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Citrus Heights Messenger

"Written by the people, for the people"

Volume 5 Issue 07

Serving the City of Citrus Heights and Sacramento County

April 10, 2015

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Vote for New City Hall Passes



Officials say that moving Citrus Heights City Hall now will save the city money and bring economic benefits. Photo by Anne Stokes

By Julia Baum

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - After more than a year of discussion and heated debate, Citrus Heights City Council unanimously approved building a new city hall and medical office building at a heavily attended March 26th meeting.

The 5-0 final vote means that a new city hall will be built on Stock Ranch Road, just several hundred feet from its current location at Greenback Lane and Fountain Square Drive, which will become the site of a new medical office building for Dignity Health.

Residents turned out for the meeting both in support and protest of the project. Supporters said that the old city hall building would be missed but that they were looking forward to having a new building. Opponents expressed concern about the city not obtaining enough funds to offset road repairs; others said that the project should be rejected altogether and threatened lawsuits.

Mayor Sue Frost said that the estimated \$8.9 million to build a new city hall will save the community money.

"If we were to restore the existing city hall the way it is, it would cost us an estimated \$13.3 million; if we were to build a new city hall on the existing property it would cost us an estimated \$17.5 million," Frost said in a

phone interview.

Frost added that the presence of Dignity will help the city replenish its coffers in several ways, including \$6.9 million in lease agreements over a period of 15 years.

"Dignity Health is going to invest approximately \$31.2 million into Citrus Heights and they're going to bring 170 jobs," Frost said. "That's going to not only support our community with medical services but increase economic output."

City Manager Henry Tingle echoed Frost's sentiments in a phone interview, stating that putting off constructing a new building at a later date would have worked against the city's financial interests.

"What the city negotiated after its incorporation was to forego its property tax for 25 years (until 2021-2022)," Tingle said. "If we wait... the cost to build a new city hall will increase by 35 percent, so it makes no sense to wait."

Tingle said that residents can also expect approximately \$1.8 million in economic output from Dignity's presence due to people dining out and shopping locally.

"It's an excellent project for the city, it's consistent with our general plan to diversify our economic base," Tingle said. "We anticipate over 2200-2800 medical trips into Citrus Heights per day and so that will result in sales

to local businesses."

In the meantime, city officials are preparing for construction, including outfitting the Citrus Heights Community Center for city council meetings, which Frost said are expected to take place there during that time. ★



The relocation of City Hall has been a contentious issue but passed unanimously on March 26th. Photo by Anne Stokes

Spring Layoff Stress Ending for Teachers

By Chris Gilbert

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Each March, layoff notices are sent to teachers around the state. Most are normally rescinded when school districts finalize their budgets. But that doesn't make it any less stressful for instructors.

However, they can finally relax in the San Juan Unified School District this spring, where significant numbers of notices had been sent out over the last 10 years, mainly due to major state budget cuts. Only two have been issued this year but will not result in anyone losing a job, according to Trent with Community Relations. He says the notices are related to declining enrollment and not financial concerns.

"State funding hasn't necessarily returned to is pre-recession levels," said Allen. "But it's definitely better than it was at the height of the recession. We've also been able to give our first raise to employees in the last eight years."

Tom Alves, the executive director of the San Juan Teachers Association, says the 4.5% salary hike in the recently ratified contract is welcome news. But the Association plans to keep up the pressure on the district after they "lost a lot of buying power," said Alves.

"We know the economy is good," Alves said. "The governor is looking at a couple of billion dollars more than expected. So we're not sure what the revenue will be. We have re-openers in our contract for next year. We'll be looking closely at the revenue and certainly salary increases will be on the table for the next few years."

Regarding the Folsom Cordova Unified School District, Public Information Officer Daniel Thigpen said they are also in a more positive financial position thanks to the economic recovery and revenue from the state sales tax increase approved by voters, Proposition 30. He says they are no longer talking about layoffs and furloughs but about pay and benefit increases for teachers. Teachers have had only one raise since 2007.

But the Folsom Cordova Education Association has declared impasse
Continued on page 6

Community Marching Band Celebrates 11 Years



Bill Cook, Program Co-Director and creator of the silent auction prize favorite, his repurposed used band instruments, poses with the CHCMB Raffle Girls. Photo by Bill Medeiros

By Elise Spleiss

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - The Citrus Heights Community Center reverberated with the music of the Citrus Heights Community Marching Band (CHCMB) on March 21st during its sixth annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser.

Retired chef Aime Berg prepared her traditionally perfect spaghetti plate with all the trimmings, which her fans say gets better every time she cooks it.

The Golden State Accordion Club opened for the CHCMB and set the tone for the evening with polka and German dance music.

Following dinner, 65 band members encircled the room creating their own surround sound with tunes for all tastes. "America the Beautiful" opened the show. This year band director Kody Tickner proudly premiered the band's 2015 Field Show Production "Legend of the Dragon" and featured

music from DreamWorks' "How to Train Your Dragon."

The "Captain America March" provided more patriotic parade music, followed by the band's traditional salute to all branches of the U.S. military. The concert concluded with a crowd favorite, the theme from "The Magnificent Seven."

Musicians and other band members along with volunteers did double duty helping with the cooking, clean up, raffle, presenting the 120 silent auction prizes, and serving as runners.

Program Co-Director Bill Cook created his usual band instrument lamps made from retired band instruments and those donated by members, many arriving to him in pieces. His most sought-after creation this year was an upright double bass guitar. Funds raised from the silent auction are used to purchase instruments and for operational expenses.

Continued on page 5

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EXCLUSIVE TO MESSENGER PUBLISHING GROUP!

LeAnn Rimes Brings Country to the Capital City

By Shaunna Boyd

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On Saturday, April 25th at 2:30 p.m., LeAnn Rimes will be performing at Bonney Field, 1600 Exposition Boulevard, Sacramento, CA. Special guests will include Neal McCoy, Kellie Pickler, Phil Vassar, Kristian Bush, and Keith Anderson.

When asked what the audience can expect from her live performance, Rimes explained that her concerts are like an intimate one-on-one conversation with her as an artist. She looks at each performance as a way of storytelling: "I'm an open book through my

such a young age and over the years she has learned, evolved, and grown into herself. "My voice is way different now. It's stronger now, and the stories behind it are stronger," said Rimes. "When you're young, you're not comfortable in your skin. Now I've come into my own as an artist and as a woman."

Rimes has been singing since she was a little girl, and one of the most significant and impactful songs she remembers singing during childhood is Judy Garland's rendition of "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." Her love of singing and dedication to her art helped her break into the music industry at a very young age. She said, "It's incredibly hard, and I think it's harder now." Although it is difficult to get a foothold the industry, Rimes does have some advice for aspiring singers, songwriters, and musicians. She explained the importance of getting out there in front of people and getting as much exposure as possible. "You have to stand out and be your own person, your own artist. And you have to offer something that's not already out there. ... You have to hone your craft so when the time comes you're completely ready."

