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**Senator Ted Gaines Sworn  
in as First District Board of  
Equalization Member**  
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# Citrus Heights Messenger

*"Written by the people, for the people"*

VOLUME 9 • ISSUE 02      Serving the City of Citrus Heights & Sacramento County      JANUARY 25, 2019

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## Connecting Your Parks for Safer Recreation

*City Hosts Open House for Electric Greenway Trail Project*



Many local residents attended an Open House for the Electric Greenway Trail Project, hosted by the City of Citrus Heights at the Sunrise Tech Center.

**Story and photos  
by Shaunna Boyd**

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)**

- On January 8 at Sunrise Tech Center, the City of Citrus Heights hosted a well-attended Open House event for the Electric Greenway Trail Project. The proposed project is a 2.9-mile paved trail that will follow the existing Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) electric transmission corridor. Local residents were invited to attend the Open House to learn about the project, offer their input, and voice any concerns. Leslie Blomquist, senior civil engineer for the City of Citrus Heights, said, "Community comments and feedback are essential as we

move forward."

The project is a partnership between the City of Citrus Heights, SMUD, Sacramento County, San Juan Unified School District, Sunrise Recreation and Park District, and Orangevale Recreation and Park District.

The goal of the project is to highlight the natural beauty of the area while providing a safe, paved area for pedestrians and bicyclists. The trail will run between Sunrise Blvd. to the west and Wachtel Way to the east. It will connect many of the parks and nature area in Citrus Heights, including Arcade Creek Park Preserve, Tempo Community Park, Sundance Nature Area, Streng Avenue open space, Northwoods Park, C-Bar-C

Park, Woodside Oaks Park, and Olivine Dr. open space.

The trail will also provide a safe route to school for students at Woodside K-8, and it will provide a shorter route to other area schools. Dan Allison, Safe Routes to School coordinator for the San Juan Unified School District, explained that currently "some students walk to school on streets without sidewalks. The trail will give students a safe, paved area to walk to school."

Vice Mayor Jeff Slowey said, "I think it's great that we're using SMUD easements, which wouldn't be used otherwise. And it's a great partnership." Slowey also noted the importance of considering the people who

live near the project site: "We need to ensure their privacy."

Eldon Pawson was a resident of Citrus Heights from 1968 until he moved to nearby Orangevale in 1980. He said, "I think it's long overdue. All this area right along the power lines, we might as well use it. My only concern would be people using it as a campground... I'm not against homeless people, but I don't want it in my backyard."

Citrus Heights residents Ronna Safonov and John Thomas said they're concerned because one area of the proposed trail would be located just 5 ft. from the back of their property. Thomas said, "We don't want

*Continued on page 3*

## Under Threat of Lawsuit, City Council Declares Intent to Switch to District-based Elections

**Story by Shaunna  
Boyd**

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)**

- The five members of the Citrus Heights City Council serve overlapping four-year terms and are chosen through at-large elections in which the candidates who receive the highest number of votes are elected to represent all the citizens of the City.

On December 3, 2018, the City received a certified letter from a Malibu attorney, Kevin Shenkman, who—on behalf of his client, Southwest Voter Registration Education Project—alleges that the City's at-large election method for selecting councilmembers violates the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA).

In his letter to the City,

Shenkman alleged that the current "at-large system dilutes the ability of Latinos (a 'protected class') to elect candidates of their choice or otherwise influence the outcomes of the City's elections." Shenkman cited 2010 Census data that indicates Latinos are approximately 16.5% of the City's population. He said that despite making up a significant portion of the overall population, no Latinos have ever been elected to serve on the City Council. Shenkman alleged that the current election system is "fundamentally hostile towards Latino participation." He further stated that a Latino has never emerged as a candidate for the Council during the past 20 years, which "reveals vote dilution" in the City's election

process.

Shenkman urged Citrus Heights to voluntarily change its at-large election system, stating that his firm will file a lawsuit if the City does not declare its intent to transition to district-based elections.

On January 10, the city attorney, after much research on the subject, told the Council that she was unable to find any cases in which a city or public agency has successfully defended at-large election systems against a legal challenge under the CVRA. Most public agencies, when threatened with litigation, have chosen to switch to district-based elections. The cities and agencies that have gone to court to defend their at-large elections against CVRA challenges have lost—at

a high cost: In addition to paying their own attorney's fees, they have been ordered to reimburse the plaintiffs for attorney's fees and legal costs.

In CVRA lawsuits, a "Safe Harbor" provision in California Elections Code limits the City's liability to plaintiffs' counsel (capped at \$30,000 for legal fees) if the City adopts a resolution of intent to switch to district-based elections within 45 days of receiving the demand letter (in this case, that deadline was January 17). Adopting the resolution bars the prospective plaintiff from filing suit for 90 days, during which time the City must conduct at least five public hearings to draw district maps and adopt an official ordinance establishing district-based

*Continued on page 3*

## Raising Your Awareness of Human Trafficking

**By ANDREA HANSEN,  
SACRAMENTO  
COUNTY**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - During the month of January, advocates, organizations and individuals unite to raise awareness about human trafficking. Human trafficking is an issue that touches every community, including Sacramento County youth.

Since September 2015, Sacramento County Child Protective Services has identified 199 adolescents who were sexually exploited or at risk of being sexually exploited. 98 percent of those youth are female with the median age of 13-17, and a disproportionately high number of these youth – 45 percent are African American.

