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Citrus Heights Messenger

"Written by the people, for the people"

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Humbled to Serve

City Council Affirms New Member and Votes to Annex into SacRT



Newly elected council member Porsche Middleton recites the oath of office.

**Story and photos
by Shaunna Boyd**

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - The Citrus Heights City Council meeting on December 13 began with the certification of the November 6 election results. Outgoing councilmember Al Fox was recognized by the Council for his dedicated service, and he was presented with a proclamation acknowledging his passion for civic engagement. Mayor Steve Miller and Vice Mayor Jeannie Bruins were both re-elected to the City Council and recited the oath of office. Newly elected council member Porsche Middleton took the oath of office and then took her seat on the Council, saying she was "honored and humbled to serve." Miller nominated Bruins to take over as mayor for the new term and she was unanimously approved by the Council. Mayor Bruins then nominated council member Jeff

Slowey for vice mayor, and he was also unanimously approved. Citrus Heights Chief of Police Ronald Lawrence introduced a new K-9 officer, a two-year-old black lab named Farley. Partnered with Officer Dave Moranz, Farley is a drug-detection dog who has been on the job for just a few weeks. In that short time, he has already alerted on numerous drug shipments, leading to multiple arrests. The Council unanimously voted to establish an ordinance for the preservation of street trees and landmark trees, which was a necessary step in order for the city to submit an application for the honorary designation of Tree City, USA. To qualify, a city must have a street tree ordinance, have a dedicated tree department, expend money on tree care and preservation, and celebrate Arbor Day. The city held their first Arbor Day celebration this year and has plans for

a much bigger celebration in 2019. City staff explained that homeless shelters in the county are currently at about 90% capacity, and this problem becomes more critical during the winter months. A state program, Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), would provide additional funding to expand existing shelters and create some new shelters throughout the county. To qualify for HEAP funding, the city must declare shelter crisis, which states that a significant number of persons in the city do not have the ability to obtain shelter and that the situation is a threat to their health and safety. Approximately 8% of the county's homeless population lives in Citrus Heights. Sacramento County, the City of Sacramento, and the City of Elk Grove have all already declared shelter crisis, and Rancho Cordova is also expected to declare. All the participating jurisdictions
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Sac RT Holding Open Meetings on Future Plans

**By Susan Peters,
County Supervisor**

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento region has significantly changed since the Sacramento Regional Transit (SacRT) network was first established 30 years ago and now an effort, SacRT Forward, is underway to rethink the purpose and design of the region's entire transit network. Community Outreach Meetings are being held this month. SacRT Forward is exploring wholesale changes to the transit network including a "blank slate" look at how to position transit competitively long-term in the region. That's important because traditionally transit services have been focused on downtown employment, but more recently trends have been emerging to redesign transit services to compete for distributed work trips as well. Land use, travel patterns, economic centers and transportation technology in our region have transformed and SacRT believes so should the public transportation system. *For more information about meetings and the others scheduled this month, <http://www.sacrtforward.com/>* ★

Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony Sets the Mood for Christmas in Citrus Heights

By Elise Spleiss

CITRUS HEIGHTS (MPG) - The Citrus Heights Community Marching Band (CHCMB), dancing mice, strolling carolers, and of course Santa Claus and his elves were highlights of the annual Citrus Heights Tree Lighting ceremony at City Hall on December 6. A 12-foot Rudolph the Reindeer overlooked festivities as hundreds of excited children and their families spent an evening enjoying the good weather, games, music, refreshments and entertainment. As is tradition, the 50-piece Citrus Heights Community Marching Band (CHCMB) started

off the event for early attendees with a 30-minute concert of traditional holiday tunes. Jingle Julie again led the crowd in Christmas songs and Mayor Steve Miller welcomed all. At 6:30 Miller led the countdown as he and Santa hit the switch to light the majestic 23-foot redwood tree. City Manager Chris Boyd and other city council members were also in attendance. 'Other Cheek' face painting by Sue created dozens of festive feline faces. Area pageant princesses and ambassadors working with director Tamara Baru-Brown mingled with the crowd along with the Christmas Mice and members of Encore, an all-female A

Capella Singers. A taste of Europe was provided by costumed members of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., authentic re-enactors of life in 17th century Europe. Lines formed quickly for the complimentary cookies, hot apple cider the cocoa provided by TLC Caterers, and the miniature train that made continuous loops around the parking lot. Kids of all sizes loved jumping around in the two large bounce house snow globes. Inside the city hall foyer, long lines formed for a photo opportunity with Santa and his elves. This is the third
Continued on page 3



Guess who is at the top of Santa's "Good List" this year! Photo courtesy Janet Schaefer

Holiday Magic Lights Up Old Sacramento Waterfront

By Traci Rockefeller Cusack

OLD SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - This holiday season, DOCO (Downtown Commons) proudly presents the 10th Anniversary “Macy’s Theatre of Lights,” an electrifying and family-friendly holiday tradition. Taking place on K Street between Front and 2nd Streets, the ever-popular (and FREE) performances return to dazzle guests to the Old Sacramento Waterfront for more than 20 magical evenings this year.

Each holiday season, it takes many dedicated partners, sponsors and supporting businesses to make this elaborate and FREE holiday light show happen. The spectacular annual event is proudly presented by DOCO (Downtown Commons), Old Sacramento Waterfront and the Downtown Sacramento Partnership with generous support from the California State Railroad Museum Foundation, City of Sacramento, Embassy Suites, Evangeline’s, Sacramento Kings Kids Club, SacPark, SMUD, Steamers and Tri Counties Bank. Additional support is provided by many actively involved Old Sacramento merchants and small business owners.

With the 60’ tall Christmas tree serving as a visually exciting centerpiece, “Macy’s Theatre of Lights” was conceived and created by Stage Nine Entertainment’s Troy Carlson and is produced by some of California’s finest talents in the field of light and sound: Sacramento Theatrical Lighting (STL),



Spectacular family-friendly performances will continue through Christmas Eve. Photo by Charr Crail, courtesy of the Downtown Sacramento Partnership

Associated Sound and Skywalker Sound, and Emmy-nominated voice actor Bill Farmer, the voice of Disney’s Goofy.

The “Macy’s Theatre of Lights” artfully mixes the historic charm of the Old Sacramento Waterfront with state-of-the-art sound and lighting technology to create a memorable holiday experience for visitors of all ages. Old Sacramento Waterfront’s “Macy’s Theatre of Lights” blends a symphony of lights, sounds and visual effects that transport the audience back in time with a reading of the famous poem The Night Before Christmas by Clement Clarke Moore. The narrated reading of the powerful and nostalgic poem is brought to life through theatrical elements and visually-exciting lighting choreography that takes place on the balconies and rooftops of the historic buildings. With updated props and show surprises including “snow” falling on spectators below, the crowd-favorite villain Jack Frost returns this year (always with new tricks up his sleeve) to add dramatic tension and suspense to the show.

