



## Senator Gaines Continues Efforts to Carry Common-Sense Drone Legislation

Page 3

## Volunteers Assemble Christmas Stockings

Page 5



# Citrus Heights Messenger

"Written by the people, for the people"

Volume 5 Issue 24

Serving the City of Citrus Heights and Sacramento County

December 18, 2015

### SADLY, CONGRESS SEEMS OKAY WITH BEING WEAK



Page 8

### WHY BABY JESUS WAS BORN AT CHRISTMAS



Page 4

### POPPOFF! WITH MARY JANE POPP



Page 10

## Tree Lighting Brings Fun and Culture to the City

By Elise Spleiss

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - On December 3rd, while the new Citrus Heights City Hall is being built, this year's 19th annual tree lighting ceremony took place in front of the Community Center on Fountain Square Drive. Despite threats of rain, hundreds of dedicated residents of Citrus Heights and surrounding communities arrived knowing they would again enjoy good music, entertainment, refreshments, face painting, balloon twisting, and the fellowship of old and new friends.

Continued on page 2



Four members of the energetic Ukrainian Folk Dance Ensemble (at right) from Roseville who entertained attendees at the Citrus Heights 19th Annual Tree Lighting. From left to right: Sofia Shevchuk, Iwanko Iwanjko, Sophiol Socolol, and Tetyana Barz. Photo by Jessica Mang. This year's official Citrus Heights Christmas tree (above) came from the Rushing Wind Tree Farm in Alta, CA. It was planted in front of the community center on Fountain Drive by the General Services Department staff and members of the Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps. Photo by Jack Frost



## Media Arts Program Introduces Local Teens to Tech Careers

By Sheila Hull-Summers

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - The Wish List Project, a local nonprofit organization focused on educational equity for all kids, has partnered with the Best Buy Foundation to start an after-school program for teens in Citrus Heights and the surrounding communities. The Youth Media Team is a project-based semester-long program for youth 13-18 years of age who are interested in gaining hands-on skills in the areas of web design, photography, graphic design, blogging/social media, and basic video production. Volunteer teacher/mentors from the community will share their expertise in each of these areas using 21st century technology.

*"The Wish List Project created this unique community program with the goal of providing a hands-on learning opportunity for underserved students to develop real-world job skills that may lead to an interest in pursuing higher education, gaining access to scholarships in the media arts, and obtaining employment in the field of technology."*

The Wish List Project created this unique community program with the goal of providing a hands-on learning opportunity for underserved students to develop real-world job skills that may lead to an interest in pursuing higher education, gaining access to scholarships in the media arts, and obtaining employment in the field of technology. This program has the potential to open doors to success that some teens may not even know exist.

The program is free of charge to qualifying families. Interested teens must complete a registration form with parent release and make a commitment to attend all 16 weekly sessions. The program will begin Thursday, January 14th and run through the end of May. Weekly sessions will take place every Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m. at Sylvan Community Center (excluding President's Week and Spring Break).

For more information or to request a registration packet, please email info@thewishlistproject.org or call (916) 505-3610. ★

## Christmas Care Packages Make the Holiday Bright



Blue Star Mom Betty Brady, Brysom Nussbaum, Grandma Heidi Bacon, and Jacob Nussbaum. Photo by Deanna Nussbaum

By Elise Spleiss

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - It's a family affair and a community affair. The Sacramento Blue Star Moms' tri-annual "packing parties," such as the one held in November that brought together hundreds of packers and other participants from Sacramento and South Placer counties, fill CARE packages with a taste of home for men and women serving in combat overseas.

The 400 Christmas CARE packages prepared at the Roseville Veterans Memorial Hall included essential personal hygiene items along with little added "hugs" like a warm scarf, a good book, and popular snacks and candies. Each box also included a greeting from the Sacramento Blue Star Moms and a personal message written by grateful men, women, and children here at home.

Continued on page 2



"Cowboy" Bob Rodgers was given a flag flown over Kuwait and certificate for all he does for Sacramento Blue Star Moms. He puts flags up at every event they have. Photo by Henry Sanchez



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# Christmas Care Packages Make the Holiday Bright



Proud Blue Star Moms pose with their banner during their final CARE package packing party of 2015. The event took place at the Roseville Veterans Memorial Hall. Photo by Henry Sanchez

Continued from page 1

The day was a family affair. Children and parents waited together in line to fill their boxes, learning about volunteerism and patriotism from being an active part of the event. Area teens from the Del Campo High School Key Club in Fair Oaks worked together as a team. Other participants spent time writing heartfelt letters of thanks to unknown military members.

Members of Sacramento Blue Star Moms were recognized for their service, as were sponsors and supporters in the community who collaborate throughout the year to aid Sacramento Blue Star Moms in their work. Immediate past and present board members were presented with a flag that flew over Washington D.C. and a letter of appreciation from their respective assembly member. Past First Vice President Heidi Bacon received a resolution from Senator Nielsen's office for her four years of service to Sacramento Blue Star Moms.

Gold Star parents Tom and Patty Shumacher from Granite

Bay were honored, along with their son USMC Pfc. Victor Dew. At 20 years old, Dew was killed in Afghanistan in 2010 during Operation Enduring Freedom. The Shumachers are active with the Sacramento Blue Star Moms.

Robert "Cowboy Bob" Rogers, known for supplying military flags for all Sacramento Blue Star Moms events and other military events throughout the region, was presented with a flag flown over Kuwait and a certificate of appreciation.

Blue Star Moms are proud mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers, foster mothers, and female legal guardians living in South Placer county and Sacramento county who have children serving in the military, guard, or reserves or have children who are veterans. Members and friends also volunteer at VA hospitals and help out at other veteran outreach programs including Stand Down, Wounded Warriors, and Homes for our Troops. They also work with veteran organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars and

the American Legion.

Throughout the year, Blue Star Moms collect items and fundraise to pay for postage to mail the CARE packages. Postage is about \$13.80 for each box.

Packing parties in 2016 are scheduled for Feb. 27th, June 18th, and Nov. 19th at the Roseville Veterans Memorial Hall at 110 Park Drive, Roseville.

The Sacramento Blue Star Moms depend solely on donations to complete their mission. There are no paid positions; participants are all volunteers. You can help them support our military by donating items for CARE packages, making a tax-deductible financial donation, attending their events and fundraisers, writing letters to the troops, and participating in CARE package packing parties. Speakers are available to speak to your organization.

To volunteer or donate, contact Tabitha Gomez at (916) 206-6467 or sacramentobsm@gmail.com.

Source: Sacramento Blue Star Moms

# Tree Lighting Brings Fun and Culture to the City



At the end of a long night, Santa and his elf found a few moments to grant one more photo opportunity for his fans. From left to right: Logan Bruins, Cainan Ortiz, Lauri Casazza (standing), Santa, Landon Bruins and elf Jade Whited. Logan and friends attend Woodside Elementary. Photo by Elise Spleiss

Continued from page 1

The covered entrance at the front of the Community Center provided protection from the elements for Mayor Sue Frost and City Council Members to greet attendees. After thanking those who made the evening possible, Mayor Frost hit the switch to light up the Christmas tree to the sound of cheers and applause.