Child Protective Services (CPS) is the lead agency charged with providing services and support, including placement, for these vulnerable youth. CPS has a significant need for Foster Families, now called Resource Families, to provide loving and stable homes for all children and youth that enter foster care. There is a specific need for youth that have been sexually exploited. Learn more about becoming a Resource Family and/or adoptive parent by attending a Resource Family/Adoptive Parent Orientation or call 916-875-5543.

In 2015, the District Attorney's Office created Sacramento Together – a Human Trafficking Task Force coalition. Sacramento Together wants to raise awareness about this issue and encourage all members of the public to attend a showing of the documentary entitled, "California's Forgotten Children." This film gives viewers the tools to combat this epidemic.

The Sacramento County District Attorney's Office is also part of a number of collaborative efforts to rescue and assist victims including; Sacramento Together Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition.

"California's Forgotten Children" is a feature documentary about child sex trafficking.

**LOCAL SHOWING:** CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) and University of the Pacific George School of Law on January 31 at 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. The address is 3200 5th Ave, Sacramento, CA 95817, Classroom C. There are 150 seats available, first come first served. There is free street parking. ★

**Sacramento Steps Forward** is a nonprofit organization committed to ending homelessness in our region through collaboration, innovation, and connecting people to services. Walking side-by-side with our partners, we seek to provide people experiencing homelessness with the support and services they need to find stability and long-term housing. Since 2012, Sacramento Steps Forward has been the lead agency for Sacramento's Homeless Continuum of Care. ★

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# Connecting Parks for Safe Recreation

City Hosts Open House for Electric Greenway Trail Project



Local residents offer input on Citrus Heights' proposed Electric Greenway Trail Project.

*Continued from page 1*  
our private area to become accessible.” They are also worried that the project plans to pave over a floodplain behind their home, which they believe would exacerbate flooding in that area. The floodplain is a wildlife area featuring heritage oaks, and Safonov and Thomas do not want to see that area disturbed. Thomas said, “Apparently they can do whatever they want as long as they mitigate for it, but putting little trees in another area to replace those heritage oaks just isn’t the same.”  
Safonov suggested that the engineers could re-route the trail rather than trying to re-engineer the floodplain area. “The floodplain has been there for 50 years, longer than the city.”  
Jerry and Linda Lemon like the idea of the trail project, and Linda said “I’m 100% in.” She explained

that riding her bike in the City currently requires her to pass through some areas where she doesn’t feel safe, and she believes the Electric Greenway Trail will create a safer environment for local recreation. “It will promote physical activity and family activity,” she said.  
Jerry Lemon said, “I like that it connects parks together. You can go for a bike ride and stop to rest in a park.”  
Sergeant James Evans of the Citrus Heights Police Department said that some residents are concerned that the trails will increase the transient population in the area or encourage illegal activity, but he explained that similar trail projects have not found that to be true. Evans said that many local residences already have hidden dirt trails behind their properties, and that open trails with wide paved areas, bright lighting,

and lots of foot traffic will actually discourage criminal activity. And Officer James Garing said that the trails will be wide enough to allow access for police cars, ambulances, and fire trucks—so emergency services will be able to more quickly address any issues that might occur.  
Kathlynn Carpenter with Sunrise MarketPlace said the trail will be “a nice amenity and will bring positive awareness to the City. It has great connectivity and will bring more footsteps to the district.”  
Mayor Jeannie Bruins supports the project, saying, “I’m all for it...It will be a wonderful addition to the City.”  
The project is still in the preliminary planning phases and environmental analysis is currently underway. Construction is expected to commence in spring of 2021 and be completed in 2022.★

# Local Businesses Celebrate Ribbon Cutting Events



Jackson Hewitt Tax Service held their grand opening ribbon cutting on Friday, January 4th. They are located at 7871 Lichen Drive in Citrus Heights. District Manager Anthony Norman and Assistant District Manager Dee Hayes, surrounded by their team and Citrus Heights Chamber representatives, cut the ribbon.



Hernandez Law & Realty held their grand opening/relocation ribbon cutting on Friday, December 21. They are located at 6939 Sunrise Blvd, Suite 111 in Citrus Heights. Managing Attorney Kristy Hernandez, surrounded by her team and Citrus Heights Chamber representatives, cut the ribbon.

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# Under Threat of Lawsuit, City Council Declares Intent to Switch to District-based Elections

*Continued from page 1*  
elections. If the City voluntarily transitions to district-based elections under Safe Harbor, it retains control over determining district boundaries with input from the community through the public hearing process. A written agreement between the City and the prospective plaintiff can add an additional 90 days to the process, for a total of 180 days to conduct public outreach and determine district boundaries, and Mr. Shenkman has expressed willingness to agree to the extension.  
The City does not acknowledge that any CVRA violation has occurred due to the current at-large election system, but since public agencies that have litigated this issue ended up paying millions of dollars to prevailing plaintiff attorneys, the recommendation was for the

