



In Honor of the Late Great Ms. Mary Purvis

Page 3

“Operation Christmas Cheer” Delivered Joy to Families

Page 2



Citrus Heights Messenger

“Written by the people, for the people”

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January 15, 2016

JEANNIE BRUNS BEGINS THIRD TERM AS MAYOR OF CITRUS HEIGHTS



Page 3

MY YEAR AS MAYOR



Page 12

MAKE A FAITH GOAL



Page 7



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Eagle Scout Shoe Drive Stomps on Poverty



Troop 635 from Citrus Heights after finishing the shoe drive.

By Christie Spurlock,
photos courtesy of Isaiah McElvain

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Isaiah McElvain is a motivated high school student at Del Campo High School. As a part of the Eagle Scouts, the Boy Scouts' highest possible rank (few people reach the level—only around 7 percent), he's heavily involved in making the community a better place. Being a part of the Eagle Scouts requires a community project, so McElvain and his troop, Troop 635, decided to organize a shoe drive for the non-profit Donate Your Old Shoes. They needed a venue, and Sunrise Mall turned out to be the perfect place to host the drive.

To promote the event, the troop dropped off fliers at houses and ran newspaper

ads. They also appeared on “Good Day Sacramento” in a pre-event interview to get as many people to stop by as possible. On Dec. 19th, they set up inside the mall, eagerly awaiting shoe donations from the community. They were not disappointed.

In total, 1,028 pairs of shoes were collected, making it a highly successful project. The shoes were disinfected and will be sent to countries with most need, possibly including Africa or the Philippines. Thanks to the efforts of Donate Your Old Shoes and the Eagle Scouts, impoverished people worldwide will be able to keep their feet protected.

To find out more about Donate Your Old Shoes or to get involved, visit <http://donateyouroldshoes.org/>.

Source: Isaiah McElvain



Kimberly Cleary and Isaiah McElvain after finishing a drop off of all the shoes at the San Diego warehouse, where they will be shipped off to different countries in about six months.

Vehicle Collides With Horse



Crews arrived to find a small vehicle that had sustained major damage to the front end after colliding with a full-sized horse.

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Shortly before 1 a.m. on December 30th, Metro Fire crews responded to the intersection of Auburn Boulevard and Hackney Way in Citrus Heights for a vehicle vs. horse. With reports of possible entrapment, additional resources were

immediately dispatched.

Crews arrived to find a small vehicle that had sustained major damage to the front end after colliding with a full-sized horse. Four horses were reported to have escaped from their paddock and were in the roadway. The force of the impact threw one

horse onto the hood—crushing the windshield—and continuing over the top of the car. The horse did not survive the impact; the other three horses were uninjured. Three males in the car suffered minor to moderate injuries. One passenger required extrication from the vehicle; all three were transported to the hospital.

When you see a vehicle with this much damage and a large

horse lying on the road, the importance of wearing seatbelts becomes painfully clear. One never knows when something unexpected will happen on the road; always wear a seatbelt and keep distractions to a minimum when driving.

For more information, go to www.metrofire.ca.gov.

Source: Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

IRS Reminds Taxpayers to Plan Ahead If You Need a Tax Transcript

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) -

The IRS reminds taxpayers that the quickest way to get a copy of their tax transcript is to order it online using the Get Transcript application on IRS.gov. By planning ahead, they should receive their transcript in the mail within five to 10 days from the time the IRS receives the request online.

The IRS continues to work to bring the viewable/printable functionality of the application back online in the near future with enhanced identity protection security features. In the meantime, taxpayers can still request a mailed transcript by going online to Get Transcript.

Though taxpayers should always keep a copy of their tax return for their records, some may need the information from filed tax returns for many reasons. This includes college financial aid applicants or taxpayers who have applied for a loan to buy a home or start a business.

If a taxpayer is returning to college this January and applying for financial aid, they should check with their financial aid department at school to see if they will need a copy of their transcript before they start classes. Frequently, students get all the tax return information they need on the FAFSA application via the IRS Data Retrieval Tool.

Similarly, if a taxpayer plans to apply for a loan, they should ask their financial institution if a transcript will be necessary so they can plan ahead and have it at the appropriate time.

The fastest way to get a transcript is through the Get Transcript tool on IRS.gov. Although the IRS temporarily stopped the online viewing and printing of transcripts, Get Transcript still allows taxpayers to order their transcript online and receive it by mail. Taxpayers simply click the “Get a Transcript by Mail” button to order the paper copy of their transcript and have it sent to their address of record. Among the options available:

- To order a transcript online and have it delivered by mail, go to IRS.gov and use the Get Transcript tool.

Continued on page 4

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“Operation Christmas Cheer” Delivered Joy to Families

By Elise Spleiss

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - “Convoy moving” were the words of Lt. Jason Russo from the helm of Citrus Heights’ imposing police command vehicle as it pulled away from the Citrus Heights police station at 3:30 p.m. on December 22nd. The caravan of over 20 vehicles that followed were embarking on their seventh annual toy delivery event. This program event was part of the City’s “Holiday Referral” program.

The caravan, including vans packed full of toys, trees, clothing, and furniture, marked and unmarked police vehicles, and motorcycles, wound its way through Citrus Heights, delivering Christmas cheer to many of the less fortunate.



Sgt. Kris Frey and wife, Tara Frey with stuffed animals. Photo courtesy of Janet Schaefer

With lights flashing and sirens blaring, spectators were no doubt wondering what was going on in their neighborhood as they viewed the spectacle, but were pleasantly surprised to see the command vehicle open its doors and dozens of volunteers pour out with their surprises. Over 40 participants, including City Council members, City staff, police department staff, and volunteers worked with Santa Claus, police officer’s children, and others handing out the gifts and stuffed animals at each stop.

The first stop was an apartment tucked away on Twin Oaks Drive. A mother holding a baby with a toddler following close by received gifts and a new Christmas tree. They were delighted.



Over 40 participants, including City Council members, City staff, police department staff, and volunteers worked with Santa Claus, police officer’s children, and others handing out the gifts and stuffed animals at each stop. Photo courtesy of Janet Schaefer

Upon departure, two female officers were approached by a frail woman who explained she had just arrived from out of town with no money or toys for her children and asked if they could help. She was promptly directed to go to the police department the next morning to pick up some gifts for them.

The second stop on Tiara Way, across from the Holy Family Catholic Church, was at an apartment with no visible furniture. Volunteers quickly unloaded a dresser and two beds. This family’s story was especially poignant. The youngest of their three children, a five-year-old, has epilepsy and another is epileptic and suffers from other medical conditions. The parents were especially appreciative with happy tears and hugs for all.

From there, the caravan made a stop at Sayonara Street before heading over Highway 80 for two more stops. Word spread quickly and children appeared from almost every door to receive one of the stuffed animals, many donated at the annual Lakeview Village Teddy Bear Luncheon in December. As they wound through many streets on their way to the remaining homes, police cars stopped to hand out more stuffed animals to excited children.

Finally, on Pompei Court, volunteers entered a brightly decorated home where



Officers help move furniture. Photo courtesy of Janet Schaefer

a grandmother and her son lived with his five children. After receiving their gifts, the family happily posed for pictures with the officers, certain to be a keepsake of the joyful occasion.

Police department staff orchestrated the complicated logistics of the event. The traffic team planned the delivery route, organizing all those involved for

the two-hour journey. The City Holiday Referral Program chose the homes to be visited.

