



**Credit Union  
SACTOWN Run  
Raises \$216,500**  
PAGE 4

**Baa-aad  
News for  
Fire Fuels**  
PAGE 2



# Citrus Heights Messenger

VOLUME 14 • ISSUE 18 *Serving the City of Citrus Heights & Sacramento County* MAY 3, 2024

**SEE  
INSIDE**

**SacRT ORDERS  
ADDITIONAL LIGHT  
RAIL VEHICLES**



PAGE 2

**MENTAL HEALTH  
AWARENESS  
MONTH**



PAGE 9

**GETTING HACKED  
ALL THE TIME**



PAGE 11



Scan our QR Code for a direct link to our online edition!

PRESORTED STD.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT 350  
Carmichael, CA  
OR CURRENT  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

## Funds Awarded to Local Neighborhoods



The Neighborhood Improvement Partnership Grant Program poses at a previous meeting. Photo courtesy of the City of Citrus Heights

By Shaunna Boyd

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - At the April 25 meeting, the Citrus Heights City Council considered several applications for the Neighborhood Improvement Partnership (NIP) Fund, which is intended to support activities that increase community engagement at the neighborhood level.

One request was from Sunrise Ranch (Area 6), which requested \$2,908.01 to replace welcome signs

in their neighborhood. The other two requests, from Area 3 and Area 4, were for \$1,800 each to cover the cost of attending the Neighborhood USA (NUSA) conference being held in May in Lubbock, Texas.

At the April 11 meeting, Council considered similar funding requests for NUSA attendance, and at that time Vice Mayor Jayna Karpinski-Costa requested stricter guidelines be implemented for NIP eligibility. Economic Development and Community Engagement

Director Meghan Huber said that staff is drafting potential amendments, which will come to Council for consideration at a future meeting. Staff evaluated the current requests and found all three meet the existing eligibility criteria for NIP funding.

Approval of the three requests would total \$6,508.01, leaving \$2,391.99 in NIP funding available through the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2024.

During Public Comment, the *Continued on page 3*

## Volunteers Needed for Public Emergency Response

**Sacramento County News Release**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - When disasters occur that require onsite medical assistance, first responders can become overwhelmed by the number of victims who need help.

There is a group of medical and non-medical volunteers in Sacramento County who answer the call and assist the injured in their time of need. The Sacramento Medical Reserve Corps (SMRC) was created to strengthen public health, emergency response and community resiliency.

The group is looking for more volunteers dedicated to public service, along with assisting on large-scale disasters, public health emergencies, or extreme weather events. SMRC is also always ready to help in various capacities. SMRC staffs first aid stations at large community events, provides health screenings at health fairs, supports public health with flu clinics, and promotes emergency preparedness to service organizations and neighborhood groups.

The volunteers of SMRC are critical to help keep Sacramento County protected and prepared for any situation. For one volunteer, that dedication has not gone unnoticed. SMRC member, Michael Joseph, was selected as one of three finalists for the 2024 Outstanding Medical Reserve Corps Responder by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Medical Reserve Corps program office. The award will be announced at the 2024 National Medical Reserve Corps Conference in May.

SMRC is looking for others who want to join Michael in helping assist residents in our area. To become a member of SMRC, you can apply online. What if you don't feel qualified or don't have time, but still want to help? Donations are also accepted via the non-profit SMRC Foundation. This foundation helps to offset the costs during emergency responses and assists in purchasing needed supplies. ★



## County Nurses Prepare for Disasters



Nurses train with a dummy in a hospital bed. Courtesy photo

**Sacramento County News Release**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento County's Department of Health Services (DHS) is taking a proactive approach

by providing four Nurse Disaster Worker Trainings to ensure County nurses are prepared and well-educated ahead of a disaster.

According to Director of Public Health Nursing, Lynnann Svensson, this

training is important because, in an emergency, County public health nurses would move into a situation that's different than their normal work-day and comfort level. By collaborating with local

nursing professionals, our nurses will be equipped to provide safe and effective care to our community.

The four-part nurse training series covers a range of topics, including disaster

*Continued on page 6*

# SacRT Orders Nine Additional Low-Floor Light Rail Vehicles

## SacRT News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) is adding to its order of new low-floor light rail vehicles from Siemens Mobility (Siemens) with an additional order of nine S700 vehicles. This order builds on the previous order of 36, bringing the total number of trains ordered to 45. SacRT's contract with Siemens is for the purchase of up to 76 new low-floor light rail vehicles.

"As we continue to prioritize the enhancement of our transit system, I am thrilled to announce the purchase of nine additional new low floor light rail vehicles," said SacRT General Manager/CEO Henry Li. "By investing in these state-of-the-art trains, we are not only elevating the transit experience for our riders but also reinforcing our dedication to a sustainable future for the Sacramento region."

"We are grateful to Sacramento Regional Transit for this latest order of nine light rail vehicles, and excited to continue our long-standing partnership," said Michael Cahill, President Rolling Stock Siemens Mobility North America. "Bringing SacRT's fleet of S700 LRVs to 45 new low floor vehicles is an exciting feat that highlights our dedication to the region. These American made trains built right here in Sacramento by our team of more than 2,500 will help to elevate rail travel in our community."

"Once again, Sacramento is at the forefront of innovation in public transit, thanks to the collaborative efforts of SacRT and Siemens Mobility," said Congresswoman Doris Matsui. "This investment underscores the importance of federal support for our region's transportation infrastructure. By leveraging resources from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we are creating job opportunities and paving the way for a more sustainable and efficient transit system."

"This order for nine additional light rail trains will enhance the rider's experience and improve accessibility for all members of our community," said Congressman Ami Bera. "I applaud SacRT's proactive approach to investing in the future of transportation, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact these new trains will have on our region."

"Securing this additional order of light

rail trains marks a significant milestone in SacRT's ongoing efforts to modernize its fleet and provide reliable, accessible transportation options for Sacramento residents," said SacRT Board Chair and Sacramento County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy. "We are not only improving the quality of service for our riders but also reaffirming our commitment to sustainability and inclusivity. These new trains will play a vital role in enhancing the overall transit experience and supporting the continued growth and development of our region."

The S700 low-floor vehicles have platform boarding at every doorway and allow riders in mobility devices to board using a deployable ramp at the two center doors instead of having to use a mini-high ramp. Each vehicle features four dedicated wheelchair locations. The spacious seating design with larger windows allows for better light and views. In addition, the vehicles have better temperature control for heating and cooling and improved reliability with remote diagnostics and predictive maintenance.

Siemens has already delivered 20 new S700 low-floor light rail vehicles to SacRT's light rail facility in north Sacramento where they are undergoing rigorous testing procedures. These tests are vital to ensuring the trains meet stringent safety and performance standards before being integrated into service, which is expected to begin on the Gold and Green lines in summer 2024. The Blue Line will continue to operate the current high-floor light rail trains, which still require riders in mobility devices and those unable to climb stairs to use the mini-high ramps at the ends of the station platforms. SacRT will begin construction on Blue Line station platforms to meet the height requirements of the new low-floor trains in late 2024 and construction is expected to be completed by 2027. Learn more about SacRT's Light Rail Modernization Project at [sacrt.com/modernization](http://sacrt.com/modernization).

