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Citrus Heights Messenger

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Celebrating Pioneers *Mt. Vernon Offers Annual History Lesson*



Colonial history reenactors will be part of pageantry during Mt Vernon Memorial Park's annual celebration of American heritage.

**Story and photo
by Susan Maxwell Skinner**

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Two beloved US presidents and their first ladies will be joined by frontiersmen, Buffalo Soldiers, colonial infantry and a huge sampling of Americana at Mt Vernon Memorial Park in Fair Oaks on February 17. The facility's annual American Heritage Day falls on the national Presidents Day holiday.

Liberty Bell replica chime will begin hours of reenactments and educational displays at 10 am. While prospectors pan for gold,

nimble-fingered ladies will demonstrate spinning and the genteel art of lace-making. Abraham Lincoln will introduce "my wife, Mary" and George Washington will present a sedate Martha to visitors. A steam locomotive will provide insight into the transport revolution that won the West. Pony Express recruiters will also be on hand, seeking "Young, skinny, wiry fellows... willing to risk death daily." The Well Fargo Bank will roll out its iconic stage coach for up-close viewing. Activities will be loudly punctuated by the periodic firing of an antique Howitzer cannon, provided Sierra Nevada Mormon

Pioneer volunteers. For a warmer and more fuzzy experience, children are encouraged to pet goats that represented milk and meat to early pioneers farmers. Hotdog lunches are available for purchase and families, teachers and school groups are welcome to the free event. "We plan to bring history to life," says event coordinator Ruthie Demakas. "American Heritage Day is a wonderful educational opportunity for all ages." Mt Vernon Memorial Park is located at 8201 Greenback Lane. Events run from 10 am till 2 pm. For information, call (916) 969-1251. ★

Non-profit Society For The Blind Receives \$30K Grant from Ability Central

**By Kristin Thébaud,
Kristin Thébaud
Communications**

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Ability Central recently awarded Society for the Blind in Sacramento a \$30,000 capacity building grant to create a leadership program for staff. Of the first seven staff members to be trained for management roles, six are visually impaired.

"Cultivating our employees' leadership skills and moving them into managerial positions at Society for the Blind is our mission in action," said Shari Roeseler, executive director, Society for the Blind. "Having leadership and staff that reflect the people we serve will position us even better to be the provider of choice for people with vision loss."

With several long-time employees nearing retirement, the organization is working to cultivate leadership from within. The grant from Ability Central will allow Society for the Blind to conduct an assessment, generate a strategic plan and create an accessible leadership program over the next year.

"Ability Central is excited to support Society for the Blind's leadership and capacity building efforts," said Silke Brendel-Evan, associate program officer, Ability Central. "We are impressed by Society for the Blind's inclusive practices - emphasizing the importance of stakeholder input and empowering individuals with vision impairments to become leaders - and the overall thoughtful planning for sustainable leadership development."

For 66 years, Society for the Blind has created innovative ways to empower individuals living with low vision or blindness to discover, develop and achieve their full potential. Society for the Blind has grown from a dedicated group of volunteers to a nationally recognized agency and the only comprehensive rehabilitative teaching center that provides services for a 27-county region of northern California. The nonprofit provides low-vision eye care, life and job skills training, mentorship, and access to tools to maintain independence for more than 5,000 youth, working-age adults and seniors experiencing vision loss each year. For more information or to make a donation, visit SocietyfortheBlind.org.

Ability Central works to improve communications access for people with disabilities. ★

Boba Tea on the Boulevard

Story by Shaunna Boyd

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Tea It, the new boba tea shop in Citrus Heights, is located at 8516 Auburn Blvd. Tea It is family owned and operated by the Liang family - Amy, Jack, and sons Jason and Jeffrey. They opened the shop in August 2019 after signing a three-year lease at the location. The family also owns the nearby Aquarium & Reptile Depot at 8201 Auburn Blvd.

Jack and Amy have over 30 years of restaurant experience, owning five restaurants at one time. After selling the final restaurant and retiring in 2018, Amy quickly realized "this isn't working for me." Not the type to sit quietly at home, she soon came across an open business space on Auburn Blvd. and saw the potential for a new venture for her family. Located right near Hwy 80, Amy said, "This is the ideal spot."



Owners and employees of Tea It celebrated the tea shop's ribbon cutting on August 30, 2019. Photo provided by Tea It

Jason said it was a great experience working as a family to open the tea shop: "Everyone is fully committed to the goal at hand." Although Tea It is a family business, Amy runs it day to day. After decades working in the high-stress restaurant business, this simple tea shop feels like a breath of fresh air to Amy:

"I'm just really happy to be part of the community. ... It's just really fun. I love coming in and talking to customers."

The family is also very grateful to the City of Citrus Heights for their support in opening the business. Jason said, "The City has been very helpful with planning and design."

As part of their effort to beautify the city and support local businesses, the City worked with the Liang family on the outside color scheme to make sure Tea It is attractive and visible to new customers. The City also gave them a grant to help them revitalize the outside of the shop: "They

Continued on page 3

Boba Tea on the Boulevard

Continued from page 1 helped us out quite a bit,” said Amy.

Jason said Tea It offers “a fun atmosphere for all ages.” The clean, bright interior is decorated with colorful murals depicting grass-covered hills, a towering mountain peak, and cherry trees bursting with pink blooms.

It’s a place where people can hang out and relax, study, play board games, or just chat with friends and family. “I’ve gotten good feedback from people; they just really like it when they come in,” said Amy.

Tea It offers a variety of teas as the base for their custom-made drinks, with the option of creamers or fruit juices mixed in and numerous topping choices. They brew and mix each drink individually, customizing the flavors and sweetness levels.

Amy said that the most popular menu item is Thai



Located at 8516 Auburn Blvd., Tea It is Citrus Heights’ newest Boba Tea shop. Photo provided by Tea It

tea, which is made by slow brewing loose tea leaves for four hours. The menu also includes coffees, smoothies, sandwiches, salads, and Gunther’s ice cream. They plan to add new menu items as they get a feel for what clients are looking for. Jason said, “We have a lot of room to grow, seeing what works and what people want,” so they love getting feedback

from the community. The summer is typically the busiest time for boba tea shops, so Amy plans to hire more employees as business increases in the coming months. Tea It is also signed up with DoorDash and will be signing up with Grubhub soon too. You can visit their website at www.JustTeaIt.com. ★

SacRT Expands Microtransit Service to Six Additional Communities



On-Demand Shuttle Service is Now Available in Nine Areas. Photo Courtesy SacRT

By Jessica Gonzalez, Sacramento Regional Transit

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) has expanded its popular on-demand microtransit service to six new communities and has a new app for all Smart Ride users. The expansion of this service makes SacRT the largest microtransit provider in the country with 42 shuttles.

“We have seen great success with our other Smart Ride zones and we are excited to be able to provide this innovative mobility option to more communities,” said SacRT General Manager/CEO Henry Li. “This expansion is a huge milestone for SacRT as we continue to explore new transit options and improve access and mobility for our riders.”