Toys and other gifts were donated by the community. The Police Activities League (PAL) applied for and received a grant through Walmart to help with the collection of items, and for the Shop with a Cop Program that took place on

December 16th. Families of police officers and city staff members adopted additional families in the referral program.

Following the event, Lt. Jason Russo commented, “The Citrus Heights Police enjoyed giving back to the community and is thankful to all that contributed to make this year’s holiday referral a success.”★

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Jeannie Bruins Begins Third Term as Mayor of Citrus Heights

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - On December 10th, outgoing mayor Sue Frost turned over the gavel to incoming mayor Jeannie Bruins. Of her newly reprised role, Bruins said, “It’s truly an honor again to serve as your mayor, and I look forward to a good year ahead.”

Bruins served as mayor of Citrus Heights in 2006 and 2011. She was re-elected to her fourth term on the City Council in 2014, winning the most votes out of five candidates running for three spots open that year.

Bruins has a long history with the city of Citrus Heights. According to her bio on Citrusheights.net, Bruins is a 30-year resident of Citrus Heights, a 22-year member of the local Rotary Club, and an active member of Valley Springs Presbyterian Church in Roseville. She also has two grown sons, four grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

During the 1980s and early 1990s, Bruins was a leader for the incorporation of Citrus Heights, serving on the board of directors of the Citrus Heights Incorporation Project (CHIP). In 1996, along with local businessman William Van Duker, she co-chaired “Yes on Measure R” to a successful win, bringing cityhood to Citrus Heights.

From 1993 to 2005, Bruins was the chief executive officer for the Citrus Heights Chamber of Commerce. As CEO, she furthered the interests of the Citrus Heights business community to the City and the Sacramento region. She considers one of her greatest achievements to be the creation of “Leadership Citrus Heights” in 2003, which continues to this day. Graduates of the classes serve in several leadership positions in Citrus Heights, including the Planning Commission and the City Council.



New Mayor of Citrus Heights, Jeannie Bruins.

As the owner of Bruins Legal Document Preparation, Bruins is a legal document assistant and notary public. She also serves as executive director of the Sacramento Association of Health Underwriters.

When asked what she sees for 2016, Bruins wrote back a detailed response in an email, abridged for space. “This will be a year of change that will require focused leadership,” said Bruins. “We will see a change on the city council as Steve Miller and Sue Frost run for Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. If they both make it past June and find themselves in a runoff, we could potentially find new councilmembers in those two seats.

“We will have the excitement of opening our new City Hall. One of the things Citrus Heights does really well is celebrate our successes and milestones. This will be a big one, along with the ten-year anniversary of the birth of our police department. Right behind that is the 20 year anniversary of cityhood on January 1st, 2017, so there will be some plans for that too.

“...One of my early goals is to meet with the new owners [of the Sunrise Mall] to get an understanding of their vision for Sunrise Mall and to facilitate upgrades and improvements. The further development of Antelope Crossing and the Auburn Boulevard corridor are top priorities. I’d like to be sure we continue to have a comprehensive economic development strategy, with meaningful incentives to assist small business owners and attract employers.

“Our police department deserves our continuing support. We need to be sure they have the right tools to do their job effectively and safely. We need to be sure we foster an environment that minimizes turnover in staff, especially our police department. The manner in which the CHPD, the City Council, and the community work collaboratively is unique and produces good results as crime continues to decrease.

“Citrus Heights remains one of the safest communities in the region. This is a top priority, because good policing opens the door for growth, maintaining a stable population and a community that feels safe and cohesive.

Continuing our conservative fiscal philosophy is the foundation of our success as a city. This will always be a priority as long as I serve on the city council.”

Source: City of Citrus Heights, Jeannie Bruins ★

In Honor of the Late Great Ms. Mary Purvis

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Mary Purvis ran the Miss Citrus Heights Pageant and other local city pageant titles since 1973 and passed away in March of 2014 at age 86. She was planning the 2014 Miss Citrus Heights Pageant when she passed. Her long-time Queen and right hand girl Tamara “Tami” Barbu-Brown now owns and operates the Miss Citrus Heights titles. There are new ways to being Miss Citrus Heights, as Tamara said in her own words.

“I want to keep Mary’s royal ambassador passion and dream alive by continuing the Miss Citrus Heights Queen tradition, and I now call us the Class of Queens,” said Barbu-Brown. “I myself, as Mary did, live in Citrus Heights and just love this city! I was Ms. Citrus Heights of 1997 and helped celebrate the town of Citrus Heights becoming a City. I ‘grand-opened’ many Citrus Heights businesses over the last 25 years and even rode in the very first Citrus Heights Red, White and Blue Parade. I am thrilled, proud, and honored to be what I call the ‘new Mary Purvis,’ and now direct many of her Queen titles.



Young Miss Citrus Heights Kaylee McAllister, Pageant Director Tamara Barbu-Brown, Mrs. Citrus Heights Erin Fackler, Teen Miss Citrus Heights Simone Havilland, Miss Citrus Heights Hailey Sharpe. Photo courtesy of Tamara Barbu-Brown

to earn a title, all you have to do is prove yourself worthy of a crown and do the community work alongside of us, just hang with us and do as we do! In 2014, right after Mary’s passing, I crowned my very first Miss Citrus Heights Shadi Rezaie and her Court who were then in the 2014 Red, White and Blue Citrus Heights Parade and

Little Miss, Ms., Mrs., and Mr. to wear the 2016 Citrus Heights crowns. Will you be in our class of 2016 and come play with us?”

Miss Citrus Heights is not a “beauty pageant,” it is an “opportunity program”—an opportunity to represent a great city and be a given a chance to serve through volunteer community service work all year that can be used as community service credit and on job resumes. Here is where you can learn to be an outgoing, brave, and charitable person and learn social skills and teamwork. Not only that, you can make lifelong friends.

Check out the Miss Citrus Heights and Miss Greater Sacramento Facebook pages to learn more on how to join the “Queen Team,” and check out all the amazing things they do and what they are all about. On these pages, you can contact Director Tamara Barbu-Brown on how to get started and how to get a crown. Surely, Mary Purvis is smiling down from above, happy that her queen dream is still active, growing and changing to fit modern times.

Source: Tamara Barbu-Brown ★



Tamara Barbu-Brown and Mary Purvis. Photo courtesy of Tamara Barbu-Brown

“We ‘Class of Queens’ attend local fairs in the park with make and take crafts, face-painting, serve snow cones and hot dogs, costume parties, and even formal symphony concerts, charity dinners, and parades. With me you can earn a title or win one;

last year in 2015 I had my second Miss Citrus Heights Hailey Sharpe and her Court atop the 2015 Citrus Heights Parade ride! Who will be the next Miss Citrus Heights and Court to ride? I am currently looking for the next Miss, Teen Miss, Young Miss,

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Homicide in North Sacramento

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - A little before 11:30 p.m. on January 9th, the Sheriff’s Communication Center received a 911 call regarding a man yelling that he had been stabbed in the 5200 block of Verner Avenue in Sacramento.

Deputies arrived on scene and located a 41-year-old male victim suffering from stab wounds. The victim was located outside on the street. Deputies immediately began lifesaving measures on the victim. Sacramento Metro Fire personnel responded and pronounced the victim deceased at the scene. There are no known suspect descriptions or motive at this time, and homicide detectives are beginning an investigation.

Homicide detectives believe the suspects were in the act of committing vandalism in the area when confronted by the victim. During the confrontation,

the victim was stabbed and succumbed to his injuries. Detectives believe there were two male suspects that were confronted by the victim.

