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## Citrus Heights "Written by the people, for the people"

VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 03

Serving the City of Citrus Heights and Sacramento County

FEBRUARY 9, **2018** 

#### **OVERSIGHT NEEDED** OF DELTA TUNNEL, **HIGH SPEED RAIL**



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**CITRUS HEIGHTS POLICE TARGET HUMAN** TRAFFICKING IN MULTI-AGENCY OPERATION



#### "FLOWER POWER" **FLOAT NEEDS MORE FLOWERS**



PAGE **10** 



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The Habit and Sourdough and Co. are definitely a move in the right direction. Photo by Paul Scho

## Recycling Through Art

Hundreds of Students Participate in the Recycle Poster Contest



Winners of the Republic Services 2017/2018 Recycle Poster Contest pose with the Citrus Heights City Council at their January 25, 2018 council meeting. A presentation was made announcing the winners and presenting them with certificates and gift cards to Barnes and Noble. Photo courtesy City of Citrus

#### By Elise Spleiss

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Six hundred Citrus Heights elementary school students recently took on the challenge of participating in the 2017/2018 Recycle Poster Drawing Contest, hosted by the City of Citrus Heights and its residential trash and recycling service provider, Republic Services.

Student artists from 11 schools in grades kindergarten through 8th grade took on the contest question, "Which of the 4 R's (Recycle, Reuse, Reduce, Rot) are your favorite?" as inspiration for their artwork. This year had the most schools participating, with Arlington Heights Elementary submitting the most entries.

The purpose of the contest, now in its fifth year, is to increase awareness of and promote the 4 R's of recycling to students. Through their artwork, they pass on what they have learned to fellow students and the public.

Many thoughtful, creative and educational entries were submitted. The

winners were honored at the January 25, 2018 City Council meeting where their winning posters were featured on the big screen. Each winner was called up to receive their certificate and a gift card to Barnes and Noble and to have their photo taken with the mayor and other members of city council.

Scarlett Bonifacio, a 6th grader at Sylvan Middle School, took 1st place honors with her detailed poster portraying the art of composting.

A brainstorming session in June to choose the theme for the 2018 calendar began the contest process. An outreach program to the elementary schools explained the 4 R's to students. City council members and staff, as well as the staff at Republic, took on the daunting task of honing down 600 entries to the winning 13. Winners from each of the 11 schools and each grade were voted on separately then the top 13 entries were chosen.

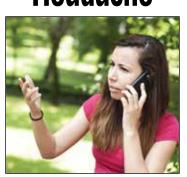
In an e-mail, Mayor Steve Miller said, "I would like to congratulate not only these budding young artists and their beautiful job winning this contest and being memorialized on a calendar, I want to thank you (Johnnise Downs) and Republic Services in general for all you do for us."

The winning posters are now featured in the 2018 Republic Services Citrus Heights Customer Service Calendar and are available at City Hall in the General Services

Republic Services serves 40,000 households in Citrus Heights. Along with the city, they have an aggressive recycling program including education and incentive programs. Among other information, the calendar gives information on their medical sharps disposal program, the Neighborhood Association contest and free neighborhoods cleanups, plus what to do with your motor oil, batteries, leaves and Christmas trees.

Source: Republic Services

## New Area **Code Overlay Creating Big** Headache



Beginning February 10, 2018, + 7-digit dialing procedure for all

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - In the 916 area code, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will add a new 279 area code for new phone lines starting March 10. However, before that new area code goes into effect, beginning February 10, 2018, callers in our area must use 1 + 916 + 7-digit dialing procedure for all local calls. Callers that do not use the new dialing procedure will find that their calls cannot be completed and a recording will instruct them to hang up and dial again.

The CPUC says dialing 1 + 916 + 7-digit telephone number does not change what a call costs and does not mean that a call is a toll or long distance call. Calling areas and rates will not change - what is a local call now will remain a local call. Calls to 911, as well as 211 and 311 will not be affected, and will continue to be dialed with 3 digits.

The area code overlay will primarily affect the greater Sacramento area, which includes parts of El Dorado, Solano, Sutter, Yolo, Placer, and Sacramento Counties. For more information, please visit the CPUC website. ★

## Sunrise Village Rehab in Motion

Story by Jacqueline Fox

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) -Plans are quietly being put into motion for the substantial rehabilitation of the Sunrise Village shopping center in Citrus Heights. Just don't expect much to happen in the very near future, as developers who now own the center say it is too soon to pin down tenants, let alone talk about renovation timeline.

San Francisco-based Merlone Geier Partners, which has a local office Rancho Cordova, announced late last year it

had purchased the center and was planning to launch a \$25.7 million renovation this year. However, when called for details in late January, Gary Muljat, property manager said he could not discuss the renovation plans at this point and had no targeted start date for the renovation plan. "Really, it's just way too

soon to talk about anything connected to the center project right now," Muljat said. "We are really in the very early stages of negotiations for leases and our plans are just way too preliminary."

Continued on page 3



## **Getting Work Ready**

Foster Youth Job Shadow Day Prepares Students for the Real Thing

Story by Jacqueline Fox

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - For a foster youth in high school, nothing can create a clearer pathway to success as they exit school and the foster care system than having some form of preparation for life on their

At the top of the list of areas that could arguably be deemed the most important is workreadiness, including some form of direct, hands-on exposure to various potential career opportunities.

To that end, the San Juan Unified School District's Foster Youth Services program will be holding is annual Foster Youth Job Shadow Day Friday, February 9th. This year, 16 participating employers across the Sacramento region, including CBS Radio, SMUD, Nissan of Sacramento and Carmichaelbased Mateo's Pizza & Bistro, will host 56 youth for a day of job-readiness education, up close and personal.