The tree was donated by Rushing Wind Tree Farm in Alta, CA and planted on Fountain Square Drive by General Services Department staff members Charles Zimmerman, Robert Young, and Armando Velasquez as well as the Sacramento Regional Conservational Corps members.

History and Arts Commissioner Mary Lou Anderson arranged for the special cultural component for this year's festivities. Although the countries and cultures of India and Ukraine span 3,000 miles, the two dance companies delivered performances of energy and beauty.

Aradhana Arts dancers from Folsom portrayed the quiet, exotic beauty of India in their performance, while the Ukrainian Folk Dance Ensemble of Roseville transported viewers to times past with their colorful costumes and energetic routines.



Indian dancer Kavana Gonur struck a graceful pose before performing with the Aradhana Arts Dance Company from Folsom at the Citrus Heights 19th Annual Tree Lighting festivities. Photo by Jessica Mang

The Ukraine Heritage Club of Northern California provided the ensemble.

The party then moved inside the Community Center for a visit and photo with Santa, refreshments, entertainment, and other activities. While awaiting their turn to see Santa, many visited the "cookie room" to try their hand at decorating large cookies with a variety of toppings, compliments of TLC Exceptional Catering. TLC also provided the

evening's hot cocoa, apple cider, and regular cookies.

Children and adults alike were kept busy throughout the evening by various activities. Some tried to "pin the nose on the reindeer" at a booth provided by One Life Church of Citrus Heights. Local pageant winners and ambassadors led by pageant director Tamara Barbu lent helping hands with the children's activities throughout the evening.

Face painting by The Other Cheek Face Painting, sponsored by Republic Services, added a bright face to the party. Balloon twisting by Grama V the Balloon Lady and the Aloha Balloon Company produced animals and other artistic shapes sculpted for kids of all ages.

The evening wrapped up with a concert featuring a medley of holiday favorites including "Winter Wonderland," "Carol of the Bells," and a favorite, the 1970 Three Dog Night's version of "Joy to the World." Sunrise Mall, Republic Services, and H&R Block were the proud sponsors of the ceremony and festivities.

The City of Citrus Heights reminds residents to look for a new tree in front of the new City Hall in 2016.

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# Senator Gaines Continues Efforts to Carry Common-Sense Drone Legislation

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- Senator Ted Gaines (R-El Dorado) announced plans to introduce a package of six urgently needed and important bills that will protect citizens, property, and emergency responders from drone interference.

"Privacy and public safety issues, including today's heightened threat of terrorism, are among the most important policy issues facing Californians," said Senator Gaines. "We must protect the public's right to privacy and more importantly, their safety, from inappropriate drone use. I attempted to address this new reality with several drone-related bills last session and I vow to continue tackling this problem that impacts the lives of all Californians."

Last session, Senator Gaines introduced a series of drone bills that received unanimous, bi-partisan support from the legislature; however, they were vetoed by Governor Brown. Senator Gaines will be reintroducing those bills as part of his drone-related legislative package, in addition to several others, including the following:

- Drones over Emergency Zones—Increases the fines for drone interference with firefighting and emergency



Senator Ted Gaines (R-El Dorado) announced plans to introduce a package of six urgently needed and important bills that will protect citizens, property, and emergency responders from drone interference. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia

response activities.

- Drones and Immunity for Emergency Responders—Grants civil immunity to any emergency responder who damages a drone in the course of firefighting, air ambulance, or search-and-rescue operations.
- Drones over Schools—Bans drones from flying over public schools grades K-12, while school is in session.
- Drones over Prisons—Prohibits drones from flying over prisons and delivering contraband.
- Drones over Critical Infrastructure—Restricts drones from flying over critical

infrastructure.

- Drone Stalking—Disallows an individual from using drones to violate a restraining order.

"The problem of drone interference will likely be far worse this coming year because one million new drones are expected to be given as holiday gifts," said Senator Gaines. "Drone operators need to understand all air safety laws and use common sense. But if they ignore the law and expose everyone to direct and unnecessary risk, they should be punished. My package of bills will do just that."

Source: Senator Ted Gaines' Office ★

# City Adopts Citrus Heights Urban Greening Strategy

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)

- The City Council recently adopted the Citrus Heights Urban Greening Strategy (CHUGS). This effort includes several interrelated documents including an Urban Forest Master Plan and Native/Drought-Tolerant Landscape Guidelines. These documents are available on the CHUGS website, <http://www.citrusheights.net/840/>

Landscape Guidelines are a great resource to help interested parties know what types of plants and trees are good choices for our local climate and soil conditions. The Urban Forest Master Plan is intended to aid the City in reaching its goal of increasing its tree canopy cover from 25 percent existing to 35 percent while maintaining a healthy urban forest.

The Zoning Code Update/ Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance is intended to ensure

new development will increase tree canopy, follow urban greening practices, and require water-efficient landscaping and irrigation.

For more information, see the CHUGS website or email [planning@citrusheights.net](mailto:planning@citrusheights.net). The development of CHUGS was funded by an Urban Greening Planning grant from the California Strategic Growth Council.

Source: City of Citrus Heights ★

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**REPUBLIC SERVICES**

## Holiday Treecycling

December 26, 2015 to January 15, 2016

Citrus Heights residential customers of Republic Services can recycle their Christmas Trees for free!

Simply put your tree out on the curb on your regular garbage collection day, and Republic Services will pick it up and recycle it.

Artificial trees, flocked trees, or trees containing ornaments and other decor cannot be accepted.

For more information on Holiday Treecycling, please call Republic Services at (916) 638-9000 or (916) 725-9060

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# Pastor Ray's Encouraging Words

## Why Baby Jesus Was Born At Christmas

**God wanted you to know that He understands you.** The Bible says Jesus was born like us, He grew up like us, He was tempted like us. He had the same needs, the same problems, and the same pressures in life. He was not only tempted but He suffered like we do, He experienced real pain. There were times when Jesus was lonely, when He was tired, fatigued, under pressure, disappointed, misunderstood, when people didn't treat Him right and He was criticized. He understands all that. One of the reasons He went through all that was so you could know that He understands how you feel. No matter what you're going through, God understands because He's been there.

**God wanted a relationship with you.** He didn't come to give us religion. He came to give us a relationship. That's why you feel so bored and unfulfilled when you don't know Him personally. You were made by God and for God and until you understand that, life isn't going to make sense to you. Have you ever wondered in those quiet moments of life, "Why am I here? Where did I come from? Where am I going? What is my purpose in life?" All of those questions can be answered in one simple sentence. You were made to be loved by God. To

have a relationship with Him. If you don't understand that, you've missed the whole purpose of life. The greatest tragedy of life is never knowing why you're alive in the first place. That is the greatest waste of life because you were made to know God, just like He knows you. He gave you that capacity. You have the capacity to know God personally.

That's what Christmas is all about. He came as a baby so we wouldn't be afraid of Him; so that you could understand Him. He became human so you would know that He understands you and that He understands how you feel. No matter what you're going through right now,

He understands and He cares and He wants to help you. But you've got to turn to Him and ask Him for help and begin that personal relationship with Him. Not a religion but a relationship. I want to personally invite you to church this Sunday we'll be talking more about how to know God personally and how to have that relationship with Him that He created you for.