The S700 vehicles for SacRT are manufactured by Siemens Mobility in south Sacramento, keeping jobs in the region. The plant is one of the largest and most sustainable facilities in the U.S. and is part of Siemens Mobility's larger U.S manufacturing network of eight facilities, nearly 4,500 employees and 2,000 suppliers. ★

# Baa-aad News for Fire Fuels



Goats receive captions from Sacramento County. Image courtesy of Sacramento County

## Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - We've got some exciting news for ewe (ok, no more puns)! The Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks is gearing up for its multi-pronged efforts to reduce fire risk, defend wildlife habitats and protect our natural resources and the neighborhoods adjacent to the parks.

For its 2024 Fire Fuel Reduction Action Plan, the Department of Regional Parks has lined up sheep and goat grazing contracts, is utilizing park maintenance crews (and other manned crews through contracts with the California Conservation Corps and Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps) to maintain fire breaks, and is issuing fuel break maintenance permits to properties bordering Regional Park properties.

"We had another wet winter and a surprisingly wet spring, so we anticipate a similar vegetation situation that we found ourselves with last year," said Liz Bellas, director of Regional Parks. "As all this vegetation dries out, the fire risk increases, so the work we are doing, and the work our contractors are doing is going to be critical this year."

To decrease the number and size potential of wildfires in our parks system, the techniques used will be applicable for each area and will include:

**Firebreaks** – A combination of mowing, soil discing and targeted herbicides will be used where appropriate to create perimeters around open fields, along fence lines and behind neighborhoods. This work is scheduled to be completed by the end of June.

**Ladder Fuel Hand-Crews** – In limited, hard-to-reach areas, hand-crews will remove vegetation that allows the potential

for a fire to climb up or move into urban areas.

**Grazing** – There are hundreds of acres of undeveloped or protected land in our Regional Parks. Goats and sheep are ideal for vegetation management and are great at eating down weeds, bushes and grass that manned crews cannot get to. Grazing is expected to occur through the end of June.

**Annual Encroachment Permits** – Residents who live adjacent to Regional Parks' properties are able to apply for free annual encroachment permits to maintain a fire break behind their property line. These allow residents to string-trim grass and weeds for up to 50 feet beyond their private property line. To request a permit, provide your name, address and contact information to Regional Parks at [parksinfo@SacCounty.gov](mailto:parksinfo@SacCounty.gov).

Additionally, the Ranger Division will continue its increased education and enforcement efforts related to illegal fires and cooking along the parkway in an effort to reduce the number of new fire outbreaks.

"These efforts have been paying dividends over the last two years," said Leonard Orman, chief ranger. "In 2023, there were a total of 65 fires in our parks, down from 85 in 2022, and 170 in 2021."

Visitors to Sacramento County Regional Parks should be aware of the following regulations: Open flame fires are NOT allowed, and barbecuing is only permitted in designated picnic areas. Smoking is only allowed in developed picnic areas, asphalt surfaces, golf courses and levee tops along the American River Parkway.

Visit the Regional Parks website to learn more about the 2024 Fire Fuel Reduction Action Plan for Sacramento County Parks. If you see a fire burning in our Regional Parks, please call 9-1-1. ★

**KP International MARKET**  
FOOD COURT NOW OPEN  
10971 Olson Drive  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
916.853.8000  
Market: 7 Days 8am - 9pm  
Food Court: 7 Days 11am - 7:30pm  
Korean, Mex, Viet: 7:30pm last call  
Chinese, Japanese: 7:00pm last call

**NOW OPEN**  
ENJOY OUR FRESHLY BAKED BREAD & CAKE  
10971 OLSON DR. RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670

**AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY**

Free Slush Fruit Flavored Drinks 6 Ltr \$1.49/ea	Fernan Aloe Vera Drink 1.5 Liter \$2.49/ea	QUAKER OATS \$5.99/ea	Quaker Oats 42 oz \$6.99/ea	Best Foods Real Mayonnaise 30 Ltr \$4.99/ea	Q-Tip Cotton Swabs 500 ct \$4.99/ea
--	--	-----------------------	-----------------------------	---	-------------------------------------

**FROZEN & FISH DEPT**

Frozen Yellow Croaker 3 lbs REG. \$11.99/ea <b>\$8.99/ea</b>	Breaded Imitation Crab Claws 1.5 lbs REG. \$7.99/ea <b>\$4.99/ea</b>
--	--

**WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS**

Beef Ribeye Roast - Boneless \$7.99/lb	Beef Ribeye Steak - Boneless \$8.99/lb
Chuck Roast - Bnls \$4.99/lb	Pork Baby Back Ribs \$4.49/lb
Boneless & Skinless Chicken Thigh Meat \$2.49/lb	Pork Butts Bone In \$2.99/lb
	Pork Loin Chops Boneless \$3.49/lb

**FRESH PRODUCE**

Orange 10 lbs Bag \$4.99/bag	Whole White Mushroom 8 oz \$1.79/ea	Red Potato 79¢/lb
Mexican Mango \$13.99/box	Avocado 2 lbs Bag \$2.59/bag	White Corn 69¢/ea
		Russet Potato 10 lbs \$1.99/bag

**ASIAN GROCERY**

Excellent Rice Stick 16 oz \$3.49/ea	Lee Kum Kee Pure Sesame Oil 15 Ltr \$6.99/ea	San Mignole Pure Foods Corned Beef 12 oz \$6.99/ea	Argo Corn Starch 100% Pure 16 oz \$2.49/ea	Argo Coconut Water 16.9 Ltr \$2.79/case
--------------------------------------	--	--	--	---

**EUROPEAN GROCERY**

Cear Nikolas Green Tea 250 gr \$5.99/ea	Al Amira Super Sesame Seeds 350 gr \$4.69/ea	Pyramid Pure Honey Comb 350 gr \$8.99/ea	Zestful Spicy Zucchini Spread 540 gr \$3.29/ea	Xynorik Sunflower Halva 500 gr \$3.49/ea
---	--	--	--	--

**KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY**

Premium Sushi Rice 4.4 lbs \$6.99/ea	Seokjae Hibb 4.4 lbs \$3.99/ea	Combed Silk Noodle 3 lbs \$9.99/ea	Sea Salt for Kimchi 2.5 lb \$2.99/ea	Q-Food Lunchbox Meat 300 g \$2.99/ea
--------------------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

**FROZEN & FISH DEPT**

Curtlefish Noodle 80 g REG. \$5.99/ea <b>\$1.99/ea</b>	Columbus Roast Beef \$12.19/ea	Piled Green Olives \$4.99/ea
--	--------------------------------	------------------------------

Advertised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE MAY 01 - MAY 07, 2024.

Advertised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE MAY 02 - MAY 07, 2024.