Similar to other ride-hailing services, Smart Ride relies on a smartphone app to schedule customized trips. The app, called SacRT Smart Ride, is powered by Via, the world’s leading provider and developer of on-demand mobility solutions. Via’s advanced algorithms enable multiple riders to seamlessly share the vehicle in an efficient manner.

“We are thrilled to partner with our innovative friends at SacRT to bring Via’s technology to Sacramento,” said Daniel Ramot, co-founder and CEO of Via. “The all-new Smart Ride service is now the largest on-demand microtransit project in the United States, making it an excellent example of how public transportation and technology can work together to make a city smarter.”

The service relies on small, neighborhood-friendly shuttle buses to easily maneuver on residential streets, and they conveniently accommodate people with disabilities.

The new service areas include: Arden, Carmichael, Downtown-Midtown-East Sacramento, Folsom, Gerber-Calvine, North Sacramento.

The new service zones offer corner-to-corner service where passengers are picked up and dropped off at the nearest corner or “virtual bus stop,” which is usually within a block or two of their pickup or drop-off location, ensuring pickups and drop-offs are as efficient as possible.

Riders in the previously launched services zones in Citrus Heights-Antelope-Orangevale, Franklin-South Sacramento, and Rancho Cordova will continue to use curb-to-curb service where passengers are picked up and dropped off at the address

they indicated when scheduling the ride. All Smart Ride users will need to download the new SacRT Smart Ride app. The new app is available to download for free on the App Store or Google Play. Simply search for “SacRT Smart Ride.” Following a Smart Ride request, the app provides passengers a text with an estimated pick-up time, allows passengers to track their bus in real-time, and get an alert when their ride is about to arrive. Smart Ride customers will also be able to request rides by calling 916-556-0100 or by going online to ondemand.sacrt.com. The cost to ride is only \$2.50 per trip, \$1.25 for those eligible for discount fare (seniors and persons with disabilities) or free for youth with the RydeFreeRT sticker or pass. Riders can also use their SacRT monthly pass. Groups of five or more are free; all riders must travel in a group of five or more from the same pickup location to the same destination. “SacRT is truly embracing the future of mobility by providing a more comfortable, convenient, and affordable way to move around their community,” said Sacramento Board Chair and SacRT Board Chair Patrick Kennedy. The new Smart Ride service is provided through Measure A funding. SacRT was awarded with a \$12 million grant by the Sacramento Transportation Authority to help expand microtransit into new communities throughout the region. “The STA is committed to improving transportation options in Sacramento County. We are pleased to see SacRT’s commitment to enhancing public transit and access for residents. We believe that Smart Ride does this by providing convenient transportation that is also affordable,” said STA Chair Darren Suen. As part of the Smart Ride expansion, SacRT also rolled out six electric Smart Ride shuttles in the Downtown-Midtown-East Sacramento service area. In the next six months, three additional electric Smart Ride shuttles will be operating in the Franklin-South Sacramento zone. Those three shuttles are being provided by Electrify America. Smart Ride has been in operation since February 2018, when it rolled out as a pilot service in Citrus Heights. To date, SacRT has provided more than 160,000 Smart Ride trips. More information on the service, including maps of the service areas and hours of operation, is available at SacRT.com/smartride. ★

Serna and Frost Elected Chair and Vice Chair

By Kim Nava, Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - On Tuesday, Jan. 14, the Board of Supervisors held their annual vote to elect a new Chair and Vice Chair. This year’s elected Chair is Supervisor Phil Serna of District 1, and Supervisor Sue Frost of District 4 was elected Vice Chair.

“I am grateful for the trust my colleagues have in me to again serve as Chairman of the Board,” said First District Supervisor Phil Serna. “We have much to accomplish this year and I welcome the opportunity to lead several initiatives focused on everything from

increasing accountability in county governance and service delivery, to protecting the most vulnerable among us, to expanding employment opportunities, to preparing for the ever-increasing threat of climate change. We clearly have lots to do and I plan to use the chairman’s post as effectively and proactively as possible.”

Board Chair responsibilities include the following:

Presides over the Board meetings; the Vice Chairperson assumes the role in the Chairperson’s absence or inability to act. If the Chair and Vice Chair are absent or unable to preside, the members present will select a

member present to act as temporary Chairperson; Acts on procedural matters or questions;

Recognizes a member of the board desiring to speak on an item;

Is entitled to vote on all matters before the Board, participate in discussion relating to any matter, make motions without relinquishing the Chair, and second any motion without relinquishing the Chair;

Sits on other boards/commissions as a representative of the County of Sacramento and is the point of contact for questions from the public regarding the meetings (i.e., coordination of resolutions/presentations and general questions not specific to a district, etc.). ★

The 5th Annual Wildlife Care Association Fall Photo Contest Winner!



Winning Photo by Chamong Xiong of a Leucistic Black Phoebe at Merced Wildlife Refuge. Photo courtesy 2019 WCA

By Rick Reed, Annual Wildlife Care Association

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - As the non-profit provider of rehab, recovery and release of injured, orphaned and displaced birds and small animals, Wildlife Care Association (WCA) challenged the community to send their best bird photos and you did! Congratulations to all our photo entry participants!

Our 2019 honors go to Chamong Xiong of Fresno, CA for his rare and unique photo of a Leucistic Black Phoebe. A hardy native bird normally colored black, this genetic anomaly is a rare sight making this picture a unique view very few would ever see.

A rare sight for bird watchers, this Black Phoebe exhibits a rare, genetic trait, similar to albinism, changing the bird’s color to a light yellow/white. This type of anomaly often makes the bird more vulnerable to predators and very rare.

Xiong captured this excellent picture at the Merced Wildlife Refuge featuring a crisp crystal-clear image and a depth of

field providing a deeper almost natural view.

Prizes included a wildlife library with a table top copy of “Birds of North America” by Noel Groves, “Encyclopedia of Birds” by Per Christiansen, David Attenborough’s “The Life of Birds” and a copy of “Getting Your Shots” by National Geographic, a WCA T-shirt, a glass owl cup and a personal tour of the WCA Rehabilitation facility at McClellan Park. And...of course our appreciation for his caring for nature and supporting volunteers giving wildlife a second chance to live at Wildlife Care Association!

The Wildlife Care Association Fall Photo Contest took place from Oct thru Dec 31 with entries submitted on the WCA Facebook page. See all the photos entered on the 2019 Fall Photo Contest Album page.

For more information or for help with injured, orphan or wildlife displaced by human activity call the non-profit Wildlife Care Association of Sacramento at 916-965-WILD. ★

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What Did We Know before Facebook?

Dr. James L. Snyder

To paraphrase one of my favorite humorist, Will Rogers, "All I know is what I read on Facebook."

I never thought much about this until one day a young person asked me, "How did you know anything before Facebook?"

Looking at this young person, I said very simply, "Before Facebook, we had grandmas."

