” variety. Depending on ordinances in effect at the time, law-abiding revelers and sellers may need to wear masks and separate households by at least six feet during the show. Except for rules around personal protection equipment and distancing, buying fireworks may not be all that different from non-pandemic years. “Key guidelines that will need to be met are already built in,” said Kelly of TNT, which has its Northern California regional offices in Sacramento. “We’re already selling out of stands where the volunteer salespeople and customers are separated by wood panels and chicken wire. Buyers don’t touch product until purchase.” Phantom Fireworks, the state’s second-largest fireworks reseller, is confident that patriotism, community support, a hunger for outdoor family amusement and the most favorable day of the week for a Fourth of July will outweigh any inconveniences associated with compliance. “A weekend Independence Day is always great for fundraising, but with the fourth falling on a Saturday, that’s even better,” said Linda Hass-Kreman, Phantom’s West Coast operations manager based in Sacramento. “A Saturday July Fourth means many among the workforce have that Friday off as a corporate holiday and the next day off as well being a Sunday. I think society is so ready to have fun outside the home, enjoying something separately, but together, that we’re going to have one of the most special and successful fireworks seasons ever.” It’s not as if the country doesn’t have experience dealing with pandemics at this time of year. Smallpox, measles and other diseases had wary colonists shutting themselves in their houses at the time future president John Adams correctly predicted that the first Independence Day would be celebrated with “bonfires and illuminations.” Two and a half centuries later, American history will repeat itself when patriotic citizens ooh and aah to star-spangled fireworks under pandemic conditions.

“Fireworks are the most widely anticipated tradition of celebrating our nation’s independence,” Heckman said. “Americans are ready to celebrate and looking for something to do after being cooped up for so long, and many of us still are in parts of the country.” ★

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Citrus Heights Messenger 6-12-2020