# Funds Awarded to Local Neighborhoods and Groups

Continued from page 1

Area 4 representative, John Kane, addressed the Council. He explained that he is in the process of resurrecting the Area 4 neighborhood group, and he thought attending the conference would help him find ways to increase interest and engagement in his neighborhood.

Vice Mayor Karpinski-Costa felt that using the funding for conference attendance would reduce the amount of money available for neighborhood projects. In particular, she mentioned a bench project her neighborhood group is working on, but due to various delays, they have been unable to submit an application at this time. The vice mayor also said that the presentations scheduled at this year's NUSA conference would focus on tips for established neighborhood groups, not for getting a neighborhood group started.

Kane said that the goal was to "simply be more effective in my community."

Councilmember Tim Schaefer said NUSA is a "great reflection of what a neighborhood can be," providing examples of positive neighborhood engagement. "It's an eye-opening experience," Schaefer said attending the conference provides many opportunities to discover new ways to get people involved.

Councilmember Porsche Middleton said to Kane, "I think it's great that you want to go. I believe that in order for you to tell a story to your neighbors, in order to say, 'This is what we can be'...you have to have some ideas." She said he could talk to other attendees who have gone through similar struggles to get a neighborhood group started, and he can bring that passion to Citrus Heights to enhance the community.

Councilmember Schaefer added that after these requests there would still be more than \$2,000 available for other



Community members join the Economic Development & Community Engagement Department for office hours regarding the Community Projects Grant in March. Photo courtesy of the City of Citrus Heights

projects before the end of June, and starting in July there would be a whole new pot of money available for the next fiscal year.

Council unanimously approved the request for Area 6's new signs. NUSA attendance for Area 3 was approved 4-1, with Vice Mayor Karpinski-Costa dissenting, because she said that member attended the conference last year with NIP funding. NUSA attendance for John Kane from Area 4 was approved 5-0, with Karpinski-Costa saying she was "swayed to yes."

The Council also considered allocations for the second round of the Citrus Heights Community Projects Grant Program, which was first launched in March 2023 with funding from the City's federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) award. In the first round, funding went to the Citrus Heights Women's Club, Citrus Heights Arts, Junior Achievement

of Sacramento, Royal Stage, and Sunrise Christian Food Ministry.

This is the second round of allocations for the program for the 2022/2023 fiscal year, which ends this June. The program was open to any nonprofit, community group, or organization with projects or events that improve the quality of life for local residents and promote community engagement. For the second round, the City received 12 applications with a total of \$249,000 in funding requests. There is \$50,000 available in the fund.

Ten community groups were recommended for approval, with several of the groups actually receiving awards from other more applicable funds, for a total Round 2 award of \$67,000. From the Community Projects Grant, the requests recommended for approval were Citrus Heights HART (\$5,000), Empact (\$5,000), Junior Achievement

of Sacramento (\$8,200), Kiwanis (\$3,000), Purple Pageant (\$8,000), International Association of Human Values (\$9,800), and The Foundation Inc./The Glass Slipper (\$10,000). The Healing Palette was recommended to receive \$1,000 from the Community Projects Grant and an additional \$2,000 from the History and Arts Grant, since they are proposing a mural project. Staff recommended two requests be awarded through the Community Support Fund: Sunrise Christian Food Ministry (\$10,000) and the Veterans Community Center (\$5,000).

Council voted unanimously to approve the recommended awards from the Community Support Fund and the History and Arts Grant. They approved the Round 2 awards of the Community Projects Grant 4-0 (Councilmember MariJane Lopez-Taff recused herself from

this vote due to a previous professional relationship with one of the applicants).

Council then considered moving their meetings from the second and fourth Thursday of each month to the second and fourth Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. City Council meetings were originally held on Wednesdays but were moved to Thursdays in 2005 in order to obtain live broadcasting on Metro Cable's local government affairs channel.

But staff found that Thursday evenings tend to be busier—with more community events and other regional board meetings. Those busy Thursday evenings mean that less community members are able to attend City Council meetings, and Councilmembers aren't available to attend those other events. And some Council meetings have even had to be cancelled in the past when too many members had schedule conflicts on Thursdays.

Metro Cable advised staff that they can now provide live coverage on Wednesday evenings, with only an occasional potential conflict if an earlier meeting's coverage ran long. And with the advance in technologies, the City in recent years has been able to live broadcast the meetings online.

Planning Commission meetings are currently held on the second and fourth Wednesdays, so moving the Council meetings would require also moving the Planning Commission meetings, to the second and fourth Tuesdays at 6:00 PM—which posed no scheduling conflicts for the current Planning Commissioners.

Council unanimously approved the schedule change for City Council meetings and Planning Commission meetings. Staff will launch a public notification campaign, and the change will take effect this July.

The next meeting of the Citrus Heights City Council is scheduled for May 9. ★

**A TALK ON CHRISTIAN SCIENCE**

**WHY EVERYONE IS NEEDED**

Our unbreakable connection to God, infinite Love, gives us permanent worth and purpose. It lifts us from dark times to healing and progress.

**Sunday, May 5th, 2024 @ 2 pm**  
**Fifth Church of Christ, Scientist**  
**3250 Cottage Drive**  
**Sacramento CA 95825**

Co-sponsored By:  
**5th Church of Christ, Scientist, Sacramento**  
**1st Church of Christ, Scientist, Carmichael**

**James Shepherd, CS**  
 Christian Science Practitioner  
 Member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship

Child Care Provided. Contact: 916-487-5902  
 All are welcome.

For more information, check the website  
<http://christiansciencechurchcarmichael.com/lectures>

**LOOKING FOR EXCEPTIONAL & COMPASSIONATE CAREGIVERS YOU CAN TRUST?**

Assured Care has over 25 years of experience and counting. Our team of care professionals consists of knowledgeable, skilled and trained individuals that are ready to go above and beyond to assist our seniors with their day-to-day care needs.

Our passion is to provide quality and exceptional services so that our elders may live comfortably in their home. We are dedicated and vested at being given the privilege to work with our seniors.

If you're looking for that added support, peace of mind and need a reliable, compassionate, patient, trustworthy, respectful agency that also has integrity and probity; please give us a call. It does not matter what day of the week or time of the day; we are available 24/7 to answer calls and provide services.

**CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE ASSESSMENT**  
**916.883.2224**  
[www.assuredcares.com](http://www.assuredcares.com) | [info@assuredcares.com](mailto:info@assuredcares.com)  
 2628 EL CAMINO AVE. SUITE A-4 | SACRAMENTO, CA 95821

**HOST YOUR EVENT WITH US.**

Our elegant facility is an inviting atmosphere for your special event.