Two 20-minute performances are offered on

Thursdays through Sundays at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and also on Tuesday, December 18 and Wednesday, December 19. With only one performance only on Christmas Eve, the final “Macy’s Theatre of Lights” performance for the season takes place on December 24 at 6 p.m.

As a special – and often surprising – treat on many nights, local celebrities and influential community members will entertain the audience in the guest role of “papa” or “mama” wearing a stocking cap and oftentimes decked out in holiday pajamas. Community members are encouraged to make the Old Sacramento Waterfront a must-visit holiday destination to experience the magical “Macy’s Theatre of Lights” performances every season while also supporting the array of locally-owned businesses, shops and eateries available in the historic district.

More information about “Macy’s Theatre of Lights” performances and/or other events and activities happening in historic Sacramento is available by calling 916-970-5226 or visiting www.oldsacramento.com.

Source: T-Rock Communications ★

SMUD Protecting Power Poles from Cars and Trucks

Sharp Rise in “Car-Into-Pole” Accidents Jeopardize Public Safety and Power Reliability

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - SMUD has seen a considerable increase in the number of incidents that involve vehicles crashing into the electric utility’s infrastructure, especially power poles. In an effort to mitigate some of those “car-pole” accidents and promote public and worker safety, SMUD is expanding measures designed to reduce the number of vehicle accidents that involve SMUD equipment, thereby reducing the number of associated power outages. The measures are part of an ongoing five-year pilot program that started in 2017.

SMUD data shows an increasing trend of these incidents annually. In 2006 for example, there were 153 accidents where vehicles crashed into SMUD electrical equipment—mostly into power poles. In 2016, there were almost double that number annually—271. Many reasons are cited like increased traffic volume, and distracted and unsafe driving. The result is increased potential for public and worker safety hazards and more power outages.

SMUD is focusing its mitigation efforts on power poles and electrical equipment that has been crashed into multiple times over the years. The preventive and protective measures include removing and relocating power poles; redesigning them; installing higher-visibility reflective strips; and installing large, highly visible protective barriers around the power poles, known as “Raptor” technology.

The Raptor is probably the most noticeable power protection tool SMUD is using. It is big and yellow and



SMUD has seen an increase in “car-pole” accidents in recent years, so the electric utility is installing some measures to mitigate damage to power poles and other electrical equipment. The work is part of SMUD’s efforts to enhance public and worker safety and the SMUD grid’s reliability. Photo courtesy SMUD

plastic, and resembles a large wedge of cheddar cheese wrapped around the bottom of the power pole. Some even liken it to the cartoon character “Sponge Bob.”

The Raptor is easily installed and is designed to absorb the impact of a vehicle crash, sparing the power pole and preventing a power outage for SMUD customers. The Raptor has been used successfully by other utilities and SMUD has seen benefits too following the first year and during the second year of the pilot program. By year’s end, SMUD will have installed three more Raptors to add to the first three that were installed in 2017, making six in all and more are coming.

Safety is a guiding principle for SMUD. Power reliability is also a top priority. SMUD’s Board of Directors, elected by SMUD customers to set policy, has made reliability one of SMUD’s core values. While car-pole accidents comprise about five percent of all types of SMUD outages annually, they account for about a quarter of the overall average duration

of outages for SMUD’s customers. Car-pole accidents also mean lost revenue for SMUD in terms of increased costs for labor and materials to repair and replace damaged electrical infrastructure. A single pole replacement on average costs \$15,000, and in some cases up to \$40,000, for the five-member crew to replace it and other associated expenses for each incident.

Beyond SMUD’s costs, pole replacements can take eight hours or more and cost the community’s businesses lost revenue from power outages and associated traffic jams due to lane closures to make the repairs.

SMUD is doing its part to increase public and worker safety and reduce the frequency and duration of outages due to these traffic accidents. SMUD also urges motorists to do their part by driving safely, obeying traffic laws and avoiding anything that may cause distractions. For more information about SMUD and its commitment to public and worker safety, visit SMUD.org. ★





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Kids Celebrate at Pop-Up Holiday Carnival



The Winterfest carnival featured a variety of games and activities to amuse the kids.

Story and photos by Shaunna Boyd

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - As part of the Magical Moments holiday event series, Sunrise MarketPlace hosted Winterfest, a pop-up carnival held at Sunrise Village on December 15.

The festival featured food, inflatable bounce houses, and a variety of games and activities to amuse the kids. Attendees were greeted by Mr. and Mrs. Santa Mouse, who mingled with visitors throughout the day. A crowd of kids sat enthralled as they watched a magical performance by Forrest Barnes—or The Magic Forrest, as he is known on stage. Music for the Winterfest carnival was provided by radio station 106.5 The End.

Families had ample opportunities for festive photos, posing next to a giant teddy bear and

enormous inflatable Santa, Mickey Mouse, Snoopy, Minion, and Frosty the Snowman. The longest line was for the human snow globe; once inside, kids played in the pretend snow



Julia (6), Jax (5), and Jenna Rumph (3) show off their festive faces.

and posed for photos.

Jenn Rumph brought her three kids from South Land Park in Sacramento and all of them loved the face painting and the bounce houses. Rumph has

been taking them to all the Magical Moment events and she is looking forward to attending the next event, the Nutcracker Ballet, since they all enjoyed it last year.

Nina Curasi saw the Winterfest carnival advertised on Facebook and brought her family from North Highlands. Curasi said she really appreciates that admission is free at such a great holiday event: “I have five kids, so that is really great.” Her son, Ky-Monney Johnson said his favorite activity of the day was the snow globe. He was also later spotted in a fierce dance-off with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Mouse.

Local residents Ken and Sydnee Kinross enjoy taking their two-year-old son Cody to the Magical Moment events. “The atmosphere is always really good and everyone is really nice,” said Ken. “We tried to tip the lady who painted Cody’s face and she wouldn’t take it.”

After the face painter decorated Cody’s cheek with a gingerbread man “he blew her a kiss and she said it was the best tip ever,” said Sydnee.

Gingerbread men adorned many faces at Winterfest. Six-year-old Yafei Cheng said the face painting was her favorite part of the carnival as she proudly showed off her own gingerbread man. Sue Wong said she enjoyed “everything” about the event. “She enjoyed it, so I enjoyed it.” ★

Humbled to Serve

City Council Affirms New Member and Votes to Annex into SacRT



Outgoing councilmember Al Fox is presented with a proclamation recognizing his dedicated service.

Continued from page 1
will have input on how the funds are spent, and regional collaboration will ensure that the homeless population is better served throughout the county. The motion was unanimously approved by the Council.