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[www.NBC4U.org](http://www.NBC4U.org)



By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

God has given me a supernatural ability to see or discern the future potential a person can have when they seek His will for their life. There was a time recently when I could sense a deep hurt in a young woman seated in front of me. As a gentleman sang a beautiful song, I felt led to put my hands on her shoulders to let her know someone cared. When the song was finished, she turned around and began to share her heartfelt pain. She shared the depth of her personal pain with me for several minutes. Then, God spoke words of

## Future Potential

comfort and faith as tears flowed from her eyes. I asked if I might pray with her and she agreed. The words of my prayer were words I believed God was speaking directly to her to encourage her heart and help her believe that God cares deeply about what she was going through. Sometimes, we just know we are in a time of God's appointment and this was certainly one of those times for me. God wants everyone to know how precious they are to Him.

When one submits to be living in the will of God for their lives, He will bring about events to help others and for us it will be a time of fulfillment of happiness, joy, and peace beyond anything one has ever enjoyed.

When one listens to the awesome voice of God and is obedient, He will bless everyone in the process. Our calling to function with God is often missed by a person's disobedience, because they are thinking about self rather than honoring the God they claim to pray and worship on Sundays. All rejection and disobedience actually

dishonors the one they claim to love with their heart and soul.

God is not the author of confusion! (1 Cor.14:33) He is the God of love and peace, which extends to the hearts of those who truly know and love Him. The genuine love of God is active and pierces like a double-edged sword, cutting away the evil sin the devil invades into every life from the beginning of creation.

Listen—God may be speaking to you! Then, have faith and act on what God says. Submission and obedience are important if you want to be used of the Holy Spirit to be in God's perfect will for your life. Then, honor him and bring Him Glory for what He does in your life! Bless someone's life every single day you live on this earth. Prove your love to be like the love of Jesus Christ by working with Him when He speaks to you.

Marlys Johnsen Norris is the Christian author of seven books. You may contact her at [Marlysjn@gmail.com](mailto:Marlysjn@gmail.com).

By Pastor Ray Dare

If you were God, would you have come as a baby? Of all the ways that God could have come into this world, He came the same way you and I came into this world -- as a baby.

Philippians 2:7-8 says, "Christ gave up His place as God and made Himself nothing. He was born to be a man and became like a servant. When He was living as a man, He humbled Himself." So, why did God come to earth as a baby? There are numerous reasons, but here are three big ones:

**God wanted you to understand Him.** He came in a way that we could relate to Him. I can't relate to some big force in the sky, a "May the force be with you" kind of thing. But when I look at Jesus and see that He came as a baby and He grew up a human being and lived a full life and died on the cross for me, I can look at Jesus and say, "Oh, that's what God's like!" I can relate to God in human flesh. I can understand that.

## Dealing with the Cha Ching Syndrome

Dr. James L. Snyder

Maybe because I am getting older I am feeling more of the strain of the activity of the season: shopping, which is not my favorite pastime any time of the year. I cannot say that for the other occupant in our usually merry domicile.

If anybody is a shopping queen, the trophy has to go to the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I do not know if she invented shopping, I just know it is in her DNA. In our house, DNA means "Deal Negotiator Authority." If she cannot make a deal, nobody can.

I have discovered something quite disturbing during this time of the year. I call it the Cha Ching Syndrome.

It all came together when my wife came home from one of her shopping sprees very excited about how much money she had saved. If there is a coupon available anywhere, she has it, or knows where to get it.

It hit me one day; how much money did she have to spend to save money?

I first recognized my Cha Ching Syndrome when my wife convinced me to go shopping with her. She caught me by surprise and I could not think of any excuse not to go with her. At least not any excuse she would buy into.

"It will not take too long," she pleaded in such a way that I could not refuse. "I just need someone to help me take the packages out to the car."

"Then," she said with an infectious smile, "we can go and have lunch together. Doesn't that sound like fun?"

How can you possibly argue with that? I could not come up with any legitimate excuse and so I "volunteered" to go with my wife shopping with one qualifying element; she had to take her car. I

did not want to use my gas to do something I was not excited about doing.

I had a sinking feeling in my stomach that it would not be my favorite day. A favorite day for me would be staying at home reading one of my favorite books on my favorite easy chair. The word "favorite" can never be associated with going to the mall.

We made it to the mall and my wife knew exactly where to start. I knew where I wanted to go, but I was under strict orders to assist my wife in this shopping extravaganza.

I could not help but notice how many stores there were in this mall. I never knew there were this many stores in the entire world. Where do these stores come from? Who in the world is buying all this stuff to keep the stores operating?

As I looked around, I noticed the mall was crowded with people. I had to be careful so not to be run over or run over anybody. There was such an obsession to buy that I had to be careful not to get in anybody's way. I am ready to die, but I sure do not want to die in a shopping mall. That would be the epitome of blasphemy as far as I am concerned.

"Oh," my wife said gigglingly, "are we going to save money today?"

Then it slowly began to dawn on me. How can you save money in a shopping mall whose only intention is to get as much money out of your wallet as possible?

As we went to the first cashier to pay for our purchases, I heard a faint Cha Ching. I did not think too much of it at the time.

When we came to the second cashier, I heard a little louder, Cha Ching, Cha Ching.

The first one did not get my attention, but this one did. Then we went to the third cashier. Almost booming in my head I heard, Cha Ching, Cha Ching, Cha Ching.

We were getting close to the end of her shopping spree and she said there was one more store she needed to go to. Patiently, and loaded down with packages, I followed her to the last store of the day. Do not ask me which it was, after awhile they all look the same to me.

I felt like I was backed into a corner. We were at the register and my wife looked at me and said very calmly, "Do you have any cash on you? I've used up all mine."

Slowly, I open my wallet, pulled out all the cash I had and with a trembling hand handed it over to her. Cha Ching.

"Thank you," she said, "you helped me save a lot of money today."

All I could hear was Cha Ching echoing in my head and I could barely understand what she was saying.

When it was all over my wife saved \$39.14 (Cha Ching) which only cost me \$219.79 (Cha Ching, Cha Ching, Cha Ching).

During our lunch, which I ended up paying for (Cha Ching) all she could talk about was all the money (Cha Ching) she had saved today and had me to thank for it. Sometimes it is best to go along so you can get along.

Paul understood the power of money, he wrote "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1 Timothy 6:10). To be obsessed with money is to lose the real value of life.

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, P.O. Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 866-552-2543 or e-mail [jamesnyder2@att.net](mailto:jamesnyder2@att.net). His website is [www.jamesnyderministries.com](http://www.jamesnyderministries.com).