Contact us at:  
**916-727-5400**  
 or visit:  
[citrusheights.net](http://citrusheights.net)

**Citrus Heights Community Center**  
**6300 Fountain Square Drive**  
**Citrus Heights, CA 95621**

# Credit Union SACTOWN Run Raises \$216,500



Participants get off to a good start at the Credit Union SACTOWN Run. Photo courtesy of California and Nevada Credit Union Leagues

## California and Nevada Credit Union Leagues News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The annual Credit Union SACTOWN Run on April 7 in Sacramento raised more than \$216,500 for 11 Children's Miracle Network Hospitals (CMN) and helped local kids throughout California and Nevada receive the medical care they need.

More than 2,000 runners participated in this year's run, including 986 credit union employees and credit union members from across California and Nevada. The event, which started and ended on the Capitol Mall in front of the California State Capitol, featured a 10-mile race, 5K run/walk and Miracle Mile.

The run was hosted by the Sacramento Running Association

(SRA), a community-based nonprofit that promotes the sport of running in the greater Sacramento area, including the California International Marathon. It serves as the USA Track and Field's Pacific Association 10-Mile Championship.

"Thanks to incredible partners like the Sacramento Running Association and generous sponsors, runners and volunteers from California and Nevada, we are helping countless children at Children's Miracle Network Hospitals receive critical medical attention," said Diana Dykstra, president and CEO of the California and Nevada Credit Union Leagues (Ontario). "Because of the amazing work of so many credit union movement supporters, we're making a real difference for kids across both states. These funds directly

support the CMN Hospital system, ensuring children and their families receive the best possible care and support. Thank you once again for creating even more miracles."

The annual Credit Union SACTOWN Run wouldn't be possible without the tireless efforts of credit union leaders and professionals from across California and Nevada.

### Credit Union SACTOWN Run Champions, Race Times and Results

The following champions clocked the best times during the race:

-10-Mile Run Champion (men): Silas Frantz (San Luis Obispo, CA) — 47:44 (time); 4:46 (pace).

-10-Mile Run Champion (women): Cali Hauger-Thackery (Flagstaff, AZ) — 52:06 (time); 5:13 (pace).

-5K Run/Walk Champion (men): Anthony Mallory (Folsom, CA) — 16:18 (time); 5:14 (pace).

-5K Run/Walk Champion (women): Sara Wolf (Sacramento, CA) — 19:12 (time); 6:10 (pace).

-10-Mile A D A Accommodations Champion: Johnny Comilang (Sacramento, CA) — 1:38:21 (time); 9:50 (pace).

Keep an eye out for Calli Hauger-Thackery at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris this August.

### CMN 'Champion:' Shine Duby's Story

Each year, CMN Hospitals across the United States identify a "champion" in their local community to represent kids treated at the local children's hospital. This year's champion is Shine Duby, a "miracle baby" who beat all the odds

through medical care and support, and who ran this year's Miracle Mile!

His story is living proof of the survivability of individuals with Popliteal Pterygium Syndrome (PPS) — Bartsocas-Papas type. He's a "shining" example of resilience in the face of adversity. Shine wouldn't be where he is without this team at UC Davis Children's Hospital. From the beginning, everyone supported him and always made his mother and family feel like he was cared for with loving attention and treatment. He's now living his best life and representing CMN at UC Davis.

The annual Credit Union SACTOWN Run is for kids such as Shine and so many others across California and Nevada. Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's event. ★

# Supervisors Hold Housing and Infill Workshop

## Sacramento County News Release

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The Board of Supervisors conducted a workshop at its April 10 meeting to discuss a range of policy considerations related to process improvements, hearing body authority and regulatory and financial incentives to streamline development of housing in infill areas.

The Board of Supervisors directed Community Development Department staff to return with a Resolution of Intention to amend the County's Zoning Code and

County Code in ways that would facilitate streamlined housing production and accelerate infill development.

"We're taking this feedback from the board and will put together a Resolution of Intention to present back to the board in the coming months," said Todd Smith, planning director. "Our overall goal is to increase the amount of infill development in the unincorporated county and this guidance will become our north star as we move forward with this process."

High quality infill development benefits the region through investments in aging communities,

reducing vehicle miles traveled and associated emissions, and generally improving the quality of life for residents.

In February 2023, the Board of Supervisors adopted a Resolution regarding the County's Development Review Process Improvements that provided general direction to staff to address process-related constraints to improving the built environment in Sacramento County.

The Board subsequently discussed infill and housing at the September 19, 2023, Board retreat. As it relates to housing and infill, the Resolution

acknowledges the unprecedented housing supply and affordability crisis, identifies the need to facilitate equitable investment in and economic development of existing communities, particularly within aging commercial corridors and Environmental Justice communities, and public improvements to help catalyze such investments.

The Resolution further expresses the Board's general support for amendments to County codes and regulations that allow for more ministerial/by-right development and more approvals at the staff level or lower hearing

bodies. Infill development is highlighted as a priority in the goals, policies, and implementation measures of the Sacramento County General Plan.

The recommendations made and potential process improvements suggested at the housing and infill workshop are very much in line with the February 2023 Resolution. A Resolution of Intention related to this workshop will come before the board in the coming months. To stay up to date on all of the County's infill efforts and to subscribe to project updates, visit [SacramentoCountyInfill.com](http://SacramentoCountyInfill.com) ★

## Dave Ramsey Says

made plenty of mistakes during my 30-plus years in business. But when it comes right down to it, it's not their job to challenge me and help me grow. As a leader, that's on me. It's my responsibility to make sure I'm constantly challenging myself and growing as a leader and businessman.

Now, developing your team members and getting them to actually care and align with your mission? That is part of your job. You don't want leaders within your organization who aren't aligned with what you're trying to accomplish. When that happens, you've got a leader working a J-O-B. And at that point, they're no longer a leader. They're just a boss. Leaders lead. They show the way, they encourage and they lead by example. A boss just tells people what to do.

Over the years, I've had more luck promoting from within than I have bringing in someone new and plugging them in. Maybe there's someone there who's smart, already showing potential and demonstrating they care about the place and your mission. That's someone you can tap on the shoulder and start to move in a leadership direction. That kind of person is already fired up and wired up, so take

the bridle off them and give them a chance to run.

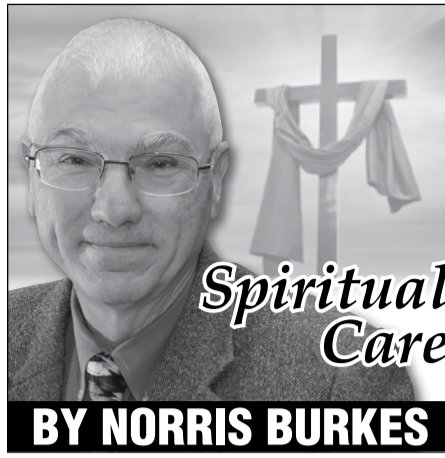
Here's an easy first step: Find a really good small-business and leadership book, buy three copies and start a series of study sessions with you and the two team members you mentioned earlier. Let them know you feel they have real leadership potential, then read through the chapters together and discuss one or two over a lunch each week. Open up the discussions, and just let them talk. After a few weeks of this, it'll start to become clear really fast if either one is suited for a bigger role in the company. It'll become the ultimate interview process.