City to adopt a resolution declaring the Council’s intent to transition to district-based elections under the Safe Harbor provision.  
In the proposed district-based election system, the City will be divided into separate districts with one councilmember residing in each district. Adopting the resolution of intent will not affect the terms of any of the current councilmembers. Regardless of what boundaries are drawn in the districting process, all current councilmembers will serve their full four-year terms. But when a councilmember’s term ends, they will only be able to run for election in the new district where they live.  
During public comment on this issue, local resident David Warren expressed concern that “the City is being extorted by this attorney to generate fees.” He suggested that before

the City Council votes on this issue they investigate whether Shenkman actually has the legal authority to file a lawsuit for this jurisdiction. Warren believes that creating districts within the City will ensure small groups of people will control the decisions for everyone. He said, “We will not be benefitted by this...We need the best people on the City Council, even if they happen to live near each other.”  
Mayor Jeannie Bruins said, “I feel like we’re being held hostage. If even one city had prevailed against these lawsuits, we might have a hair of a chance. But it’s not a good use of taxpayer dollars to lose a case.” She called for a vote, and the Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution. Mayor Bruins said, “It reluctantly carries.”★

Three people are smiling and posing for a photo. A man on the left is wearing a plaid shirt and glasses. A woman in the middle is wearing a pink top and glasses. A woman on the right is wearing a blue jacket and glasses.

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A portrait of Paul V. Scholl, the publisher of the Citrus Heights Messenger.

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The logo for the Citrus Heights Messenger, featuring the text "Citrus Heights Messenger" and the tagline "Written by the people, for the people".

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# A Vital Emergency Bridge Program for Foster Children

By Andrea Hansen,  
Sacramento County  
Media

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Counties throughout California are working to recruit loving families to care for foster children, but some families may feel they cannot afford to bring a foster child into their home due to budget constraints. To increase the number of foster parents and meet the needs of foster children, the Emergency Child Care Bridge Program for Foster Children was established for counties to help caregivers pay for child care until they find other subsidized child care or are able to pay for child care themselves.

Introduced in January 2018, the Bridge Program aims to increase the number of stable, sustainable family placements for children in foster care. The program provides eligible caregivers vouchers to pay for child care. These vouchers help ensure that caregivers have adequate support to balance work and home lives and increase the likelihood of a smooth transition.

In 2018-19, 46 counties opted in to receive a portion of the \$31 million allocated to provide Bridge Program services. As of November 30, the program in Sacramento County had served 72 foster children in nearly 60 foster families.

On December 11, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors approved a nearly \$500,000 increase of the Bridge Program contract funding to expand child care support services. The \$1.3 million budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19 will be used to contract with Child Action, Inc., the local child care



Counties throughout California are working to recruit loving families to care for foster children.

resource and referral agency, for Child Care Vouchers, Navigator Services and Trauma-Informed Care Training/Coaching.

“With more parents working outside the home, the ability to recruit and retain foster parents is becoming more challenging,” said Michelle Callejas, Sacramento County Director of Child, Family and Adult Services. “The Bridge Program is vital to help the Department of Child, Family and Adult Services place more local foster children in homes where they will receive high-quality care. The amendment of the contract will allow our department to support even more families who open their homes and hearts to foster children.”

The Bridge Program is comprised of three major components. This includes emergency child care vouchers that are issued to eligible families to cover child care costs for children ages 0-12 for 6 to 12 months; support from a child care navigator who will work with families to find a child care provider, assist with completion of child care applications, and develop a plan for long-term child care; as well as trauma-informed care training so child care providers

can learn strategies for working with children in foster care, many of whom have experienced trauma.

There are many types of families in the foster care system who are eligible for the Bridge Program: Resource families that have completed the Resource Family Approval (RFA) process; Foster Family Agency-approved or County-approved homes; families who care for foster children in an emergency placement; an approved relative or a non-related extended family member; parenting youth and non-minor dependents; or those who have children placed with them for a compelling reason.

For additional information on the Bridge Program, contact Bridge Program Contract Monitor, Gloria Bedford.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a resource family or adoptive parent for local foster children, attend the next Resource Family/Adoptive Parent Orientation, or call 916-875-5543, and visit the Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services Resource Family web page. ★

# bizfile California Filing Tool Continues to Expand

Secretary of State Encourages California Entrepreneurs

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Secretary of State’s online business entity document filing and search hub — bizfile California — serves as an important tool for California entrepreneurs. In the past year, bizfile was expanded to allow Californians to file trademarks and servicemarks and form Limited Liability Companies (LLCs) online. Now, Californians can use an online form to terminate their LLC. Click here for the new LLC Termination tool.

“Bizfile California is making it easier to do business in our state,” Secretary of State Alex Padilla said. “Expanding bizfile California helps entrepreneurs avoid the lengthier review turnaround time associated with paper filings. As we increase our online business tool offerings, we’re also decreasing

the rejection rate for common business filings. As California business owners and entrepreneurs are preparing for end of year filings, they can avoid the lines at the office by going online and utilizing bizfile California.”

**Tools available through bizfile California:**

- LLC Statement of Information Online Submission Tool. Since the initial bizfile launch in June 2017, 606,285 online LLC Statements of Information filings have been processed.
- California Business Search Tool. Over 13.6 million Corporation, LLC, and LP records are available for free download.
- How to Start a Business in California brochure and

check list.