"This is a great way for students who are in foster care to obtain knowledge and information about various possible careers as they prepare for their final days in school and, ultimately, exiting out of the foster care system," said Kamika Hebbert, SJUSD's Foster Youth Services Youth Employment and Independent Living Coordinator.

SJUSD Foster Youth Services in Carmichael is one of the four original "Core District Foster Youth Programs" in California. It works in collaboration with Twin Rivers USD, Sac City USD, Elk Grove USD and the Sacramento County Independent Living Program (ILP), a federally funded entity, which assists current and former foster youth between the ages of 16 and 21 with their goals to achieve self-sufficiency prior to and after exiting the foster care

This is the fifth year SJUSD Foster Youth Services has offered foster youth students across the district the opportunity to shadow working professionals in a range of careers from tech to back-ofhouse culinary operations.

The Foster Youth Program, explains Hebbert, was launched in 1973. In addition to the Job Shadow Day and work-readiness programs, the Foster Youth Services of SJUSD also provides foster youth with support through advocacy, academic counseling, tutoring, educational assessment, mentoring and links to community services, as well as crisis counseling.

Youth in foster care homes between 16 and 18 are eligible for the SJUSD programs and services and programs during the time they are in foster care placement and after emancipation from the system.

Most participants in the Job Shadow Day program and others are referred by social workers, probation officers, foster parents, other county ILP coordinators or by self-referral. A social worker is assigned to each participant in ILP for case management and works with youth to craft and develop a Transitional Independent Living

Services available to help foster youth prepare for adulthood include independent life skill classes, education resources, assistance with applications for student financial aid, housing resources, training on money management, decision making, building self-esteem and advocacy.

The vocational training piece offered through the Job Shadow Day, and other programs at SJUSD, serves to support the goal of ensuring the district's foster youth is provided with the skills needed to become an independent, productive member of their community.

Whether a student has a goal to pursue a career in public policy or policing, baking or banking, the best way for them to get a sense of whether a career is something they'd enjoy is to watch or, in this case, shadow someone who is already doing the job.

"The programs we provide

This is a great way for students who are in foster care to obtain knowledge and information about various possible careers as they prepare for their final days in school and, ultimately, exiting out of the foster care system.

Kamika Hebbert SJUSD'S FOSTER YOUTH SERVICES YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND INDEPENDENT LIVING COORDINATOR

through the San Juan Unified Foster Youth Services are multifocused, but they all serve to help foster youth prepare themselves living independently and finding success in their career and educational goals," said

Matteo's Pizza and Bistro has been participating in the Job Shadow Day since 2014, that's four years running now that the Carmichael eatery has been supporting foster youth in preparation for their future. This year will be Tytnisha M.'s second year participating in the job shadow day event and her second time at Matteo's, where she



is getting hands-on exposure to back-of-house operations in a real restaurant.

"It's the amazing businesses like Matteo's who are helping students like Tytnisha, who has designs on pursuing the culinary field, find a way to break in and plan ahead for their futures," said Hebbert.

On Feb. 9, all 56 students enrolled in the Job Shadow day will begin the adventure by convening for a kick-off breakfast where they will be given the details of their work site responsibilities. Then, they will each spend roughly three hours of onsite job shadowing time at various employers' locations. After "work," there's a lunch and then the day will culminate in a slide show and group reflec-

tion on the day and future goals. For participants like Tytnisha, having the experience of learning the ins and outs of a particular business operation before she starts actually heading in that career direction ensures an optimal chance of success.

"The purpose of the shadowing is to give them first-hand experience to see may or may not be a good fit," Hebbert said. "In Tytnisha's case, it's already pretty clear she's in her element at Matteo's."

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#### What the Legalization of Marijuana **Means for You**

As of January 1, 2018 the recreational use, sale and cultivation of marijuana is legal in California. Prior to the passing of Prop 64, marijuana was only legal to those who obtained a medical marijuana license approved by a licensed medical professional. Although California has legalized pot, counties and cities have the ability to opt out. We've provided some help information below for your convenience.

#### **5 Things YOU Need to Know About Prop 64**

- 1. You must be 21 or over to purchase marijuana.
- 2. You cannot smoke marijuana within 1,000 feet of a school, day care center or youth center while children are present.
- 3. CA prohibits the sale of *non-medical* marijuana users under age 21. Although medical marijuana can still be used by people under
- 4. A state license issued by the Bureau of Marijuana Control is required to sell and grow in which strict rules and regulations will have to be abided by.
- 5. Selling pot without a license can result in a misdemeanor charge and up to 6 months in jail and a \$500 fine.

For more info on Prop 64 visit: cannabis.ca.gov



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#### Sunrise Village Rehab in Motion

Continued from page 1

The Sunrise Village Center is one of the largest in the region. Located at the Northwest Corner of Sunrise Boulevard and Madison Avenue, the center is anchored by Jo-Ann Fabric and Crafts and Tuesday Morning. Currently, there are 18 open "suites" or commercial spaces available in the center according to Core Commercial's website, the center's leasing agent.

Last year, Lyon's Restaurant made a return to the Sacramento region when it opened up inside the former 5,200-square foot building that previously served as home to Fuddruckers, which served gourmet burgers and kidfriendly fare before closing in 2014. Lyons brought its family-friendly "Denny's style" eatery back to the region following a string of store closures and bankruptcies.

But it also has been reported that Merlone Geier intends to break up Sunrise Village in to various parcels to create a more contemporary shopping experience. While it isn't clear if Lyon's can actually survive as an appropriate tenant for the project, what is clear is the pent up demand by locals for more upscale and popular fast-casual dining options for the entire Sunrise Boulevard corridor and the city proper. Olive Garden and a Benihana are also located in the center.