The identity of the victim in this case will be released by the Sacramento County Coroner’s Office after notification has been made to their next of kin.

Homicide detectives are asking anyone with information relating to this incident to please contact the Sheriff’s Department at (916) 874-5115 or Crime Alert at (916) 443-HELP. Tip information may also be left anonymously at www.sacsheriff.com by texting 274637 (CRIMES) and entering the keyword ‘SSD’, or by calling (916) 874-TIPS (8477).

Source: Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department ★

IRS Reminds Taxpayers to Plan Ahead

Continued from page 1

- To order by phone, call (800) 908-9946 and follow the prompts.
- To request an individual tax return transcript by mail or fax, complete Form

4506T-EZ, Short Form Request for Individual Tax Return Transcript. Businesses and individuals who need a tax account transcript should use Form 4506-T, Request for Transcript of Tax Return.

Remember, ordering a transcript online is the quickest option. For more information, read the IRS How Do I Get My Transcript? Fact Sheet.

Source: IRS ★

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DA Office Announces First-Of-Its-Kind Internet and Social Media Safety Program

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY - The Sacramento County District Attorney’s Office has launched an innovative new program to address the challenges kids face in this digital age. The program is a collaboration with the Sacramento City Unified School District, Sacramento County Office of Education, Sacramento County Probation Department, Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department, and Sacramento Police Department.

The Internet, Social Media Awareness, Resources and Training (#iSMART) program educates youth about the dangers, risks, and threats the Internet and social media pose for them today and in the future.

#iSMART is unique in that it is an interactive presentation, designed for kids to be an active participant in the learning process. A prosecutor and law enforcement officer use visual storyboards depicting several scenarios, including cyberbullying, sexting, sextortion, online strangers and stalkers, and gang activity online. Throughout the scenarios, facilitators ask

thought-provoking questions to get students thinking and talking about what they post, how quickly pictures or texts spread, how easily stalkers or predators can find them, and the short- and long-term consequences. Potential civil and criminal legal consequences are also discussed.

District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert said, “The Internet and social media have become woven into our everyday lives, even among our children. As public safety professionals, parents, and educators, it’s important we work together to safeguard our children from the new dangers they face whether at home, school, or online.”

The first #iSMART presentations will be held in January in the Sacramento City Unified School District and the Folsom Cordova Unified School District.

“Kids are getting smartphones, iPads, and social media accounts at younger and younger ages,” said SCUSD’s Bullying Prevention Specialist Jessica Wharton. “They are growing up online. But at the same time, many remain unaware of the dangers and risks of inappropriate or careless internet use. This

is why the #iSMART partnership is so important: We need all the help we can get in educating students, parents, and school staff about these dangers.”

“Cyberbullying and other social media threats can greatly impact students’ ability to succeed in the classroom,” said FCUSD Superintendent Deborah Bettencourt. “As social media pressures and dangers rapidly evolve, it’s vital we work together to help our students understand that the choices they make today can have lasting consequences.”

#iSMART is geared toward middle and high school students. There is also a parent component to educate and provide parents with tools and resources to help them protect their children.

Both presentations are available through participating schools or by request from community groups. Requests for either presentation can be submitted online through the District Attorney’s Speakers Bureau. The request form can be found on the homepage of www.sacda.org.

 ★

George Runner Responds to Governor Brown’s January Budget

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Board of Equalization Vice Chair George Runner issued the following statement in response to Governor Jerry Brown’s January budget proposal:

“I’m pleased that the Governor continues to take a cautious approach to the budget. While California’s economy improves, it makes sense to strengthen our rainy day fund.

“During this time of additional revenue, the Governor should also be commended for keeping his promise to voters to end temporary tax

increases on schedule. However, I’m concerned that the boost in revenue will cause many lawmakers to clamor for more spending. The last thing we need to do right now is mirror past mistakes that led to prior budget crises.

“I think now, more than ever, lawmakers should focus on improving quality of life for taxpayers by prioritizing jobs, roads, and education without raising taxes.”

Source: Senator George Runner’s Office ★

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CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Fishing with his dad on the Delta on one cold and foggy December morning, thirteen-year-old Jeremy Friend of Citrus Heights landed this 50-pound sturgeon. Source: Sheila LaPolla. Photo by Jeremy Friend, Sr. ★

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 7

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U	N	I	A	T		G	A	M		N	A	I	V	E
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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7

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

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By Pastor Ray Dare

“I know that I have not yet reached that goal, but there is one thing I always do. Forgetting the past and straining toward what is ahead, I keep trying to reach the goal and get the prize for which God called me through Christ to the life above.” (Philippians 3:13-14 NCV)

Goals are statements of faith. The Bible says, “The just shall live by faith,” (Hebrews 10:38) and “Without faith it’s impossible to please God,” (Hebrews 11:6) and “Whatsoever is not of faith is sin,” (Romans 14:23) and “According to your faith it will be done unto you.” (Matthew 9:29)

God always operates in your life by faith. That’s why you need goals in your life, because a goal is a statement of faith. A goal says, “I believe God wants me to accomplish something by a certain date.” If you don’t have a date, it’s not a goal, it’s a wish, a dream, a desire. But wishes are

Pastor Ray's Encouraging Words

Make a FAITH Goal

a dime a dozen; they’re worthless. The only thing that will change your life is setting a goal. So I want to encourage you as we start this brand new year, set some goals by FAITH. A FAITH goal has five characteristics. They are:

Focused: That means it is specific. If you use the words “more” or “less,” it’s not a focused goal. “I want to be less angry” or “I want to weigh less” or “I want to be more like Jesus” are not goals because you can’t measure them. You have to be specific.

Attainable: If you set an unrealistic goal, it’s just going to discourage you. If you say, “I’m going to pray two hours a day.” You’re probably setting yourself up for failure. Set a goal that stretches you and then trust God will help you stretch.

Individual: That means it’s personal. You cannot set goals for other people because you can’t control them. You can’t set goals for your children, husband, boyfriend or girlfriend. You can only set goals for yourself, because you can only control you and not anybody else.

Trackable: Trackable goals can be measured. They’re verifiable. You set a date and say, “By

June 30th or “By Dec. 31st, I want to accomplish ‘this’”. Make it trackable.

Heartfelt: Your goals have to be heartfelt, something you’re motivated to do, something you’re passionate about. If you’re not motivated to do it you won’t.

Let me give you four areas to make some FAITH Goals in. The Bible says, “Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.” Luke 2:52. He grew Intellectually, Physically, Spiritually and Socially. Every year we should grow same way. Each year, set an Intellectual goal, learn something new. Set a Physical goal, to improve your health. Set a Spiritual goal to grow closer to God and to be more like Christ. Set a Social goal to improve your relationship(s).

If you set some goals by FAITH, I guarantee you, you will grow and change in 2016! You will not reach all your goals, no one does, but you will have a FAITH driven direction that will grow you and please the Lord.*New Beginnings Church YOU'RE INVITED, Sunday service at 10 am "We Do Church Differently" www.NBC4U.org* ★



By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

Our God is a huge loving God with an enormous agenda that He has laid out successfully in His word to help and guide us through life. Recorded stories of all kinds help show us the way to avoid pitfalls and struggles, survive them, and find victory over them.