Citrus Heights has been contracting with SacRT for transit service since 2001. Based on a transit management study, the city recently created a comprehensive transit plan evaluating the various transportation options: continue contracting service with SacRT, create a stand-alone transit system within the city, or annex into SacRT. The plan identified annexation as the preferred option, stating that it is the most cost-effective solution and has the most long-term benefits. The city negotiated with SacRT to ensure Citrus Heights will receive

service that is equal to or better than that received under contract and to increase the city’s voting shares on the SacRT board.

Mike Barnbaum, community ambassador for SacRT, spoke in support of annexation, stating that annexing all the areas in the region “will create a unified regional transit system” and “will ensure the competitiveness of Sacramento County and the region.”

Vice Mayor Slowey acknowledged that Elk Grove set up a stand-alone transit system but will probably be annexing into SacRT soon as well. “Doing it on our own, we would need transfer agreements with other areas. And it’s more expensive to run it ourselves. Joining a larger organization, we’ll get access to better service... What’s best for the region is best for Citrus Heights.” Council member Daniels

agreed that is beneficial to pursue regional solutions—“if it works.” He voiced concern about giving up local control and the difficulty of detaching from SacRT if the city isn’t happy with the service it receives. Folsom is annexing into SacRT, and Daniels recommended waiting “to see how Folsom is treated.” Daniels thinks the future of transportation might be microtransit, and he suggested using the dedicated local transportation funds to subsidize Lyft or Uber rides for residents instead of buying into a regional bus system. He said, “I won’t support it. It’s not the right time.”

Mayor Bruins agreed that “transportation is evolving. And we need a seat at the table so we can help design the future.” She called for a vote and the motion passed 4 to 1. ★



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Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony Sets the Mood for Christmas in Citrus Heights



As beautiful as it gets. Merry Christmas! Photo courtesy Janet Schaefer

Continued from page 1
Christmas for the ‘new’ city hall which opened for business on August 9, 2016. The permanent Christmas tree was planted

near the main entrance to city hall during the building’s construction in 2015 and 2016. The tree can be seen with lights on day and night at 6360 Fountain

Square Drive. Sponsors of the event were Republic Services, Boost Mobile, and Sunrise Marketplace. ★



**Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl**

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Society for the Blind Members to Join National Fitness Challenge



The grant enables Society for the Blind to become one of only 17 organizations nationwide to participate in National Fitness Challenge for people with visual disabilities. Photo courtesy Society for the Blind

By Kristin Thebaud

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Society for the Blind, a Sacramento-based nonprofit serving blind and low vision people in Northern California, has received a grant from Anthem Blue Cross and CareMore Foundations to create opportunities for individuals to participate in the National Fitness Challenge, an initiative founded by the United States Association of Blind Athletes and the parent Foundation of Anthem Blue Cross and CareMore. Society for the Blind is one of 17 organizations across the nation that is participating in the National Fitness Challenge and is using grant funding to offer adaptive yoga classes, walking

groups, running clinics and other sports and fitness activities that can help people who are blind or low-vision to maximize healthy lifestyles. These activities will be offered over the course of eight months to help hundreds of youth and adults to increase physical fitness levels and live healthier lives. “The goal of the National Fitness Challenge is to help people with visual disabilities to live more active lifestyles,” said Shari Roeseler, executive director, Society for the Blind. “The program launched during Blindness Awareness Month in October, and through May 31, 2019, will highlight what people with visual disabilities can do, rather than what they cannot do. We are lucky to live in an

age where a person with vision loss can achieve most anything they set their mind to doing, and we are grateful to Anthem Blue Cross Foundation and CareMore Foundation for helping us to empower this year’s participants.” This year’s challenge integrates technology and social media to inspire participants to set goals, create team environments and encourage leadership. Each participant has been provided with a Fitbit Flex 2 wearable – a universal way to measure activities, calories burned and number of steps taken. Participants also have the opportunity to utilize Fitbit Coach, which is a personalized training app that provides adaptive video workouts and audio coaching. Foundation grant funding is being used to

provide Fitbits, fitness and nutritional instruction, performance prizes as well as technical and financial support for all participants. “Research has consistently shown that individuals who participate in regular physical activity to improve their health have higher energy levels, lower risk of health-related diseases, improved psychological health, and lower rates of depression and anxiety,” said Ricardo Young, CareMore Health Medical Director. “We are proud to support members of the Society for the Blind through our collaboration with the National Fitness Challenge, and to create access to activities supporting healthier individuals and stronger communities.” More than half of those who are blind or low vision

in the United States do not participate in even a limited physical fitness routine, mostly due to barriers to accessible fitness or misconceptions about their abilities. Individuals of all abilities should have equal opportunities to engage in activities that improve health outcomes, so the National Fitness Challenge aims to increase access to fitness and health for blind and low vision people. “Anthem Blue Cross Foundation is committed to removing barriers and increasing access to critical programs and services that help individuals and communities to lead healthier lives,” said Dr. Barsam Kasravi, Interim Anthem Blue Cross Medicaid Plan President. “We are proud of our Foundation’s ongoing support of people with

visual disabilities and are confident that this support will go a long way in helping Californians to improve their overall wellness while enjoying the physical and emotional benefits of exercise and group sports.” Since 2011, the parent Foundation of Anthem Blue Cross and CareMore has provided \$1.3 million in grant funding to U.S. Association of Blind Athletes for the National Fitness Challenge initiative and has impacted thousands of Americans with visual disabilities by partnering with 40 different agencies across the country. To learn more about the National Fitness Challenge, visit www.usaba.org/NationalFitnessChallenge. For more than 60 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, adults and seniors experiencing vision loss each year. For more information: SocietyfortheBlind.org. ★

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SAFE Credit Union Awards City Year Sacramento with \$20,000 Grant

By Carole Ferguson,
SAFE Credit Union

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Calling out the cheer, “Two, four, six, eight, who do we appreciate? City Year! City Year!” staff members from SAFE Credit Union marched into the Oak Park, California, offices of City Year on a recent rainy morning to surprise the nonprofit with a \$20,000 grant.

City Year Executive Director Jeff Owen and Development Manager Maggie Lawrence were on hand to accept the donation. “This is going to go a long way in our work to help students who really need some support, and our amazing AmeriCorps members who are working 10 hours a day for peanuts,” Owen said.

City Year sends near-peer mentors to under-served schools in Sacramento to help students succeed. City Year representatives cheer students as they arrive to school each day to honor them for their hard work and to pump them up for the day. During class time, AmeriCorps members use positive coaching to help



SAFE Credit Union employees making the donation to City Year. Photo courtesy SAFE CU

students overcome challenges that may lead them to dropping out of school. They also assist with tutoring students in math and English to stay on track to graduate with their peers.

“City Year shines in its mission,” said SAFE Credit Union Community and Advocacy Engagement Manager Amanda Merz. “City Year’s dedication to helping at-risk students over hurdles and standing

by them to ensure their success really spoke to us here at SAFE. By staying in school, these students will have a better foundation to build a more financially secure and personally satisfying life. We are proud to be able to assist City Year with its efforts to help our community’s students.”