The Habit, a wildly popular custom-burger chain is also located in Sunrise Village, and, scattered chock-a-block among the empty suites, are two ubiquitous fast-casual options, including Subway and Wienerschnitzel. There also is a Rite Aid, a convenience store and a hearing center.

A break-up of the center to include more contemporary facades and attract a wider mix of eateries and perhaps even a brewery or two, one of the fastest-growing components on the food and beverage landscape right now, could be just the right formula for success.



Across the street on Sunrise, the revamp of the strip mall at Sunrise Boulevard and Alta Sunrise Drive is nearing completion. The remodel, a significant modernization project, includes a refreshed Nation's Giant Hamburgers, a long-standing tenant in the center, and the arrival of Dos Coyotes Border Café and Pizza Rev, a fast-fire pizza chain.

Without question, several strip malls on Sunrise are crying out for help and, in the case of Alta Sunrise, getting a fresh new look to support the corridor's growth. But most critically, the purchase and planned makeover for Sunrise Village, coupled with the remodel of Alta Sunrise, represent a clear move in the direction of elevating the city to destination status - something the city is pushing for from within.

Yet these development plans are taking place against a backdrop of uncertainty for what is arguably a troubled retail landmark on the boulevard: The Sunrise Mall, which was built

in 1971. It is no secret the mall is struggling to remain relevant, lease empty shops and attract customers while other malls across the region and countrywide, including the Roseville Galleria, offer an entertainment component to the retail shopping experience to draw shoppers in.

Speculations over what the owner, Spinoza Real Estate Group, has in mind for the property, if anything, have been circulating since the New Yorkbased company purchased the 1.1 million-square foot mall in

Meanwhile, the Sunrise Marketplace Business Improvement District, located inside the mall, has taken a proactive approach. The BID managers have been awarded funding and approval from the city to purchase a temporary stadium in order to revive a summer outdoor concert series, sporting events, community fundraisers and more in the mall's parking lot beginning this year.





**Cendrinne DeMattei Executive Director** 

#### Six Benefits of Joining a Chamber You may wonder

if a Chamber of Commerce is still relevant to today's business owner given the massive use of social media. Below are six reasons why a Chamber is needed as much today as ever to keep your

- business growing. 1.) Relationships – it's not all about the networking. It's about gaining friends and associates. These type of relationships give you social connection, accountability and eventually business transactions. The Chamber gives you the platforms to get out and meet people.
- 2.) Committee Involvement Chambers have several ways to promote your business for little or no cost. Volunteering to work on an event committee gives you tons of exposure. Chambers host many events throughout the year that are free or have minimal costs to attend. Offer to work at one of the events.
- 3.) Community Support Chambers also offer special programs to local schools, service organizations or other non-profits. Find an area that interests you and get involved. Do you enjoy reading? Many schools

- need volunteer readers to help students who struggle in this area. Your Chamber is vested in helping you grow your business and in helping the community overall.
- 4.) Education & Training Membership with a Chamber is a great way to continue your education in business and personal development. Most Chambers conduct a leadership program that offers training on team building, time management or social media.
- 5.) Advocacy A Chamber acts as the voice and advocate for business owners in the areas of licensing, sign ordinances, traffic and graffiti issues. The Chamber works closely with local City, County and State officials on the issues and concerns of the business community.
- 6.) Promotion Chamber events are designed to bring people together in fun, interesting and productive ways. Monthly luncheons, coffee meetings, after-hours networking, awards banquets, ribbon cuttings, golf tournaments, holiday festivals and community-wide events are all ways to help you promote your business. Increasing your visibility, adding credibility and building trust, along with adding to your contacts are all benefits of joining your local Chamber.

Are you ready to get started? Call us at (916) 722-4545 or visit our office located at 7920 Alta Sunrise Drive, Suite 100, M-F 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

#### Upcoming Meetings and Events

#### **Chamber Monthly Luncheon**

Tuesday, February 13th – 11:30 am to 1:00 p.m. Northridge Country Club "The State of the Chamber" Amanda Blackwood, Board Chair

**Coffee and Networking Connections** Tuesday, February 27th – 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Christ the King Retreat Center 6520 Van Maren Lane, Citrus Heights

For More Information or to Join the Chamber, Contact us at (916) 722-4545 or Visit our Website www.chchamber.com



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**Crossword Puzzle on Page 5** 

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 5

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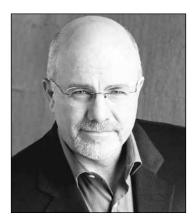
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#### Boss says get a credit card

Dear Dave,

I recently got a new job that requires monthly expenses of almost \$5,000 that are reimbursed. I can't swing that kind of money right now, and my company told me to get a credit card to cover things. I'm trying to get out of debt, and I don't like this idea. What should I do?

Dear John,

Your company should be fronting the money for these expenses. When you talk about the cost of doing business, it's the responsibility of the company — not the employee — to pay expenses.

If I send someone on the road to make money for my company, I pay the bills. It doesn't matter if you're talking about hotel rooms, airfare, or rental cars, those are my expenses. If it's someone who travels a lot, we give them a company debit card. If it's just an occasional thing, we'll give them money out of petty cash. But a company

Dave Says

shouldn't treat its employees this way. That's just plain wrong.

It's a mystery to me how some segments of Corporate America have sold their employees on the idea of being the company bank. Ultimately, the decision is yours. If you don't mind covering your company's expenses and getting reimbursed, but you don't want to go into debt, you'll have to save and build up a \$5,000 business expense fund in a separate checking account. This should be used only for business expenses, and what's spent should be replenished immediately when they reimburse you.