Great question, Troy. Best of luck to you and your company as you take this next big step!

— Dave

*Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions* ★

## What's In a Name?



Do you know anyone whose last name appropriately describes them?

Such names are called an aptonym because their name "aply" matches their job or personality in a humorous or ironic way.

During the years I served as an Air Force chaplain, I knew a few chaplains fittingly named. For instance, Chaplain Grace was a Universalist minister whose theology extended grace to all. And Chaplain Love was a caring and popular Catholic priest.

But it was 2nd Lieutenant Friend, who tried a little too hard to become his aptonym, that really made an impression. I met him 35 years ago when I began my career as a 1st Lieutenant.

He was a "Chaplain Candidate," a seminary student, who is granted the rank of 2nd Lieutenant for a 90-day trial period. The program provides on-the-job orientation for potential chaplains.

"Just try it," candidates are told by recruiters. "You can quit anytime without further commitment."

But if candidates don't show the aptitude, the USAF can jettison the "butter bar" with little cause. In other words, the candidate can be "fired." (The single gold bar of the 2nd Lieutenant rank resembles a butter bar.)

During his short summer stay, Friend was given the opportunity to preach in the chapel, make ministry visits on a busy flightline (airport) and make hospital calls to sick airmen.

Friend made his aptonym known all over base, introducing himself as a "Friend of Jesus." He was, as vets say, "Living the Dream."

Yet with all his responsibilities, he sought more recognition.

One summer day, he approached our boss with a question.

"Is there a way I can earn a medal while I'm here?"

"No, we don't give out medals to

candidates," said our Senior Chaplain, a full-bird colonel (the rank below general).

The request must have sounded a bit self-centered because the boss asked his chapel staff for feedback on Friend.

"He told me that parishioners think he's the best chaplain on base," I said, "and they wish he was preaching every Sunday."

Our staff priest volunteered that Friend had interrupted flight line staff meetings with his tardiness.

Finally, the chaplain assistants chimed in. "He thinks chaplains should be able to carry guns like other officers."

"I'll talk to him about that," our boss said. "He should know that the Geneva Convention classifies chaplains as non-combatants so we can neither train with, nor carry, weapons." (Chaplain Assistants remain armed in combat zones to protect their chaplains.)

Sadly, I'm not sure Friend got clarity about the weapons training prohibition. That's because one day, he returned to the chapel office with a blue-yellow-green ribbon on his chest.

"What's that for?" I asked.

"It's a Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon," Friend boasted. "I stopped by the range, and they invited me to qualify."

Before I could respond, the boss bellowed from his office.

"Lieutenant Friend! Get in here."

I don't know what our boss said. Perhaps he quoted Jesus' words in Luke 14:11, "For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled..." Or maybe he made his point with James 4:10, "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."

I can't say, but I do know the boss delivered some not-so-friendly-fire on the candidate's written evaluation. Sometimes the best spiritual lessons don't come in lectures.

A few weeks later, the colonel brought that eval to the Base Headquarters for the commander's signature.

"Is this report true?" the base commander asked. "Did your candidate really say and do all this?"

"Yes, but I think he deserves another chance next summer," said our boss, always full of grace.

"Not on my base," said the commander.

And with that final word, our chaplain office became...

Wait for it.

You know I'm going to say it.

Our chapel office became forever Friend-less. ★



**Plug In or Promote from Within?**


Dear Dave,

I own a small business with about 20 team members, and we're doing pretty well. Last year, we had revenues of about \$1.2 million and profits of \$250,000. How do I find leadership within my company that cares about the vision and value of my company enough to help me grow it to the next level? I have two people in mind here who have impressed me a lot in the last two years, and I'd like for one of them to take a step up in the company. I'd like for this person to also challenge me and help me grow as a leader.

— Troy

Dear Troy,

I want leaders on my team who aren't afraid to bring things to my attention. If there are things they feel I need to work on, or look at differently, I want them to let me know. I'm not perfect, that's for sure. And I've



**AMERICAN LEGION**  
**POST 637 – CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA**

Are you or a member of your family a Veteran?

We can help with any questions you may have about Veteran benefits. You can also become a member as easy as 1,2,3! - Contact us at **916-871-2184** or come to our meeting held the **3rd Tuesday of every month** at Citrus Heights City Hall starting at 6:00pm.

**We look forward to serving you.**

# GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

## Come and Experience God's Amazing Grace

Come grow with us at Grace Baptist Church where the Old Time Gospel Message is still preached and God-Honoring music is still sung. Grace Baptist still stands on the Principles, Doctrines and Separation, found and taught in The Bible.

**SERVICE SCHEDULES**

Sunday Schools (All Ages).... 9:45 am

Sunday Worship..... 11:00 am

Sunday Evening..... 6:00 pm

Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 pm

6724 Palm Avenue, Fair Oaks, CA 95628  
(Located one block South of Madison; just East of Dewey)

**PASTOR CHARLES CARTER**

CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION (916) 967-3915 WWW.GBCFAIROAKS.NET



## Sacramento Taxpayers 62nd Annual Banquet

**The Status of American Journalism**  
**Siyamak Khorrami**

General Manager of Epoch Times and host of the California Insider Show.



Sacramento's Finest Italian Cuisine!  
\$65 Members  
\$85 Non-Members-Includes 1-Year SacTax Membership!


### May 16th

Location: RSVP for event location

5:30PM Cocktails and Networking / 6:30PM Dinner / 7:00PM Program  
Dress: Outdoor Casual / This event sells out! Only 100 seats available.

**Special Thanks to our Sponsors!**  
Sacramento county Supervisor Sue Frost • Cliff Wylie, Warehouse Interiors  
Foundation for Harmony and Prosperity

Reservations: <https://www.sacramentotaxpayers.com/calendar>  
Sponsorship information: Nick Bloise, bentthomas1775@gmail.com / 916-217-5136 c



## Citrus Heights Messenger

*Serving Citrus Heights and Sacramento County Since 2006*




It is the intent of the *Citrus Heights Messenger* to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.

The *Citrus Heights Messenger* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or materials. The entire contents of the *Citrus Heights Messenger* are copyrighted. Ownership of all advertising created and/or composed by the *Citrus Heights Messenger* is with the publishing company and written permission to reproduce the same must be obtained from the publisher.

Subscriptions should be mailed to:  
**Citrus Heights Messenger,**  
7144 Fair Oaks Blvd. Suite 5, Carmichael, CA 95608.  
Subscription rate is \$52 per year in Citrus Heights. \$72 within Sacramento County.

*Citrus Heights Messenger* is published weekly.  
Call (916) 773-1111 for more information.

*We are proud members of these newspaper associations.*

## Protect and Heal your whole family with Affordable Chiropractic Memberships

All-inclusive monthly memberships from \$35-\$55 per visit. CALL or TEXT us today!