Before I invited Jesus into my heart and life, I tried to read the Bible but did not understand one word. Today I know why. It is because anyone who is still governed by the ways of the world is blinded. They are certainly not ready for the surrender and commitment that is involved with repentance and accepting the savior of the world. The fact is, our Jewish friends have a veil over their eyes until God removes it with the blessing of His Son Jesus.

The only sin God will never forgive is recorded in scripture

One Thing God Will Not Forgive

and states, “Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come” (Matthew 12:32, NKJV). Now, isn’t that amazing? Haven’t we all heard people use the name of Jesus in vain? And yet, God will forgive them. His Holy Spirit is the one who teaches and draws one into a personal relationship with God, though Christ is the one God loves and holds very dear. He is the one who is held in highest regard, and if anyone speaks against Him, they will not be forgiven!

Therefore the third person in the trinity, the Holy Spirit, who enters each person who invites Jesus into their heart and life, is equally important as the Father and the Son.

Have you ever asked the question: What does it really mean to be baptized in the Holy Spirit? So many times we have heard that it is an automatic event when one accepts Christ. Most believers accept those words when spoken but there is much more to it than a few words delivered from a learned man of God. If he went through and quoted the Scriptures, divisions of misunderstandings would

arise because every single one of us are in spiritually different places in our journey with God. Only when a person is ready will the Holy Spirit of God will reveal deeper truths because they are spiritually ready to accept them.

Unfortunately people get caught up in “judging” others because we are all in different spiritual places of growth. It breaks my heart when I see and hear this happen and I am sure it breaks the heart of God as well. Today many things are breaking God’s heart.

God’s enemy is at work in the world like never before because the enemy knows his time is nearly up. You see, God loves us to the uttermost anyhow, no matter where we are in our personal relationship and walk with Him. Judging others is from the enemy of God and divides the church; we must not do it. It is also a poor witness to others we hope to witness to about God’s love. Today, join me in appreciating God’s love for you and let us unify together in the love of God always.

Marlys Johnsen Norris is the Christian author of seven books. You may contact her at Marlysjn@gmail.com. ★

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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Appear like a chick
6. Unit of electrical resistance
9. "____ the word"
13. Convex molding
14. Honey maker
15. Japanese-American
16. Russian author of "Dead Souls"
17. "C'____ la vie!"
18. English county
19. *Students' winter delight?
21. *Apres-ski site
23. Goose egg
24. *Snow ____
25. Olden-day aerosol can propellant
28. Post WWII military alliance
30. Lorraine's neighbor
35. Word of mouth
37. Drug smuggler
39. "____ a high note"
40. Orange traffic controller
41. Parting words
43. Bookie's quote
44. Like draft beer
46. Apiece
47. 7 days
48. Made amends
50. Clarified butter
52. Like martini or humor
53. Justice's garb
55. A late time of life
56. *He stole Christmas
60. *Frosty, e.g.
64. ____ profundo
65. Tropical American cuckoo
67. Index and middle fingers extended
68. Furiously angry
69. Container for liquids
70. Island off Manhattan
71. "Lights out" signal
72. Weary traveler's destination
73. *Toboggans

DOWN

1. The ____ Washington's offensive line, 1980s-90s
2. Shakespeare's hometown river
3. A meal order for takeout
4. Pierrot or Harlequin, e.g.
5. ____ as in breath
6. Be obedient
7. "For ____ a jolly..."
8. Subway in Paris
9. Japanese soup
10. Brezhnev's country
11. Track event
12. Half dozen
15. Get cozy
20. Remember this battle site!
22. Baseball stat
24. Autumn attraction
25. *Popular hot winter beverage
26. Can be hot or cold, according to meteorologists

27. Ann Patchett's novel "Bel ____"
29. *Donut-shaped sled
31. *Chionophobia is fear or dislike of this
32. Supplemented
33. Computer programmer
34. Glorify
36. With little fat
38. Make a sketch
42. "Two and a Half Men" star
45. Popular anise-flavored liqueur
49. *He's busy during cold and flu season
51. Runs off
54. Indian vegetable fritter
56. Inhabit
57. Greek personification of Earth
58. Invitation request
59. a.k.a. The Islamic State
60. *Capricorn or Aquarius
61. Tom, not Tabby
62. Battery fluid
63. Famed loch
64. Club alternative
66. Mother Teresa, e.g.

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9:30am - Bible Study for Teens & Adults
10:45am - Praise Celebration with Band
12:30pm - Young Adult Bible Study

Wednesday

7:00pm - Evening Worship

Thursday

6:00pm - Celebrate Recovery BBQ
7:00pm - Celebrate Recovery

Go to the website for more events and information.

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5:00 PM and 7:00 PM
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10:00 am
New Years Eve Service - Dec. 31 at 6:00 PM

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

For Solutions See Page 6

A New Look at the Old Year

Dr. James L. Snyder

From a practical standpoint, and if I am anything I am practical, well, practically, this year has gone by rather quickly. The fact I have survived this past year has to count for something.

I was musing on this with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage just the other day. I was feeling rather comfortable with myself and was congratulating myself on making it through another year. After all, the facts speak for themselves.

“Well,” my wife began rather deliberately, “I guess you did survive the year.”

“What in the world is that supposed to mean,” I queried. I must say I was a little agitated by the tone of her voice. After all, I did survive the year.

It was quiet for a few minutes and then she said, “What about your New Year’s resolutions?”

I informed her I was working on a brand-new set of New Year’s resolutions for the upcoming year. I think it’s rather important to jot down a few things you would like to do, maybe some improvements you would like to make or maybe something I should like to give up for the New Year.

“That’s not what I mean.” I looked at her quizzically not really understanding what she was talking about.

“What about the New Year’s resolutions for this year.” And she looked at me with one of those looks.

You do not have to hit me with a baseball bat for me to understand what’s going on, although sometimes it does help. To be quite truthful I had not thought of those New Year’s resolutions, well, for the whole year.

“Would you like me to recite the New Year’s resolutions you made last year?”

Oh boy. I saw a news story the other day about people who could remember every day of

their life in minute detail. I do not know how that feels, but I do know how it feels to live with someone who can remember every detail of my life.

I have a photographic memory; the problem is I have been out of film for three decades.

It got me to thinking about my New Year’s resolutions for this year. I must say that after looking at this list I did not fare too well.

I had resolved to improve my diet and lose some weight. Fortunately, I did not put down how much weight I proposed to lose. I did lose 1 pound 974 times but it always found its way home. I spent some time in Michigan this past summer and just as I was leaving, I threw a pound out the window and hurried on. By the time I got home to Florida that pound was waiting for me at the front door munching on an Apple fritter. What’s a person to do?

Also, another item on my New Year’s resolution list was, “I resolve not to work harder but smarter this coming year.” At the time, I thought it was a very brilliant thing to say. And, don’t get me wrong, it is.

I have mastered the part of not working harder, but the smarter aspect of that resolution eluded me. Whose definition of smarter should apply here? Certainly, I will not appeal to my wife’s idea about smarter. She has an altogether different concept of this whole area of working smarter.

My only consolation is that my definition of the subject is, it is always smarter not to work harder. If we apply that definition to my New Year’s resolution, I passed with flying colors.

Then my good wife reminded me of another part of my New Year’s resolution. According to her memory, and I am in no position to challenge it, I had resolved to exercise more during the year. At the moment, I exercised my right to object to her memory. But, I

lost that one.

The only actual exercise I got this past year was several times I had a runny nose. Believe me, that exercised me to no end, but it was not on track with my wife’s idea of exercise.