As a well-known country music star, Rimes has ample experience with the pressures of celebrity. But she says it is easier now than in the early days of her career. She said the pressure is "not as strong now as an adult. It can be hard to tune it out, but I'm more at ease now." She's accepted that the paparazzi are always there; that is the reality of living in L.A. Of course, she wishes they wouldn't photograph her when she's out in her sweats, but she's accepted it and they've faded into the background of her life.

When Rimes isn't touring the globe and wowing audiences with her powerful vocals, she and her family love to take advantage of one of the greatest benefits of living in California: relaxing at the beach. Rimes also loves to cook in her spare time. Although she spends so much of her time on a tour bus, her husband convinced her that they should buy an RV and she is thoroughly enjoying that

"Rimes said that the song "Borrowed" changed her whole life. She explained that the whole album seemed to write itself with all the emotions she was experiencing, which helped shape her as a songwriter: "It's incredibly honest. ..."

music," she said. Rimes used to follow a set list, but now she enjoys playing off the crowd. She connects with the audience and they get to know her personally through her music. Rimes has a great love of all types of music and admires the work of many artists: "I cover Janis Joplin's version of Summertime, and that's probably one of my favorite songs to perform live."

Rimes describes her drive as an artist as an intrinsic part of her nature: "It's like food for me," she said, necessary for her existence. Rimes said, "It's amazing to create something out of nothing, to turn an idea into a song." She tries to take any negative experiences from her life and turn them into something positive. "I'm happiest when I'm creating; it's something I can't stop doing."

Although she is internationally known as a sweetheart of country music, she strives to make good music, regardless of the genre. Rimes explained that a lot has changed since the early day of her career, both personally and in her music. She started performing at



When asked what the audience can expect from her live performance, Rimes explained that her concerts are like an intimate one-on-one conversation with her as an artist. She looks at each performance as a way of storytelling: "I'm an open book through my music," she said. Photos by Sara Hertel

experience: "It's different and so fun. You can go wherever you want, whenever want," she said.

Speaking about her most recent album, *Spitfire*, Rimes said, "It's the first project, musically, that felt like a complete thought." The process of creating the album "felt great; it was really cathartic." In particular, Rimes said that the song "Borrowed" changed her whole life. She explained that the whole album seemed to write itself with all the emotions she was experiencing, which helped shape her as a songwriter: "It's incredibly honest. ...

I didn't know I could go there, that I would allow myself to go there."

The audience at Rimes' upcoming Sacramento show can expect an amazing performance. Don't miss your chance to see this vocal powerhouse and hear her stories expressed through song. The show will be held at Bonney Field on Saturday, April 25th at 2:30 p.m. General admission tickets are on sale now for \$40 and can be purchased at www.ticketmaster.com/leann-rimes-sacramento-california-04-25-2015/event/1C004E51D3E16B12. ★

Are You Carrying Bricks In Your Backpack?

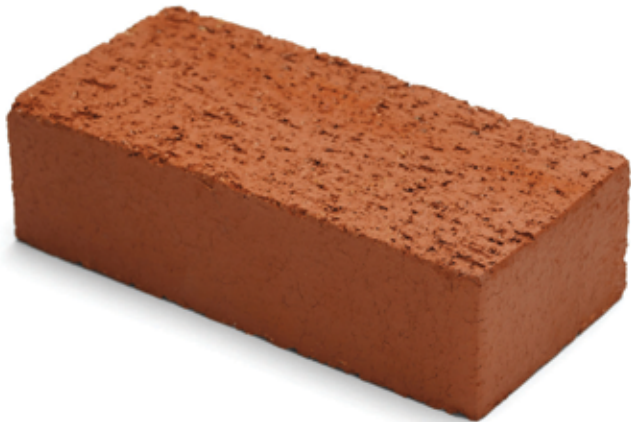
Procrastination! Ugh! What a word that is. But, we're all guilty of it - whether it's putting off laundry or doing your taxes - it's usually related to some task or chore we just don't want to do.

The same is true about making final arrangements. Who wants to think about, or talk about, death. And with so many more fun things to spend our money on, who wants to pay for it?

Well, just like taxes, death is something unavoidable, and when it's done - what a relief that is. You can then unload that brick from your backpack and have some peace of mind. If you still need motivation, consider these points:

- You get to arrange what you think is best and not expect family members to know your wishes
- You can know that once your pre-arrangements are made, your wishes will be carried out
- You get to relieve your family from that burden of planning your funeral when they are grieving
- You can minimize disputes between your well-meaning relatives
- You can set up affordable monthly payments so the financial burden does not fall to your surviving family members
- You will show your love in a way your family will never forget

We hope these tips are useful. *Call us today for an appointment and let us help you unload some bricks from your backpack!*




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Annual Car Show to Benefit Children’s Charity



The show benefits Lilliput Children’s Services and is co-sponsored by 1st Choice Realty and Alpine Mortgage. Photo courtesy of 1st Choice Realty

By Bill Martin

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - It’s Saturday morning, the sun is out, and it’s another beautiful spring day in the Sacramento area. Citrus Heights residents don’t need to spend such a day locked inside. Instead they can call up some friends, get the kids together, grab a few beach towels and head to 1st Choice Realty’s annual car show in Citrus Heights on April 18th between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The show benefits Lilliput Children’s Services and is co-sponsored by 1st Choice Realty and Alpine Mortgage.

While strolling among those pretty, shiny metal beauties, including the classic cars loved by so many, visitors will be treated to music, food and family fun for everyone. There will be something for all kinds of car lovers, from corvettes, vintage cars, muscle cars, or genuine race cars that will set hearts all aflutter.

Visitors at the show should bring along a couple of new beach towels. Towels will be collected during the Car Show event as a donation to the Lilliput Children’s Service for the

children involved in Lilliput’s summer program this year.

Since opening, Lilliput Children’s Services has placed over 6,000 children in safe, loving homes through their foster parent and adoption programs. Any monetary proceeds donated as well during the day of the free Car Show, will directly bene-



While strolling among those pretty, shiny metal beauties, including the classic cars loved by so many, visitors will be treated to music, food, and family fun for everyone. Photo courtesy of 1st Choice Realty

fit Lilliput’s Foster, Adoption and Kinship programs. Lilliput’s organization exists to ensure that every child in their program has the opportunity to be a part of a safe, nurturing, and lifelong family.