SAFE Credit Union is a leading financial institution in Northern California with more than \$2.8 billion

in assets and more than 229,000 members. SAFE is a not-for-profit, community-chartered credit union with membership open to businesses and individuals living or working in Sacramento, Placer, Yolo, El Dorado, Sutter, Butte, Nevada, Solano, San Joaquin, Contra Costa, Yuba, Amador, and Alameda counties. Insured by the NCUA. www.safecu.org

Thunder Valley Resort Announces New Year’s Eve Celebrations

BY Doug Elmets

LINCOLN, CA (MPG) - Thunder Valley Casino Resort is proud to announce a weekend of New Year’s Eve Celebrations. Tickets are on sale now for the New Year’s Eve Headliner Creedence Clearwater Revisited, and for the New Year’s Eve Celebration at Illusions featuring a Live DJ and Radio Host.

Creedence Clearwater Revisited will be performing two shows in Thunder Valley’s Pano Hall on New Year’s Eve – one at 8:00 p.m. and the other at 10:30 p.m. Countdowns to 2019 will be held in Pano Hall, Illusions, and multiple additional locations throughout Thunder Valley.

In addition to exciting performances, Thunder

Valley will host a variety of promotions on the days leading up to 2019, including a weekend full of daily \$25,000 giveaways.

“New Year’s Eve is going to be a huge celebration this year at Thunder Valley,” said Dawn Clayton, General Manager of Thunder Valley Casino Resort. “While our New Year’s Eve headliner Creedence Clearwater Revisited will be a huge draw, Thunder Valley will also offer diverse entertainment options and promotions throughout the casino, so there is sure to be an option for all Thunder Valley guests.”

For more information on upcoming New Year’s Eve celebration, visit www.thundervalleysresort.com.

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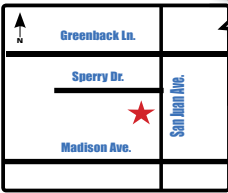
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Dave Ramsey Says



Short term planning

Dear Dave,
My husband and I are completely debt-free, and we're saving up for our first house. We currently have about \$90,000 in savings, and we'd like to buy a home with cash in the next few years. Where should we put our money, so it will work for us while we save more?

-Aimee

Dear Aimee,
It's a great feeling when you don't have any debt hanging over your head, isn't it? With the path you're on now, just imagine how incredible it will be in a few years to have a new home and still be debt-free!
If I were in your shoes, and maybe looking at a three- to five-year window, I'd just park the cash in a good market account. You won't make a lot off it, but your money will be safe. Besides, all you're looking for is a wise place to stash it for a little while.

When it comes to long-term investing I'm a big fan of growth stock mutual funds. The problem with that in your situation would be the volatility of the market. By the time you've saved up more money, and spent time deciding on a house, the market may be down.

It sounds like you two are doing a fantastic job with your finances. Congratulations!
—Dave

Keep your emergency fund simple

One of my friends suggested that I put my emergency fund money into bonds. What do you think of this idea?

-Renee

Dear Renee,
Never put your emergency fund into things where volatility and risk are a concern. An emergency fund isn't an investment; it's three to six months of expenses set aside to help protect you from the unexpected things life will throw at you. My advice is to keep your emergency fund in something simple—like a money market account where there's no penalty for early withdrawal and check writing privileges for easy access.

Bond values and prices go down when long-term interest rates rise. Right now, long-term interest rates—a good example would be mortgage rates—are ticking up. So, as this happens, the value of bonds goes down.

We're not looking to make money with an emergency fund, Renee. Think of it as a type of insurance. Just let it sit there, safe and sound, until it's needed!

—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 and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.

Disaster Recovery Centers Opening in Citrus Heights and Sacramento for California Wildfire Victims



Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace their damaged or destroyed primary residence. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property. Stock photo

By William "Bill" Koontz, PIO
Office of Disaster Assistance

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- In support of survivors of the Camp Fire in Butte County, FEMA will open temporary Mobile Disaster Recovery Centers in Sacramento County beginning Monday, Dec. 17. Along with FEMA staff, SBA customer service representatives will be available at the centers to provide face-to-face assistance.
The locations are: Citrus Heights, 6300 Fountain Square Drive. Dates are Mon., 12/17 to Wed., 12/19 and Thur., 12/27 to Sat., 12/29 and in Sacramento, 10361 Rockingham Drive. Dates are Thurs., 12/20 to Sat., 12/22 and Thurs., 1/3 to Sat., 1/5. Hours of operation are 10 am to 8 pm.

Businesses and residents in Butte, Los Angeles, and Ventura counties who sustained damages are encouraged to register prior to the Jan. 11, 2019, deadline with the Federal Emergency Management Agency at www.disasterassistance.gov.

Businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to

repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets. The SBA can also lend additional funds to help business and residents with the cost of making improvements that protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace their damaged or destroyed primary residence. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property. These low-interest federal disaster loans are available in the primary counties of Butte, Los Angeles and Ventura.

For small businesses and most private nonprofit organizations of all sizes, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic injury assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage. These economic injury disaster loans are available in Butte, Colusa, Glenn,

Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Plumas, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Sutter, Tehama, Ventura and Yuba counties. The deadline to apply for economic injury is Aug. 12, 2019.

Interest rates can be as low as 3.74 percent for businesses, 2.75 percent for private nonprofit organizations and 2 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may call (800) 877-8339. Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.



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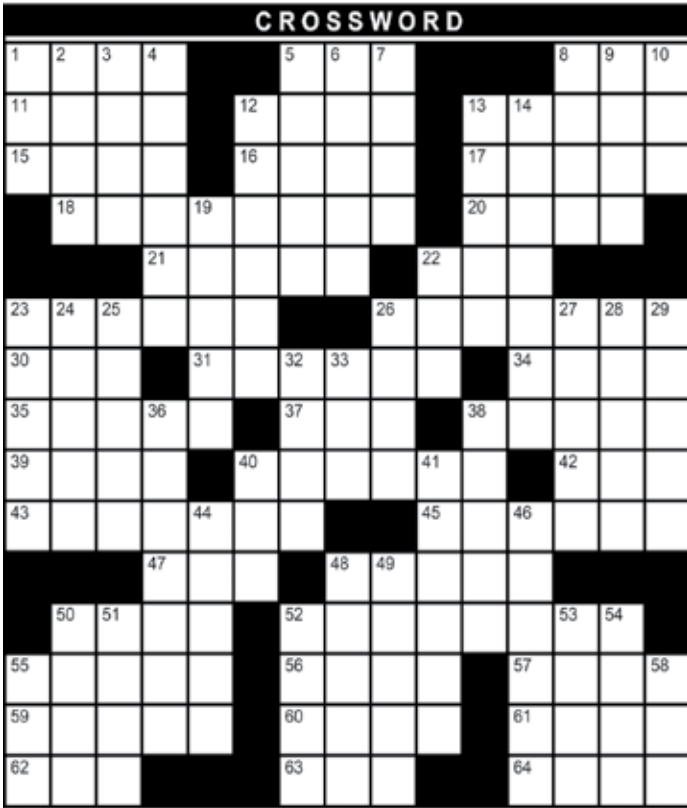
CLUES