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# Volunteers Assemble Christmas Stockings



**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - It took a dozen volunteers from Curves of Citrus Heights and the GFWC Citrus Heights Women's Club only 40 minutes to assemble 70 Christmas stockings, which were given to some very special children on December 12th at A Community for Peace's annual Christmas

party. Members of Curves spent months collecting the items for the stockings that were presented along with other toys and gifts to children whose families are working with A Community for Peace to recover from domestic violence. *Photo by Elise Spleiss* ★

# What is the most important thing that seniors can leave to their loved ones?

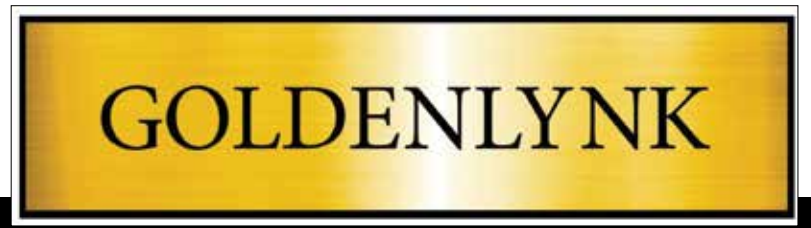


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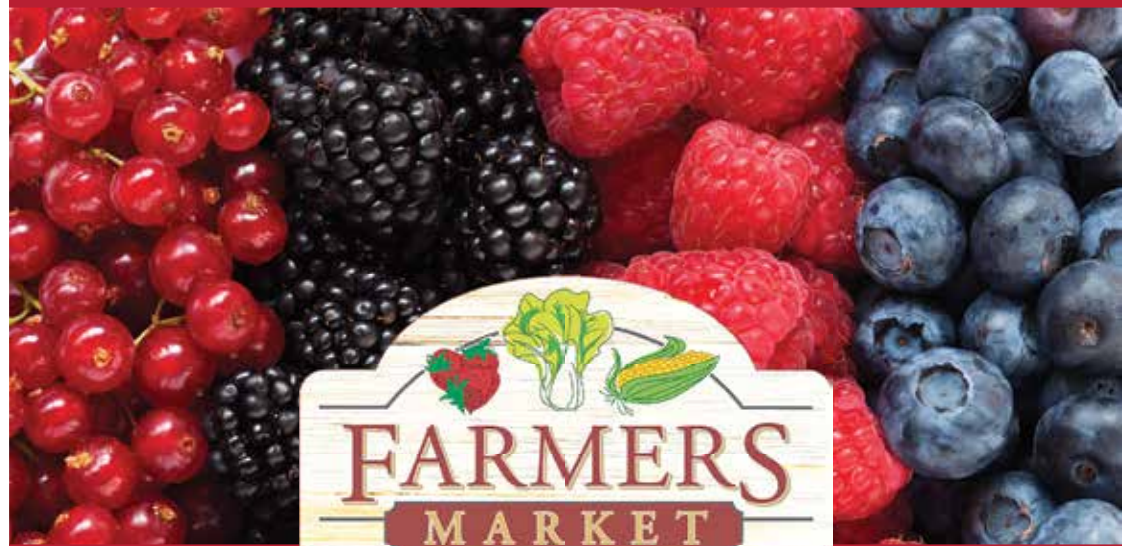
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# CDPH Offers Food Safety Tips for the Holidays

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - With the holiday season upon us, California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Director and State Public Health Officer Dr. Karen Smith reminded consumers about the importance of safe food handling to prevent foodborne illness.

“Bacterial pathogens like Salmonella, E. coli, and Campylobacter can be present in foods, such as meat and poultry, and can cause illness due to insufficient cooking, inadequate cooling, and improper food handling practices,” Smith said. “Properly prepared and handled foods can assure us all a safe meal every day of the year.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 48 million illnesses, 128,000 hospitalizations, and 3,000 deaths annually in the United States are related to foodborne diseases.

Foodborne diseases can be

prevented by simple safety steps in the kitchen. Wash hands with soap and warm water before and after food preparation, and especially after handling raw foods. Clean all work surfaces, utensils, and dishes with hot soapy water and rinse with hot water after each use. Be sure to cook foods thoroughly and to refrigerate adequately between meals. Consumers can find more information about food safety tips for holiday feasts on the CDPH website.

Bacteria such as Salmonella and E. coli O157:H7 are responsible for many foodborne illnesses, caused by eating contaminated foods. Contamination can occur at the farm level, during processing and handling, and as a result of poor food handling practices at home.

Symptoms of foodborne disease can include diarrhea, which may be bloody, vomiting,

abdominal cramps and fever. Most infected people recover from foodborne illnesses within a week. Some, however, may develop complications that require hospitalization. Young children, the elderly, pregnant women, and people with a weakened immune system are at highest risk for potentially life-threatening complications.

Additional resources for information on food safety include the federal Food and Drug Administration Food Information line at (888) SAFEFOOD (723-3366) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Meat and Poultry Hotline at (888) MPHonline (674-6854). Consumers can also access the national Partnership for Food Safety Education’s “Fight BAC” (bacteria) webpage.

Source: California Department of Public Health ★

# “Splash Brothers” Promote Water Conservation

CSN Bay Area, the Golden State Warriors, and Save Our Water Team Up to Raise Awareness During California’s Historic Drought

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - CSN Bay Area (@CSNAuthentic), the exclusive television home for Golden State Warriors games in Northern California, has partnered with the team and Save Our Water (@saveourwater). California’s official statewide conservation program, to produce a public service announcement featuring the “Splash Brothers”—reigning NBA MVP Stephen Curry and All-Star guard Klay Thompson of the NBA Champion Warriors.

As California prepares for a fifth year of drought, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. recently issued an executive order that calls for additional actions to build on the state’s ongoing response to record dry conditions, including an extension of a mandatory statewide 25 percent water use reduction if drought conditions persist in January 2016. Even as California moves into what is likely to be a wet winter, Save Our Water is urging Californians move beyond short-term water saving solutions and make permanent changes to conserve.

“Splash Brothers” Stephen Curry & Klay Thompson PSA: <http://www.csnbayarea.com/warriors/splash-brothers-psa-save-our-water>.

“We know California is in a serious drought and our hope with this PSA is to help raise awareness to encourage more Californians to conserve water,” said Thompson. “As a community we all need to do our part to help the cause.”

Regarded as one of the best shooting backcourt duos in the NBA, Curry and Thompson got the nickname “Splash Brothers” for their ability to shoot the basketball and “splash” the net from long-range, particularly from beyond the three-point line.

During the 2014-15 championship season, Curry broke his own NBA record for the most three-pointers in one season with 286, Thompson finished second in the league with 239, and the “Splash Brothers” became the league’s most prolific three-point duo with a record 525 threes.

“We appreciate the support of Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson, and the NBA champion Warriors and thank them for their efforts to raise awareness of the Golden State’s unprecedented drought and to encourage Californians to conserve water,” said Ted Griggs, president and general manager of CSN Bay Area and CSN California.

“We are thrilled the Splash Brothers have joined the growing chorus of Californians spreading the word of the need to save water, even during a wet winter,” said Jennifer Persike, deputy executive director of External Affairs and Member Services of the Association of California Water Agencies. “Save Our Water thanks the Golden State Warriors and Comcast SportsNet for their contribution in raising awareness that in this drought regular conservation isn’t enough—we must take extraordinary measures to save water.”

Save Our Water’s website is available in both English and Spanish and is filled with tips, tools, and inspiration to help every Californian find new and creative ways to conserve. From tips on how to keep trees healthy during the drought to an interactive section allowing users to visually explore how they can save water both inside and outside the home, Save Our Water can help everyone easily conserve at home and at work, every day. Save Our Water connects with Californians on its

Facebook page, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

About Save Our Water: Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. has directed the first-ever statewide mandatory water reductions in California, calling on all Californians to reduce their water use by 25 percent and prevent water waste. Save Our Water is a partnership between the Association of California Water Agencies and the California Department of Water Resources.