Not everyone can adopt or be a foster parent, but donations

can help these children have a great summer while they wait to be relocated into a secure home. Just the receipt of one beach towel of their very own makes summer a whole lot more enjoyable for that young boy or girl.

Those who are unable to attend the Car Show but wish to make a monetary donation, donate beach

towels, or just want more information about Lilliput Children’s Services, can contact them at 916-923-5444. For more information about the Car Show event, please call 916-722-7400, or visit 1st Choice Realty on line at SoldBy1stchoice.com. ★

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SPRING CELEBRATION! Saturday, April 25th, 1-3pm

You’ve been waiting for it...and now it’s here! The annual Spring Celebration at Citrus Town Center! Bring the entire family out for our spring fun & festivities. Shop, eat, and enjoy all the fun happening at the Spring Celebration at Citrus Town Center!

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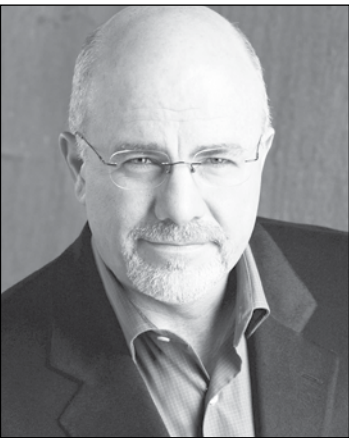


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Breaking the News

Dear Dave,

My parents are going through a divorce, and money issues are a big part of the problem. My dad bought several rental properties and poured money into them. Then, he lost them to foreclosure and isn't making a lot in his new, commission-based job. How can I, as a 25-year-old kid, tell him that his career choices aren't working?

- Ryan

Dear Ryan,

I'm sorry to hear about your mom and dad. Divorce is never an easy thing, no matter how old you are.

You've probably heard lots of old sayings about how winners never quit. Well, in many cases those are false statements. Winners and successful people quit all the time; they quit doing things that aren't working. This doesn't have to mean that you quit on a dream, but it could mean you change the methodology you're using — especially if it's not getting you anywhere.

Part of being a successful entrepreneur is having the ability to recognize when something isn't working and change it. You sound like a smart, caring young

Dave Says

man, but there's little chance that a twenty-something with very little life experience will be able to convince his father of these things. I mean, he's probably in his fifties, right? Plus, he's going through a divorce, and it sounds like he's broke and emotionally worn out.

You've got a great heart, and I'm glad you care enough about your dad to try and help him. But in this scenario, I think he needs to talk to someone like a pastor, or even an older relative or good friend closer to his own age — a guy with a little more life experience. Maybe you could talk to someone like this and explain what your dad is going through. Ask them to talk to him, and see if he'll open up to some new ideas.

In the meantime, just be there for him and show all the support you can. You're a good son, Ryan.

- Dave

Just a Theory...

Dear Dave,

Let's say you have \$1 million in the bank. Why would you take out \$300,000 to buy a house, instead of just making a 20 percent down payment and keeping the rest of the money in mutual funds to make more money? If need be, I could still pay off the house.

- Alex

Dear Alex,

Interesting question. Okay, I'm game.

The spread that you'd make between even a high-interest rate mortgage — let's say six percent — and mutual funds at 11 percent or so, is about five percent. And that's assuming nothing goes wrong, and you can get your mutual fund out if needed.

What you're talking about is theory, and what I'm talking about is actual life. In your theory you've left out two major issues: paying taxes on the mutual fund, which would make your yield less, and risk. You've compared a zero-risk investment with a risk investment, and you shouldn't do that. You must factor in risk so you can accurately compare one investment to another.

Every time you pay off a mortgage, the bank no longer charges you interest. That's zero risk compared to a mutual fund, which does have risk. Remember, if your house was paid for you wouldn't borrow \$300,000 against it to invest in mutual funds!

- 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.*



By Pastor Ray Dare

The greatest thing you could do for somebody is to tell them how much God loves them. God is counting on you. Don't make the mistake of waiting around until everything gets perfect in your life before you begin to reach out to people in need.

Some people think the only way to reach people is to point out all their faults and to shame them into feeling like such a no-good, rotten loser that they repent and turn to God. But friends, I believe just the opposite is true! The Bible says *"It is the goodness of God that leads people to repentance."* Romans 2:4. If people can ever really see how good our God is, they'll want to know Him.

People are sick and tired of the same old dead-end religion that condemns you and tells

Pastor Ray's Encouraging Words

The Greatest Thing You Could Do for Somebody

you what a lousy, rotten person you are. Nobody wants to be in bondage like that. Religion tells you if you make any kind of mistake, go through any kind of failure, you might as well just go to the back of the line. Forget it. God's through with you. You are all washed up. Religion tears you down, but Jesus builds you up.

We've got to make sure we share the GOOD News. People already feel enough guilt and condemnation and shame. They know what they're doing wrong. You don't have to tell them. We're not God's policemen, pointing out the wrongs that others do. Jesus said in Luke 3:37, *"Judge not so that you will not be judged; and condemn not so that you will not be condemned."* One of the few times God tells us to judge, He says, *"Judge yourself"*.

We must reach our family and friends for God NOW. The hour is too late for any of us to live with an inward focus, where we're only concerned about our own needs. There's a whole

world out there that has never felt the life-changing power of Jesus Christ. There are people all around you who are hurting, they are lonely and they are in pain. They don't even know what real love is.

God has no arms to love and hug except your arms. God has no voice to encourage and uplift except your voice. The only smile that God has here on this earth is your smile. You've got to be responsible for your family and your friends. Make sure that they know what it's really all about.

Are you doing everything you can possibly do? You've got to make that phone call. Visit that neighbor. Pass out that invitation. Invite that person to church.

*Pastor Ray
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By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

Today my best friends and I live hundreds of miles apart but in a sense we are merely a phone call away and we use that opportunity to share our joy to God's answers to our prayers and things He has taught us. We were comparatively young Christians when we met so many years ago and sharing the wonderful things God does regularly in our lives is an unspeakable joy to one another.

The most recent call was yesterday and we both shared new things we had talked to the Lord

Sharing with a Best Friend

about and it was so much fun listening to what happened. My friend Barbara had prayed and received a Valentine's idea to give all of their neighbors a book titled *"What is Heaven Like"*? She and her husband Don went door to door to deliver the books and shared with each neighbor a few minutes about their enjoyment reading it. Both of them desire to win souls to the Kingdom of God and now await the move of God's Holy Spirit to hopefully hear what their neighbors will do. Her husband had never done anything like this before. Barbara said, Don felt really good about doing it.

(Note: They have been our friends since the Sunday after I accepted Christ which was July 24, 1968—47 years ago. Barbara came and told me she wanted to help me grow in my faith and has helped me all these years.