- Online Trademark Submission Tool. There have been over 4,626 submissions since tool was launched January 2018.
- LLC Formation Online Submission Tool. Launched in May 2018, the documents required to form an LLC can now be filed online. Since launch, we have processed 54,693 LLC Formation online submissions
- Eureka Chatbot. Our new artificial intelligence search assistant—launched May 2018—helps customers easily navigate business resources on the Secretary of State’s website. Eureka has already answered over 29,778 questions.

Source: SOS Press Office ★

# Influenza is Increasing throughout California

By Corey Egel, CDPH

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) today announced that influenza activity is increasing throughout California. Health officials encourage Californians to get vaccinated.

“It is important to get vaccinated now if you have not done so already,” said CDPH Director and State Public Health Officer Dr. Karen Smith. “I encourage everyone six months of age and older to be vaccinated to help protect themselves and others from the dangers of flu.”

Flu activity is occurring throughout every region of the state and above expected levels for this time of year.

Although the severity of the flu season cannot yet be determined, Californians should take precautions, including vaccination.

“Flu activity usually reaches its peak January and February, but typically continues to spread through the spring,” said Dr. Smith.

Each year, the flu causes millions of illnesses, hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations and thousands or sometimes tens of thousands of deaths in the United States.


Common symptoms of the flu include fever or feeling feverish, a cough and/or sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, chills, fatigue and body aches. Children may also have nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.

To stop the spread of flu and other respiratory illnesses, CDPH recommends these steps: Stay home when sick; Cover a cough or sneeze with an elbow or tissue and throw the tissue in the trash; Wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer; Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

Californians should contact their health care provider, pharmacy or a clinic about obtaining the flu vaccine. Some local health departments may also offer low- or no-cost flu shots. For more information about the flu, including weekly updates on flu activity, visit the CDPH influenza web page.

Source: www.cdph.ca.gov ★

## The Exciting New World of Snap On Dentures!



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### Rummage Sale

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By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

Have you ever thought about it? In the first book of the Bible the words tell us that every one of us is created in the likeness or image of God. (Ref. Gen. 1:26) And doesn't that also fall true when a little baby is born to one of us humans? Our bodies then become the "Temple of the Holy Spirit". So if those words are true, aren't we also pleased when our children resemble our likeness? Meditate on those words a while and you might ask yourself questions as to why we ever do things that dishonor our bodies! Why do we say or do unkind things to it and dishonor how God designed us? Why does God even allow us to even do those things and dishonor and destroy His creation?

In our world today we observe that many people do not even know who

God Created "You" in His Image

God IS, nor do they even acknowledge God as the Creator of all that exists. The very presence of a Christian who exemplifies the Light and Love of God to them presents a sense of "conviction" that they do not understand when they experience it! Instead those people ridicule, accuse and sometimes even persecute them, never realizing a Christian's desire is to exemplify and introduce them to the love of Jesus Christ.

Every Christian's journey is to know and love God is on the same path of Salvation because of Jesus shed blood and death on the Cross. Yet due to each personality and ability to surrender yield to His Will for life, we all travel that road a bit similar but at a different speed. For some they grow quickly and for others it takes a lifetime. We do not judge each other because of it, we are filled with joy at every level of progress.

Are you a person with curiosity about this question? Have you been guilty of eating too much or the wrong things and you have gained weight? Or maybe you have been drinking the wrong things or take drugs that give you a false sense of being? Dear one - they are destroying you! Maybe you have been covering your body with tattoos trying to cover-up or don't like how God made you. Dear one, God loves you and He wants you to know it and that is why you are reading this article. God is speaking to your heart right now and He wants you to find a group of people who will love you and help you to know and love Him because He desires a personal relationship with you.

You were born for a purpose! Believe me dear one. It took me 34 years to experience knowing and understanding God's love. For some it even takes longer. As the saying goes "STOP AND SMELL THE ROSES". Seek to find God and follow His teachings as written in the HOLY BIBLE. There are promises from God that will change, transform, heal and transform your life when you follow them. Possibly begin with the words of the Ten Commandments and surrender and go on from there.

Write me and share with me, I will be glad to help and encourage you in your personal journey.

Marlys Johnsen Norris  
Author, Stephens Minister, Teacher  
Marlysfnj@gmail.com  
PO Box 114, Orangevale, Ca ★



By Pastor Ray Dare

Usually we think that God only uses really gifted, multi-talented people. But that's not true! God uses ordinary people. God uses imperfect people. You don't have to be perfect to help other people. If that were true, nobody would get helped! You just must be headed in the right direction. If you are just one step ahead of somebody else, guess what? You're a leader! You can help that person take their next step.

If you're in recovery for one reason or another (and the truth is we all need recovery in some way), the proof of your recovery is when you begin to focus outside yourself. You're no longer self-absorbed with "my problems, my hurts, my needs," and your focus begins to shift, "How can I help other people?" The Bible says, "God comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When others are

Pastor Ray's Encouraging Words

Share Hope with Others

troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. So, when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your benefit...we can be an encouragement to you." 2 Cor. 1:1,4 (NLT)

Your greatest contribution to the world will not be through your strengths. It will be through your pain, through your problems, the difficulties that you've gone through. People are helped when you're honest, when you're authentic about your weaknesses, problems and pain. When people see your strengths they think, "Well that's great for him! That's great for her! But I'll never be that! I could never do that!" But when you share about your weaknesses, when you say, "I went through this pain...I went through this difficulty...I had this problem...but this is how God brought me through it. This is how God helped me." People can relate to that, and they begin to think, "Maybe God can help me too? Maybe God can see me through my situation too?"