About CSN Bay Area: CSN Bay Area and CSN California, both part of NBC Sports Regional Networks, serve more than four million households in Northern California, Nevada, Southern Oregon and Hawaii. CSN Bay Area, the television home of MLB’s San Francisco Giants, NBA’s Golden State Warriors, and the official regional sports network of the San Francisco 49ers, also features a robust lineup of Emmy Award-winning news, analysis and original programming. CSN California offers live coverage of MLB’s Oakland Athletics, NBA’s Sacramento Kings, NHL’s San Jose Sharks, MLS’s San Jose Earthquakes and is the official regional sports network of the Oakland Raiders. Collectively, these networks deliver more than 600 live sporting events per year, over 1,500 live studio shows, including SportsNet Central, SportsTalk Live, Pregame Live, Postgame Live, Press Conference Live, as well as compelling digital content, up-to-the-minute scores, highlights and breaking news via [www.CSNBayArea.com](http://www.CSNBayArea.com) and [www.CSNCalifornia.com](http://www.CSNCalifornia.com). Follow both networks on Twitter via @CSNAuthentic.

Source: DWR Public Affairs Office ★



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- “\_\_\_\_\_ the word”
- Convex molding
- Honey maker
- Japanese-American
- Russian author of “Dead Souls”
- “C\_\_\_\_\_ la vie!”
- English county
- \*Students’ winter delight?
- \*Apres-ski site
- Goose egg
- \*Snow \_\_\_\_\_
- Olden-day aerosol can propellant
- Post WWII military alliance
- Lorraine’s neighbor
- Word of mouth
- Drug smuggler
- “\_\_\_\_\_ a high note”
- Orange traffic controller
- Parting words
- Bookie’s quote
- Like draft beer
- Apiece
- 7 days
- Made amends
- Clarified butter
- Like martini or humor
- Justice’s garb
- A late time of life
- \*He stole Christmas
- \*Frosty, e.g.
- \_\_\_\_\_ profundo
- Tropical American cuckoo
- Index and middle fingers extended
- Furiously angry
- Container for liquids
- Island off Manhattan
- “Lights out” signal
- Weary traveler’s destination
- \*Toboggans

**DOWN**

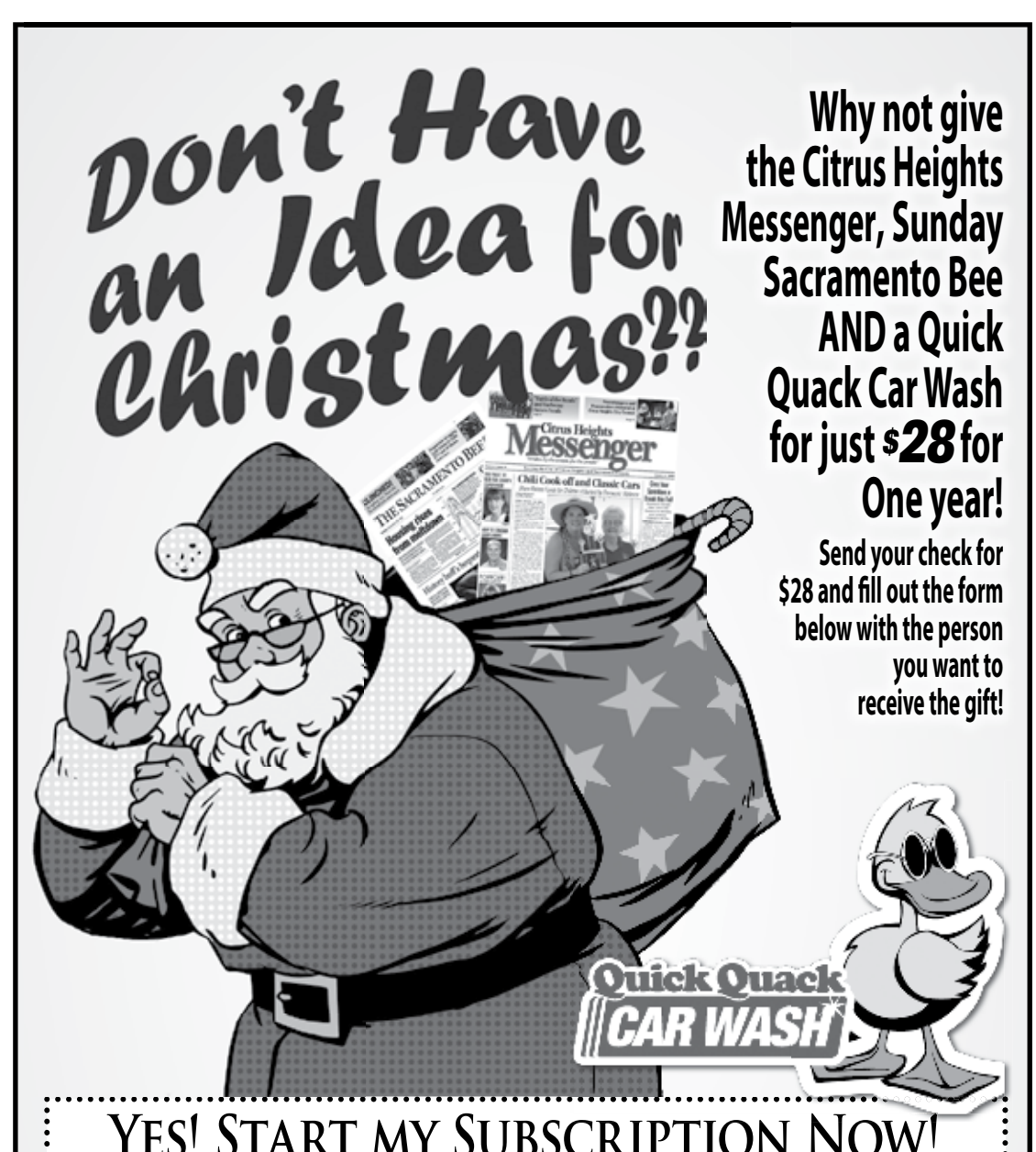
- The \_\_\_\_\_, Washington’s offensive line, 1980s-90s
- Shakespeare’s hometown river
- A meal order for takeout
- Pierrot or Harlequin, e.g.
- \_\_\_\_\_, as in breath
- Be obedient
- “For \_\_\_\_\_ a jolly...”
- Subway in Paris
- Japanese soup
- Brezhnev’s country
- Track event
- Half dozen
- Get cozy
- Remember this battle site!
- Baseball stat
- Autumn attraction
- \*Popular hot winter beverage
- Can be hot or cold, according to meteorologists
- Ann Patchett’s novel “Bel \_\_\_\_\_”
- \*Donut-shaped sled
- \*Chionophobia is fear or dislike of this
- Supplemented
- Computer programmer
- Glorify
- With little fat
- Make a sketch
- “Two and a Half Men” star
- Popular anise-flavored liqueur
- \*He’s busy during cold and flu season
- Runs off
- Indian vegetable fritter
- Inhabit
- Greek personification of Earth
- Invitation request
- a.k.a. The Islamic State
- \*Capricorn or Aquarius
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**For Solutions See Page 6**

# CHPD Receives Grant to Help with Traffic Safety

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - The Citrus Heights Police Department has been awarded a \$236,190 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for a year-long program of special enforcements and public awareness efforts to prevent traffic related deaths and injuries. The Citrus Heights Police Department will use the funding as part of the city's ongoing commitment to keep our roadways safe and improve the quality of life through both enforcement and education.