- CROSS
- 1. Snap up
 - 5. Ship pronoun
 - 8. Table scrap
 - 11. Not happening
 - 12. Call to matey
 - 13. Boredom
 - 15. Decant
 - 16. Pilaf grain
 - 17. Charcuterie stores
 - 18. "A ____ for the rest of us!" - from "Seinfeld"
 - 20. Gwyneth, to friends
 - 21. Thing to bear?
 - 22. Comedian Tina
 - 23. *Warmest or holiday follower
 - 26. Feeling of disinterest
 - 30. Sculptor Hans/Jean ____
 - 31. Chief
 - 34. Assistant
 - 35. Used in cricket or 301
 - 37. *Feast of the Seven Fishes seafood
 - 38. Tanks and such
 - 39. Purse for a formal affair
 - 40. All together
 - 42. Make a mistake
 - 43. Green bean or peanut
 - 45. Infamous ____ Knoll
 - 47. Charge carrier
 - 48. * ____ Navidad!
 - 50. Hindu princess
 - 52. *This theme wouldn't exist without them
 - 55. Swines, in Old English
 - 56. Dashing style
 - 57. Between a trot and a gallop
 - 59. Corpulent
 - 60. Ding-a- ____
 - 61. Knight's breastplate
 - 62. "I Thee ____"
 - 63. Pea container
 - 64. Not a word?

- DOWN
- 1. Econ. measure
 - 2. *Where Santa's sleigh lands

- 3. Malaria symptom
- 4. Russian soup
- 5. Prison weapon, pl.
- 6. Bette Midler's " ____ Pocus"
- 7. *"Tiny tots with their ____ all aglow"
- 8. Billy Joel's " ____ the Good Die Young"
- 9. The Colosseum, e.g.
- 10. * ____ the season!
- 12. Not aria nor recitative
- 13. Landscaper's tool
- 14. *Welcomed with a count down
- 19. Weight of refuse and chaff, pl.
- 22. Driving hazard
- 23. Does like a crane
- 24. About to explode
- 25. Celiac disease, colloquially
- 26. ____ weevil
- 27. March of ____
- 28. Emanations from incense and frankincense
- 29. *Christmas predecessor
- 32. Be undecided
- 33. Cotillion ball's main attraction
- 34. *Good follower
- 38. Like smell of burning rubber, e.g.
- 40. Long time

- 41. Staring amorously
- 44. Coolness and composure
- 46. Popular flowering shrub
- 48. Shakespeare's "First ____"
- 49. African antelope
- 50. RBG's garb
- 51. Matured like cheese
- 52. SOS
- 53. Quotable Berra
- 54. What DJs do
- 55. Reporter's question
- 58. Is in Paris



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Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 8

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Solutions on Page 8

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UNION GOSPEL MISSION SACRAMENTO



By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

When a person claims to have “faith in God” their life and actions as well as their words no longer please the world of unbelievers. Even family members may reject them and they experience the pain of rejection similar to what Jesus experienced when He came and died for all of us.

Jesus life taught us how to endure the worst kind of rejection and to continue to love those who do not know or understand the amazing love of God He exemplified for us to live. Mankind needed a tangible person to do this teaching us the infinite loving ways of God. Living examples prove

Why God Loves You My Friend

to us the incredible values God desires our lives of faith to teach others the depth of His personal love for each of them.

People with the true faith and love of God in their hearts do not go about to destroy the lives of others who do not believe, think or understand. Instead they watch and listen to the pains they have endured as well. Then, as God’s Holy Spirit opens doors for them to share the Love of God with them, they may share their own story of hope, salvation, healing and transformation. Jesus is the “bread” of life and all must take it.

Jesus is the “door” of a brand new life awaiting those who will invite them into their heart and life. He is the “way” one must choose to experience what the Bible states – being “Born-Again” with the Spirit of a loving God living in them. It is the beginning of a brand new life and adventure that lasts the rest of their life as His Spirit directs and teaches one to live in the “abundant

life” He promises.

“You” dear one are the reason for this season of Christmas! Jesus came to earth in human form to save us from our sins. God’s infinite plan IS when He created man/woman was to have a personal intimate relationship with every one of us. He did not create robots but human beings with free-will to make decisions for their lives. Some people think He made a mistake! No He did not make a mistake! Don’t you understand that when someone “chooses” to care and love someone, it has the quality of being the real thing? **True love always originates in the loving heart of God and it is real and everlasting.** The love of God will take a person to living with Him in heaven one day. That is how important it is to God that we all experience His kind of love.

Marlys Johnsen Norris
Christian Author of 7 Books
“Recipes for a Happy Marriage”
Marlysjn@gmail.com PO Box 114, Orangevale, Ca 93552 ★



By Pastor Ray Dare

When the angel announced the birth of Christ he said, **“Don’t be afraid! I bring you good news of great joy for everyone!”** Lk. 2:10. Wow, what a promise! Great joy for everyone. But is that even possible? Is it possible for “everyone” to be joyful? Yes it is, and the Bible gives us the secrets:

Resist Comparing Myself. **“I have learned to be satisfied with the things I have...”** Vs.11 That can only happen when you don’t compare yourself. The moment you start comparing what you have, to what others have, you’re doomed! Your joy is gone! Our problem is we live with this myth that says, “I must have what others have to be happy.” That’s the myth behind all the adds you’ll see this shopping season. “Everybody else has one, so you need one too.” No, you don’t! Paul said,

Pastor Ray's Encouraging Words

Christmas Joy is Possible

“I’ve learned to be satisfied with what I have.”

Rejoice in What I Have. Happiness is not getting whatever you want. Happiness is enjoying what you have. **“It is better to have only a little with peace of mind than to be busy all the time.”** Eccl. 4:6 You need to ask yourself a very frank question. “Will having more make me happier?” And the answer is NO. You cannot buy happiness. If you don’t understand this principle of rejoicing in what you have, you will fall into the trap of debt and the trap of when and then thinking. “WHEN I get this, WHEN this happens, THEN I’ll be happy.” The truth is this, you’re as happy as you choose to be.