- Affordable memberships - plan for your health
- All inclusive - services and therapies
- Relieves pain from head/back/neck/sciatica

- Improves mobility, maintains flexibility
- Family owned and operated
- 20+ years experience serving the community

### AMERICAN RIVER CHIROPRACTIC

2280 Vehicle Drive, Suite 110 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

## 916-776-6362

[americanriverchiropractic.com](http://americanriverchiropractic.com)

**CALL or TEXT today!**

# Social Security Matters County Nurses Prepare for Disasters

## Minister Wants to Maximize Social Security Benefit



By Russell Gloor,  
AMAC Certified Social  
Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** I want to apply for Social Security, but I want to make sure I get all the benefits I have earned. I am a veteran with a 10% disability rating (not sure if that matters). I am 68 years old. I am a minister and have been exempt from Social Security taxes for most of my income since I was about 30, but I still have the 40 quarters needed. I have also worked off and on in the secular workplace and continued paying Social Security taxes.

One hears a great deal about those who want to “help” us apply for Social Security, but which turn out to be a scam or want a fee. How do I apply and maximize my benefits with my unique situation? **Signed: Seeking Answers**

**Dear Seeking:** Don't worry about fees here at the AMAC Foundation – there is never a fee for the services we provide (we are non-profit). And I want to thank you for your military service - you may find the “For Veterans” section at our AMAC Foundation website interesting – [www.amacfoundation.org](http://www.amacfoundation.org).

To your question: Your VA disability rating does not affect your Social Security benefit. At 68 years old, your Social Security benefit payment has been earning Delayed

Retirement Credits (DRCs) since you reached your full retirement age (FRA) of 66 years and 4 months in July 2022. That means that your benefit, if you claim now, will be about 13% more than it would have been had you claimed at your FRA. FYI, if you continue to delay, your SS benefit will continue to grow (by 8% per additional year you delay), up to the month you turn 70. At that time, your SS benefit will be 29% higher than it would have been at your FRA. Nevertheless, if you wish to claim a smaller amount now, you can do so in a couple of ways:

- You can call Social Security (at 1.800.772.1213, or your local SS office) to request an appointment to apply. They will most likely set a date/time to call you to take your application over the phone (they discourage office visits these days). Once you have applied, it typically takes a month or two to process your application, but they will pay your benefits effective with the month you say you want them to begin. Note, they will likely also offer you six months of retroactive benefits but be aware that if you accept that offer your monthly payment will be permanently reduced by 4%.

- You can apply for your SS retirement benefit online at [www.ssa.gov/apply](http://www.ssa.gov/apply). Applying online is, by far, the most efficient method, as shown in this short video: [www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/claim\\_r01.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/claim_r01.htm). However, to apply online you will need to first create your personal “my Social Security” online account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). Once you have your personal online

account set up, you will be able to see what your SS retirement benefit will be now, and at future ages should you plan to wait longer to claim. Your SS retirement benefit will be based on your lifetime record of earnings from which Social Security FICA taxes were withheld (or self-employment earnings on which SS payroll taxes were levied). In any case, your SS benefit will be based on your lifetime earnings record contributing to Social Security, as well as your age when you claim. You'll get your maximum benefit based on those factors.

Although your situation is somewhat uncommon, it is not exceptionally unique. Your VA disability rating does not affect your Social Security benefit and, because you are a member of the clergy, you are not subject to Social Security's Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) – a rule which reduces SS benefits for those with a pension earned while not contributing to Social Security. In other words, your SS benefit will be based entirely on your lifetime record of earnings from which Social Security payroll taxes were withheld, and your age when your benefit starts.

*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). To submit a question, visit our website ([amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).* ★

Continued from page 1

readiness, a clinical refresher and training for shelter leaders.

In March, DHS held its third training event, partnering with California State University Sacramento's School of Nursing faculty, local hospital nurses, nursing honor society members, and student nurses to provide three sessions of the Nurse Disaster Worker Clinical Skills Refresher which began with a classroom lecture followed by lab work.

“We went through a little bit of dyadic information, as far as taking care of nonobvious emergencies, in shelter situations. They will also be practicing some hands-on skills, basic patient assessments, mobility, how to use some of the equipment, and how to use some of the first aid equipment that's going to be available to some of these nurses,” said

Laura Cravens-Ray, assistant professor, California State University, Sacramento.

“Something I really wanted to learn, even before this, was wound care. So, I am really glad that we got to learn,” said Darya Eslamian, public health nurse II at Sacramento County. “It's very important to have these trainings so when a disaster does happen, we are not trying to scramble and trying to learn everything. We are as prepared as possible.”

To learn more about the third part of the nurse disaster training series, which included collaboration efforts with Sacramento State, watch the “Sacramento County Nurses Prepare for Disasters with a Training in Partnership with Sac State” on the County YouTube channel. More information regarding the fourth part of the training series will be provided as it becomes available. ★

## Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Claims Clinic

Saturday, May 11, 2024  
9am - 3pm



The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) will hold a Claims Clinic at the Veterans Community Center in Citrus Heights.

This is a FREE Service. No charge for claims filings and consults.

VBA Claims Specialists will be on hand to assist all military veterans, dependents, and other family members who may be entitled to veteran benefits. Clinic will include filing claims, review of filed claims, checking on status of pending claims, add and remove dependents. Team members are available to answer questions and assist with the claims process. Veterans should bring valid photo ID or any other form of military identification so they can be verified in the VBA system.



VETERANS COMMUNITY CENTER  
6921 Sylvan Road, Citrus Heights, CA 95610



WE SUPPORT  
FIRST RESPONDERS **MPG**

# CALL A PRO BUSINESS DIRECTORY

**SLS** Superior Landscape Services  
Landscaping and Maintenance

- Sprinkler Repair/Install • Pruning
- Mowing/Trimming • Fertilizing

Insured  
Lic#794551

(916) 728-5812 • Cell (916) 761-0999  
Dave Cochran Owner • [dave\\_SLS@surewest.net](mailto:dave_SLS@surewest.net)

**A-1 AFFORDABLE ROOFING SERVICES, INC**

- New Roofs • Certifications • Roof Repairs
- Dry Rot Repairs • Roof Inspections • Gutters

**John Fleenor, Contractor**  
1741 L Street, Rio Linda, CA 95673

Cell: (916) 206-1613  
Contractor Lic. #1064966

**GREENWAY TREE SERVICE**

Specializing in Expert Tree Pruning,  
Tree Removal & Stump Grinding

Free Estimates  
Competative Prices  
Licensed and Insured

(916) 224-9750

**Tractor Rich**

Mowing, Tilling,  
General Dirt Work,  
Etc.