He did not understand, so I had to try to explain the Grandma-Factor.

My grandmother was a very sweet and wonderful woman. I only knew her when she was older because after all, she was my grandmother.

Unbeknownst to me, she was known in the entire community as the Queen of Gossipers.

According to some conversations I had with her friends, my grandmother knew what was happening two days before it actually happened. For the life of me, I don't know what that means. Nothing happened in the community that escaped my grandmother's attention.

If you wanted a rumor started, just visit my grandmother and whisper a confidential secret. Usually, by the time they got home, that secret was all over the community.

For her 90th birthday, some people in the

community wanted to give her a surprise birthday party. They knew, however, it would be very difficult to surprise my grandmother.

Several of them met at a restaurant in the next town to work out some details. They came up with many different scenarios, but none seemed to be workable.

Then, one of the older women in the group came up with a plan that would out-gossip the Queen of Gossipers.

The plan was simply this. On a certain night, a group would meet at the church to develop a plan to fire their pastor. Everybody knew that grandmother loved her pastor to pieces. Anything like this would have gotten her dander up, and you do not want to do that.

The success of the plan depended upon the right person whispering this gossip to my grandmother. Otherwise, she would not really believe it.

The woman who came up with this was my grandmother's closest friend, and so she was chosen. If Grandmother would believe anybody it would be this woman.

At the right time, this woman went to my grandmother and confidentially whispered the plan to fire her beloved pastor. "Now, don't let this get out to anybody; this is top secret."

Before the night ended,

everybody in the community knew of the plan to "fire the pastor."

On that night, people came early because it was supposed to be a surprise. It was a wonderful surprise.

At the right time, my grandmother marched into that church, slammed open the door, and said as angrily as she had ever been, "How dare you fire my pastor?"


At that moment, everybody, including the pastor, burst into singing, "Happy Birthday to You."

It took a few moments for my grandmother to understand what was really happening. When she finally realized what the meeting was really about, she laughed and said, "How did I miss this?"


As I listen to the woman telling me, the story I thought of what David said. "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant" (Psalm 25:14).

Some secrets, like God's love for me, should be spread far and wide and not kept a secret.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. His web site is www.jamesnsnyderministries.com. ★



Dare to Live Without Limits
by Bryan Golden

What Will You Do Today?

Do you want to make positive changes in your life? Are there situations you are not happy with? Are you pursuing one or more goals? Is there a problem you want to fix? Can you identify at least one objective you would like to accomplish?

If your answer to any of these questions is yes, the next question you must answer is, "what will you do today to make it happen?" The answer identifies the positive action you will be taking in order to actually accomplish something. Action is the only way to transform your desires into reality. Without action, nothing happens. Without action, all of your desires remain only wishes.

In spite of the importance of taking action, too many people don't have a definitive plan for exactly what they want to accomplish each day. Instead each day is spent dealing with emergencies as they arise. There is little or no focus on specific objectives. Basically, these people drift through each day. At the end of a day, an often heard comment is, "I really didn't get that much done today." There are various impediments to taking effective action each day. Lack of planning is a major one. Without a definite plan, you won't get much done. Accomplishments are hit or miss. Time is wasted through inefficiency.

Create a detailed plan, with specific steps, for what you want to accomplish today. Set priorities. Use your plan to guide your action. Stay focused. Adjust your plan as needed to accommodate emergencies or changes in priorities. Your goal is getting things done.

Procrastination is the black hole of time. Putting tasks off into the future creates stress, exacerbates problems, puts you behind schedule, and causes missed opportunities. Procrastination is an awful habit which is easily broken.

Fear feeds procrastination. Not knowing where to begin, being apprehensive about making mistakes, or doubting your ability to be successful, are all factors contributing to procrastination. Putting off what you need to do, for whatever reason, is not a formula for success. You begin getting something done by taking small steps.

The log jam of procrastination can be broken by devoting just 15 minutes to a task you have been putting off. This effective technique gets you into action. Once you have some momentum, you are much more likely to complete important tasks.

As you become adept at ending your procrastination, your willingness to plan ahead will grow. You'll start looking forward to each days plan knowing how much you can now accomplish. As a result, you will get more done in

less time. Your upward spiral builds confidence in your ability to be productive.

In addition to knowing what you will do today, you must also set priorities. Working on low priority tasks first isn't a prudent strategy. People do this because low priority tasks are often easier to accomplish. However, when your high priority tasks have not been completed, your stress increases and negative consequences arise.

Each day you must identify your highest priority task. This item should receive the most attention. Ensuring that your most important task is completed significantly boosts your productivity, while reducing your stress level.

Your highest priority may be difficult, requiring substantial effort. Shifting to something easier instead neglects your highest priority, which often causes a crisis situation to develop. Anything worthwhile takes effort. Taking the path of least resistance will not lead to your dreams.

Start each day with a plan for what you want to accomplish. Spend the day taking the necessary action to complete your plan. Following this strategy is how goals are reached and changes are made.

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By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

God understands the sinful natures of man/woman. God knows all about us and our weaknesses and our ability to fall prey to sin. In the Bible the story about King David (who was in the lineage of Jesus) shares many times he yielded to sin doing many wrong things. Just how many wrong things have we all done in our lives?

However the one positive thing about David was he had a humble and contrite heart. After every sinful act he repented and asked God's forgiveness. When we realize we have done something against the teachings of God and committed a sin we need to humble ourselves and repent to be restored into the grace of a loving and forgiving God.

God did create Adam and Eve as perfect human beings. However, He gave them "free-will" to be able to make their own choices. God

A Humble And Contrite Heart

gave them instructions (rules) about things to do and not to do. Then, unfortunately they chose to disobey the rule and partake of the tree of good and evil. Disobedience to the rules requires consequences! Thus, their sin nature fell on every single future generation born after them. You and I! No one escapes it!

From that moment in time their sin fell on everyone born after them. We cannot be good enough or do enough good things to pay the price to eliminate it from our lives. ***All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)***

Because God's loving plan was for His creation to have a personal relationship with Him, He created a plan for forgiveness to fall on mankind. In the magnificent way God does things, His plan involved Joseph and Mary, blood descendent of David. His Beloved Son, Jesus was born as a perfect tiny baby in Virgin Mary. Jesus was born to become the perfect sacrificial Lamb of God.

When Jesus was old enough to carry out the Heavenly Father/Gods plan of redemption and forgiveness all things worked together. In Old Testament

times we know that a perfect lamb had to shed all of its blood to wash away their sins and grant forgiveness to a Jewish person once a year. There is no forgiveness without the shedding of "blood."

God is the same yesterday, today, tomorrow and forever and His methods never change. Please understand: This same scenario applies to New Testament believers as well; The crucifixion of Jesus Christ, His death and shedding every ounce of His blood purchased the love and forgiveness from every sin (past, present and future) ever committed to anyone who accepts His death and resurrection inviting Jesus into their heart and life.

Until that special birthday arrives in someone's life, they are NOT on the divine path of God's love He wants them to be traveling.