Realize the Source of True Joy. There are things in life that keep us from believing that living joyfully is a possibility, things that we face daily. Like the bad that shouldn’t happen, and the good that doesn’t happen. And we lose our joy. The problem is we have a misconception of happiness. We tend to think, “If I could just get rid of all my problems,

then I’ll be happy!” Well duh! The only problem is there’s no such thing as a problem free life. You must learn to be joyful in the situation, in the circumstance. And that is a sign of spiritual maturity. My joy is not determined by or controlled by the circumstances around me. Do you want to know how spiritually mature you are? Check your JOY level. Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit within you. **“But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us ... joy...”** Gal. 5:22 (NLT) If your joy is based on your circumstances, guess what? You’re going to be miserable most of your life. True joy is independent of your circumstances because it comes from God – it’s a fruit of the Holy Spirit. And that’s what God wants to give you this Christmas season as you open the door of your life and invite Him in.

Pastor Ray
New Beginnings Church
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My Little Dear, It’s Not Warm Outside!

Dr. James L. Snyder

Once again, it is the Christmas season, which means I have to put up with people offended by everything, particularly that pertains to Christmas.

Everybody is offended by something. I am offended by people who are offended by things I say, which makes no sense whatsoever to me.

Where people got this offend-itis disease is beyond me. I wonder if there is any cure for this kind of disease?

I was in the restaurant the other day and behind me, a person sneezed. Instinctively, I turned around and said, “God bless you.”

Of course, I was not ready for the reply when the man said to me, “I’m an atheist don’t you dare use that word ‘God’ around me.”

Another offensive phrase is, “Merry Christmas.” I happened to mention this to a person I was passing in the store and they looked at me kind of Scrooge-like and said, “Don’t you dare wish me a Merry Christmas.”

I would like to know why two words like “Merry Christmas” are offensive to anyone?

Those offended by those two words have a chimney

that is not smoking.

Just the other day I was going into a store and there was a lady behind me, so as a gentleman, I opened the door for her and said, “Ladies first.”

The lady looked at me and said, “That is the most sexist thing I have heard all day.”

I have been trying to find out what is sexist about those two words.

I heard recently that the song, “Baby, It’s Cold Outside,” is offensive to some people. I have listened to that for years and cannot figure out the offensive side of that song.

What’s crazy to me are those offended by that song are completely okay with some female singer getting on stage barely clothed, singing a depravity soaked song with lustful lyrics.

Why is that okay and not sexist, but when I open a door for a lady and say, “Ladies First,” that is sexist?

Some people refer to this as the war on Christmas. If that is true, I believe those people are losing that war. No matter what anybody says or thinks I still will celebrate Christmas, wish people “Merry Christmas” and say, “God bless you” when somebody sneezes and open a door for the ladies.

If those things offend people, I am happy and most delighted to keep doing them.

For years now, there has been a war on Christmas, but it seems that Christmas comes every year at the same time. Isn’t that simply amazing? No matter what people say or how offended they are by it, Christmas still comes.

I could think of quite a few things that would offend me. However, I have a thick skin and a tender heart. My life is not depended upon somebody being offended.

One of my favorite verses in the Bible is in the book of Proverbs.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

I refuse to let people who are offended by everything direct my path. My trust is not in man, but rather “in the Lord.”

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship Ocala, FL where he lives with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. His web site is www.jamesnsnyderministries.com. ★

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Bye Bye Mattress Program Surpasses 3 Million Mattresses Recycled in California

Program Has Diverted More Than 100 Million Pounds of Materials From Landfills

By Scot Murdoch

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Mattress Recycling Council's (MRC) Bye Bye Mattress Program (Program) announced today it has recycled more than 3 million mattresses in California since its inception in 2016. The Program offers no-cost, environmentally friendly alternatives to Californians disposing of old mattresses through local collection sites, public events and collaborations with local retailers and solid waste providers.

"Reaching this milestone in less than three years of operation is a significant achievement," said MRC's Managing Director Mike O'Donnell. "We share the Program's success with our dedicated contractors and participating collection sites across California. We also have continued support from elected officials that voted for this law in 2013."

More than 80 percent of mattresses can be recycled and turned into new consumer and industrial products. For example, old mattress foam is recycled into carpet padding, mattress springs are sold as scrap steel, which is melted to make building materials and other steel products, and wood from box springs is chipped and used as landscape mulch.

"The MRC Program is one of the most effective Product Stewardship Programs Butte County is associated with," said Steve Rodowick, recycling coordinator with Butte County. "This program



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saves us money, manpower and above all, valuable landfill space."

A recycling fee collected when consumers buy mattresses and box springs in California funds the Program. MRC uses the fee to establish free drop-off locations and collection events throughout the state. Collected mattresses are then transported from these sites to regional recyclers that dismantle and recycle mattress components. Consumers may take their old mattresses to more than 230 drop-off locations and collection events throughout California. The Program also recycles mattresses collected

by retailers, hotels, universities and other sources that discard mattresses in large volumes.

"Our work with the Mattress Recycling Council fulfills our mission to provide youth in San Joaquin and Tuolumne counties with an opportunity to develop work skills and preserve California's environment," said Deborah Phillips with the Greater Valley Conservation Corps, a San Joaquin Office of Education program. "In less than a year, Greater Valley Conservation Corps crew members have helped recycle more than two thousand mattresses, while also

gaining the experience they need to move into green sector careers."

In addition to recycling, the Program works to prevent illegal dumping, which includes the Illegally Dumped Mattress Collection Initiative. By working with local communities, this \$1 million initiative has helped remove more than 63,000 improperly disposed-of mattresses from alleys, sidewalks and other public spaces throughout California since 2016.

"The Bye Bye Mattress Program exemplifies California's leadership in a sustainable and circular economy by creating green jobs," said O'Donnell. "After less than three years, we've made progress toward reducing our environmental footprint, conserving landfill space and supporting California's statewide recycling goals."

The Mattress Recycling Council was formed by the mattress industry to operate recycling programs (known as Bye Bye Mattress) in states that have enacted mattress recycling laws - California, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Since its inception in 2016, the program has recycled more than 3 million mattresses in California collected from a network consisting of local governments, solid waste facilities, nonprofit organizations and small and minority-owned businesses throughout the state. For more information, go to www.ByeByeMattress.com

Source: Randle Communications

CHP Goes "Online" to Help Alert the Public

By Fran Clader, CHP Media

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - When a person goes missing, every second counts. As the statewide coordinator for the AMBER, Silver, and Blue Alert programs, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) understands that time is of the essence and is using technology to help expedite the recovery process.

"Whether a child or at-risk adult has gone missing or a dangerous suspect is on the run, time and details are vital," said CHP Commissioner Warren Stanley. "Using technology gives everyone involved in the process another tool to reach the appropriate audience with the information."

As part of the various notification procedures when an alert occurs, the CHP's Emergency Notification and Tactical Alert Center (ENTAC) will distribute the critical information to cell phones in the affected geographic area through the Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) program. As a result, millions of consumers with WEA-capable devices and services are armed with potentially lifesaving information.

Due to the limited number of characters available through the WEA, the CHP is now embedding a link in each message that will direct the user to the public-facing Web site at <https://www.chp.ca.gov/news-alerts>. Once there, the user will find all active alerts, along with access to related flyers that can be downloaded and distributed.