Don't waste your pain. Begin to give hope to others. Everybody needs hope, because everybody is hurting in some way. People need hope to cope. That's why God wants you to share your story. Share how God has helped you. You don't have to be a Bible genius to share your story. You don't have to have all the answers. You simply say, "This is how God is changing me...this is what God is doing in my life."

I want to encourage you to begin sharing your hope with other people, your story. People could care less about your religion. They don't want to hear about religion. What people are starving for is hope. Share your story how God has given you hope, it's that simple. As you begin to share with others you will begin to see hope rise on the inside others and God will begin helping them the same way He's helped you.

Pastor Ray  
New Beginnings Church  
10am Sundays, You're invited!  
www.NBC4U.org ★

Senator Ted Gaines Sworn in as First District Board of Equalization Member

By Dave Titus

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Senator Ted Gaines (R-El Dorado) was sworn in as an elected Member of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE) during a ceremony held at the Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building in Downtown Sacramento. The oath of office was administered by Governor Gavin Newsom.

"I am excited to continue serving Californians as a taxpayer advocate," said Senator Gaines. "My new role as a BOE Member comes with different challenges and opportunities, but my number one priority is to ensure hardworking Californians are allowed fair tax policies that create jobs and grow our economy."

Senator Gaines will represent more than nine million California residents living in the 1st Equalization District, which spans inland California from



Senator Ted Gaines (R-El Dorado)

Beverage Tax, and Tax on Insurers programs.

"Californians should be treated with respect and fairness when it comes to tax administration. They are tired of being over-taxed, and over-regulated. I pledge to fight on their behalf," said Senator Gaines.

Prior to being elected to

the BOE, Senator Gaines served 12 years in the State Legislature as a tireless advocate for California's taxpayers, ratepayers, businesses and families. He fought to protect citizen privacy and led major efforts to bring thousands of new jobs to the state, as well as support critical legislation to strengthen and expand California's infrastructure.

In addition to his life in public service, Senator Gaines is a successful small business owner, having owned Gaines Insurance for more than 30 years. He has been married to his wife Beth since 1986 and together they reside in El Dorado County and are blessed with six children and two grandchildren.

As a constitutional officer, Senator Gaines is currently the highest-ranking elected Republican state official in California.

Source: Office of Ted Gaines ★

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# Sacramento County DA Reports

**Defendant Sentenced for Multiple Child Sexual Assaults**  
**DATE:** January 11, 2019  
**CASE:** Johnathan Nesmon (Case #18FE008225)  
**PROSECUTOR:** Deputy District Attorney Bruce Chang, Cyber Crimes Unit

The Honorable Michael Sweet sentenced Johnathan Nesmon to 25 years to life in prison. On October 18, 2018, Nesmon pled no contest to committing a sex act with a child under the age of 10 and lewd and lascivious touching of a child under the age of 14.

On April 10, 2018, a citizen called the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department to report that she saw images of Nesmon sexually abusing a 7-year-old girl on Nesmon's cell phone. When the Sheriff's Department contacted the victim, she reported that Nesmon had been sexually assaulting her for several years. Nesmon assaulted the victim in a number of locations, including a toy store parking lot, a store dressing room and a motel. The Sacramento County Sheriff's High-Tech Crimes and Child Abuse Unit recovered thousands of child pornography digital images on Nesmon's devices.

**Defendant Convicted of Sexual Assaults, Kidnapping**  
**DATE:** January 9, 2019  
**CASE:** Raphael Garcia (Case #15F06936)  
**PROSECUTOR:** Deputy District Attorney Paris Coleman, Adult Sexual Assault Prosecution Unit

Raphael Garcia was convicted by a jury of kidnapping with intent to commit rape, two counts of sexual penetration, attempted rape, and lewd acts with a minor.

On October 26, 2015, Garcia dragged a female Cosumnes River College student into a men's bathroom on campus and sexually assaulted her. The next day, Garcia touched and sexually propositioned a 15-year-old high school student near the same campus.

Los Rios police and Sacramento police detectives connected Garcia to these crimes through DNA evidence and a photograph taken by the quick-thinking 15-year-old victim, who took a photo of Garcia with her cell phone.

Garcia faces a maximum sentence of 27 years to life in prison. Sentencing is set for February 4, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. in

Department 9 before the Honorable Sharon Luercas.

**Defendants Plead Guilty in Three Separate Animal Cruelty Cases**  
**DATE:** January 8, 2019  
**CASE:** Dezhi Zheng (Case #18FE012951), Tyler Blankenship (Case #18FE022659), Elias Rocco (Case #18FE018041)  
**PROSECUTOR:** Supervising Deputy District Attorney Hilary Bagley-Franzoia, Animal Cruelty Unit

Three defendants pled guilty in separate animal cruelty cases:

Forty-three-year-old Dezhi Zheng pled to felony animal neglect after three dogs were seized in November 2017 from the backyard of a house Zheng and others used as a marijuana grow in south Sacramento. One dog was allowed to suffer a deep laceration to its neck from an embedded wire, which was used as a collar. Surgery at the Bradshaw Sacramento County Animal Shelter was required to remove necrotic tissue. Zheng was the primary 'caretaker' for the dogs.