You're in an unusual spot, John. Personally, I think this is an unprofessional way to run a business. But if you like your job, and want to stay without taking on any more debt, the good news is you'll only have to fill up your expense account one time.

Good luck!

-Dave

#### Well meaning, but misguided

My sister has bad credit due to a lot of late payments. She has finally started to change her ways and get control of her finances, because she and her fiancé want to make an offer on a house. The bank won't approve it if she is on the loan, and his income alone isn't enough to get the amount they need. His parents are well-off, and they have offered to cosign on the loan. Is this a bad idea?

-Rhonda

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Welcome from Dale and Dian members

**Fairvale Baptist Church** 

Dear Rhonda,

It's a really bad idea. Those two have no business thinking about a house right now, and his parents are about to make things even worse with their loving, misguided help.

If you need a co-signer, you're nowhere near ready to buy a home. They need to slow down. I mean, they're just engaged. They don't even need a house at this point. They should get married, live in a cheap apartment for a while, and work on paying off their debts. After that, they need to save up an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses, then start setting cash aside for a huge down payment on their first, modest home.

These two have a bad case of house fever. And mom and dad need to step back, look at things objectively, and realize they would not be blessing these kids by helping get them into a home they obviously can't afford!

Dave Ramsey is America's trusted voice on money and business. He has authored five New York Times best-selling books: Financial Peace, More Than Enough, The Total Money Makeover, EntreLeadership and Smart Money Smart Kids. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 8 million listeners each week on more than 500 radio stations. Follow Dave on Twitter at @ DaveRamsey and on the web at daveramsey.com.

come to me

## Oversight Needed of Delta Tunnel, High Speed Rail

Commentary by Ken Cooley, California Assemblyman, 8th District

**SACRAMENTO** REGION, CA (MPG) Tucked away in a book in my Capitol office is a letter addressed to Kenneth

William Cooley whose return address is stated simply as The White House. A 4 cent stamp on the envelope shows a Mercury space capsule floating above a luminous Earth with the words "US Man in Space." Its cancellation mark shows it was mailed on May 4th 1962 in Washington, D.C. I had written President John F. Kennedy at the age of seven, and received that response shortly after I turned eight.

As a child, I was inspired that President Kennedy dreamed big dreams and was bold-minded as an innovator. As an adult, I now know the ensuing US space program reflects his willingness to ask "what might be?"

In my adult life, both as a founder of the City of Rancho Cordova, with 10 years on its City Council and two terms as Mayor, and now as a State Assemblyman, I find another John Kennedy quote relevant almost every day.

"Our responsibility," Kennedy said, "is one of decision, for to govern is to choose."

While I still agree that "to govern is to choose," my Ken Cooley corollary is that we must always know the available choices.

To strengthen public confidence in government, we in government need to make good choices that use tax dollars wisely. Public stewardship is more than well-managed programs, however. Programs themselves must tackle the right priorities. It is the State Legislature's job, as a co-equal branch of government, to conduct vigorous oversight and monitoring of state agencies so billion dollar state projects don't balloon out of control or get spent on the wrong goals.

Recent news makes me very pleased with my early opposition to two expensive projects which use

dollars I believe would be put to better use to strengthen our schools, early childhood education and other critical social and physical infrastructure needs of our state.

These are the High Speed Rail (HSR/Bullet Train) project that I opposed when a key vote came up in 2013 to allocate one quarter of cap and trade dollars to it in a continuing appropriation and also the twin tunnels proposal. Concerning the tunnels, I believe they place at risk the waters of San Francisco Bay, which is the greatest estuary system on the west coast of North and South America. Teeming with millions of fish and all the waterfowl which use the Pacific Flyway depend on those waters, just as you and I, and our children and grandchildren do.

Diverting scarce public dollars to the bullet train and the twin delta tunnels is a bad choice.

When passed by the voters in 2008 before the severity of the most recent recession became plain, the entire High Speed Rail project was promised to cost \$40 billion. By 2016 it had climbed to \$64 billion and now the latest cost estimate for the first segment has jumped nearly 80%, up to \$10.6 billion. "The worst-case scenario," a financial consultant recently said "has happened."

In addition, because the project has yet to tackle reaching the more populous Bay Area and Los Angeles, the financial estimates will likely worsen.

Given our state's challenges, I will continue my opposition to giving a big new blank check to the consistently over-budget ting good money after bad and will actually prevent the state's ability to address other key needs. Like my original 2013 "NO vote" on the HSR continuing appropriation, I will not support major new funding now.

The second state initiative fraught with problems and in swift need of additional oversight is the "Water Fix" project, which includes the construction of twin tunnels (40 feet in diameter and 35 miles long) underneath the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and estuary.

Much of California's water supply passes through the Delta's "gateway" into the waters of San Francisco Bay. Decades of pumping water from this critical estuary to southern California has significantly contributed to its declining ecosystem, placing many species at risk of extinction. Many environmentalists say the tunnels would bring even more harm.

Environmental issues aside, the project is on shaky ground economically. The estimated \$17 billion project was slated to be funded by water agencies that would benefit from Delta sourced water supplies. However, not a single member of the federal water management Central Valley Project has agreed to support or contribute to WaterFix. Further, a 2017 federal audit said \$50 million in taxpayer funds were used improperly to subsidize the San Joaquin Irrigation District for their part in helping plan WaterFix.

The administration reportedly is considering scaling the twin tunnels down to a single tunnel, a dramatic change that will require more dollars for redesign and environmental studies and I continue to oppose spending that money at this time.

It is still very much true, as John F. Kennedy stated, that to govern is to choose, and I believe we need to focus on choices that will bring better benefits to all California children, communities, and our future.