Barbara is a Bible Study teacher and Don a voluntary construction worker in the church.) Now wasn't that a cool idea to plant seeds through this book? I want to do this too, but not sure if I could wait another year to do it. I will leave my date up to the Lord to guide me.

I shared with Barbara that I also prayed a different prayer recently and was telling the Lord that I wanted to be instrumental to plant good seeds through my writing to win 80 souls to Christ this year. I had never prayed that way before although my hope is that what I write reaches into the lives of those who are looking for a love that is far greater than any love they will ever experience—and that is from God Almighty!

*Marlys Johnsen Norris
Christian Author of 7 books
Marlysjn@gmail.com*



By Ronnie McBrayer

Over the last two years the world has combated the largest Ebola epidemic in history. And the current upsurge, beginning in West Africa in 2013, continues even though it has fallen off the front pages of our newspapers.

Ebola is a fearful disease. There are multiple strains, a dreadful mortality rate, and scientists know precious little about it, as Ebola is relatively new to the medical community. The first outbreak was less than 40 years ago, so unlike the flu, the mumps, or polio, generational knowledge of the disease is lacking.

To that point, scientists don't know exactly how the virus leaves the animal population and crosses over to humans. They don't know where the natural reservoir, that is the primal source, for the disease is located. They don't know how Ebola will evolve and mutate going forward - there is just so much we do not know.

Yet, what we do know is this: Health workers have been at the forefront of combating this disease, unselfishly submitting themselves to incredible risk in the process. They remind me of Christ who would walk among the diseased and infected, unafraid to touch, to heal, and to love.

I heard one of these workers, a nurse, interviewed via radio late last year when the Ebola hysteria was at its peak. The interviewer asked a good question: "What



God Smiles

materials or supplies do you need to improve your work?" I waited to hear her speak of more money, more hospital beds, more IVs, or what not - all were definitely needed.

But the nurse gave a surprising, most beautiful answer. She said, "What we need are new biohazard suits; ones with full, clear screens so the patients can see our faces." She went on to describe their current outfits: Bulky, hot, with only eye holes to peer out of, or cumbersome goggles.

Then she spoke of how patients were scared, sick with this gruesome disease, afraid of dying, isolated from their family and friends, and were being cared for by "foreigners" who didn't necessarily speak their language. She concluded: "We need the new suits so they can see our faces... so they can see us smile at them, and be less afraid."

This nurse is a skilled caregiver, regardless of her technical proficiency, for she understands that the healing process requires kindness, warmth, and clarity as much as it requires antibiotics and oxygen tanks. "So they can see our faces," is simply, good medicine.

Her words reminded me of the great Aaronic blessing from the Hebrew Bible. It goes something like this: "May God bless you and protect you. May God smile on you and show you grace. May God look you full in the face and give you peace." It's all that anyone could ask for, good medicine

for sure: To have a life that flourishes, for God to grant peace and grace, and for Providence to smile in our direction - that is good medicine indeed.

And it is medicine so badly needed. I don't have to work very hard to convince you or anyone that this world is a difficult place to live. Ebola. Disappearing airplanes. Ferguson. War in the Ukraine and the Middle East. The Islamic State. Boko Haram. Extremism at every turn. Oh, and don't forget the garden variety troubles we all have: Illness, divorce, the deaths of those we love, too many bills and not enough paycheck, so on and so forth.

Any one of these, much less enduring the entire lot, is enough to blind us, isolate us, and make us afraid. Yet, through it all, God is smiling. That is, he is caring, loving, and healing, showing his face to those who will see it. Yes, that face is sometimes masked by religion's camouflage or some creed's bulky, cumbersome language.

This doesn't mean God is not present and that God does not care. I believe he cares - immensely. And when we catch his smile, even for the briefest moment, it lets us know that he is here and that he is working to heal our hearts and our world.

Ronnie McBrayer is a syndicated columnist, blogger, pastor, and author of multiple books. Visit his website at www.ronniemcbrayer.me.



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Home Prices and Values on Steady Climb

By Chris Gilbert

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - There will likely never be the home market boom we once had. But prices and values are finally on a steady climb again, which should mean steadier, longer-term industry and economic growth, including in Citrus Heights.

The February median home price in Citrus Heights was \$234,900, according to the Sacramento Association of Realtors. That's up \$17,500 from a year ago. Zillow.com describes the Citrus Heights market temperature as "very hot."

Association President Ron Greenwood cites quality of life improvements through incorporation. "They are, along with West Sacramento, showing how it should be done," said Greenwood. "They're doing a fantastic job with their law enforcement and government, the services they provide, and affordability. You put that all together, in close proximity to transportation, it's desirable."

In February, 25 homes were sold, compared to 20 in January and 31 a year ago. But as the market recovers, it also means

affordability is dropping again. Zillow.com says buyers must now make at least \$78,000 a year to be able to afford the statewide median price. And more than two-thirds of households make less than \$70,000. In Citrus Heights, income needs to be at least \$46,000.

But Greenwood says prices are going up much more modestly than in the boom years. He also is not expecting looming interest rate increases to scare off a significant number of buyers. "We had gas prices go down, which gave them more disposable income," he said. "And the job market seems to be improving gradually. All that bodes well."

Although homebuilding is picking up again, Greenwood admits inventory continues to lag. "We would like to see somewhere between four and six months' supply," he said. "In reality, we're more like half that. The problem is the good properties that are priced right are going quickly. If we look at the selling time, it's been reduced almost in half. It used to be 60 to 90 days to close a house, now it's closer to 30 to 60 days."

A double-digit decline in

home foreclosure activity is reported in California by Realty Trac: 11% in February compared to last year. The number of distressed homes is the lowest in eight and a half years.

With values showing a consistent increase, the percentage of "underwater" homeowners in the Sacramento area is dropping. It was nearly 15 % in the last quarter of 2014, according to Zillow.com, compared to 20% the previous year. That's resulting in more consumer confidence.

Greenwood said, "Some people were just saying they just don't want to venture and buy something that's going to be worth a lot less than what they paid for. I think everyone realizes the market is going up. And if they're going to get into it, do it now, and enjoy the lower interest rates and lower prices."

A more stable market is always a good barometer of overall economic health. "It's a slow, gradual turn," Greenwood said, "and it's driven by the right forces. It's driven by need and also knowing that the job market's healthy. It's not external and being driven by greed. That's what hurt us the last time." ★

Community Marching Band Celebrates 11 Years

Continued from page 1

Citrus Heights city council members were all present. Mayor Sue Frost told the band in her greeting, "You've become the heart and soul of Citrus Heights in all you do." Police Chief Christopher Boyd echoed this sentiment adding, "You are the crown jewel of our city."