Till then, much is a mystery and they will have many questions about the ways of God. And that is o.k. God understands!

Marlys Johnsen Norris
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WEEKLY COMICS

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

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF

Crossword Puzzle on Page 7

T	T	U	T	O	R		M	B	A		S	L	E	D
A	T	O	N	E		O	E	R		C	L	O	V	E
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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7

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

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- CLUES
- ACROSS
1. *Abelard to Héloïse
6. C.E.O.'s degree
9. a.k.a. Snowmobile
13. Make amends
14. Over, poetically
15. Garlic unit
16. ____ lazuli
17. New, prefix
18. Bumpkin
19. *St. Valentine's Day
21. James Bond's drink of choice
23. Building annex
24. Galsworthy's "The Forsyte ____"
25. MD, familiarly
28. Land of Nod, in relation to Eden
30. Hire for work
35. Part of an eye
37. Feudal laborer
39. Request from Amazon
40. Waterproofed canvas
41. Bunch of bees
43. Black cat, e.g.
44. Apollo of "Rocky"
46. Roofed colonnade
47. X in a letter
48. Medicinal herb
50. Tangerine-grapefruit hybrid
52. Tennis barrier
53. Hold as a conviction
55. End of a fuse?
57. *____ Valentine, a.k.a. humorous Valentine
61. *One of star-crossed lovers
65. Beyond's occasional partner
66. E.T. transporter
68. Wombs
69. Hansen's disease patient
70. Young canine
71. *Flirt
72. *They used to be each other's Valentines
73. Attempt

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13					14			15			
16					17			18			
19					20		21	22			
		23			24						
25	26	27		28	29		30		31	32	33
34											
35			36		37		38		39		
40				41			42		43		
44				45		46			47		
48				49		50		51		52	
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57	58	59	60			61			62	63	64
65					66	67		68			
69					70			71			
72					73			74			

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- DOWN
1. Barber's supply
2. Arizona's neighbor
3. Serengeti antelope
4. *Like a bottle of champagne
5. "Goodwill Industries" business
6. "Unfortunate consequence of kissing?"
7. Busy as a what?
8. *Pleasant bouquet smell
9. Vegas bandit
10. Mischievous Norse deity
11. ____-tempered
12. Sub station
15. *Roxane's pen pal
20. "Heart of ____," Blondie's hit
22. Well-kept secret, for some
24. Strata, sing.
25. *Go ____ or split the cost of a date
26. Estrogen maker
27. The smallest dwarf planet
29. Uses a Singer
31. Get the picture
32. Short for administrator
33. Goslings, when they grow up

34. *German artist or Young's partner
36. "Singes" in "La Planète des Singes"
38. *Mr. Right, pre-kiss
42. Tiny European republic
45. Jackie Robinson, e.g.
49. Princess tester
51. "My two cents," pl.
54. Do like Vesuvius
56. *Héloïse to Abelard
57. Wide river valley
58. Wild goat
59. Uh-uh
60. "The Three Faces of ____," pl.
61. Printer button
62. Old paint hazard
63. Gaelic tongue
64. *Wedding cake layer
67. "____ Elise"

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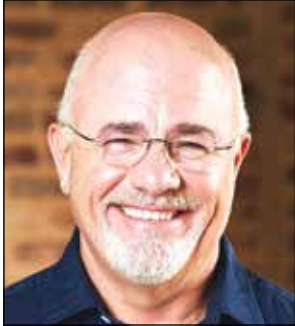
aPlaceforMom.

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

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Solutions on Page 5



Learning to Say No

Dear Dave,

We're debt-free except for our home, and we'll have our fully-funded emergency fund of three to six months of expenses, we've agreed on six months' worth, saved up by the end of February. We're also setting aside a little each month to buy a newer car with cash later. We're about \$5,000 from our car fund goal, but my husband is getting impatient. He wants us to go ahead a finance the remainder, since it's a relatively small amount. He has tried to justify this by mentioning that you don't seem to have a problem with people borrowing money to buy a house. Could you explain the difference?

— Lana

Dave Ramsey Says

Dear Lana,

Okay, first things first. I don't like debt of any kind. I don't really like borrowing for a house, but I'm not unreasonable. I tolerate mortgage loans, as long as people use a 15-year, fixed rate mortgage, with payments that are no more than a fourth of their monthly take-home pay. A house is often the largest purchase in a person's life, and one most people can't achieve based solely on saving. I still recommend, however, setting aside as much as possible for a down payment before taking out a mortgage.

Here's the thing. Cars go down in value, while traditional homes generally increase in value substantially over the years. Plus, you can get an absolutely great, pre-owned car for \$10,000 to \$15,000 dollars. This is an amount which, in my mind, is doable over the course of several months through determined saving and living on a budget. Depending on where you live, a good home can cost 10 to 20 times that much.

The best way to build wealth and have a secure financial life is to stay away from debt. This means getting out of mortgage debt as quickly as possible, too. You're never going to win with money if you can't learn to delay pleasure.

Everyone has that little kid inside them, and that little kid wants everything he or she wants right now. Your husband is asking a normal question, but he's dangerously close to letting that immature little kid out. It happens to all of us once in a while, but we have to grow to a point as adults where we tell that little kid no!

— 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 14 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. ★

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Our next monthly meeting

February 13th, 2020

at

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Ask Toni

Turning 65 . . . Medicare Marketing Is Overwhelming!



America, it has finally happened because I, Toni King, who has been writing the Toni Says® Medicare column is turning 65 in May. I am now experiencing, the excessive marketing and confusion regarding finding a Medicare plan due to the amount of junk mail which is hitting my mailbox whether it is a Medicare Supplement or Medicare Advantage Plan.

This week a rather troubling letter came that showed different Medicare Supplement plans and quoted a low rate for Medicare Supplement plan K. I remembered a reader's question from 2017 who changed from Medicare Plan G with low out of pocket to Plan K that has a higher out of pocket, but could not change to any plan whether Medicare Supplement or Medicare Advantage plans because he was receiving kidney dialysis due to end stage renal disease. ESRD is a kick out question for Medicare Supplement or Medicare Advantage plans.

Had I not known the difference in what Medicare plans offer, I would call for that insurance company's information because the insurance premiums are so low.

Below is information regarding the difference in

Medicare Supplement Plan G and K:

- **Medicare Supplement Plan G:** Pays Medicare Part A(In-Hospital) coinsurance and hospital coverage(up to an additional 365 days after Medicare benefits are used up), Pays Medicare Part B(Medical) coinsurance or copayment, Blood (first 3 pints), Part A hospice care, Skilled nursing facility coinsurance, Part A deductible, Part B excess charge, Foreign Travel emergency (up to plan limits) Part B deductible Not Covered...\$198 out of pocket which is 2020's Medicare Part B deductible.
- **Medicare Supplement Plan K:** Pays Medicare Part A(In-Hospital) coinsurance and hospital coverage(up to an additional 365 days after Medicare benefits are used up), 50% Medicare Part B(Medical) coinsurance or copayment, 50% Blood (first 3 pints), 50%Part A hospice care, 50% Skilled nursing facility coinsurance,50% Part A deductible, Part B deductible Not Covered, Not Covered Part B excess charge which will be an extra of out of pocket without a maximum amount that you will be responsible for, Not Covered Foreign Travel emergency (up to plan limits), Maximum out of pocket \$5,880 of what Medicare covers and does not include the Medicare Part B excess charge or foreign travel expense that other Medicare Supplement plans cover. You will be responsible for these charges which can be rather expensive.