#### Worship 10:30 Fellowship 12:15-?

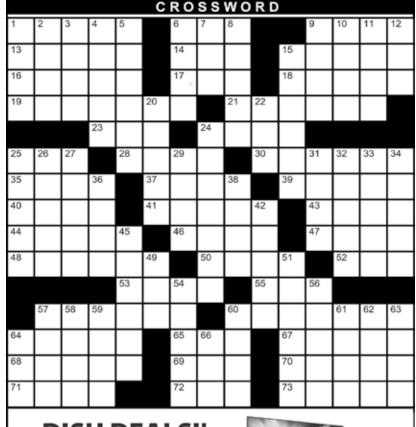
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- **CLUES**
- **ACROSS** 6. \*Dad's Valentine
- 9. \*Seal with a kiss and do
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- 23. \*Princess Jasmine's love 24. Per person
- 25. Rub-a-dub-28. Distressed cry
- 30. Asphalt alternative 35. Native-American story-
- telling tradition 37. Sound of impact
- 39. Royal headgear 40. Morally reprehensible
- 41. Type of rug 43. Tennis serving whiz
- 44. Painter's support
- 46. Dust allergy trigger 47. It "was made for you
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- 55. Corn unit 57. \*St. Valentine, e.g. 60. \*Author of earliest
- Valentine's Day reference 64. Chinese silk plant
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carriage

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- 6. 0.001 inches, pl. \_ del Cairo" 7. Mozart's "L'
- 8. Hajj destination
- 9. Head-hiding place 10. Bad to the bone 11. Post-it slip
- 12. Like some martinis 15. Broad-brimmed beachwear 20. Watts events, 1965
- 22. Make a scene 24. Hard to pin down
- 25. \*Avian symbol of love, pl.
- 26. "Umble" Heep 27. Crafter's wood
- 29. Impulse 31. Iranian coin
- 32. Cockatoo's cousin 33. Rome's Colosseum 34. \*Paper greetings



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36. Suggestive look 38. \*Valentine's Day Get-together 42. Medicinal worm

45. Up in the air 49. Tsetse, e.g.

51. Traveling entertainer's helper 54. Opposite of rural

56. Aung San Suu Kyi's home

57. Vicki Lawrence's Thelma Harper 58. Echoed by the flock

59. Source of zest

60. Those in a play 61. Uber competitors

62. "The Three Musketeers" dueling sword 63. Bolsheviks

64. Like sashimi 66. Schiller's "\_ to Joy"

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dish 🚮

#### **Senator Gaines Receives Perfect Score on Behalf of Small Business**

By Betsey Hodges

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Senator Ted Gaines (R-El Dorado) today announced that he has scored 100 percent on the National Federation of Independent Business/ California's (NFIB/CA) 2017 Legislative Voting Record for his support of small business. Senator Gaines was one of only 22 state legislators out of the 120 Assembly and Senate members to receive the perfect score.

"As a small business owner myself, I know first-hand the hurdles and burdens California's job creators face every day," said Senator Gaines. "I am committed to generating opportunities for small businesses to thrive, not



Senator Ted Gaines (R-FI Dorado)

stifling their growth with excessive taxes and onerous regulations."

NFIB/CA's Voting Record is designed to provide a critical evaluation of a legislator's

attitude towards small business. NFIB/CA is the state's leading nonprofit, nonpartisan small business association representing more than 22,000 small and independent businesses in California.

The Voting Record is developed by selecting key bills which would have the most significant impact, either positive or negative, on small businesses. The votes on those bills are then recorded and a percentage is determined for each member of the Assembly and Senate.

The NFIB/CA Voting Record, with descriptions of the bills used in the report, is available at http://www.nfib.com/california/ voting-record/.

Source: Office of Ted Gaines ★



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By Marlys Johnsen Norris, **Christian Author** 

There are some profound influential people in our world today. Some honestly believe they are arrived! Possibly some have! However, is it the place our Creator/God wants or desires for them? And have they even considered that question? Most probably not!

Recently Lionel Ritchie made this statement on television. "It is not where you started but where you end up that really

#### Who or What Will You Become?

matters!" Was he thinking of people, Joseph and Mary, earthly success or man's eternal destination?

There is so much more we can accomplish when God is with us! When we look to Him for our guidance and successes in life, He promises never to leave us or forsake us. The journey truly begins when we seek His perfect will in our lives. Beginning we never know the path He will guide us into, but we eventually do realize it was the best path possible. It provides blessing upon blessing and a fulfillment in life we would never have experinced without Him. And all because we experienced the love of God by accepting His plan of redemption through His Beloved Son and received the gift of eternal life in heaven and so much more.

Little did two young Jewish

realize the roles they would historically play when a little baby came into their life. A baby the Heavenly Father God miraculously created and was the Son of God. He came to be the Lamb of God to take away the sins of mankind to reconcile and reunite man back into the presence of the Father through His sacrificial death on the Cross. The merciful life of Jesus unites those of us who will believe. Regardless of our choice of denomination, we are the "church". The love and grace of God is a part of our daily lives.. He loves you my friend!

In His Love, Marlys Johnsen Norris Award Winning Christian Author ARM Columnist since 2006 Marlysjn@gmail.com



By Pastor Ray Dare

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is talking about worry at one point and he gives us six reasons why we shouldn't worry. Then he summarizes it, Matthew 6:31 "What I'm trying to do here is get you to relax. To not be so preoccupied with getting so you can respond to God's giving." (Mess) He's saying that sometimes we get preoccupied with the wrong things and we lose focus on what God has already done for us. Everything in your life you have because of God's mercy

and grace. We begin our relationship with God because of His mercy and it's His mercy that keeps us going; especially when times get tough. The Bible says, "Since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart." 2 Cor.