In addition to extraordinary food and music, the evening also honored two of its champions, both role models and mentors in the community, with their photos and a tribute shown on the big screen throughout the evening.

Mary Purvis was a huge band supporter from day one. The former Northern California area pageant director of 40 years died at age 86 on March 27th, 2014, four days following last year's spaghetti dinner fundraiser. Purvis' husband Jay, daughter Kelly Rae Harrell, and grandson Devyn were present at the event.

Don Lawson was the oldest band member at 84 when he died unexpectedly on January 28th.

Per Program Co-Director Kathy Cook, both Mary and Don have been a big part of the success of CHCMB. "Mary was there since the band's beginning. She was there at our first practice with her ambassadors on March 28th, 2005 at San Juan High School band



From left to right: Mary Purvis' husband, Jay Purvis, grandson Devyn, and daughter Kelly Rae Harrell, with a photo of Mary who passed away the day after 2014's fundraiser. Photo by Elise Spleiss

room. They sat at the front table and registered our new band members."

Band Fundraising Manager Sarah Hendricks added, "Mary was just filled with so much heart and compassion. She truly cared for her community. She did so many things no one knew about nor did she want them to know." This included delivering food to needy families throughout the year. Cook remembered how, at their first yard sale, Purvis brought ham and cheese sandwiches for the 20 workers along with a large tray of brownies. From then on at every yard sale, that tray of brownies was a welcome sight.

Remembering Lawson, Cook noted, "Don was our oldest member and the first band member to pass away. Don did

whatever he could to promote CHCMB at yard sales including having signs made to advertise the sales. He started with the band as a clarinet player, went to a bass drum and then onto perform on his pride, which was the big bass drum, with his 3 signature American flags."

Lawson's obituary described him as a "jewelry maker, artist, volunteer, mentor, inventor, dogaholic, and outdoors advertising pioneer." He was survived by a loving partner and an, "avalanche of kids, adopted kids and great grandkids."

Demand for the CHCMB to perform in Citrus Heights and surrounding cities has grown through the years and 19 performances and competitions are scheduled for 2015. ★

Local Crime Beat

A Mother Sentenced; A Murder Confession; A Missing Teen

Mother Sentenced to 12 Years for Baby's Murder

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert announced today that the Honorable Joseph Orr sentenced Sarah Stephens to 12 years and 4 months in prison. On February 20th, Stephens pled no contest to voluntary manslaughter and felony child abuse in connection with the death of her infant son, Ryder Salmen.

On September 28, 2012, emergency personnel were called to Stephens' apartment on Auburn Boulevard where they found 7-month-old Ryder dead. Testing revealed he had received a lethal dose of methadone, alprazolam and oxymorphone. Stephens did not have current prescriptions for any of those drugs at the time. Subsequent testing conducted by the District Attorney's Laboratory of Forensic Services determined it was scientifically unlikely the fatal overdose came from breast milk.

Source: Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

Homicide Suspect Turns Himself In

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - A homicide investigation that lasted just one hour ended when the chief suspect, Patrick Hendrickson, 32, turned himself for the murder of a female victim on Cook Avenue on March 26th.

Hendrickson is a Citrus Heights resident and has been booked into the Sacramento County Jail. Officers found his victim after reports of an assault at approximately 1:43 a.m. The woman who was attacked bore severe injuries and was pronounced dead after arriving at the hospital.

Source: Citrus Heights Police Department



Patrick Hendrickson, arrested for homicide on March 26th. Photo courtesy of Citrus Heights Police Department

Sheriff's Dept. Searches for Missing Teen

NORTH HIGHLANDS, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department is asking the public for assistance in locating an at-risk missing teenager who was last seen on March 20th leaving her residence within the 6500 block of Larry Way and walking to her school on Larchmont Drive.

Tiajhanay Ward-Burt, 13, is described as a mixed race female with a light-skinned

complexion, brown eyes and long braided brown hair with extensions. She stands 5'1" tall and weighs approximately 120 pounds. She was last seen wearing a black short sleeved shirt, a grey "Cali" hooded sweatshirt, multi-colored parachute pants, and black tennis shoes.

Though Tiajhanay's whereabouts are unknown, she is believed to be in communication with family members who have no custodial right to her. She is considered 'At Risk' due to potentially being in the company of others who will likely endanger her welfare.

Anyone who may have seen Tiajhanay or knows of her whereabouts is asked to contact the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department at (916) 874-5115.

Source: Sacramento Sheriff's Department ★



Tiajhanay Ward-Burt, pictured here, is considered an "at risk" missing teen. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Sheriff's Department

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Spring Layoff Stress Ending for Teachers

Continued from page 1

after months of contract negotiations. Association President Michael Itkoff says the district’s last offer was a one-year deal, with a 4% salary hike. “It ended up being less than their initial offer,” said Itkoff. “And that’s what we call regressive bargaining. We thought that was bad faith and that’s why we declared impasse.”

But the Public Employment Relations Board has denied the request, ordering negotiations to resume. Itkoff says the decision is based on district statements that it has and continues to make progress in negotiations, expressed a willingness to discuss contingency language for next year, and have never indicated their last offer was a final one.

The initial offer from the district was 5%. Teachers are asking for 4.75%. Itkoff says the difference between the two sides represents only one-half percent

of the district’s \$159 million budget.

If the Public Employees Relations Board approves the filing, a state mediator will be brought in to try to negotiate a settlement. Thigpen says the two sides are not very far apart and is optimistic that a settlement can be reached soon. “Our teachers made a lot of sacrifices when times were more challenging,” he said. “So I think we do agree that our teachers deserve a fair pay and benefits increase. We just have to balance that with what’s affordable for the district.”

There’s more good news for teachers. Staffing is more stable, with no serious shortages. In fact, more teachers will need to be hired, with both districts gradually restoring the class-size reduction program.

“As the economy continues to improve, and new homes are built, eventually we will be building more schools, which will require increased staffing as well,” said Thigpen.

But at San Juan Unified, Allen says years of budget uncertainty and layoffs have discouraged people considering a teaching career. “We are a little concerned about the number of individuals entering teacher training programs at the college level,” he said. “We haven’t necessarily hit a period where we’re going to do a lot of hiring just yet. Our retirements are kind of balancing off our hiring needs. But it’s something we’re keeping our eyes on very closely and we hope to encourage more folks to enter the profession.”

Alves says the focus now is encouraging the district to restore staffing lost from budget cuts, especially in support areas, including for students dealing with poverty. “There are so many more opportunities for people to look for a position,” he said. “And until we get salaries up, and where prospective college candidates view this as a profession they can make a living at, trying to recruit is a huge emphasis.” ★

Chamber of Commerce Names Student of the Month

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Citrus Heights Elementary School 5th grader Adam Baquera was named student of the month at a local Chamber of Commerce luncheon on March 10th, honoring his academic and leadership achievements both inside and out of his school.