"We are thankful of our partnership with the Office of Traffic Safety and look forward to working together to make the community safer," said Lieutenant Jason Russo. "This partnership will enhance our efforts through education and enforcement aimed to reduce the number of persons injured or killed in traffic collisions."

After falling dramatically between 2006 and 2010, the number of persons killed and injured in traffic collisions has been slowly rising. Particularly alarming are recent increases in pedestrian and bicycle fatalities,

the growing dangers of distracting technologies, and the emergence of drug-impaired driving as a major problem. This grant funding will provide opportunities to combat these and other devastating problems such as drunk driving, speeding, and crashes at intersections.

"Overall, California's roadways are among the safest in the nation," said OTS Director Rhonda Craft. "But to meet future mobility, safety, and accessible transportation objectives, we have to reverse this recent trend in order to reach our common goal—zero deaths on our roadways. The Office of Traffic Safety and the Citrus Heights Police Department want to work with everyone to create a culture of traffic safety across Citrus Heights and the state."

Activities that the grant will fund include:

- Educational presentations
- DUI checkpoints
- DUI saturation patrols
- Motorcycle safety enforcement
- Distracted driving enforcement
- Seat belt and child safety seat enforcement
- Bicycle and pedestrian safety

enforcement

- Speed, red light, and stop sign enforcement
- Warrant service operations targeting multiple DUI offenders
- Compilation of DUI "Hot Sheets," identifying worst-of-the-worst DUI offenders
- Specialized DUI and drugged driving training such as Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), and Drug Recognition Evaluator (DRE)
- Court "sting" operations to cite individuals driving from DUI court after ignoring their license suspension or revocation

• Stakeout operations to observe the "worst-of-the-worst" repeat DUI offender probationers with suspended or revoked driver's licenses

Funding for this program is from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Source: Jason Russo, City of Citrus Heights ★

# Sadly, Congress Seems Okay With Being Weak



Commentary by Lee H. Hamilton

Not many people outside of Capitol Hill paid attention last month when the congressional leadership released next year's legislative schedule. Its headline feature is a strikingly long summer recess: half of July and all of August, along with a few spotty weeks of work before the November election. There are plenty of other breaks as well; in all, the House will be in session for less than one-third of the year, and the Senate only a bit longer.

I suppose we could take Congress to task for not working hard enough, and I'm sure plenty of people will do so. But the schedule reveals an even more serious issue: it suggests that Congress, or at least its leadership, is unconcerned about how ineffective and even irrelevant the institution has become when it comes to policy making.

This has been a long-term trend, with plenty of responsibility to be laid at the feet of political leaders in both parties. Even some recent signs of progress, like the rewrite of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, aren't enough. Many people, within Washington and beyond, now take Congress's weakened state for granted, almost as if it's the natural order of things.

That is because wherever you

turn, Congress has lost ground as an institution. The contrast with the presidency is especially stark. Every President in recent memory has expanded the power of his office, and for good reason. The modern world demands quick, decisive action, and Americans like presidents who act forcefully. Yet the result is that the balance of power has shifted dangerously toward the President.

This is especially apparent on two fronts where Congress ought to be resolute. One is the budget — the basic blueprint for the government — which is now largely the President's responsibility. Congress cannot even produce a real budget any more; every year, it kicks the serious fiscal questions down the road — from hard decisions on tax reform to even harder decisions on spending. Its deference to the President is even more striking when it comes to committing U.S. forces overseas. Members of Congress happily criticize the President on issue after issue, lamenting that they cannot trust him and cannot work with him. Yet on some of the most important questions the government faces — whether, how, where, and when to intervene using military force — they defer utterly to the White House.

They do the same with the regulatory agencies. Members love to criticize the EPA, for instance, but rarely put their words into legislative action, and they fail repeatedly to do the kind of routine, painstaking oversight of federal agencies that would help eliminate wasted resources and bureaucratic overreach.

At the same time, they've handed economic power to the Federal Reserve. Fifty years ago, the ordinary American who could name the chair of the Fed was rare. Today, it's hard

to pick up a newspaper without reading about Janet Yellen and the Fed's board of governors. Because Congress has essentially given up on trying to shape fiscal policy, it has put the Fed in charge of keeping the economy growing.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has become the principal way our country deals with a host of tough issues like abortion and affirmative action. These are matters that, ideally, would be wrestled through the legislative process. Instead, they're up to the Court.

Congress these days is failing to assert its responsibilities under the Constitution — it is far from being the co-equal branch our Founders envisioned. And many of its members agree. They don't believe the institution they serve is doing its job — they'd point, for instance, to immigration reform, which Speaker Paul Ryan recently announced the House would not even touch next year, despite the pressing need. Here is an issue practically begging for rolled-up sleeves on Capitol Hill. Yet instead of action, they get a congressional schedule that sends members back to their districts for most of the year.

Which may be the most distressing part of it all. Instead of being concerned enough about Congress's weakness and inactivity to take action, its leaders, at least, appear to believe that many of the toughest issues on the national agenda are beyond their capability to resolve.

Lee Hamilton is a Distinguished Scholar, Indiana University School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years. ★

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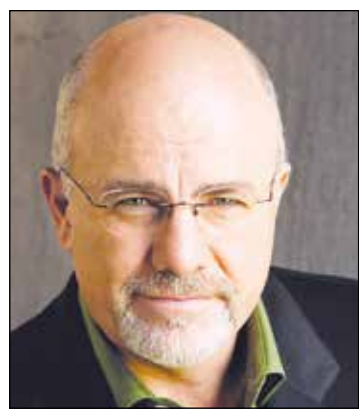
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# Dave Says

there's no way I'd tell you to give him everything you've managed to save. And I certainly wouldn't do it as a loan. Ask yourself if you believe deep down in your heart that giving this guy \$1,000 would truly be a blessing to him or if, by doing it, you'd be acting as an enabler and basically just funding more of his stupidity with money. From what you've told me, I think there's a good chance the answer is the latter. And if that's the case, you can be a much better friend by saying you love him enough to not ruin your friendship.

—Dave

### Confirmation of payoff

Dear Dave,

After struggling with it for several years, I finally made the last payment on my Sallie Mae student loans this week. Do you think I should ask for a formal letter stating that it's officially paid off?

—Angela

Dear Angela,

Congratulations on finally kicking that old woman out of your house! It feels great, doesn't

it? Sure, it couldn't hurt anything to write and request formal confirmation that the book on your loans is closed and everything is paid in full. You can do this through email so you'll have a record of contact, or you can send a certified letter, return receipt requested, through the post office. That way, you'll have a record they signed for it. Following up on paid-off debts is always a good idea, Angela. You don't want the hassle of possibly having to deal with greedy or incompetent collectors sniffing around three or four years down the road and no way to prove you're free and clear!