At this point of life, I think exercise is blown way out of proportion. I tried to persuade my wife that working my elbow at breakfast and lunchtime as well as supertime was all the exercise I really needed. She said to me, “When was the last time you saw your feet?”

At the moment, I exercised my right to shut up!

Then it dawned on me. I actually did get my share of exercise in this past year.

I exercised my right to be wrong when confronted by my wife.

I exercised my right to keep quiet when my wife was giving me instructions.

All that exercise may not have helped me lose weight but it helped me gain in my relationship with my wife.

I pondered this for some time and realized that many times it is better to admit you are wrong and save your relationship. Those who have to be right all the time are those who end up never being right. I thought of what the apostle Paul said. “Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?” (1 Corinthians 6:7 KJV).

Sometimes it is better to suffer wrongfully for a good purpose.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail james-snyder2@att.net. The church website is www.whatafellowship.com. ★



A Film Review
by Tim Riley

CONCUSSION (Rated PG-13)

A movie about an immigrant doctor’s discovery of the connection between American football and the severe neurological problems brought on by repetitive head trauma is not exactly cheerful holiday fare.

But, at least, “Concussion” allows the deft portrayal by Will Smith of the reluctant, nuanced medical crusader Dr. Bennet Omalu, who believed so passionately that his breakthrough in the field of forensic pathology could save lives of football players.

It must be granted that “Concussion,” however, has the fortuitous good timing of landing in theaters just in time for the nearly endless parade of college football bowl games and the upcoming NFL playoffs.

Roger Goodell, NFL Commissioner, is probably not too thrilled with Hollywood’s treatment of this serious issue, considering for one thing that the direction of “Concussion” is in the hands of investigate journalist Peter Landesman, doing double duty as the film’s writer.

Additionally, Goodell may be equally displeased to be portrayed on film by Luke Wilson, whose screen time, though limited, generates no real emotional impact other being another proverbial corporate honcho of dubious moral character.

“Concussion” has an important story to tell for the simple reason that the issue of the health risks to pro players has been percolating in recent years. Will Smith, coming across with naïve yet principled conviction, is the right fit to

Riley Reviews

SERIOUS DRAMA “CONCUSSION” COLLIDES WITH SPORTS WORLD

infuse Dr. Omalu with credibility.

By all indications, Dr. Omalu is a highly educated forensic pathologist from Nigeria who seems overly qualified to be working in the Pittsburgh morgue for the Allegheny County Coroner Dr. Cyril Wecht (Albert Brooks).

Possessed of idiosyncratic tendencies, Dr. Omalu is perceived to be somewhat eccentric by his fellow medical colleagues as he talks to the cadavers while conducting autopsies. His stated reason for this behavior is to intuit the truth of a person’s demise.

Conducting his medical examination on retired Pittsburgh Steelers star center and local sports hero Mike Webster (David Morse), Dr. Omalu reportedly discovers a football-related brain trauma disorder that he names Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE).

Granted that I am no medical expert, but it seems to me that awareness of repeated blows to the head have been known for some time to cause permanent damage, both mental and physical, to professional boxers, and by extension to any sport involving physical contact above the neck.

The story of Mike Webster takes on special meaning in a community like Pittsburgh where the Steelers are widely revered. Dr. Wecht observes to his Nigerian pathologist that the NFL has claimed Sunday as the day of the week that it owns, thereby upping the stakes to any challenge to the prevailing orthodoxy of football supremacy.

Then, it comes as no surprise that Dr. Omalu’s research into game-related brain injuries was certain to stir passions on both sides of the issue, with certain interests trying desperately to discredit the pathologist’s clinical studies.

That Mike Webster, known as “Iron Mike,” who died of an alleged heart attack at age 50, had suffered from severe

dementia and was living in his pickup truck at the time of death proved to be merely the beginning of medical fascination to Dr. Omalu.

Other famous cases of CTE include Philadelphia Eagles defensive back Andre Waters and Chicago Bears defensive back Dave Duerson. The characterization of the latter in this film has drawn fire from family members.

Aside from support from the Coroner, Dr. Omalu had few allies in his quest to bring his research into the public light. Alec Baldwin’s Dr. Julian Bailes, a former team physician for the Steelers, joined the cause after realizing the risks to players formerly in his care.

Playing his role with quiet intensity, Will Smith’s Dr. Omalu may be unorthodox in his approach to medical science but his quest for truth is a matter of personal ethics and professional duty.

“Concussion” works best when the focus is on the doctor’s good works and his interaction with medical colleagues, whether they are hostile or favorable to his efforts.

The film gets bogged down a bit in his personal life story, one that lacks much excitement until his church persuades him to provide temporary shelter to new Nigerian immigrant Prema Mutiso (Gugu Mbatha-Raw), who later becomes his wife.

Not that going up against the powers that be in the NFL is any easy task worthy of focused attention, but the story veers off into a subplot of intrigue in which on one occasion Prema finds that she is being followed ominously on back roads. Moreover, Dr. Wecht gets arrested by federal agents on what looks like retaliation.

In the end, Will Smith stands out in a cast with many excellent performances, but “Concussion” leaves the impression that the conflict with the NFL could have been even more pronounced than as it is portrayed. ★

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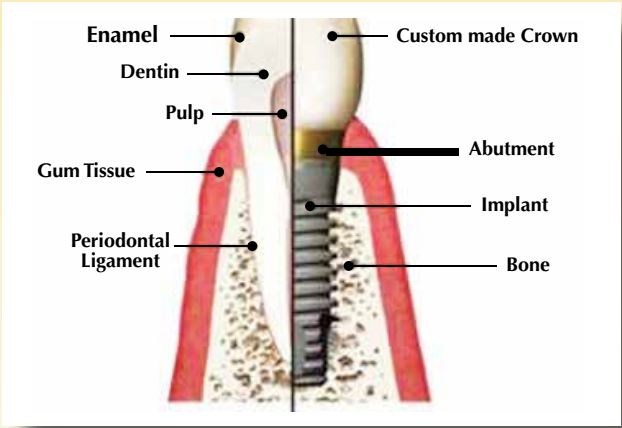
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Sacramento Man Arrested in Terrorism Investigation

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - A Sacramento, California, resident was arrested on a federal charge of making a false statement involving international terrorism. Aws Mohammed Younis Al-Jayab, 23, is charged in a complaint that was unsealed in the U.S. District Court of the Eastern District of California following his arrest. His initial appearance was Jan. 8th in Sacramento.

The arrest was announced by Assistant Attorney General for National Security John P. Carlin, U.S. Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner of the Eastern District of California, and Special Agent in Charge Monica M. Miller of the FBI's Sacramento Division.

"Aws Mohammed Younis Al-Jayab allegedly traveled overseas to fight alongside terrorist organizations and lied to U.S. authorities about his activities," said Assistant Attorney General Carlin. "The National Security Division's highest priority is protecting the nation from terrorism, and we will continue to hold accountable those who seek to join or aid the cause of terrorism,

whether at home or abroad."

"According to the allegations in the complaint, the defendant traveled to Syria to take up arms with terrorist organizations and concealed that conduct from immigration authorities," said U.S. Attorney Wagner. "While he represented a potential safety threat, there is no indication that he planned any acts of terrorism in this country. I commend the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force for their dedicated work on this matter."