“His leadership qualities are where he really excels,” said his teacher Rita Yund. “Adam has taken on the extra work of being a spokesperson for our school. He has spoken at both a community and board meeting to voice his concern about possible school closures in the Citrus Heights community.”

At Citrus Heights Elementary, Baquera was elected as student council president, puts in extra hours in an advanced math class and even finds time to tutor first grade students.

“Adam has shown the qualities of respect, responsibility, and leadership,” said Yund. “I can always count on him to be respectful to his peers as well as the staff at our school. He is responsible for getting to school on time and turning in his

completed work.” Baquera’s leadership responsibilities at the school include running the weekly council meeting, making sure all committee leaders are doing their jobs and making weekly announcements.

“It is my pleasure to have such a dedicated young man as a member of my class,” said Yund. “I am looking forward to the many great things Adam will accomplish this year.”

The student of the month award is granted to elementary, middle, or high school students who have “demonstrated exemplary growth or improvement.”

Source: Citrus Heights Chamber of Commerce Education Committee Vice Chair Rosa Umbach. ★

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All American Speedway to Launch 60th Season

By Linda Harper

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - There's something uncanny about the speedway just before opening day of race season. From the spotters ledge, the 1/3 mile oval track looks pitch black against a backdrop of pristine, green infield lawn. The bleachers are shiny and inviting, the pits are groomed and the cement is clean. There's a massive Heritage Oak tree in the pit area standing tall and proud, waiting to shade drivers while they receive their competition instructions.

What's most apparent is the eerie silence. That calm will abruptly vanish on April 11th, when All American Speedway in Roseville opens the gates to its 60th racing season. Four divisions will roar around the track with resounding thunder, sure to thrill



On April 18th, the second race of the season, Pacific Challenge Late Models will return to All American Speedway, along with North State Modifieds and Pro 4 Modifieds. These traveling series cars and drivers are fierce battlers who put on a spectacular show with edge-of-your-seat action. Photos by Doug Day

anxious spectators.

Included in Saturday's lineup are Street Stocks, Legends,

Bombers and the F-4s. The first race of the season is always exciting and full of anticipation. There

are new cars, returning contenders and familiar drivers, who have been providing action packed racing to devoted All American Speedway fans for decades.

NASCAR's Sprint Cup is the elite racing division everyone recognizes through TV, ticket sales and millions of dollars of marketing. Secondary divisions such as Nationwide and the K&N Series are formulated to bring drivers up the ladder to ultimately join the Cup Series.

However, before attempting to enter any of the NASCAR divisions, most drivers start racing on their community short tracks. Over the years, All American Speedway (AAS) served as a training ground for Kevin Harvick and Clint Boyer who are now weekly contenders in the Sprint Cup Series. Jim Englebright also moved up to NASCAR's nationwide series after completing several seasons at AAS. Although

Michael Waltrip didn't train at AAS, he enjoys navigating the track once a year when he races in the K&N Pro Series.

Community short track racing is true, raw auto racing at its best. It's where enthusiasts evolve into competitive racing participants; where confidence is built and determination is realized. Drivers learn to handle speed and to display competitive showmanship. In the pits, friends and family often make up the crew that build the cars and keeps them racing week after week.

Sponsors are local business owners who pay to keep racing machines in tires and fuel for the season. Hometown race fans tend to remain faithful to their favorite drivers season after season. They create alliances and make life-long friends. It's not unusual to see the same group of fans sitting together in the same spot on the bleachers year after year.

On April 18th, the second race of the season, Pacific Challenge Late Models will return to All American Speedway, along with North State Modifieds and Pro 4 Modifieds. These traveling series cars and drivers are fierce battlers who put on a spectacular show with edge-of-your-seat action.

There are a few changes to note

at AAS. There are no races scheduled for the month of July. In the past it has been miserably hot for drivers and fans in July. Rather than having to call off a race due to heat, officials decided to get out in front of the problem and take July off. Also, the last Saturday of every month is a dark night, when the track will be closed.

During the 2015 season, the speedway will not operate as a NASCAR sanctioned track, except for the annual K&N Pro Series race in October. Lifting the sanction will make it easier for people to race. The hope is that more modifieds and street stocks sign in. For any other ongoing changes, go to All American Speedway's website.

Roseville's All American Speedway is a safe, fun and affordable place for families to enjoy a night out together. The gates open at 4 p.m. and racing begins at 6:00:00 p.m. The track is located at 800 All America City Blvd. in Roseville. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors (60+) and juniors (6-15). Children under 6 are always free. For more information about All American Speedway, call (916) 786-2023, visit www.allamericanspeedway.com or look for them on Facebook. ★

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- *"New" prefix
- *Geography class prop
- Tiny island
- Content
- Kind of space
- *Environmental science
- *Green car
- R&R spot
- Give the cold shoulder
- College entrance exam
- Of a particular kind
- Long John Silver had this
- *Deforestation is big issue in this country
- Brazils or filberts, e.g.
- Upholstery choice
- Van Gogh's famous flower
- "____-and-true"
- Dissolute man in fashion-able society
- Bordered
- Common hosiery shade
- Concludes
- Looked lecherously
- Like a sharp eye
- "O say can you ____"
- Prejudice
- X
- *Type of bug?
- Guards and keeps order
- ____-Goldwyn-Mayer
- "Ostrich" of Australia
- Café offering
- Actor's reward
- Hanks or Cruise
- Relating to ohms
- Light grey
- *Clean Air Act org.
- Required things

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- Hull appendage, pl.
- Impedes by estoppel
- Green-eyed monster
- South Pacific welcome
- Warm down-slope wind of the Alps
- Talk like a drunk
- "Laughing on the inside" in text message
- In the sack
- p in mpg
- Chunk of raw meat
- Like hunger strike victim
- Uh-huh
- Performer's gimmicks
- *Oil crisis
- Eagle's nest
- Father, Son and Holy Ghost, e.g.
- "Kiss Me, Kiss Me, Kiss Me" band, The ____
- *"An Inconvenient Truth" author
- Some have a mane
- Dodge
- These in U.S. are often Canadian
- "Breaking Bad" victim
- Dried-up
- Because of
- Credit card user
- *"____ Hard" movie
- *Earth Day founder
- Mountain ridge
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Crossword Puzzle on Page 8

B	R	O	K	E		E	L	F		S	L	A	P
R	I	S	E	S		N	E	O		G	L	O	B
I	S	L	E	T		V	I	E		O	U	T	E
E	C	O	L	O	G	Y		H	Y	B	R	I	D
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S	A	T		S	U	C	H		P	E	G	L	E
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I	R	I	S		T	R	I	E		R	O	U	E
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A	S	H				E	P	A		N	E	E	D