—Dave

*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.* ★



Lisa West  
Community Outreach Director



Memorial Parks  
Mortuaries & Crematory

## Pets Are Family Members Too

By Lisa West

I've seen many family members experience tremendous grief when a loved one passes away. But, those who also grieve quite severely are the ones who lose a beloved pet.

Pets are family members too. They are loved and cherished and sadly they do not live near as long as humans. This often means that within your lifetime you could experience the death of several pets.

Pets are also highly valuable in every day life. Service animals help people in a variety of ways, from being a calming influence, to guiding the blind, and doing household chores for those who are wheelchair bound.

Our K9 police officers and military war dogs – even the family guard dog protect us and have often given their lives in the line of duty.

When you lose a pet there are as many options for memorializing them as there is for their human counterpart. Some states allow your pet to be buried with you but that is not the case in California.

California does, however, allow a pet cemetery and a human cemetery to sit side by side on the adjoining

property so your pet can be buried in close proximity to you. You can even "pre-arrange" your pets funeral needs in advance at the same time you take care of your own funeral pre-arrangements.

Cremation is a popular choice among pet owners. Where I work, we have East Lawn Pet Loss Center and Sierra Hills Pet Cemetery. We perform pet cremations and our cemetery is dedicated property that will never be used for any other purpose except pet burials. More than 1,500 pets have been interred there since its inception in the early 1990's. In addition there are more than 45 K9 police officers buried in a special section called Garden of Honor.

East Lawn offers presentations and tours for children from schools and churches of the Pet Loss Center and Sierra Hills Pet Cemetery. It can be a good introduction for children into the concept of death and dying.

Lisa West is the community outreach director for East Lawn and her column appears monthly. You can reach her at [lisaw@eastlawn.com](mailto:lisaw@eastlawn.com) or (916)732-2020. For previous articles, please visit [www.EastLawn.com](http://www.EastLawn.com). ★

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# BloodSource Announces Merger with Blood Centers of the Pacific



The joined organizations now form the largest blood supplier in Northern and Central California.

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - BloodSource is merging operations with San Francisco-based Blood Centers of the Pacific (BCP) and will be a part of Blood Systems, a Scottsdale-based nonprofit organization. Blood Systems, a leader in transfusion medicine services, operates blood centers that serve more than 700 hospitals in 24 states. The joined organizations now form the largest blood supplier in Northern and Central California. The transaction is targeted to close by year end.

As hospitals form regional, state, and national systems, they often seek one blood service provider. As one organization supported by the national resources of Blood Systems, BloodSource, and BCP are poised to respond to larger hospital system opportunities.

"Our organizations share a common mission and commitment to both donors and patients," said Rob Van Tuyle, BloodSource CEO. "We are extremely excited about our collaboration with BCP and Blood Systems, access to the vast resources of these organizations and how together, we can better serve our community."

"BloodSource is a natural fit for Blood Systems," said Dan Connor, Blood Systems President

and CEO. "Our organizations have already worked together for a number of years and we look forward to expanding our relationship."

BloodSource was founded in 1948 by the Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society (SSVMS). BloodSource is committed to the medical needs of our community and will continue to support the SSVMS.

BloodSource and BCP will continue to utilize their respective names and serve their existing communities in Northern and Central California. Van Tuyle will be the executive in charge of the two merged organizations. Current BCP CEO and President Dr. Nora Hirschler will retire in spring 2016 as she has planned.

*About BloodSource:* Since 1948, BloodSource® has saved countless lives through the generosity of its passionate volunteer donor base. Established as a not-for-profit community blood bank, BloodSource® provides blood and medical expertise to hospitals throughout Northern and Central California, and around the world. Donors can save lives in many ways at BloodSource®, through source plasma, platelets, transfusable plasma or whole blood donations. [www.bloodsource.org](http://www.bloodsource.org)

*About Blood Centers:* of the Pacific Blood Centers of the Pacific operates Shasta Blood Center in Redding, California. Blood Centers of the Pacific is a nonprofit, community based organization that provides blood components to hospitals, physicians and patients throughout Northern California. Blood Centers of the Pacific also houses the Blood Systems Research Institute which conducts medical research to improve blood safety and patient care. Blood Centers of the Pacific, including the Shasta Blood Center, helps 50,000 patients every year with blood donated by community volunteers. [www.bloodcenters.org](http://www.bloodcenters.org)

*About Blood Systems:* Blood Systems, one of the nation's oldest and largest non-profit community blood services providers - operates community blood centers serving more than 700 hospitals in 24 states, biological products distribution services, a quality consulting group and a world-renowned transfusion medicine research institute, and is a partner in the operation of high-volume donor testing laboratories. [www.bloodsystems.org](http://www.bloodsystems.org)

Source: BloodSource and Blood Centers of the Pacific ★



# POPPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

eye movement, the lightest stage of our sleep cycle where the most vividly recalled dreams occur. The longer we sleep, the longer this level lasts.

- 3) Always be ready. While easy to have, dreams are hard to remember, fleeing from our memory seconds after we wake. Keep that journal handy turning to them even before turning on a light. Justina even writes in the dark. You can connect the notes later.
- 4) Don't move. When waking up, it only takes a slight movement to jolt you miles from your dream.
- 5) Daydream. You can dream during the day as much as you dream at night. Your dreams are really thoughts or images.
- 6) Explore meanings. Rather than assume the worst in a dream, find out how else they could be viewed.
- 7) Look for symbols. Only a few jotted remembrances of each dream will begin to tell a story about the dreamer.
- 8) Trust yourself. It's important to not rely solely on dream dictionaries when decoding them. A more reliable source is you. Ask yourself what the dream means to you.
- 9) Lose control. Some people spend years mastering the skill

of lucid dreaming, the ability to control one's dreams. Justina would rather relax and have her subconscious write the script without the disruption of any music or sleeping drug.

So what about those symbols that come up in dreams? Want some of the symbols and what they might mean? Animals represent primitive aspects of yourself, including raw desires and sexual nature. Babies can signify innocence, warmth, new beginnings or the desire to have a baby. Demons can actually indicate denied emotions and the need to change your behavior for the better. Money alone usually means self-worth. Exchanging money in your dream may convey anticipation for life changes. Roads may indicate your direction in life and a need to reflect on your current path. Teeth, or more specifically losing teeth, may commonly reflect a hidden fear of getting old and being seen as unattractive.

According to Lasley, dreams contain the truths we need for healthy living. They contain the reality of our human existence... interweaving our past, present, and future. Check out [www.dreamsynergy.org](http://www.dreamsynergy.org) for more exciting facts about dreams and Justina Lasley. Sweet dreams! ★

## Wake Up To Your Dreams

Can you harness the power of your dreams to influence your awake times? Are your dreams like a world theatre that reflects your life...sometimes in strange ways? Justina Lasley says you are the director. She actually looks forward to sleeping. She claims you can make a difference in your own life with "Wake Up To Your Dreams." Lal is founder and director of the Institute for Dream Studies in South Carolina. "Dreams are God's answers to our prayers," according to Lasley. "We're praying for things and sleeping right through it." So she shared some tips on how to capture the power of your dreams.