Social media is also being used to help expedite and grow the audience for alerts distributed by the CHP. The public, media, and law enforcement are encouraged to follow a new Twitter account managed by ENTAC - @CHPAAlerts. Posts from this account will be limited to active AMBER, Silver, and Blue Alerts.

Since July 2002, the CHP has issued nearly 300 AMBER Alerts for abducted children. Less than a decade later, in January 2011, California enacted the Blue Alert system to apprehend individuals wanted following the violent attack of a law enforcement officer; eight Blue Alerts have been issued to date. Two years later, the Silver Alert system went online in California and there have been nearly 1,400 alerts issued for missing, at-risk adults since January 2013.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security.

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TV GUIDE MAGAZINE

CHEERS & JEERS

by Damian Holbrook

Cheers to NBC
for earning a spot in *The Good Place*. The heavenly comedy starring Kristen Bell and Ted Danson hasn't even finished its third season yet, but that hasn't stopped the network from renewing it for a fourth year. And that's the best forking news we've heard in weeks!

Jeers to CBS
for not salvaging *Salvation*. The summer sci-fi drama starring Jennifer Finnigan ended Season 2 with a huge twist and tons of potential. Sadly, the plug has now officially been pulled, so we'll probably never know what that Earth-threatening asteroid really was—or if the network can ever successfully launch a scripted summer show.

Jeers to The Flash
for making our flesh crawl. The Scarlet Speedster's November 13 episode got pulses racing by introducing Rag Doll (Troy James), a super-bendy baddie whose nightmarish mask and monstrous movements were not OK with viewers who rely on Barry Allen (Grant Gustin) and his team to be the sunniest heroes in The CW's Arrowverse.

Cheers to Dancing With the Stars
for returning to form. After a few clumsy seasons, ABC's just-wrapped 27th edition popped with a stable of "stars" who actually moved us, including Juan Pablo Di Pace (*Fuller House*), *The Bachelorette*'s



If only all *Dancing With the Stars* cards could be this full of fan faves.

Grocery Store guy Joe Amabile and radio host—and champion—Bobby Bones (pictured, with Sharna Burgess). If only all *Dancing* cards could be this full of fan faves. ★

Question: Why does Hallmark and Hallmark Movies and Mysteries have to overlap its Christmas movies by an hour? —Gloria

Matt Roush: I've wondered this same thing, although wouldn't it make more sense for the Hallmark channels to air their movies two hours apart (one at 7/6c, the other at 9/8c) instead of at the same hour? Recording and time-shifting solves the problem, of course, but starting Hallmark's week-end originals at 8/7c and Movies and Mysteries' movies at 9/8c does create an odd overlap.

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



Why?

We shop til we drop. Gotta' find the perfect gift. Gotta' decorate to the max. Gotta' party hearty like you'll never party again. Gotta' shovel in all those goodies knowing we're probably gonna' put on anywhere from two to seven pounds during the holidays. Why? It's a question we all ask ourselves come December 31 as we make New Year's resolutions to never do that again. But you and I both know we'll do the same actions again next year. I'm as guilty as anyone. We get so obsessed with that word perfection. I catch myself adjusting one ornament on the Christmas tree or moving one of the Wise men an inch or so over so it looks just right. And I can't tell you how many times I walk away thinking, WHY? I must have OCB... Obsessive Christmas Behavior. That's a new one for the mental health community.

So the other day I sat down and started thinking about what I was doing and tried to explain to myself... WHY? I realized I wasn't thinking about the WHY at all. I wasn't even thinking about WHY we celebrate period. It was more about the stuff and the parties and the gifts. I knew then and there it was time to rethink what Christmas is really all about like caring and sharing. What about calling folks I haven't spoken to because I have been so busy with

POPPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp



We need to give of ourselves not our purchases. It doesn't take big bucks. It's just paying attention.

all the trappings? And taking time to say I love you to that special person in your life, not expecting it back. WHY? Because you care.

It may sound like I'm preaching, but believe me I'm preaching to yours truly too. We need to give of ourselves not our purchases. It doesn't take big bucks. It's just paying attention. It reminds me of the song "Sounds of Silence" by Simon and Garfunkel. A couple of lines ring true...people talking without speaking... people hearing without listening. Sound familiar? WHY? Because we are so focused on things in our lives that we don't focus on life itself. Life is short. Don't say I'll do it tomorrow, do it today!

When you're at the mall, it doesn't cost a cent to smile at a passerby. You'll be surprised how

that smile comes back to you and how good it feels. I bet you don't remember most of the gifts you got last Christmas, but you remember a tender moment when a loved said I love you. So maybe the question of WHY is answered by WHY NOT! In the words of Norman Vincent Peale... "Christmas waves a magic wand over the world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful." Each one of us can be a part of making the world beautiful once more. So I'd like to leave you with the words of Comedian Bob Hope who spent decades on the road in war zones on Christmas... "My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?" We don't! **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!** ★

ASK MATT

BY MATT ROUSH TV Guide Senior Critic

When Will Live Musicals Be Back?

Question: Whatever happened to the live musicals over the holidays? —Gordon

Matt Roush: Live musicals are still a thing on NBC and other networks, but the holiday angle has been shelved for the time being as the subject matter has moved away from family musicals. (The first disruption was when Jennifer Lopez's busy schedule delayed NBC's

planned *Bye Bye Birdie* musical.) NBC's most recent December musical was the live *Hairspray* in 2016, and in lieu of a holiday musical in 2017, instead pegged its Emmy-winning *Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert* for Easter 2018. (Fox stepped in with a lackluster *A Christmas Story Live* musical last year.) Next year's musicals are decidedly more edgy. *Rent* on Fox Jan. 27 and a live version of *Hair* on NBC in May.

Sacramento County DA Reports



Stephon Clark Officer-Involved Shooting

On October 25, 2018, the DA's Office received the police report and related materials from the Sacramento Police Department regarding the Stephon Clark officer-involved shooting.

As with any officer-involved shooting incident, we strive to complete our review within 90 days of receiving all of the related reports and materials. The materials submitted by the Sacramento Police Department are voluminous and may take significant time to comprehensively examine. After reviewing these materials, we may determine that additional investigation or information is needed. Our review process may be delayed, depending on the circumstances. We will take whatever time is necessary to complete that process, as we balance our desire to complete this investigation review in a timely manner with the overarching need to ensure any conclusions we reach are the result of a thorough and methodical evaluation of the facts and the law.

As a reminder, the District Attorney's Office does not review these types of shootings or use of force incidents to determine whether the officers could have taken some other action, or used some other tactic, in addressing the situation. In addition, we do not review whether the agency could be civilly liable or whether any policy or procedure of the agency is the "best practice" for this type of incident. These are all valid areas for review, discussion, and potential outcome improvements. However, our review is strictly limited to an analysis of the action the officers actually took and whether that action is a prosecutable crime under the law.