Sudoku Puzzle on Page 6

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



POPPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

- 3) At any moment, life can throw a mud ball at me. It's my choice whether to have a bad five minutes or a bad day.
- 4) If I allow people to “push your buttons,” I have to remember that they are really MY “buttons,” and that allowing them to be pushed is MY choice.
- 5) If I am “up to my butt in alligators,” I generally raised every one of those alligators from a baby until they were big enough to bite.
- 6) Take a long distance view of problems. Will I remember today's crisis one year later? If it is that easily forgotten, how important is it?
- 7) Defeat and disappointment offer the best opportunities to view my real character.
- 8) When I am in pain, tears can be a lubricant for the soul.
- 9) Anger and resentment give control of my emotions to someone I feel has wronged me.
- 10) Never make a long-term decision based on short-term misery.
- Like strengthening the muscles through exercise, learning to make these mental shifts might take years according to **Strawser**. It may also require tapping into your spiritual side (which **Strawser** says

anyone can do, even those who aren't believers in the traditional sense). To start though, he suggests you strive to simply become aware of when your thoughts are creating, magnifying, or exacerbating your problems and stress. In his own words, “Once you have developed this self-awareness, you'll be in a position to begin challenging your preconceived ideas and changing where you choose to place your focus. This in turn will change how you respond to events, make decisions, and take action. Shifting your thinking is the gateway to a richer, more joyful way of life.”

Thomas Strawser is an international engineer with a Master's Degree in Psychology. Divorce, alcoholism, and numerous losses in his life led him to seek practical solutions in his despair. Combining his spirituality, knowledge of psychology, and engineering know-how, he discovered the process he calls “*Spiritual Engineering*.” He and his wife Patricia continue to share this transforming power with thousands in seminars around the world. You can check out more of what he does at www.spiritual-engineering.com. Just keep in mind that things may not be really as bad as you think if you know HOW TO THINK! ★

Wiffle Ball to Benefit MS Society



By John-Michael Kibrick

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Multiple Sclerosis (MS) affects everyone in different ways, making it difficult to diagnose and even more challenging to find any kind of effective treatment. But Citrus Heights resident and MS patient Randy Saathoff has taken unique initiative to combat the disease with a fundraiser that benefits the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Having built a shockingly professional baseball diamond in his backyard, Saathoff will be hosting a wiffle ball tournament at his house on April 18th where he expects some 200-300 guests to take part in the games along with the raffle and silent auction he's prepared.

“When I was a kid I always wanted my own baseball field,” Saathoff told the Citrus Heights Messenger. “It's been an amazing thing to have.”

The tournament however, isn't a new event for Saathoff. Two years ago he raised nearly \$2,000 for the MS society in his backyard, an amount he hopes to reach again this year. Past tournaments

also raised close to \$4,000 dollars for a child with a rare form of cancer.

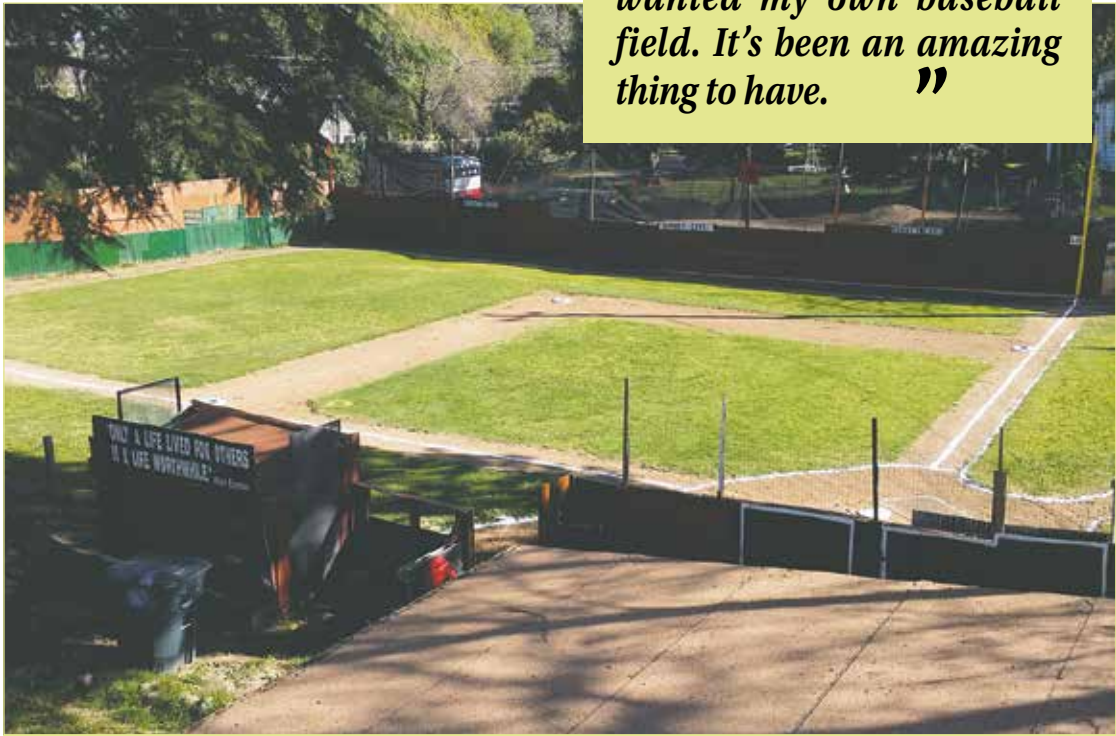
“In my life, there are no breaks in my car,” said Saathoff energetically. “I go full speed ahead.”

This same energy has seen him through the daunting task of planning these events. His upcoming double elimination tournament will feature eight competing teams that each paid \$100 sign-up fee. He hopes to bring in more substantial funds in the raffle which will include autographed NASCAR pictures and the silent auction that will feature a painting crafted by an MS patient.

Saathoff hopes that local politicians will also attend and has reached out to Sacramento's professional sports teams to contribute items for raffle and auction.