## Encouraging Words

#### **Relax in God's Mercy**

*4:1.* He says because we know that everything God does in our lives is by mercy and because of his mercy we don't give up.

Why is that important? Because so much of the time Satan is whispering in your ear "You're not good enough." He says it to you over and over and over. "Not good enough!" You get this idea that God is some unpleasable parent and that God is ticked off at you because you just don't measure up. But those thoughts are not coming from God.

Mercy is the fact that God

knows every dumb thing that you've ever done in life and He still chose you. He still loves you. He still wants you in his family. You're never going to last in the Christian life in following Christ or in ministry if you don't understand His mercy - that his love for you is unconditional. And not only does he love you, but did you know that God likes you? Actually he's quite fond of you. You may have never realized that. Maybe you've never really thought about that. You think God is mad at you all the

time. But if you have accepted his Son, Jesus Christ, all your sins have been wiped out by His mercy and grace. You can relax knowing that God loves you unconditionally.

Understanding God's mercy helps you relax because now you don't have to try to prove your worth any more. You do your best and forget the rest. You realize that God loves you and accepts you even in your imperfection. And if God accepts you and someone else doesn't accept you - who's got the problem? They do! Your worth and value has nothing to do with what others think of you. That's important. Second, you don't have to wallow in your failures and guilt. Because of His mercy you begin your relationship with Him and it's through His mercy that you continue in your relationship. Everything that God does in you and through you and for you is all because of His mercy.

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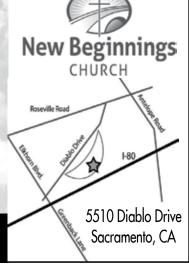
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## Paying it Forward

#### Express Employment Hiring Drive Generates Funding for Sacramento's Women's Empowerment

Story and photos by Jacqueline Fox

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) -Express Employment Professionals (EMP) NE Sacramento has again put women in need at the top of

their philanthropic agenda, which means more homeless women across the Sacramento region will have an opportunity to create a pathway to change this year.

Since 2015, EMP has donated \$10

to a nonprofit of its choosing for every first-time job placement booked through its agency during Annual Pay It Forward Holiday Hiring Drive, which runs from November to December. EMP has more than 750 franchised locations across the

country and each conduct their own

individual philanthropic programs. In 2015, Express Employment staff voted to support Women's Empowerment of Sacramento (WEP) through as part of its giving back campaign. The 2016 drive, the sixth annual campaign, generated 62 firsttime job placements, culminating in a total of \$620.00 for WEP. On January 29, the agency's General Manager, Kristen Garl, and Kathryn Ontiveros, EMP accounting specialist, presented WEP with their donation before a backdrop of photo stories of hundreds of just some of the women who have been helped via the programs offered

"We are very proud to support Women's Empowerment Sacramento," said Garl. "We have worked with a handful of nonprofit organizations over the last six years and they are all wonderful organizations. But three years ago, as reviewed our goals for the campaign, our staff voted and WEP was selected hands-down by the majority of our team."

at WEP since its inception in 2001.

The money will go to support WEP programs, which include a comprehensive, nine-week job-readiness



From L-R: Lisa Culp, founder and executive director, Women's Empowerment (WEP), Kristen Garl, General Manager, Express Employment Professionals, NE Sacramento, Kathryn Ontiveros, accounting specialist at Express Employment Professionals, and WEP Development Manager, Holly Byrom, celebrate a donation from Express Employment's annual Pay if Forward campaign.

education and emotional empowerment workshop for area homeless women. That includes, resume preparation classes, mock interviewing, Internet job search training, budgeting, access to the agency's dress for success clothing closet, transportation and even free, onsite childcare.

In addition, women enrolled in WEP programs are paired with an employment specialist, social worker and a volunteer career mentor to help them identify their skills and interests and realize their career goals. Getting off the street and into a job, experts agree, is the sure-fire way for homeless individuals to create a pathway to a new life and end the cycle of

poverty

To date EMP has donated a total of \$1,640 to WEP via its Pay It Forward campaign.
"We have an amazing relation-

ship with Express Employment," said WEP's Development Manager, Holly Byrom.

"The support we receive each year

is significant, and their mission is very closely aligned with our goal to help women get out of poverty and into a job, a home and a new life."

More than 1,500 women with a

More than 1,500 women with a combined total of some 3,500 children have benefited from the classes and services offered through WEP, 521 in 2017 alone. Roughly 80

percent of those served, including the 157 in 2017, have successfully secured a job or enrolled in school or vocational training upon completion of their WEP program.

WEP was named Nonprofit of the Year by the Nonprofit Resource Center in 2009, one of the most prestigious honors a nonprofit can receive in the Sacramento region. And, in 2014, WEP was chosen as the Organization of the Year at the inaugural Women's Appreciation Awards by Congresswoman Doris Matsui, then Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg and Assemblyman, Roger Dickinson.

WEP is a private organization and

does not receive any federal funding. Its social enterprise program generates roughly \$54,000 in income annually. Grants and family foundations account for roughly \$400,000 toward its annual \$1.1 million budget. Remaining funds are generated through a combination of individual gifts, the United Way and Special Events.

"We know the pathway to breaking the cycle of homelessness is through employment," said WEP Executive Director Lisa Culp, formerly on staff at Sacramento's Loaves and Fishes. "Our participants are 100 percent homeless women. So we promise them that if they come in and complete our program, we will help them find a job, a home and a new life."