The complaint alleges that on Oct. 6th, 2014, Al-Jayab was interviewed by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and responded in the negative to numerous questions, including whether he had ever been a member of any rebel group or militia; whether he had ever provided material support for any person or group engaged in terrorist activity; and whether he had ever been a member of a group, or assisted in a group, which used or threatened the use of weapons against others. Al-Jayab also allegedly stated during the interview that he had traveled

to Turkey in late 2013 and early 2014 to visit his grandmother. The complaint alleges that all of those answers were materially false.

If convicted, Al-Jayab faces a maximum statutory penalty of eight years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Any potential sentence will be determined by the court after review of factors unique to this case, including the defendant's prior criminal history, if any, the defendant's role in the offense and the characteristics of the violation.

The charges are only allegations; the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The ongoing investigation is being conducted by the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jill Thomas of the Eastern District of California and Trial Attorney Andrew Sigler of the National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section.

Source: Department of Justice, Office of Public Affairs ★



Lisa West
Community Outreach Director

What Veterans Need to Know



Memorial Parks Mortuaries & Crematory

By Lisa West

Are you a veteran or do you know one? First, let me say, I love veterans. They are truly our heroes and deserve our respect and undying gratitude for their service.

Veterans are entitled to many benefits. I can't possibly list them all here, and I wouldn't want to try. But I do want to give you some basic information regarding burial that I hope you find beneficial.

There are some misconceptions about veterans getting a "free burial;" first, depending upon your service, veterans are entitled to be buried in a VA cemetery. The closest one to Sacramento is called Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, although it's not in Sacramento, it's in Dixon (in Solano County).

Please note that although you are entitled to be buried in the VA cemetery, you still must be prepared for burial and taken to the VA cemetery by a funeral home. This is where people sometimes get confused.

Simply put, your burial plot at the VA cemetery is free of fees and

yours to use if you qualify. To find out if you qualify, call a licensed funeral home and they can tell you. If you do qualify, you still need to make your final arrangements through a mortuary or funeral home. It is always a good choice to do this in advance.

This means you need to be brought into the care of the funeral home after you pass away. Your body must be prepared through either cremation or casketing, and these fees are not free or paid for by the VA.

Other important facts to know are that a licensed funeral director is required to make the arrangements with the VA cemetery at the time of need (it cannot be made in advance like other arrangements can), and that funeral home must transfer your casket or cremation urn to the VA cemetery for the interment.

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

www.EastLawn.com

Game Plots

Revenant Kingdom Does Not Yet Impress

By Noah Howard



Game reviewer Noah Howard said, "That game is **"Star Wars Battlefront,"** a game that aims to scratch the fantasy itch of wanting to participate in the vast and glorious battles of the **"Star Wars"** universe."

imaginative version of "The Wizard of Oz." And like "The Wizard of Oz," one of the most popular theories is that the fantasy world doesn't exist at all, but is rather a creation of the main character's mind, constructed to help them come to a realization about some aspect of their life. For Oliver, the young boy who stars in "Wrath of the White Witch," his fantasy world serves as a way for him to come to terms with and accept his mother's death.

This theory has become almost accepted canon for many fans of the game, which is one of the numerous reasons why the recent announcement of "Ni no Kuni II: Revenant Kingdom" (set to release next year) failed to drum up much excitement. "Revenant Kingdom" seems not to involve Oliver or any of the characters from the original game, putting to rest this "mental construction" theory.

That's a shame, because

imagined as one long playable coping method, "Wrath of the White Witch" effectively explores realistic emotional territory where few other games dare to tread. Without the theory, it simply becomes, in retrospect, just another pretty-looking JRPG.

And from the one trailer we have for "Revenant Kingdom," it looks to be nothing special. It retains the gorgeous Ghibli style (Ghibli itself recently disbanded, but one character in particular looks almost identical to a famous Ghibli star), but a beautiful coat of paint can't salvage what looks to be a comparatively lackluster story.

From what we can tell, "Revenant Kingdom" looks to be about a boy king who, after a sudden coup, strives to regain his power and "build a kingdom where everyone can live happily ever after." This saccharine fairy-tale concept is not only overused, it lacks any of the personal, emotional motivation and struggle that made "Wrath of the White Witch" so great.

Of course, this doesn't mean the game won't turn out well. We've only seen one real trailer, and we have few details beyond what we've been shown. But unless something dramatically different is revealed, "Ni no Kuni II" is looking to both be a painfully average experience and a game that partially kills the impact of its predecessor.

To respond to Noah's articles email him at digitalartsnoah@yahoo.com ★

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Make It Fun and It Will Get Done!
The Secret to Being Organized

Pam Young’s Corner
4 Steps to a Clean, Cozy, Peaceful Home

By Pam Young

- Step One: Know that you are in exactly the right place right now.
- Step Two: Know you can have a clean, cozy, peaceful home.
- Step Three: Know you’re not alone.
- Step Four: Know when you take a thought, add feeling and take action, you can’t fail.

Here’s one woman’s story:
After a routinely chaotic, scavenger hunt for matching sox, clean underwear, clothes, shoes, coats, books and lunch money her son, a third grader and daughter a first grader missed the school bus. That was pretty much the Brace Family routine.

For breakfast, Mrs. Brace had served them apple pie and ice cream, telling herself it was healthy and contained all the food groups. The baby (16 months old) was happily playing in Pico’s (a Doberman, Labrador mix named after the cul-de-sac they lived on) water bowl with the head of one of her sister’s Barbie Dolls.

Her husband had ceremoniously huffed off to work as the manager of a popular, chain restaurant with just the front of his shirt ironed and wearing damp underwear because they were the only clean ones available. They were part of a load of whites that had been washed but hadn’t made it to the dryer. He’d pulled them from the mass of whites stuck to the inside of the washer. As he stormed out the door, he bellowed a serious ultimatum; “Get this place cleaned up or I’m outta here!”

Once the kids finished their pie and ice cream, she threw on a knee length coat over her pajamas, rolled the pant legs up to hide the festive pink elephants resting on clouds, pulled on a wig used just for covering bed hair and hunted for her car

keys and purse.

The kids were late for school and she had to go into the office with them. The secretary in charge of tardies knew her well. “Thank God for the long coat and wig!” she thought. She felt horrible.

On her way home the car radio played a sad love song about a lover long gone and she cried. Then something magical happened! A commercial came on the radio advertising the Link Care Center.

“We care. We know and understand what you’re going through. No matter what your problem, we have qualified counselors ready to help you now,” the kind woman’s soft voice floated over lovely, peaceful organ music.

Mrs. Brace wrote the number in the dust on the dashboard and as soon as she got home, she called.

“Ring, ring, ring?”
“Link Care Center how may I direct your call?”

“I need to talk to a counselor. I heard your advertisement on the radio and I was wondering how much it costs for your help.”

“I’ll connect you with someone in counseling, one moment please.”

“Dr. Doe’s office, how may I help you?”

“I’m a slob. The house is trashed, I’m always late and it’s affecting my children and my husband and I feel guilty because I’m a full-time homemaker and I’m not making a nice home for my family or me. I need someone to help me get organized.”

“Oh I’m sorry, we don’t have help in that area, perhaps you could find a book to read on the subject.”

If she’d had the nerve she would’ve snapped, “What d’ya mean you can’t help me? The lady on the radio said you can help ANY problem!” But at that time in her life she didn’t have the confidence to stand up to anyone.

Fast forward three years and there she was appearing on television across the country with her sister touting their book; the first get organized book written from a reformed slob’s point of view. Sidetracked Home Executives: from pigpen to paradise.