Twenty-three-year-old Tyler Blankenship pled to felony animal cruelty from his malicious treatment of a kitten. On November 12, 2018, Blankenship became irate when he learned that his girlfriend could not keep a 6 to 8-month-old kitten that he had gifted to her. Blankenship grabbed the kitten from his girlfriend and threw the animal as hard as possible into a fence. The kitten died immediately from multiple skull fractures.

Twenty-two-year-old Elias Rocco pled to felony animal neglect stemming from his abandonment of a dog and cat in an apartment from which he had been evicted. The adult dog had been left in its own filth within a small crate. When found in June 2018, neither animal had food or water and both animals were in very poor condition.

All three defendants will be placed on 5 years formal probation and will be prohibited from owning, possessing, residing with, maintaining or caring for any animal for 10 years. Blankenship will also be ordered to complete 12 anger management classes.

Sentencings and periods of incarceration for Zheng and Blankenship are pending in Department 62 before the Honorable Patrick Marlette. ★





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**1) BE MORE POSITIVE.** A negative outlook brings out the worst in all of us. Be uplifting and allow your Personality to shine.

**2) EXAMINE YOUR FRIENDSHIPS.** Where

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do you find your friends? Are most of your friendships long term or short? When your friendships end, what is the common cause? What types of people do you prefer to be friends with? What types of people do you avoid? **3) KEEP A JOURNAL.** There's no better way to learn about yourself than to record your thoughts, feelings and experiences each day. Studies have shown we do not remember our past very accurately, so record it while it's still fresh in your mind. Be sure to include your high and low points for the day. **4) WRITE YOUR OWN PERSONAL MISSION STATEMENT.** Think about and then document your views on life, your goals, and your intentions. It's a great step for understanding yourself and your beliefs. **5) BE YOURSELF.** Just like your mom said. Pretending to be someone you're not is dishonest. It's also hard on your self-esteem. Embrace the parts of you that are unique and share them with others. Some people will like you while others do not. That's true regardless of your personality. **6) IDENTIFY YOUR PRIORITIES IN LIFE.** Be intentional each day

about doing something that honors those priorities. **7) BE MINDFUL OF YOUR THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS.** Ask yourself, “What is going on in my head right now?” Is it positive or negative and why? **8) LEARN TO LOVE YOURSELF.** Instead of beating yourself up over every mistake, learn to accept your faults. **9) PRACTICE FORGIVENESS OF YOURSELF AND OTHERS.** Not always easy to do, but necessary. **10) LEARN TO LET GO OF MISTAKES ONCE YOU HAVE LEARNED THE LESSON.** It's important not to hang on to negative ideas and experiences.

That should get you started. Add that you should love yourself emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. And, **Cheryl** told me it is important to stop comparing ourselves to others and free yourself from seeking approval. There's lots more too. Check out more of the tenants that will put you to the path to being **YOU!** [www.Cherylspeaks.org](http://www.Cherylspeaks.org) will help you get there. Don't forget...living authentically in purpose on purpose will **SET YOU FREE.** ★



Dave Ramsey Says

not what the typical financial planner tells you to do. For the most part, they'll tell you to get super conservative with your money as you get older. But from what you've said, she's not going to use this money. She's going to use the income from this money. So, the money's going to be left alone. If she's in good mutual funds, and not single stocks, I'm not worried about her.

Let's pay off the mortgage, and then she can start taking her income off the remainder. With the house payment out of the way, she won't need as much in terms of income, because she won't be sending money to the bank to pay the note on the house anymore. I'm comfortable with that. I'm 58, and I'm 100 percent into stocks through mutual funds. I don't have anything else, and I really don't ever plan on changing that! —Dave

**Changing jobs and retirement savings**

Dear Dave,

What happens to my Roth 401(k) when I change jobs and go to a company that doesn't offer this type of investment savings account? How should you proceed in

this situation? —Jamie

Dear Jamie,

I know what you mean, man. We're in the media business, too, and around my office it seems like we buy more and newer technology every day. Really, it's like a black hole. You could throw money into it the rest of your life, because practically the very moment you open the box it's obsolete.

We finally decided to designate a percentage of our revenues to equipment replacement. Something is always being replaced, but this way we've got a limit and we've got something set aside to make our technology needs happen. It's like the envelope system. If the envelope's empty, we have to stop buying and put off whatever it is until the cash is available again.

I hope this helps! —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 13 million listeners each week on 585 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at [daveramsey.com](http://daveramsey.com) and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey. ★*

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# CHEERS & JEERS

*by Damian Holbrook*

## Jeers to a 90210 Reboot

that is just the (peach) pits. Instead of reviving the classic Fox soap, the proposed update currently being considered is a mockumentary featuring most of original cast playing fictionalized versions of themselves trying to get a reboot started. It's like Donna Martin's graduation doesn't even matter anymore!

***Jeers to ignoring one of  
the faces of Eve.***

Yes, BBC America's *Killing Eve* scored Emmy, Golden Globe and SAG nominations for the awesome Sandra Oh, but she wasn't the only powerhouse putting in 100 percent. Jodie Comer (pictured) totally deserves

accolades for her turn as assassin Villanelle, and it kills us that she was overlooked.