It takes money to offer all of the services made available to local homeless women in need. Programming costs for WEP account for \$723,000 alone. As such Garl said her agency's support for WEP is ongoing. As her team connects with existing and potential employers, schools and other entities, it networks for homeless women and WEP, encouraging employers to believe in second chances and supporting WEP's social enterprise, the Get a Job Kit.

The kit, which sells for \$15.99, is a colorfully printed "tool box" for job seekers, which includes a comprehensive packet of job readiness guide sheets and resources. It was created for WEP clients initially, but it is adding value to the community at large, especially wherever there are students or other job seekers trying to secure long-term employment.

"We are always pushing for support for Women's Empowerment everywhere we can," said Garl. "We could not be more thrilled to be connected with WEP and its mission, and intend to keep supporting them for as long as we can, in as many ways possible." ★





#### Citrus Heights Police Target Human Trafficking in Multi-Agency Operation

By Sgt. Chad Morris, Citrus Heights Police Department

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) -The Citrus Heights Police Department's Special Investigations Unit conducted multiple sting operations last week as part of the 4th Annual Reclaim and Rebuild Enforcement Operation. This operation was in coordination with the Los Angeles Regional Human Trafficking Task Force in an effort to identify and rescue commercially, sexually exploited victims of human trafficking and to disrupt the demand of prostitution by targeting the people who seek to victimize others through either soliciting or requesting services of prostitution.

Our efforts were focused on identifying and arresting the "Pimps" (those who were coordinating the services of victims) and "Johns" (those seeking to take advantage of those victims) and rescuing the victims of human trafficking. Using the internet and various other tactics including undercover operations, the Citrus Heights Police Department made (10) arrests. These arrests included prostitution, probation violations, as well as felony and misdemeanor warrant arrests.

The City of Citrus Heights and the community of Citrus Heights





39 year old Hamel Yan of Elk Grove, 19 year old Darrick Chavis of Vacaville, 42 year old Steven Birdsong of Antelope, and 57 year old Daniel Pellissier of Sacramento. Photo courtesy of Citrus Heights Police

do not tolerate human trafficking and will continue to detect, deter, and hold those accountable for their involvement in prostitution and victimizing others. If you or someone you know needs help or you suspect human trafficking may be occurring, please contact the Citrus Heights Police Department to help us stop human trafficking and rescue those who are victimized.

The arrested "Johns" were

identified (pictured below from left to right) as 39 year old Hamel Yan of Elk Grove, 19 year old Darrick Chavis of Vacaville, 42 year old Steven Birdsong of Antelope, and 57 year old Daniel Pellissier of Sacramento. See Los Angeles County's Sheriff's Official Press Release video regarding Operation Reclaim and Rebuild https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXDXB07dRpo ★



#### Valuable Valentine's Day

Would you like to discover the secrets and essential skills to become a better couple? Jen Elmquist, MA, LMFT, can give you a new direction. According to the Centers for disease Control, there are 876,000 divorces a year in the U.S. with only 37% of those couples seeking relationship help before they call it quits. It gets worse. It is estimated that at any given time up to one-fifth of the 60 million marriages in America are distressed. So when I had Jen on my POPPOFF Radio Show, I was fascinated with the possibility that there are some practical tools that can revolutionize your lifetime relationship.

In "Relationship Reset" Jen separates the book into three sections that define strategies for viewing your relationship as a therapist while rediscovering why you fell in love with your partner in the beginning.

Let's tackle the breakdown

## POPPOFF!

beginning with THE CORE **ELEMENTS**. Define what's "normal" for your relationship and how to navigate through the tough spots. This area covers the couple's journey through the six-stage Cycle of Committed Relationships and what common experiences are in each stage; Relationship Patterns and the way couples learn to dance with each other over the years; and Conflict Styles, the permanent presence of conflict in every relationship and how to become a Humble Warrior.

Once you can normalize your relationship, you establish a baseline that allows you to have clarity about what constitutes a problem and what doesn't, defining where to put your effort toward improvement. Then comes **THE MIND BENDERS**. Learn to take personal, thought shifting actions that will change your relationship for the better.

Being able to manage and communicate your inner emotional experience as well as increase self-regulation is the key to enhancing your relationship. This section will help you elevate your mind in your relationship by increasing your self-regulation. These actions alone have the unique ability to shift the relationship in significant ways without your

partner having to change with you. Then, beyond your individual work, you will find that when you work on your minds together, this creates what most relationships are begging for... better communication.

Finally, get fit with THE MUSCLE BUILDERS. Engage in exercises together that will strengthen and stabilize your love for a lifetime. After normalizing your relationship experiences and teaching you how to adjust your mind to benefit one another, it is essential to increase the strength of your connection. Relationships aren't meant to go from idea to action and then just coast for years. No relationship that can thrive that way. The relationship needs the couple to build up. It requires strong muscles to create a sustainable trajectory toward health and longevity.

And there are real couple stories about loving relationships in Relationship Reset."

Jen practices what she preaches with some 26 years with her loving spouse. You can also check out her website at www. JenElmquist.com. You can get it going on right now! So, before the flowers and candy and dinner, look for special ways to make it last. HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



"O SON OF SPIRIT!
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from the <u>"Hidden Words</u> of Baha'u'llah More info: lsacarmichael@yahoo.com

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## **Something to Tweet About**



Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - There's more to ornithology than binoculars and obliging birds. Add a nature preserve resonant with avian song; throw in an expert docent; garnish with breakfast fit for a kingfisher. You then have the Effie Yeaw Nature Center's popular spring fundraiser.

"Bird and Breakfast;" will this year be staged on Saturdays March 17 and March 24, at the center's Ancil Hoffman Park facility. Reservations are required; the two-event fundraiser sells out every year. Participants will likely see 40 or more species and no bird gets left behind; Sacramento Audubon guides get as excited about tiny finches as rock-star herons, snowy egrets and – yes, it's possible – a bald eagle fly-by.