As you can see by the Medicare plan information above that Medicare Plan G has a maximum

out of pocket of \$198 where Medicare Plan K has a maximum out of pocket of \$5880 not including additional charges if your provider's costs exceed Medicare-approved amounts.

Let's discuss what can happen when one is turning 65 like me and receiving Medicare Part B for the first time. This special time discussed in the Medicare & You handbook is called "Medigap Open Enrollment Period" which states, "The best time to buy a Medigap policy is during your Medigap Open Enrollment Period. This 6-month period begins on the first day of the month in which you're 65 or older and enrolled in Part B." (Some states have additional Open Enrollment Periods.) During this period an insurance company can't use medical underwriting because of your health problems. After this enrollment period, you may not be able pass underwriting questions for a new Medigap policy because of your health issues such as the reader who had kidney issues and was not able to make a change.

Toni Says®: Take your time when enrolling in Medicare. Know your Medicare options. For questions regarding the maze of Medicare, call the Toni Says Medicare hotline at 832-519-8664.

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



By Damian Holbrook

Jeers to Dracula

for taking a bite out of time. After two solid episodes rooted in the famous vamp's original era, the Netflix mashup from the folks behind *Sherlock* jumped ahead to the present day for a silly modern epilogue about Drac (Claes Bang, pictured) rising again in search of blood, babes and Wi-Fi. Not exactly high stakes.

Jeers to Almost Family

for overstaying its welcome. The icky Fox drama about the surprise siblings of a criminally unethical fertility doc doesn't need to be moved to the

graveyard shift of Saturday nights. It needs to be axed, so that its likable stars (pictured, from left) Megalyn Echikunwoke, Brittany Snow and Emily Osment can move on to better projects.

Cheers to This Is Us

for recruiting one of our favorite *Chicago P.D.* alums. Former Windy City cop Sophia Bush blew in for a guest starring gig as Lizzie, the dynamic but married woman Kevin (Justin Hartley, left, with Bush) can't get out of his head. We're already hoping her "hall pass" turns into an extended stay.

Cheers to The Circle

for finding an upside to social media. Netflix's *Big*



Almost Family likable stars (pictured, from left) Megalyn Echikunwoke, Brittany Snow and Emily Osment needs to have the show axed so they can move on to better projects.

Brother-ly competition locked players in tricked-out pads where they could only chat via messaging, texts and status updates, resulting in real gems (like fan fave Joey Sasso, pictured) and some really crafty catfishing. ★



What's The Most Common Gripe About TV?

Question:I get frustrated watching Emergence because the music is so loud that it is difficult to hear the dialogue. Can't someone notice that and fix it? – Marion

Matt Roush: If I ran every complaint I got on this issue, there'd be no room for anything else. At least this one was specific, so I'll use this as my annual opportunity

even a fraction of the mail I receive on this subject, they know it's an irritant and they obviously don't care. In my own limited experience, not being all that technically minded, we bought a sound bar to enhance and sharpen the sound coming out of our primary TV and have had less trouble because of it. Others have taken to activating closed captioning, which we sometimes do on streaming services with some of the British dramas, but that's more about thick accents than loud music.

It's intrusive, but at least you'll get the dialogue.

To submit questions to TV Critic Matt Roush, go to: tvinsider.com ★

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California Rooftop Solar Mandate Basics

Commentary by Ben Davis, California Solar and Storage Association

Under new rules adopted in 2018 by the California Energy Commission, starting January 1, 2020, new homes must be constructed to generate solar electricity through panels typically placed on the home’s roof. The solar mandate is expected to zero out energy consumption in newly constructed homes covered by the standard. The new mandate recognizes that with today’s technology and availability, solar capabilities are an essential part of new home construction much like water heaters and stove-tops.

The rules apply to all new single-family homes and multi-family complexes up to three stories in height. The size of the solar system installed must be based on the home’s floor area square footage and sized to meet the annual kilowatt-hour energy usage of the home.

Energy storage, typically in the form of a battery in the garage, will also get a boost from the new 2020 standards. For the first time, the addition of energy storage devices in the home will generate a credit toward meeting minimum building efficiency standards. This credit gives builders greater flexibility in meeting the state’s stringent energy efficiency codes and are expected to become increasingly popular with consumers concerned about grid reliability.

There are limited exceptions included in the mandate if solar is infeasible, such as at homes that are shaded by trees or other pre-existing buildings.

The solar mandate will make home ownership more affordable. Homeowner savings on their utility bills are expected to exceed the corresponding increase in mortgage payments by \$35 per month. Furthermore, alternative financing models such as power purchase agreements give homebuyers the option of including solar without any additional cost to the home.

California is the first state in the nation to enact a solar mandate for new home construction.

Solar Surging in California

The new home solar mandate comes as solar energy is quickly becoming a mainstream appliance across California.

Solar advocates recently celebrated reaching the One Million Solar Roofs milestone, an audacious vision signed into law in 2006 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The benefits of the Million Solar Roofs Initiative exceeded expectations. The initiative’s goal was to build 3 gigawatts (GW) of rooftop solar throughout the state within 10 years. The program met its goal in 2015, ahead of schedule, and the market has continued to grow. Today, California consumers have installed nearly 9 gigawatts of solar energy, three-fold the original goal. Those 9 gigawatts of solar energy—the size equivalent of six large natural gas power plants—generate more than 13 billion kilowatt-hours of clean electricity each year avoiding 22 million tons of CO2, 16,000 tons of smog-forming

pollutants, over 350 billion cubic feet of natural gas, and bypassing expensive and aging utility infrastructure. Due to this steady market growth, the price of solar energy has dropped 80% paving the way for today’s solar home mandate. It is now more cost effective to include solar on the home than it is to build a home without solar. In other words, the homeowner saves more money owning a solar home than a non-solar home, making solar energy a no-brainer addition to a home, just like insulation and double-paned windows both of which add upfront costs to the home but pay for themselves over time.

Builders have been installing solar on roughly 15,000 new homes each year. The solar mandate will more than quadruple that figure, causing a boon in the new home solar market.

Utilities Standing in the Way of Success?

Effort by utility companies to circumvent the requirements of the new home solar mandate threaten progress in California.