I am Mrs. Brace. I divorced Mr. Brace after 15 years of a nightmare marriage and raised my three children alone. As a single mother with minimal help financially and almost nonexistent help with sharing the raising of the children, we managed to survive and enjoy a wonderful life. That’s because I got organized.

Thirteen years later, I remarried a man with two grown children and together we have 12 grandchildren. Today, I’m Pam Young. Looking back by Googling the Link Care Center, I found it’s alive and well in Fresno, California and I’m sure it still doesn’t help disorganized people. It’s magical to me to see that out of a real need and desire, the answers were within me, not at the Link Care Center and not in a book. We all know we can do what we put our minds to doing and when we seek help from those who have had similar problems and have found answers, we’re on the path to success.

If you want a peaceful, clean, happy home and you know that it is possible to achieve, I can help you get organized just enough to please you. Together, let’s create that home you know you can have. Here’s a free chapter to my book The Joy of Being Disorganized.

For more from Pam Young go to www.cluborganized.com. You’ll find many musings, videos of Pam in the kitchen preparing delicious meals, videos on how to get organized, ways to lose weight and get your finances in order, all from a reformed SLOB’s point of view. ★



POPPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

I can sit on a mushroom and contemplate my navel for any length of time without going beany. There are those who tell me take note of my dreams because they are a release as well as a foretelling of what is yet to be. Now that’s even scarier. Some of my dreams are really weird and so jumbled I can’t make heads or tails of what they mean. I’m glad I don’t remember them too long. Then, here come the suggestions on how I should eat. The one I really remember is don’t eat anything white like white flour, white rice, or white sugar. I’m sure there is good reasoning behind these ideas, but here is what gets me frustrated. Remember when it was killer to eat butter and people were told to go for the margarine instead? Now, it has all changed and it’s the reverse. Eat butter and not margarine. Or, fat is a killer, but now it’s the kind of fat you eat. I mean really, our brain is made up of fat...the good kind of course...but that doesn’t mean there are not some fat heads in our life.

Then we have to exercise. I do. I’m really good about it. But that changes, too. Remember “no pain no gain?”

Now there are different theories on how to exercise and not necessarily with pain. I used to jog, and then got the information that it can give you bad ankles and knees and even incontinence as we get older. So walk fast and don’t jam those bones. Let’s not even go to the experts in business and politics and the crazies in entertainment. I’m so confused!

Now you ask, then why keep going doing talk shows on all these subjects. Because I have an insatiable curiosity. There is a deep-seated desire in me to unlock the truth. If I do not seek out all the possibilities, how can I find the truth...at least the truth for me? Perhaps that is the key. There is no one truth for everyone. You must find the truth that is right for you and live it to the max. So I will continue to interview these wise and dedicated souls on “POPPOFF” for as long as I am able. And I truly hope that you will stay with me on this journey for truth. We can make a difference for the positive; I truly believe that. Happy New Year and trust in that higher power within each of us! ★



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The Real Estate Insider

with Realtor, Developer
and Radio Host

Ellen Herrle

Listen weekdays 12n-1pm on Money,
The Wall Street Business Network, 105.5 FM

Q&A with Buyers & Sellers

This column is here for you as a resource in sorting out buying and selling property. When you ask a question we answer here so everyone benefits. What don't you know about buying and selling property? Let me help.
It's easy, just email your question to us and we share the answer so everyone can learn from it. Email: ellenherrle@hotmail.com or leave a message at 916-761-2108.

Q: Hi Ellen: I have been reading your column now for months and finally decided to send you a question, as I am very frustrated. I think a seller is stalling on getting us an acceptance on our offer. He keeps countering our offer and we immediately counter their counter, but then they take several days to counter us back. It has been an exasperating experience. It is definitely a seller's market and I think they are playing games. Is there a limit on how many counter offers a person can make?

A: Hi Marcy, I am so sorry that your experience has been so frustrating. Unfortunately, there is no legal limit on the number of counter offers that buyers and sellers can make. It is possible that the seller is stalling in order to get a better or higher offer. Try to see it from the seller's perspective. They are trying to sell their home and want to get top market value for their home. If they listed their home at a price that is supported by comparable homes, then they might hold out for a full price offer. Counter offers are a part of a negotiating process, but if you really want the house, you might want to come up to a price that you feel comfortable with. Make sure that there are comparable sales that will support the price that you are offering. If you are working with a Realtor, they can search the 'comparables' in the area. In a seller's market,

if you keep going back and forth, another offer might come in that is better than yours. I have talked with many buyers who have regrets on not making a better offer on a house that is now sold...to someone else! My advice is to look for properties that are in the price range you feel comfortable paying. When it is a seller's market, it is hard to get a low offer accepted. Good luck to you. If I can help in any way, please call me at (916) 726-9000.
For those who get in touch each month you'll also receive one of three pamphlets on buying and selling strategies, and be entered in a random drawing for a **dinner for two** at one of our great Sacramento or Placer restaurants! Don't spend more than you have too, or sell for less than you deserve by asking the expert first! Call us to help when you decide to buy or sell at 916-761-2108.
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Sacramento County DA Reports



Recent cases of interest

CASE: Elijah Rodgers
PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Morgan Gire, Gangs & Hate Crimes Unit

The Honorable Michael Kenny sentenced Elijah Rodgers to 82 years to life in prison. On September 9, 2015, a jury convicted Rodgers of first-degree murder and shooting at an occupied vehicle. The jury also found that the defendant personally used a firearm causing death, and that the crimes were committed for the benefit of a criminal street gang.

On June 23, 2013, individuals at a house party in south Sacramento began displaying guns and shouting gang terms. Nineteen-year-old Alvin Valentine was a passenger in his cousin's car when the two drove to the party. When they drove past the house, they saw a large number of people in the front and decided not to stay. They turned around and drove back toward the house to leave. Rodgers fired a handgun from the sidewalk in front of the house into their vehicle, striking and killing Mr. Valentine.

CASE: Ezekiel Delgado
PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Sheri Greco, Homicide Unit

Eighteen-year-old Ezekiel Delgado was convicted by jury of two counts of first-degree murder, and allegations he personally discharged a firearm causing death on both murder counts and the special circumstance allegation that he committed multiple murders were found true. Delgado was also convicted of discharging a firearm into an occupied motor vehicle and personally discharging a firearm causing death.

On April 10, 2014, Deshawne Cannon and Gina Elarms drove to the Northwood Apartments on Howe Avenue. Delgado was seeking to

purchase marijuana from Mr. Cannon. When they arrived at the complex, Delgado approached the vehicle and shot Mr. Cannon multiple times in the back. He then shot Ms. Elarms multiple times in the back because she had seen his face and would be able to identify him. Both victims died from gunshot wounds.

Delgado faces a potential maximum sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. Sentencing is set for February 26, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 25 before the Honorable Robert Twiss.

CASE: Brandon Amador
PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Maria Wilson, Special Assault & Child Abuse Unit

Twenty-two-year-old Brandon Amador was convicted by jury on seven counts of child sexual assault charges.

On October 19, 2014, the 6-year-old female victim went to her next-door neighbor's house to look for her Frisbee in their backyard. Amador answered the door and helped her look for the Frisbee. When they didn't find it, Amador took her into the house telling her the Frisbee might be in one of the bedrooms. Amador then sexually assaulted her. The victim was able to escape when Amador left the room to stop his dog from barking.

A search warrant of Amador's house revealed a duffle bag full of the victim's swimsuits, her underwear, a photo of the victim in her swimsuit, and child pornography on a computer with files using the victim's name.