Miniature but deadly, the kingfisher (left )is another

American River angler.

Equally fascinating are home-building habits during the most industrious time of the avian year. Because Audubon scouts locate nests in advance, visitors will likely see wren, hawk, woodpecker and titmice abodes. Higher and harder to spot, some hummingbirds will have nested by March. Nest-watching is enhanced by on-site viewing scopes.

A 27-year spring tradition, the \$40 (\$35 for American River Natural History Association or Audubon members) safari is followed on March 17 by gourmet breakfast. The March 24 foray is for ages six and up. This family-friendly program invites adults for \$10 and children for \$5. Discounts apply for ARNHA or Audubon members. Groups are welcome. Carmichael Kiwanis will serve a pancake breakfast on this date.

Silent auctions of bird-related goodies accompany breakfast. Proceeds assist the Nature Center. Neither weekend excursion is recommended for very young children. Participants should wear stout shoes and bring binoculars. Bird and Breakfast begins at 8 a.m., both days. Learn more about the

fundraiser at www.sacnaturecenter.net

#### **APAPA Honors Senator Jim Nielsen** Lifetime Achievement Advocate Award

By Nghia Nguyen

**SACRANENTO REGION, CA (MPG) -**For his vision and tireless dedication, Senator Jim Nielsen (R-Tehama) was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Advocate Award by CC Yin, Chairman of the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA). This special recognition was awarded at the APAPA 2018 California Legislative Reception on January 30, 2018, at the Sutter Club in Sacramento. Over 200 legislators, community leaders and sponsors were in attendance.

"Inspiring young people and minority communities to be more involved in the democratic process is a lifetime commitment," said Senator Jim Nielsen. "That I am being recognized by an organization that is near and dear to my heart is such an honor and so humbling."

"Senator Nielsen has been a friend - and an ardent supporter - from the inception of our nonprofit to engage and empower

young people to serve in all levels of government. His leadership, extraordinary commitment and support of APAPA have been unwavering for decades," said CC Yin, Founder and Chair of APAPA.

Having grown up in the Central Valley, Senator Nielsen understands the importance of education. He immersed himself into the overhaul of the state's Master Plan for Higher Education, a plan to ensure excellence and access to education. To ensure students have access to work experience, Senator Nielsen has been a longstanding supporter the annual APAPA internship program.

"It is critical for students to gain work and life experience. Each year, I wholeheartedly support and mentor the interns so they are able to gain the necessary skills to succeed," stated Senator Nielsen.

Lauded for his experience and keen understanding of the Legislature and state budget, Senator Jim Nielsen proudly serves Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba Counties as their representa-

tive in the State Senate. Elected to the State Senate in 2013, Senator Nielsen is dedicated to preserving the quality of life, protecting taxpayers and

restoring fiscal common sense to

Along with CC and Regina Yin, Senator Nielsen is a founding member of APAPA.

government.

APAPA is a grassroots, community-based, non-profit, non-political, and non-partisan organization. APAPA focuses on increasing civic participation by Asian Americans at the local, state, and national level through voter registration and education, civic leadership programs including internships and scholarships for high school and college students, fellowship and mentorship for adults leading to appointive, judicial and elective offices.

Source: Office of Senator



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#### Harmer Family "Flower Power" **Summer Float Needs Flowers**

By Elise Spleiss

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) -Rancho Cordova, CA (MPG) The call is going out for flowers flowers, and more flowers! Parade season is still six months

away but Float Master Wayne Harmer of Rancho Cordova is well into the creation of his family's 2018 float "Flower Power", to appear in the annual Citrus Heights Red, White and Blue parade on June 24, and the 4th of July parade in Rancho Cordova.

The 24 to 26-foot flower laden float will mark the 50th anniversary of the 1960's hippie movement which originated in San Francisco. It will feature a colorful 'hippie' Volkswagen bus, flying eagle, twelve-foot high double waterfall and over a thousand flowers. To date, Harmer has been able to acquire several hundred flowers but the hunt is on for donations of hundreds more plastic, silk or other synthetic flowers.

Those donating will be able to look for their flowers on the "Flower Power" float this year. and for years to come on future entries. Nothing is thrown away from Harmer's floats, everything is saved for future use.

If you wish to donate and see your flowers coming down the parade route, contact Harmer directly at 916-910-5536 to arrange for drop off. Harmer's floats are a family affair. They are not sponsored, all funds to build floats are out-of-pocket. Gift cards from Dollar Store and Dollar Tree stores are welcome. Thrift stores and garage sales are also a good source for

Plans for this year's float began over a year ago. Even as Harmer is guiding his latest self-propelled float down the parade route, he is creating next



the sculptor, his motto is, "If you can't see it with your eyes closed, you can't create it with your eyes open." He puts no drawings to paper, but lets the concept take shape on its own and then puts it down on paper.

Harmer's Floats have won numerous awards in Citrus Heights and Rancho Cordova for almost 20 years since the family's first entry in 1999. The elements he includes in each float are some form of running water, smoke and animation or moving parts.

The family's latest float was year's entry in his mind. Like built in three weeks for the hidden within the float.

first Holiday Lights parade in Rancho Cordova on December 3, 2017. The parade was the brainchild of Rancho Cordova resident Jerry Jewell. The only requirement for floats was of 'lots of lights' which was incorporated into a winter camping scene complete with a realistic camp fire pit and snow from a snow cannon which delighted both children and adults alike.

What makes Harmer's entries even more unique is that he has the only 'self-propelled float trailer which he drives down the parade route. All the mechanical parts are

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