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) recently submitted a plan to the California Energy Commission that would allow builders to forgo installing rooftop solar by pointing to large SMUD-controlled solar farms which could be located far from the new housing development. PG&E was quick to support SMUD’s proposal before the Energy Commission. While the Commission has yet to rule on the plan, legal and solar experts believe such operations would violate both the letter and spirit of the new rule.

Next Step for California: Solar + Storage

With the expansion of solar powered energy on the move, solar advocates are focusing on the next logical step: paring solar power with solar battery storage. Current solar and battery technologies are transforming the future of energy and creating new opportunities for California to reach 100% clean, renewable energy. The ability to store energy for use when and where it is needed is a simple but revolutionary step forward for consumers. With today’s batteries, homeowners and businesses can store solar energy for use after sundown or during a blackout. This smooths out prices, takes pressure off the electric grid, and gives consumers a degree of reliability unheard of a few years ago.

The California Public Utilities Commission recently proposed expanding rebates for consumers to add a battery to their home, whether for new or existing homes, with a great emphasis on disadvantaged communities facing the threat of blackouts. Solar and storage advocates applaud the availability of rebates and urge the state to make them available to all consumers to help drive down the cost of batteries and reach the state’s clean energy goals.

Having successfully reached the One Million Solar Roofs goal and enacted the new home solar mandate, solar advocates are calling for one million solar-charged batteries in California by 2025. ★

AMERICAN PICKERS to Film in California



Mike Wolfe (right) and Frank Fritz will be returning to California to film AMERICAN PICKERS. Photo courtesy Cineflix

By Maggie Kissinger, Cineflix Productions

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Mike Wolfe, Frank Fritz, and their team are excited to return to California! They plan to film episodes of the hit series American Pickers throughout your area in March 2020.

AMERICAN PICKERS is a documentary series that explores the fascinating world of antique “picking” on History. The hit show follows Mike and Frank, two of the most skilled pickers in the business, as they hunt for America’s most valuable antiques. They are always excited to find sizeable, unique collections and learn the interesting stories behind them.

As they hit the back roads from coast to coast, Mike and Frank are on a mission to recycle and rescue forgotten relics. Along the way, the Pickers want

to meet characters with remarkable and exceptional items. The pair hopes to give historically significant objects a new lease on life, while learning a thing or two about America’s past along the way.

Mike and Frank have seen a lot of rusty gold over the years and are always looking to discover something they’ve never seen before. They are ready to find extraordinary items and hear fascinating tales about them. AMERICAN PICKERS is looking for leads and would love to explore your hidden treasure. If you or someone you know has a large, private collection or accumulation of antiques that the Pickers can spend the better part of the day looking through, send us your name, phone number, location and description of the collection with photos to americanpickers@cineflix.com or call 855-OLD-RUST. ★

A Singing Valentine Coming Your Way!



Quartet members (left to right): Angie Yokay (Sacramento), Bonnie Garlow (Sacramento), Donna Spitzer (Cameron Park) and Cindy Henry (Grass Valley). Photo courtesy SVC

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Valentine's Day is almost here! You can give that special someone an unforgettable gift! Candy, cards and flowers are nice, but adding a Singing Valentine will create a lasting memory! Quartets from the award-winning Sacramento Valley Chorus will deliver Singing Valentines 9 am - 5 pm, on Friday, February 14. Your sweetheart, family member or good friend will be surprised and thrilled when a quartet delivers two songs, a rose, candy and a beautiful card to him or her. The package is only \$40, and can be delivered to the home or business

of your choice in the greater Sacramento area, including Placer, El Dorado, Yolo and Nevada County. Singing Valentines are popular, so call early to ensure availability. Call 916-761-2998, to arrange for delivery.

The award winning Sacramento Valley Chorus, under the direction of Master Director, Dede Nibler, has approximately 80 members.

Ladies from the community are invited to attend rehearsals any Wednesday night at 6:30 pm.

For more information, visit SacramentoValleyChorus.com. ★

CalVet Unveils Master Plan for Veterans Homes of California

By Jeff Jardine, California Department of Veterans Affairs

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) has completed its Master Plan for the operations of its eight Veterans Homes of California.

The 300-page document encompasses years of research, analysis, outreach, and reassessment, along with interviews with Homes residents, employees, community residents, agencies, and other stakeholders. It identifies the future needs of a changing veteran population. In addition, it offers recommendations and implementation options for meeting those future needs.

The result is a game plan designed to ensure that the state makes the best uses of its resources and property to serve California’s veterans.

“The Master Plan presents an opportunity to reevaluate the Veterans Homes and take meaningful steps toward the future,” said Vito Imbasciani MD, CalVet’s Secretary. “By following the enclosed recommendations, CalVet will be best prepared to honor and serve California’s veterans for generations to come.”

The 135-year-old Veterans Home system includes facilities in Yountville, Redding, Fresno, Ventura, West Los Angeles, Lancaster, Barstow, and Chula Vista. They range in size from 900 beds in Yountville to

60-bed facilities in Lancaster and Ventura. The Homes provide domiciliary (residential), skilled nursing, and long-term care services for 2,500 veterans and their spouses throughout the state.

Since Imbasciani became CalVet’s Secretary in September 2015, the quality of care at the Homes has risen dramatically. The skilled nursing facilities at Barstow, Yountville, Fresno and Redding are five-star rated while Chula Vista merits four stars. All eight of the Homes passed their annual state and federal inspections with flying colors.

While the California State Legislature directed the Master Plan and included specific requirements to be addressed, CalVet went beyond the basics. The Master Plan includes 27 recommendations that cover the levels of care, expanding mental health services, maximizing property use, addressing geographic locations, and maintaining California’s commitment to the historic but infrastructure-challenged Yountville Home, which opened in 1884.

“The Master Plan represents a great team effort here at CalVet,” said Coby Petersen, CalVet’s deputy secretary of veterans homes. “It will benefit our veterans for decades to come.”

For more information on the Veterans Home Plans visit www.calvet.ca.gov/Pages/2020-Homes-Master-Plan.aspx. ★

Mardi Gras Crab Feed

WHO
The Rotary Club of Fair Oaks and the Fair Oaks Rotary Foundation

WHAT
The 30th Annual Mardi Gras Crab Feed

WHERE
At the Divine Savior Parish Hall at 9079 Greenback Lane in Orangevale

WHEN
It will be held on Saturday, February 15, 2020
Doors will open at 5:30 pm

HOW TO BUY TICKETS
Tickets are \$65 each and they may be purchased by

- Contacting Victoria Porter at VicPorter65@gmail.com
- Going to Eventbrite on your phone with our QR code
- Reaching out to club members

SCAN WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA

The Mardi Gras Crab Feed is very popular and it sells out every year. Those planning on going should buy their tickets early.

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PG&E is Seeing Twice the Number of Scams Targeting Customers by Phone

By Paul Moreno,
Pacific Gas and Electric Co.