## Cheers to The Arrowverse

for putting the comic into comic-book TV. The CW's epic "Elseworlds" crossover event saw Supergirl, Arrow and The Flash take on a body-swapping bad-die with the heroic help of a Batwoman (Ruby Rose) worthy of her own show, an out-of-this-world Superman (Tyler Hoechlin) and more humor than ever. Who knew Oliver Queen (Stephen Amell) was so funny?

***Cheers to Megan Mullally***

for hosting the SAG Awards. She's fierce, funny and so far hasn't



**A mockumentary featuring most of original cast playing fictionalized versions of themselves trying to get a reboot started**

tweeted anything offensive enough to get her booted. Finally, a reason to watch two hours of famous people telling other famous people how great they are ★

involving various NOAH scientists and test subjects. I understand there's skepticism when it comes to network TV's commitment to stories this big—there's a reason *Game of Thrones* ended up on HBO—and if Fox drops the ball before *The Passage* goes to the next level, it would seem a very hot prospect for a streaming service. But for now, I'll give Fox the benefit of the doubt. Network TV ought to be tackling more ambitious projects, and we should encourage them instead of letting all the best stuff go to cable and Netflix.

To submit questions to TV Critic Matt Roush, go to: [tvinsider.com](http://tvinsider.com) ★



## ASK MATT

## Are Netflix Shows Too Short?

**Question:** Is *The Passage* worth watching? I could see it done well on HBO or Netflix, who are good at turning books into good TV, but Fox? —Warren

**Matt Roush:** I can only report on the first three episodes, and they're solid. I've read the first two books in Justin Cronin's epic horror trilogy, so I have an idea of the incredible scope of the story.

which spans many years. My understanding from last summer's Television Critics Association session is that the first season will deal primarily with the sinister doings in the labs of Project NOAH, which bring about the vampire apocalypse. And what I've seen so far has stayed tightly focused on NOAH's search for young Amy (Saniyya Sidney) and her protector, Agent Brad Wolgast (Mark-Paul Gosselaar), with subplots



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# City Council Approves Affordable Housing Development on Sunrise Blvd.

Story by  
Shaunna Boyd

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - On January 10, the Citrus Heights City Council heard a presentation about a proposed affordable housing development—Sunrise Pointe— which would be located at 7424 Sunrise Blvd. on a 2.35-acre vacant lot on the east side of Sunrise Blvd. between Oak Ave. and Old Auburn Rd. The property is the former site of Abel’s Christmas Tree Lot.

The developer, Jamboree Housing Corporation, is a non-profit with 28 years of experience in developing high-quality affordable communities. Michael Massie, senior vice president of Jamboree, stated that there is a housing crisis in California and it is “vital and necessary” to provide housing for those in need—like seniors, veterans, and those with disabilities. Jamboree is partnering with TLCS, which will provide services to the residents of Sunrise Pointe. TLCS is a non-profit that has been providing mental health and supportive housing services in Sacramento County for almost 40 years.

Sunrise Pointe is a \$23 million project, with multiple funding sources, including private investments and state and federal affordable housing funds. Jamboree has made a 55-year commitment to maintain the development as affordable housing. “We are long-term holders. We intend to be partners in this neighborhood,” said Massie. He explained that his company’s affordable housing developments typically encounter neighborhood resistance at first, “but the community learns that we are good neighbors.”

Sunrise Pointe is a family-focused project that would provide affordable permanent housing to help tenants work toward continued independence and stability. A property manager would reside on-site, and a variety of services would be provided to residents through TLCS. Residents with children would also be provided on-site after school care.

Jamboree requested significant input from neighbors during the planning process and has amended their design in response to community concerns.

Typically, development projects of this type would be approved by the Planning Commission, but the developers were asking for a specific parking concession that needed to be approved by the City Council. The property is zoned for commercial use but is being developed for residential use, so two sections of code apply and are in conflict. Residential use states that parking cannot be placed in a setback, while setback parking is allowed under the commercial code. Affordable housing projects are eligible for concessions if the concession is needed to ensure economic feasibility. Massie explained that if the residential code setback requirements are enforced, the project will have to reduce the number of units from 47 to 40, which would result in a loss of over \$2.5 million in capital funding and hinder them from providing the level of services that are currently planned.

During public comment, some local residents spoke in support of the project because they feel Citrus Heights needs a place to serve those in need within the community. One resident cited the high number of “families without homes” in the San Juan School District, many of whom are in Citrus Heights. He said an affordable housing development could help these families survive and ensure the kids have somewhere safe to sleep each night.

Many neighbors with homes adjacent to the proposed development voiced concerns about the plan. Some speakers were worried about increased traffic congestion in the area. Others were concerned about having people with potential substance abuse issues living in the neighborhood. Some speakers don’t want a low-income housing development in the neighborhood because they feel it will devalue their own homes. Others were

worried that the landscaping trees won’t be mature enough to offer any real privacy between the properties and that the tree maintenance will affect their properties, with leaves and branches falling in their yards.

Councilmember Bret Daniels said, “We do need affordable housing. This project addresses a need.” Regarding the neighbors’ concerns, he said, “We can’t eliminate impact, but we need to minimize it.”

Councilmember Porsche Middleton said she appreciates the developer’s flexibility throughout the process and sees this project as an opportunity for people to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness. She acknowledged the concerns of the neighbors, but said “We have to find a balance between needs.”