- 1) Get serious. Dreams are elusive. Those who can't remember dreams may not want to or care to. If you are serious, get a journal to log your dreams and a pencil.
- 2) Get sleep. It takes about three hours of sleep to achieve rapid

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**How:** Simply bring your pair(s) of shoes for donation to the Sunrise Mall and we'll take care of the rest!

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**A:** Before we discuss deposit, let's consider a multiple bid situation. You need a strong approval letter stating maximum amount approved and are comfortable spending. Bidding wars get intense and may agree to pay more for a home than its real value. Remember, Lenders lend on the appraised value – not the purchase price! If it doesn't appraise, and you still want it, you can pay up or back out. In the

Sacramento, Placer and Yolo area you might want to offer more than normal, such as 1% of purchase price. \$3000 on a \$300,000 price.

To answer your question, there are many ways to safeguard your deposit. Don't release the inspection, loan or appraisal contingency, unless you are comfortable with inspection, disclosures, etc. Make sure the appraisal come in at value or above, and be certain your loan is formally approved, so that your deposit is protected. Any issues, you can cancel the contract and receive your deposit back.

**Next time: Scary mortgage and lending trend changes in the works! ★**

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# Sacramento County DA Reports

Recent cases of interest



**CASE:** Lonnie Glenn Schmidt  
**PROSECUTOR:** Deputy District Attorney Dean Archibald, Real Estate Fraud Unit

Seventy-one-year-old Lonnie Glenn Schmidt was convicted by jury of 30 felony real estate fraud charges involving foreclosure consultant fraud, recording false documents, unauthorized use of personal identifying information, second-degree burglary, perjury, grand theft, and attempted grand theft. The jury also found true out-on-bail, white-collar crime, and property loss enhancements.

Between 2009 and 2013, Schmidt falsely promised homeowners facing foreclosure that he would save their homes by eliminating their mortgage. Desperate to believe Schmidt's promises, homeowners who signed up for his program gave Schmidt control over their properties. Schmidt then tried to use those properties as collateral for personal loans or tried to sell them outright for his own profit – all the while charging the victims "rent" to continue living in what had been their own homes.

Schmidt has four prior 1990 federal felony convictions for a tax scam involving conspiracy to impair and impede the IRS, witness tampering, aiding and abetting witness tampering, and conspiracy.

Schmidt faces a sentence of more than 20 years in prison. Sentencing is set for January 8, 2016, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 14 before the Honorable Donald Currier.

This case was investigated and prosecuted by the Sacramento County District Attorney's Real Estate Fraud Unit.

**CASE:** Ernest Polk  
**PROSECUTOR:** Deputy District Attorney Kristen Ilharreguy, Targeting Armed Recidivist Gang Enforcement Team (TARGET)

The Honorable Lawrence Brown sentenced 27-year-old Ernest Polk to 7 years, 8 months in prison. On November 13, 2015, a jury convicted Polk of being a felon in possession of a firearm, and possession of heroin and methamphetamine for sale while armed with a firearm. The jury also found true allegations that Polk committed the offenses for

the benefit of a criminal street gang.

On March 24, 2015, Polk attempted to discard a loaded firearm when he was contacted by law enforcement. After Polk was arrested, he was searched at the jail where officers found heroin and methamphetamine on him.

Polk, a member within the East Side Piru criminal street gang, was on felony probation at the time of this offense for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

**CASE:** Waylon Douglas Pitchford & Jayson William Weaver

**PROSECUTOR:** Deputy District Attorney A.J. Pongratz, Prison Crimes Unit

Thirty-eight-year-old Waylon Pitchford and 38-year-old Jayson Weaver have been charged for the murder of 71-year-old Hugo Pinell. Both face the special circumstance of having previous murder convictions, and Weaver faces the allegation he used a deadly weapon. Pitchford and Weaver have also been charged with assault by a life prisoner. Weaver faces a third charge of custodial possession of a weapon.

Hugo Pinell was an inmate along with Pitchford and Weaver at the California State Prison – Sacramento. On August 12, 2015, Pitchford and Weaver assaulted Pinell with an inmate manufactured weapon. Weaver stabbed Pinell 19 times while Pitchford held Pinell down. Pinell was unconscious when he arrived in the infirmary. Despite attempts to save his life, he died from his injuries. This attack provoked a fight involving as many as 70 inmates.

Pitchford has a 2013 pending case for stabbing another inmate with an inmate manufactured weapon. He has a prior 2003 murder conviction in Tehama County, and a 2012 assault by a state prisoner with a deadly weapon conviction in Sacramento County.

Weaver has a prior 1994 murder conviction in San Diego County, and a 2006 assault by a life prisoner with a deadly weapon conviction in Sacramento County.

Arrest for both defendants is scheduled for March 11, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. by video conference in Department 9 of the Sacramento Superior Court. ★

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## Capitol Pops Concludes 18th Season at Christ the King



The bassist and saxophone player of the Capitol Pops Concert Band performed holiday hits at Christ the King Lutheran in Orangevale.

Story and photos by Seraphim Winslow

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Under the baton of Director Kurt Pearsall, the Capitol Pops Concert Band wrapped up its 18th season at an open concert featuring a dozen of the season's most popular tunes. The sanctuary at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Orangevale, where the band performed its last set of the season, was filled with folks in a music-loving holiday mood on Thursday, December 10th at 7 p.m.

The one-hour performance featured three traditional Christmas hymns, "Away in a Manger," "Do You Hear What I Hear," and "Silent Night," as well as some winter songs like "Frosty the Snowman" and "White Christmas." Soloist Susan Skinner was on-hand to wow the crowd with her silky vocal accompaniment to "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas."

Founded in 1997, the Capitol Pops Concert Band has performed a rich variety of musical favorites. Thousands of music lovers throughout Northern California have enjoyed this lively and talented group, based in Citrus Heights. They are a self-supporting, not-for-profit musical community consisting of about 65 musicians from a wide cross-section of the Sacramento region.

One of the most creative performances of the evening at Christ the King was Mark Glover's recitation of Clement Clark Moore's famous poem, "'Twas the Night Before Christmas," the words of which the band interspersed with samples of tunes humorously fitting the gist of each verse. For example, when Glover recited the famous line naming each of the "eight tiny reindeer," the band chimed in with the melody of "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here!" Only the savviest name-that-tune fans in the audience could catch every

musical reference, and this obviously delighted Pearsall, who led the band with a wink and a nod.

Toward the end of the concert, a truly good time was had by all when the church's pastor, Scott Guemmer, and Susan Skinner led the crowd in rousing sing-along to a Christmas medley, which ended with the pastor and the vocalist dancing in the aisle. When eight o'clock rolled around, no one wanted the fun to end, so the band responded with a welcome encore.

Concert-goers were encouraged to donate new or gently used coats as part of a national clothing drive called One Warm Coat. This San Francisco-based organization provides warm clothes to the needy throughout Northern California. It has been organizing coat drives since 1992, donating more than 4 million of them since then and supporting 3,000 coats drives each year. ★

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