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&E) is alerting its customers to be aware of ongoing scam phone calls with criminals threatening to shut off power if a payment is not made. There have been double the number of scam attempts, in some areas, compared to this time last year. PG&E's Corporate Security department has received several reports in the past few weeks regarding scammers requesting

payment on past due utility bills immediately with a cash card. "In the past, we've seen scammers demanding payment be made using a Green Dot card or Money Pack but now we're seeing these criminals requesting payment with a gift card. This should raise a red flag," said Carl Schoenhofer, senior manager of PG&E's North Valley Division. Another new trend that PG&E is seeing is that the scam is becoming more detailed. Scammers include specific names of customers, and in some cases, guessing general dollar amounts

owed. They are also disguising their true phone numbers with a caller ID that says "PG&E" or "Pacific Gas & Electric." Other scam phone call tactics include: Notifying residents that they are eligible for a federal tax refund related to their utility bill; Trying to sell services related to solar evaluation; and Claiming to represent a PG&E initiative to sell a product in order to gain access to their home. PG&E offers the following tips to help protect customers

from all types of potential scams: PG&E will not ask for personal information or a credit card number over the phone. Anyone who has received such a phone call and provided credit card or checking account information should report it immediately to the credit card company or bank and law enforcement; Customers with concerns about the legitimacy of a call about a past due bill, service request or request for personal information are encouraged to call PG&E at 1-800-743-5000; Customers should always

ask to see identification before allowing anyone claiming to be a PG&E representative inside their home. PG&E employees always carry their identification and are willing to show it to you; If you feel threatened in any way, notify local law enforcement immediately. PG&E takes security seriously and will actively work with law enforcement to help stop any scam victimizing customers. Anyone who has received such a call can report it immediately by calling PG&E at 1-800-743-5000 or visit www.pge.com/scams. ★

Helping Business Succeed

Does your business need **free and confidential help** with:

- Hazardous material plans?
- Managing hazardous materials and wastes?
- Starting a new business (restaurant, food truck/cart, automotive, manufacturing, or other business type)?
- Compliance before or after a regulatory inspection?
- One-on-one onsite help at your business with local, state, federal regulatory compliance and permits?
- Compliance with new and existing regulatory and permit procedures?

Service area:
County of Sacramento, including the cities of Sacramento, Folsom, Citrus Heights, Rancho Cordova, Elk Grove, Galt.

The Business Environmental Resource Center (BERC) is a free and confidential non-regulatory consultation service designed to help start-up, new and existing businesses navigate and comply with environmental and regulatory permit requirements. BERC Consultants clearly help guide you through the process, which **saves you time and money!**

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What do businesses say about BERC help?

"I own a small auto repair business and can't afford to pay anyone to help me with Environmental Issues. BERC has helped me since 2009 and I greatly appreciate it!"-Automotive Owner.

"We consider BERC a critical member of our team. BERC demystifies the industrial permitting process in a confidential, business supportive manner. The BERC staff are experts on the overwhelming industrial permitting process, making permitting a business a simple process"-Senior Vice President, Corporate Community

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Crime Reports

Citrus Heights Police Report

January 27th
January 31st



Date: 01/27/2020 • **Time:** 10:00 PM • **IR Number:** 12000719
Crime: 10851(A) VC: Vehicle Theft
Location Type: Apt/Condo/Duplex • **Public Address:** 62XX BURICH AV
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

Date: 01/27/2020 • **Time:** 6:00 PM • **IR Number:** 12000744
Crime: 484(A) PC: Petty Theft
Location Type: Parking Lot • **Public Address:** 678XX GREENBACK LN
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

Date: 01/27/2020 • **Time:** 4:00 AM • **IR Number:** 12000653
Crime: 10851(A) VC: Vehicle Theft
Location Type: Street/Highway • **Public Address:** 61XX PATTERSON LN
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

Date: 01/27/2020 • **Time:** 2:36 PM • **IR Number:** 12000666
Crime: 459 PC: Burglary - Vehicle
Location Type: Street/Highway • **Public Address:** 60XX BIRCHGLADE WY
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

Date: 01/28/2020 • **Time:** 1:20 PM • **IR Number:** 12000722
Crime: 10851(A) VC: Vehicle Thefts
Location Type: Parking Lot • **Public Address:** 79XX GREENBACK LN
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

Date: 01/28/2020 • **Time:** 11:00 PM • **IR Number:** 2020-0032993
Crime: Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts
Location Type: Theft from Vehicle • **Public Address:** 51XX Thomasino Way, Antelope,
Agency: Sacramento County Sheriff's Department


Date: 01/28/2020 • **Time:** 9:00 PM • **IR Number:** 12000757
Crime: 484(A) PC: Petty Theft
Location Type: Parking Lot • **Public Address:** 128XX FAIR,
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

Date: 01/29/2020 • **Time:** 10:00 AM • **IR Number:** 12000748
Crime: 5484(A) PC: Petty Theft
Location Type: Theft from Vehicle • **Public Address:** 75XX SYLVAN CREEK CT
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

Date: 01/29/2020 • **Time:** 1:37 AM • **IR Number:** 12000739
Crime: 484(A) PC: Petty Theft
Location Type: • Street/Highway: 59XX SPERRY DR
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

Date: 01/31/2020 • **Time:** 9:20 PM • **IR Number:** 12000818
Crime: 503 PC: Embezzlement-Felony
Location Type: • **Public Address:** 74XX AUBURN
Agency: Citrus Heights Police Department

Find more info at citrusheights.net



Trump Removal Would Be Insane

It's easy to forget the Senate impeachment trial is supposed to be about. It's not a fight over whether the Senate will call a couple of witnesses that the House couldn't, or didn't bother to, obtain on its own. The underlying question is whether the United States Senate will impose the most severe sanction it has ever inflicted on any chief executive, voting to remove a president for the first time in the history of the country and doing it about 10 months from his reelection bid. This is a truly radical step that, if it ever came about, would do more damage to the legitimacy of our political system than President Donald Trump's underlying offense. If Trump were actually convicted, the 2020 election would proceed under a cloud of illegitimacy. Tens of millions of Trump voters wouldn't accept the result. They'd see it as an inside job to deny the incumbent president a chance to run for reelection, without a single voter having a direct say. The GOP would be brought to its knees by internal bloodletting, a prospect that Democrats surely would welcome, especially given that it would deliver them the presidency. Republicans would be out for revenge, and instead of a halcyon return to normalcy, our politics would be even more poisonous than before. Democrats argue that Trump can't stay in office because he's such a threat to the integrity of our elections. But the portrayal of Trump's Ukraine scheme as "election interference," as the Democrats always say, is tendentious and inapt. If the Ukrainians had complied with the Trump team's pressure to announce an investigation of the energy company Burisma, it wouldn't have changed one vote in 2020, even if former Vice President Joe Biden eventually is the Democratic nominee. The fact is that impeachment, as my colleague Ramesh Ponnuru points out, is a weak check on the presidency. It requires a supermajority of the country to remove a president and one of the political parties being willing to nullify the choice of its own voters for president and an election he won. Both the Trump and Clinton impeachments show that this is a hateful prospect for the president's party. The best case for what the Democrats are doing now is that Republicans impeached Clinton in the 1990s with little or no hope for conviction in the Senate, and turnout is fair play. But it's time to conclude that this is a failed model of impeachment. It depends on a process that diverts the time and energy of the nation's political institutions as if the survival of a presidency is at stake, even when everyone knows it isn't. Congress can hold hearings on a president's conduct, subpoena witnesses and documents and fight the executive with full force if they aren't produced, hold officials in contempt, withhold funding, deny the executive traditional forms of interbranch comity and, if it wants to put down a long-lasting marker, censure the president. But it needn't drag the country through a melodrama based on the fiction that any president who hasn't crashed to, say, a 25% approval rating is going to be removed by his own party — in other words, exactly what Adam Schiff and his managers are doing now.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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PIN Code Verification Feature Available For All Uber Riders in The U.S.