Councilmember Steve Miller said that Jamboree’s architecture and design are extremely high quality. He acknowledged the concerns of the local residents, saying, “This change will be difficult, I appreciate that.” But he noted that they can’t expect an empty lot to remain empty forever.

Mayor Jeannie Bruins said she sees the major issue as parking located too close to the adjacent properties. “We should require that the amount of parking be reduced.” She said Jamboree put in more parking than they needed in order to meet the City’s code, so they would be amenable to reducing the number of spaces.

The Council voted to approve the project with the following revisions: change to an 8 ft. wall all the way around the property, specify that the landscape plan should include the installation of mature trees to increase the privacy screen, ensure that neighbors are asked for input during the tree-selection process, and require Jamboree to provide neighbors with regular construction updates. The Council approved the parking concession (with one “no” vote from Councilmember Daniels) on the condition that the number of parking spaces be reduced. ★



By County  
Supervisor  
Sue Frost

*Through the generosity of the Citrus Heights Messenger, this column serves to provide an update about matters affecting the community of Citrus Heights.*

At the beginning of 2018, Sacramento County launched an ambitious new program that attempted to prioritize getting the 250 homeless people who cost the most amount of money each year in taxpayer dollars, into permanent housing. Some of these homeless people are costing the county upwards of \$150,000 a year, so it made sense to me to focus our efforts on getting them off the streets. Now that it’s been around a year since we launched that program, I wanted to explain to you how the program works, and share with you the exciting news regarding how successful it has been.

As soon as the program was established last year, the Sheriff’s department in coordination with Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services and the Sacramento County Department of Technology established the list of the 250 people costing the most money. The 250 people come from all over the county, from cities like Citrus Heights to unincorporated communities like Orangevale. These costs primarily come in the form of emergency room visits, jail visits, and utilizing

## Citrus Heights Community Update

### Tackling the High Cost of Homelessness

alcohol, drug, and mental health services — all of which can be quite costly.

Once the 250 people were chosen, they were assigned to individual case managers, who then had the job of physically locating them in the community. This is no easy task, and can often be one of the largest obstacles to getting them treatment. Once they are found, they are told that they are eligible for fast-tracked housing and services, but convincing them to take part in it can be its own challenge. On average, this is the 7th housing program they have been affiliated with, and their level of trust with the government has often eroded. Many remain skeptical that they aren’t going to just get put on another list where nothing happens.

Once they sign up for the program, the case manager helps to clear any obstacles that may prevent them from getting the assistance they need. They will ensure they have met all their court requirements, are taking the proper medications, have a valid identification card, have a social security card, etc. After all these obstacles are lifted, they are then placed straight into housing that is wrapped in social services on-site.

The housing currently available to them are apartment style units that are located in the Del Paso Heights area and in South Sacramento. We are using apartment style housing for a couple key reasons. First, it allows us to acquire the number of units we need in a much faster and more affordable way. Second, it allows us to save on staffing costs, since our social services staff stays on-site instead of travelling

long distances between visits.

Many of my constituents were skeptical when this program was announced because they thought it would be a waste of time. They felt that these 250 homeless people would never accept county services. To be honest with you I had some doubts as well, but remained optimistic that even if we were able to house a small portion of this segment of the homeless population, it would be a successful program.

I am thrilled to be able to report to you that 196 of the 250 have signed up for the program (including the #1 most expensive person), and 109 of them have already been housed! This is an incredible feat, and I am thrilled with the result thus far.

I know it is easy to become frustrated and jaded when trying to tackle the growing problem of homelessness in our community. The problem is so large that it can sometimes feel overwhelming. But if we focus on prudent solutions to this problem that are mindful of protecting taxpayer dollars, we can make some positive strides in the right direction, and this program is evidence of just that.

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

Sue Frost represents the 4th District, which includes all or part of the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, Rio Linda, Elverta, Gold River, Rancho Murietta, North Highlands, Carmichael, Foothill Farms, Fair Oaks and Rancho Cordova. ★

## River Cats to Host Job Fairs

More than 400 open positions at annual Raley Field job fair



By Daniel Emmons,  
River Cats

**WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento River Cats will be hosting their annual job fairs on Saturday, January 26 and on Saturday, February 9 at Raley Field in West Sacramento. Those interested in working for the River Cats during the 2019 season are encouraged to attend these free events. Hiring managers will conduct interviews during each event and

will be prepared to extend job offers on the spot.

The River Cats have some 400 part-time and seasonal positions available for the upcoming 2019 baseball season. Some of the available positions include bartenders, concessions, parking attendants, stadium operations, Cat Crew, On Deck Shop sales clerks, and more. A full list of available positions is available at rivercats.com.

All applicants must be at least 16 years of age. For positions that serve alcohol, applicants must be at least 21 years old.

The two events are

to be held on the suite level at Raley Field on Saturday, January 26 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. and on Saturday, February 9 from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Interested applicants must submit an on-line application prior to attending the job fair by visiting rivercats.com/employment.

For questions and inquiries, please call (916) 376-4722.

The Sacramento River Cats are the Triple-A affiliate of the three-time World Champion San Francisco Giants. The team plays at Raley Field in West Sacramento, consistently voted one of the top ballparks in America. For more information about the River Cats, visit www.rivercats.com. ★

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