If you have questions regarding the officer-involved shooting review process, a copy of the review protocol is available here and answers to Frequently Asked Questions are available here. If you would like to leave a message for the District Attorney's Office regarding our review of this shooting, you can send an email to OIS@sacda.org or call (916) 874-2000.

Defendant Sentenced for Attempted Murders of Police Officers, Shooting at Occupied Apartment

DATE: December 10, 2018
CASE: Armani Lee (Case #17FE002754)

PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Matthew Moore, Career Criminal Prosecution Unit

The Honorable Richard Sueyoshi sentenced Armani Lee to 173 years to life in prison. On October 30, 2018, a jury convicted Lee of attempted murder of a police officer, attempted murder, shooting at an inhabited dwelling and felon in possession of a firearm.

On February 4, 2017, Armani Lee got into a physical altercation with a female victim. After the fight was over, Lee pulled out a gun and fired at the victim's apartment. Both the victim's boyfriend and friend were in the apartment at the time of the shooting.

On February 10, 2017, officers tracked Lee to a house and tried to arrest him for the shooting. Lee fled and fired multiple shots at the officers. Officers returned fire and hit Lee, who was then taken into custody.

Lee was sentenced pursuant to California's "Three strikes" law. Lee was previously convicted of two separate robberies, one in 2010 and the other in 2006.

Defendant Sentenced for Child Sexual Assaults Stemming from Use of Social Media

DATE: December 12, 2018

CASE: Chris Cote (Case #16FE021377)

PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Bruce Chang, Cyber Crimes Unit

The Honorable Jaime Román sentenced Chris Cote to 32 years and 4 months in prison. On October 15, 2018, Cote pled no contest to 23 sexual offenses committed against seven victims, including lewd and lascivious conduct with a child under 14 years of age, lewd and lascivious conduct with a child over 14 years of age, unlawful intercourse with a child under 18 years old and oral copulation of a minor under 16 years of age.

Starting in 2011, Cote used social media to contact minors all over Northern California. He represented himself as a teenage boy, engaged in grooming behavior and arranged sexual encounters with multiple children. In several cases, he encouraged the victims to sneak out of their house to meet with him and then drove them to either a hotel room or back to his house to commit the sexual crimes. ★

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An Inside Look at the Inspector General Situation



By Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost

In August, the County Board of Supervisors were thrust into the local media spotlight after Sheriff Scott Jones lost faith in the Inspector General (an independent contractor retained by the County) and terminated his access to the Sheriff's Department. Since then, the Board of Supervisors have held meetings to discuss how to move forward, with the issue finally finding a resolution on December 4th. Since this is the most controversial issue I have been involved with since being on the Board, I wanted to take a moment to try to clearly explain this complicated issue, and let you know my thoughts.

The County of Sacramento has had the position of Inspector General from 2007 until

2012 (when it was eliminated due to budget cuts), and then brought back in 2015 at the request of the Sheriff. Sacramento is one of only five California counties that has an Inspector General. The position was created to work with the Sheriff's Department to improve services and review procedures - including but not limited to officer-involved shootings. The Inspector General has been a part-time contractor because, thankfully, there are very few shootings involving Sacramento County Sheriff's Deputies.

One of the reports issued in 2018 was regarding a shooting that resulted in the death of a man named Mikel McIntyre. McIntyre had assaulted a family member, and in the process of evading arrest had struck an officer in the head with a large rock causing significant injury. Soon after, a 911 witness observed McIntyre throwing rocks at cars on the freeway and he began attacking another officer and a K9 unit with more rocks, hitting the K9 in the face. In an effort to protect the general public, officers continued to pursue him, and as he was evading arrest the suspect was shot 7 times and did not survive.

The case was referred to the Inspector General

whose investigative authority involves constructive critique offering recommendations intended to improve the Department. It is not their job to determine if the shots fired were lawful. That is the sole responsibility of the DA's office.

Months later in an unprecedented move, the Inspector General (under considerable political pressure) released his report before the DA had completed its investigation. His report gave evaluations and critiques (on use of force and decision making) that could be misleading if considered without the benefit of the DA's full investigation. The Inspector General is not a use of force expert (neither is the Sheriff), and his findings were disputed by a nationally renowned use of force expert when the District Attorney Investigation and report was eventually released. Dismissing normal procedure was confusing for the public, has been damaging to the morale of the Sheriff's department; and the Inspector General's assessment will very likely be used in civil court against the County of Sacramento, with all legal fees and monetary judgments paid for by County taxpayers.

In the aftermath, the Sheriff questioned the ability of the Inspector General

to remain impartial to outside or political influences. He terminated the Inspector General's access to the Sheriff's Department and told the Board of Supervisors that he would like us to hire someone new. This put the Board of Supervisors in a difficult situation, as we were left with an Inspector General who we were paying \$10,000 a month to essentially do nothing.

As a result, the Board of Supervisors had a series of meetings to discuss how to proceed, given the Sheriff is a co-equal elected official who answers to the people of Sacramento (not the Board of Supervisors). Our discussions mostly revolved around what legal options we had, and what role we want the Inspector General's office to play in the County. All five Supervisors and the Sheriff agreed that we need an Inspector General in the County.

Despite public and private statements from the Sheriff that he continues to support an independent IG, some members of the media choose to spin this issue as a show-down between the Sheriff and the Board of Supervisors — when it clearly is not — or to portray it as an attempt by the Sheriff to eliminate transparency from his department by permanently

shutting down the Office of Inspector General — which is also simply not the case. The Sheriff wanted to ensure we had a process for fair, independent investigations, and to not allow politics to endanger our Deputies and our communities. I completely agree with him.

The issue culminated on December 4th with a final meeting that was widely touted in the media as a showdown between the Sheriff and the Supervisors. But that was a mischaracterization because the Sheriff largely agreed with the majority of Supervisors. At the end of the day, all sides were able to come together to find a

workable solution despite the tense atmosphere. Nobody got everything they wanted, but nobody gave up too much either. That's the sign of a good deal, and one I was willing

to support.

The County Supervisors will invite interested and qualified contractors to bid for the job of Inspector General, so we can restore that office. I believe that this process can and should begin immediately. The previous Inspector General is welcome to bid for it as well. The County clarified that while the Sheriff has autonomy over how to run his Department, the County Supervisors have the right to have an Inspector General who can have specified access to the Sheriff's Department as an independent review to help inform our budget appropriations.

There are some small steps that will need to be taken in order to finalize all the agreements, but for all intents and purposes, this issue is now behind us with all parties in agreement.

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@sacounty.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 Murieta, North Highlands, Carmichael, Foothill Farms, Fair Oaks, and Rancho Cordova. ★



Sheriff Scott Jones

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