By Navideh Forghani, Uber

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (MPG) - Uber users in the US and Canada will have the option of receiving a four-digit PIN code to provide to their driver before starting a trip. This added layer of verification can help ensure riders get in the right car and drivers are picking up the correct rider.

Many riders will be able to set up the PIN verification feature in their app. It will be available to all Uber users in the United States and Canada. “We are constantly working and innovating to provide riders and drivers with the tools they need to help ensure a safe and reliable experience,” said Sachin Kansal, Uber’s Head of Safety Products. “This new feature will

provide peace of mind that you are getting into the right vehicle.” Riders can opt-in to the PIN code feature by navigating to their app settings and tapping “Verify Your Ride.” From there, riders can choose to use the PIN verification feature on every trip or only during night time trips (9 pm - 6 am). Once enabled, the rider will receive a four-digit

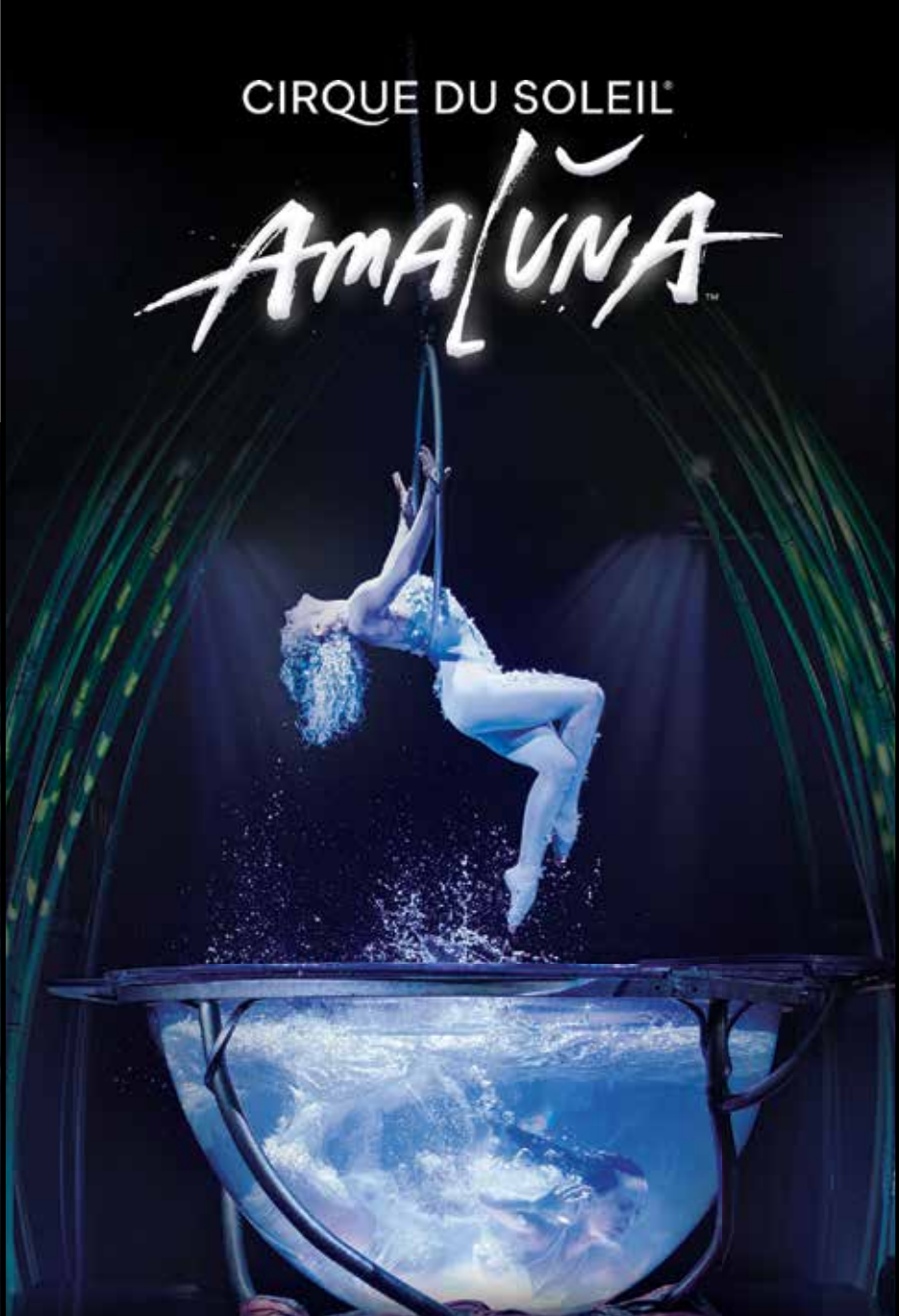
pin code in their app while the driver is en-route to the pickup location. When the driver arrives, the rider can verbally provide the PIN to the driver before getting into the vehicle. After the driver enters the correct PIN, the trip can begin. When the feature is enabled, a trip cannot start until the correct PIN is entered into the driver’s app. Uber first unveiled

this feature at a product showcase event in San Francisco in September and began piloting the feature in seven cities last month. “The PIN feature is a powerful option for riders that can also benefit drivers,” said Rebecca Payne, Senior Product Manager at Uber, who helped develop this feature. “PIN Verification helps drivers make certain they

have picked up the correct rider.” Since its inception, Uber has provided riders with the car make and model, license plate, driver name, and photo. Riders should always confirm this information before getting into the car. This extra layer of verification helps provide riders and drivers with more peace of mind before a trip can begin in the app. ★

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SAC COUNTY VOTES

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March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Election

Statewide primary elections in California have moved up to March!

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Take advantage of early voting and avoid the lines! You can return your ballot in the mail, at any Ballot Drop Box, or at any Vote Center.

Party Preference

Remember that presidential primary elections are party specific. Check your political party preference on your voter registration.

Important!

If you have interacted recently with the DMV, your voter registration status may have been changed. Check your status to confirm you are still registered correctly.

Feb 3

Feb 17

Feb 22

Feb 29

Mar 3

Ballots begin being mailed. Ballot Drop Boxes open.

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