Amador faces a sentence of 70 years to life in state prison. Sentencing is set for February 5, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 10 before the Honorable Eugene Balonon. ★

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My Year as Mayor



Commentary by Sue Frost

After joining the Citrus Heights City Council in December 2012, I quickly began to understand the complexity of managing taxpayer dollars and delivering City services. Citrus Heights is blessed to have a very competent City Manager who has built a highly qualified team of individuals who do an amazing job for all of us. I also have come to realize that community organizations play an extremely important role in defining cultural norms, enhancing community and economic development, and they also are the critical link to services that government cannot and should not always deliver.

I was honored to be appointed Mayor by my peers from December 2014 to December 2015. During my year as Mayor, I set out to support residents and business owners and to reach across political boundaries to tackle tough issues. It was an amazing year and I want to thank all the businesses and resident leaders who answered the call to action and helped me accomplish my aggressive goals. As 2015 Mayor, I raised over \$46,000 from regional and local businesses to host three events and assist community organizations.

Regional Leadership Council—Over 250

policy-makers and business owners gathered at the Community Center in May 2015. Mayor Kevin Johnson was keynote speaker and there were panel discussions featuring policy-makers from the six-county region to discuss “How Policy Decisions Impact the Local Economy.” Business owners were delighted to be a part of the discussion and all present forged lasting relationships that crossed political boundaries that extended to the entire region.

Community Leadership Conference—Fourteen local community leaders responded to my call and formed a committee to find ways to energize and empower our local nonprofits. They hosted an amazing day of learning that brought top CEOs from all over California to share their secrets on how to create a budget, sustainable and creative fundraising, how to grow your membership, and how to get the right volunteer in the right position. Over 170 people attended and over 120 nonprofits were represented at the Citrus Heights Community Center in September 2015. Many of the attendees were able to collaborate with other nonprofits and found new ways to tackle challenges and accomplish their mission.

“We Support Vets” Battle of the Bands and Barbecues—The Citrus Heights American Legion Post 637 hosted an event to raise money for their Vets Helping Vets Fund. It was a relaxing day under the trees at the Historic Rusch Home in October 2015. \$15 paid for an all-day ticket to enjoy BBQ, food, drinks, entertainment, and fun activities. Veterans raised thousands of dollars and plan to host the same event at the same location on October 1st, 2016.

These three events resulted in funds invested directly back into our city.

• Citrus Heights Women’s Club—A new Junior Women’s

Club at the local High Schools with a mission to support teen moms with supplies and teach them life skills.

- **Project Lifesaver**—Received funds to help them find family members who cannot find their way home. Their goal is to equip helicopters so they can broaden their search to five miles and expand services to other areas in the region.
- **Veterans Community Center**—Received funds to help them finish their ADA upgrades in their Community Center.
- **San Juan High School Homeless Students**—Received funds to help buy food for students who are classified as homeless (staying in cars, with friends, in temporary housing or transitioning). The High Schools try to have food on hand for these Students who are courageously continuing their education in spite of their challenging life.
- **Police Activities League (PAL)**—Received funds to help them grow the amazing mentorship program that teaches youth that COPs are their friend.

As the year wound to a close, an amazing thing happened and the Citizens of Citrus Heights launched a “We Support our Police” campaign. We were the first City in the Nation to publicly support our police and I was delighted to help with the effort. The funds raised during their campaign were donated to the Police Activities League.

It has been a great privilege to serve on the Citrus Heights City Council and I am looking forward to a great 2016.

By now you may be aware that I am running for County Supervisor in 2016. After considerable thought and an announcement that Supervisor Roberta MacGlashan will not be running in the 2016 race, I decided to run for her seat. Supervisor MacGlashan has

done a great job and I hope to follow in her footsteps by fighting for responsible budgets, supporting law enforcement, and promoting common-sense government.

My Top Priorities:

Public Safety—Ensure our first responders have the resources to stay safe while protecting our families, businesses, and our way of life.

Fiscal Responsibility—Fight for responsible budget management.

Jobs—Support entrepreneurs and job creation across political boundaries.

Infrastructure—Connect job centers, prudently invest in infrastructure to reduce traffic congestion, encourage interconnecting bike and walking paths, focus on public transportation that people will use, and fix potholes.

Personal Liberty—Protect and defend personal liberties and promote transparent and accountable government.

Reduce Homelessness—Non-profits tackle problems that affect our most vulnerable. We need to help them help us. Government cannot do it all.

Support Veterans—Connect veterans to benefits and resources they have earned.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the residents of Citrus Heights. I look forward to continuing my service to our community as County Supervisor for District 4.

I hope you had a blessed Holiday Season and wish you good health, happy moments, and true prosperity in 2016 and beyond!

Sincerely,
Sue Frost
Former Mayor—
City of Citrus Heights

Sacramento Quarterly Employment Trends

Job Demand and Hiring Trends for Local Companies in the 1st Quarter of 2016

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- Special report: you’re fired! Dishonest, unreliable jerks need not apply. When Sacramento’s top regional employers were asked, “What one thing will get you fired?” companies responded with a wide range of issues that will result in an employee’s immediate termination. As discovered by Pacific Staffing in a previous Employment Trends Survey in 1997 honesty remains the number one reason for letting a worker go.

However, the 2016 workplace has introduced more changes and challenges for human resource managers to consider as “just cause” for firing. While 52 percent cited honesty as paramount previously, in this survey conducted between Nov. 18th through Dec. 18th, 2015, half as many—or 27 percent—noted it as a primary concern. Individual conduct, interpersonal relations, gender roles, safety, and criminal issues like drug abuse and violence now require more workplace attention.

In 2016, issues of individual on-the-job behavior and sexual harassment were noted by 18 percent in this latest poll, with stealing/theft next as noted by 14 percent as a reason for instantly firing a worker.

An employee’s inability to perform the work is a new issue as noted by 10 percent while another 2 percent answered that repeated failure to show up as scheduled would also provoke immediate action. Other Sacramento regional employers also say an individual’s failure to follow safety rules on the job, bullying, drug abuse, or violence are also immediate

causes for potentially getting fired from the job!

Hiring in January, February, and March among Sacramento companies has slowed as 58 percent of regional employers polled say they will hire in the first Quarter, down from 76 percent reported last quarter. Motivation for seeking workers is almost even in Q1 as 37 percent was attributed to replacements in the existing workforce with hiring for growth noted by 38 percent of company contacts. Six percent of expected hiring in the next three months was attributed to seasonal demand.

Skills Demand?

Route and delivery drivers are less an issue this quarter, but companies are finding some entry level and qualified applicants difficult to fill in the Sacramento market. Customer service, sales, accounting, engineering, and specialized technical skills are in demand through March. Construction companies also noted severe shortages of building experience, particularly skilled trades in high demand in the upcoming Quarters.

How does this Quarter compare to last Quarter, or last year? Find out for yourself.

For more information, employment blogs and market surveys go to www.pacificstaffing.com.

Sacramento Regional Top Companies Polled By Industry: 42 percent are Service, 34 percent are Manufacturers, 16 percent are Construction and 8 percent are Retail.

Source: Pacific Staffing ★



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Karl Jenkins | Songs of Sanctuary (selections)

Jonathan Dove | Psalms For Leo (West Coast Premiere)

Shawnette Sulker, Soprano
Brian Staufenbiel, Tenor
Lee Poulis, Baritone

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