The event at 6939 Larkspur Avenue in Citrus Heights will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end between 4:30-5:30 p.m. ★

“ When I was a kid I always wanted my own baseball field. It's been an amazing thing to have. ”



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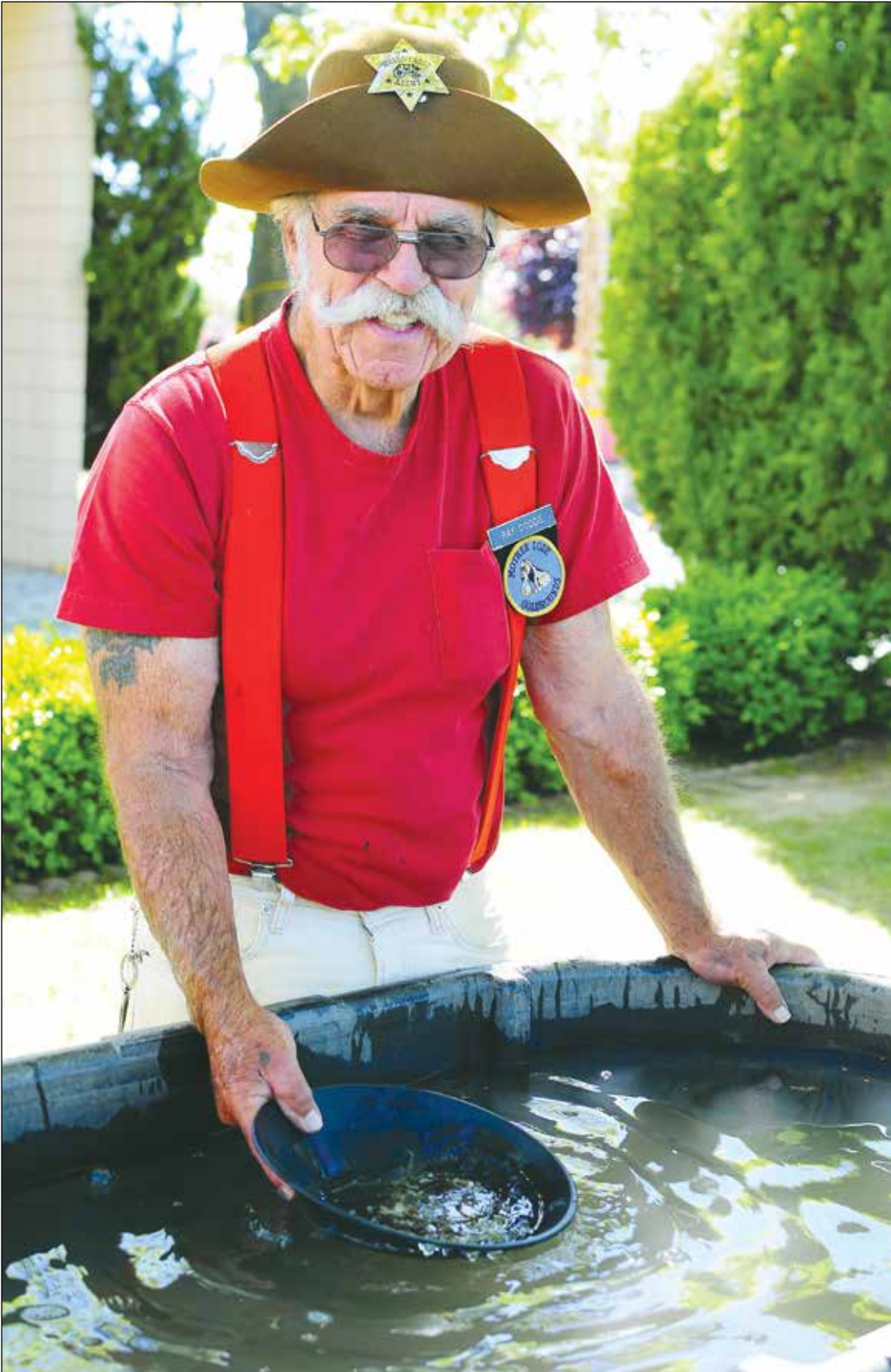
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Story and photos
by Anne Stokes

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Roseville Rock Rollers Gem and Mineral Society hosted their 53rd annual Gem and Mineral Show over the weekend, taking over the Placer County Fairgrounds with 65 vendors, lapidary demonstrators, and educational presentations for rock hounds of all ages. With over 3,000 visitors in attendance, it's becoming one of the largest gem and mineral shows on the west coast, according to show chairman James Hutchings.

But don't call it a gem fair. "It's not a 'fair,'" says Hutchings. "A gem 'fair' is a commercial thing; it has nothing to do with rocks and minerals." Enthusiasts and vendors from all over the west coast brought their



A "before" (at right) and "after" (left) sample of polished lace agate from Mexico, for sale at the Roseville Rock Rollers' annual Gem and Mineral Show.

determine whether they have something really interesting, sort of like Antiques Roadshow, and give them an idea of what they have," explained Hutchings.

The Roseville Rock Rollers started out in 1960 with a handful of rock hound enthusiasts who banded together over a shared love of earth sciences and an affinity for collecting. The group now includes over 280 adult and youth members who enjoy lapidary and jewelry-making classes, specimen collecting field trips, and monthly meetings with their membership. The yearly show not only covers the group's annual operating costs but also gives members the opportunity to display their prized personal collections. "We put out about 50 display cases of the most exquisite collections in the possession of individuals who have spent their lifetime collecting the best of the best," says Hutchings. "They keep them at home and once a year they bring these mini-museums to our show to show people what they collect."

The show was a family-friendly event, with special attention to educational opportunities for young rock hounds at the Kid's Junction, which featured jewelry arts and crafts and a fossil exhibit courtesy of Sierra College. Junior Rock Roller member Cannon Hansen

of Roseville, age 9, brought a selection of his already extensive rock collection to be identified but couldn't quite put a finger on where his love for rocks and minerals comes from. "I've been collecting for years," he said. "I don't know, they're just cool things. I like fossils too, they're my favorite." Cannon's father, Erick Hansen, who is also a Roseville Rock Roller member, brought his son to the show to cultivate his enthusiasm. "Cannon has always shown an interest in rocks; every time we go on a walk outside he's always looking on the ground trying to pick up rocks. He's kind of fascinated with that and it's a good way for us to teach him science," said the elder Hansen.

Hutchings hopes that such hands-on experiences with rocks, minerals, and geology will help to expand young minds. "Hopefully they're going to understand that the rocks in their backyard, the rocks along their driveway, are not the [same as the] rest of the rocks in the world," he said. "The rocks of the world are absolutely exquisite productions of Mother Nature. There are things you never knew existed, and that's the most common comment we get by people who have never been to a show: 'I had no idea that these things existed.'" ★



Eric Lingo, age 7, inspects a mineral sample up close with father Shawn Lingo.

collections of rough and polished gemstones, mineral specimens, fossils, meteorites, and jewelry collected from all over the world to be put on display or put up for sale. Collectors were also able to bring in rocks for expert identification. "We've got mineral identification, so people can come and bring their rocks, their gemstones, we'll put them through the testing here and

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