Licensed and Insured  
916-502-7928

**Patch Masters Drywall**  
Acoustic Removal & Drywall Textures

- Acoustic (popcorn) ceiling removal
- Water damage & drywall repair
- Sheetrock installation
- Machine applied textures
- Hand applied texture
- Retexturing & Painting
- BBB Accredited

**Mike Church**  
Owner  
CA Lic# 1004984  
Bonded & Insured

(916) 847-7783  
[PatchMastersDrywall@yahoo.com](mailto:PatchMastersDrywall@yahoo.com)  
[www.DrywallPatchMasters.com](http://www.DrywallPatchMasters.com)

**Rio Linda Eye Care**

Laser Surgery • Eye Glasses • Contact Lenses  
• Eyewear for Computer Users

**Dr. William Fleischmann**  
(916) 991-8444

Saturday Appointments Available  
6716 RIO LINDA BLVD., SUITE B, RIO LINDA

**THE MASON MAN**  
LICENSE # 810329

**VISUALIZE & CUSTOMIZE  
MASONRY / FENCING / CONCRETE**

CALL FRED FRANKLIN - THE MASON MAN  
**916.826.9796**  
[VCMASONRY@ICLOUD.COM](mailto:VCMASONRY@ICLOUD.COM)

**Just Send It Postal**

[justsendit11@yahoo.com](mailto:justsendit11@yahoo.com)  
Phone: (916) 723-8855 • Fax: (916) 723-0208  
Mon.-Fri. 10 - 5 Sat. & Sun. CLOSED  
7250 Auburn Blvd. #C Citrus Heights, CA 95610  
[www.justsenditpostal.com](http://www.justsenditpostal.com)

NOTARY \* PRINTING \* SHREDDING

**All American Pro Construction**  
Family-owned & operated.

We offer Veterans & Senior Discounts  
Great Craftsmanship & Customer Service  
Specializing in Kitchen & Bath  
Remodels, plus Much More  
BIG or SMALL, We Do It All. Give Us a Call.  
**916-504-0188**

CSLB# 1089369, Licensed, Bonded & Insured

**DRAINS ONLY**  
THE DRAIN & SEWER  
CLEANING CO.

Charles Mitchell  
916-868-5771  
[CMJR6348@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CMJR6348@GMAIL.COM)  
4 Picket Ct. Sacramento, CA 95823  
SPB12018-00953

**SMOOT LANDSCAPING  
LANDSCAPES & DESIGN**

DESIGN - RENOVATION - WATER FEATURE  
STONE & CONCRETE - OUTDOOR LIGHTING  
IRRIGATION SYSTEM

**916-454-1300**  
[www.SmootLandscaping.com](http://www.SmootLandscaping.com)

Lic#633224; Serving Sacramento since 1982  
Recognized in the Sacramento Bee,  
Street of Dreams & Garden Tours of East Sacramento

**TRACTOR SERVICE**

- Mowing • Rototilling
- Discing • Scraper/Loader

Call  
**(916) 991-8431**









# COMICS & PUZZLES

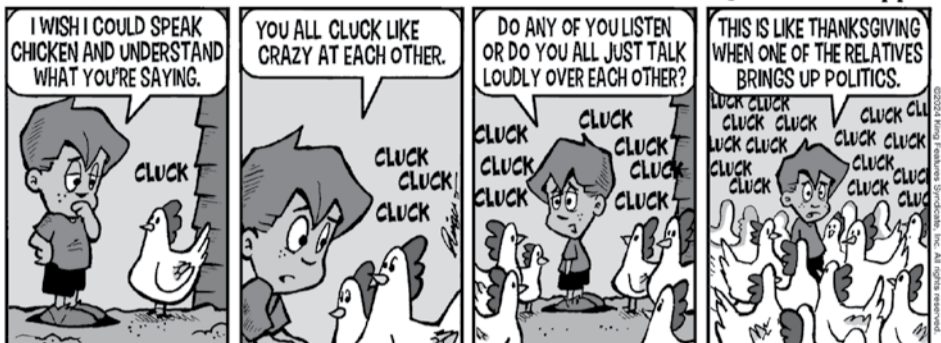
## The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



## Amber Waves



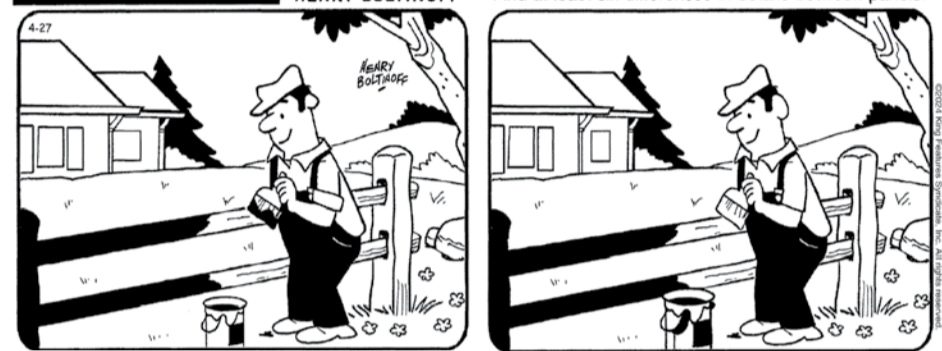
by Dave T. Phipps



## HOCUS-FOCUS

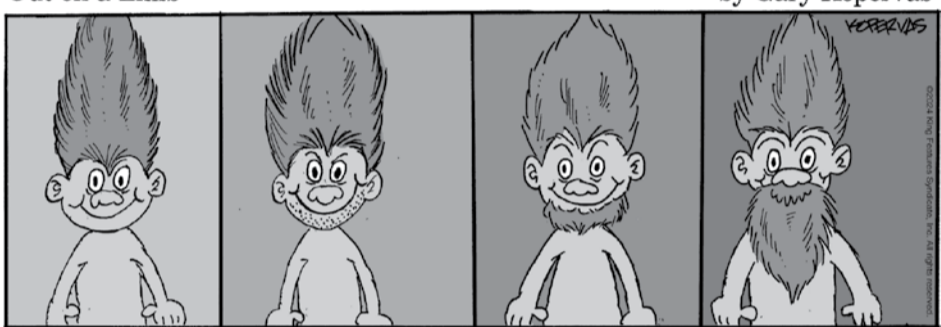
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



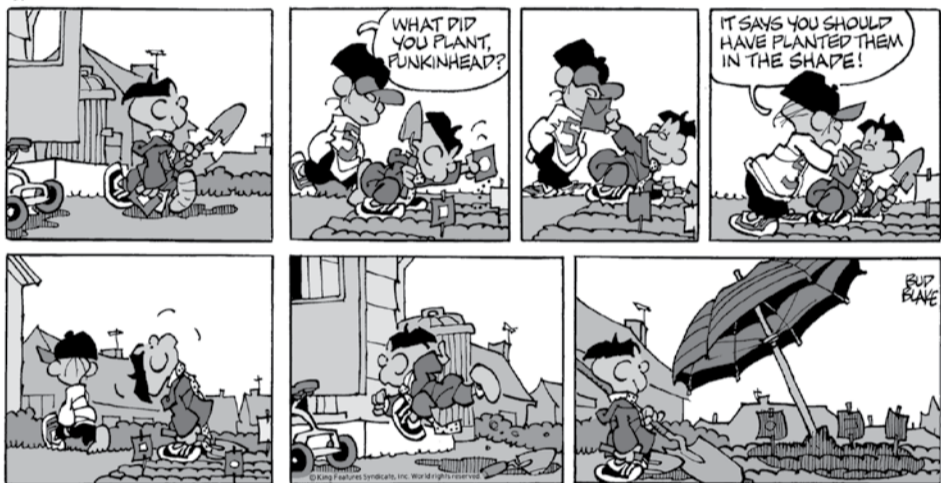
Differences: 1. Can is larger. 2. Brush has no paint on it. 3. Rail is lower. 4. Window is smaller. 5. Sleeve is different. 6. Ear is larger.

## Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

## TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

## GRIN & BEAR IT



## Just Like Cats & Dogs

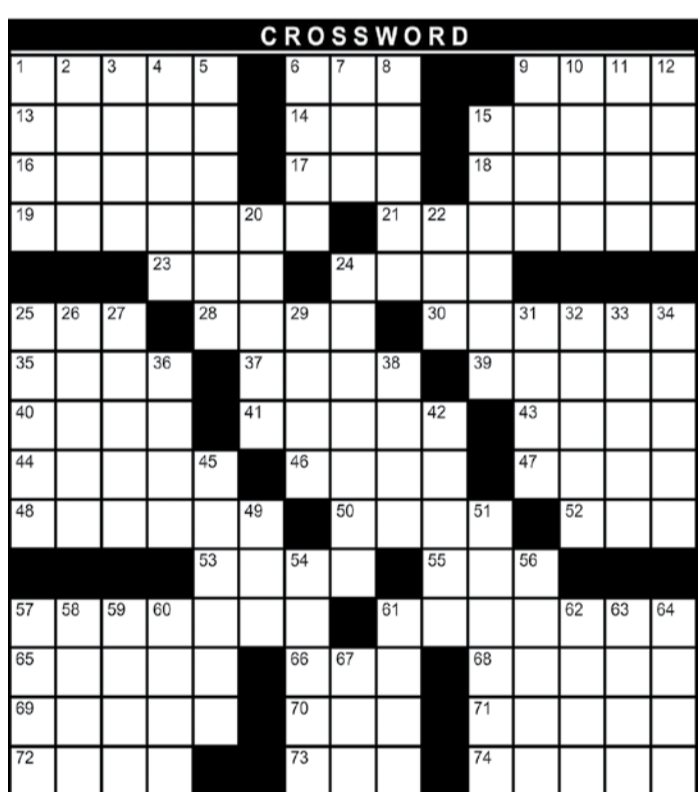
by Dave T. Phipps



## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • THE 1960s

### CLUES

- ACROSS
- "Odyssey" author
  - Time in NYC
  - Pay as you earn, acr.
  - Avoid paying taxes
  - Also
  - Rollo up, on a farm
  - From distant past
  - News channel acronym
  - Very angry
  - \* "Invasion"
  - \* "Vostok I" pilot
  - Spring water resort
  - Talcum powder ingredient
  - Muted order
  - Sports award
  - Doled out, as in soup
  - Future atty's exam
  - Engage for service
  - In all sincerity
  - \* "Preminger, director of "Exodus"
  - Petri dish jellies
  - DDS exam
  - Gordon Gekko: " is good"
  - Barbershop sound
  - Bread pocket
  - Rumor
  - Whiskey straight, e.g.
  - Cubby hole
  - One-horse carriage
  - \* #29 Down invasion coordinator
  - \* TV's Tony Nelson's "dream"
  - \* "8 1/2" and "La Dolce Vita" director
  - Lake scum
  - Toothpaste type
  - Baited
  - Thorny
  - Anger
  - Last eight in college basketball
  - Kill
  - Lamentable
  - Bob Marley, e.g.
- DOWN
- \* Alpert & the Tijuana Brass
  - Last word over walkie-talkie
  - Algeria's southern neighbor
  - Written corrections
  - Chef's guide
  - \* A Sketch toy, launched in 1960
  - \* "Just one of "My Three
  - Polynesian kingdom
  - Prefix with trooper or legal
  - Resembling wings
  - Abominable humanoid
  - \* #57 Across actress
  - Large feline (2 words)
  - The Obamas' daughter
  - \* "A Man for Seasons" movie
  - Political repression
  - Nordic gl hwein
  - \* Turf
  - Man behind Windows
  - \* Bay of Invasions
  - \* "Turn on, tune in, out"
  - Shocking graphic
  - Fill with optimism
  - \* "The Times They Are A-Changin'" singer-songwriter
  - Three on a certain slot



SWITCH & GET \$25

Off First Month of New Service! USE PROMO CODE: GZ590

Consumer Cellular

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913

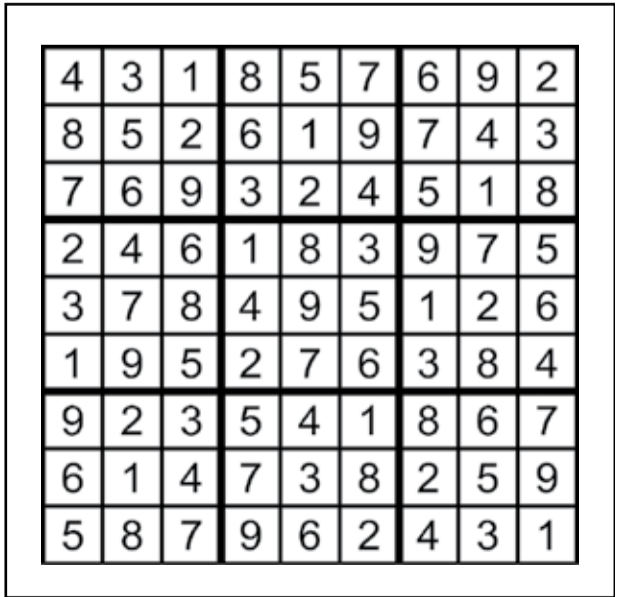
© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

**Classified Advertising**

Sell Your Stuff! Reach 1000's of Readers Every Week!

MPG

916.773.1111



**LEGAL ADS FOR SACRAMENTO COUNTY?**

**We Can Do That!**

Call to place your legal advertising **916-773-1111**

All Legal Ads Published by Messenger Publishing MPG

**SUDOKU**

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

SAFE WALK-IN TUB 1-855-576-5653

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

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.

# Californians Get Hacked All the Time



Audits have found that California state agencies are unprepared for cyber attacks. The state's top cybersecurity post has been empty for some time. Image by Nikita Belokhonov - Pexels

By Khari Johnson  
CALMatters.org

You might think the home of Silicon Valley would rush to hire a cybersecurity chief, but you'd be wrong: California has left its top cybersecurity post vacant for nearly two years.

A spokesperson said there is no current timeline for Gov. Gavin Newsom to appoint anyone for the position, commander for the Cybersecurity Integration Center.

"We are a target," as a tech industry leader, the most populous state in the country, one of the busiest ports in the world, and the fifth largest economy in the world, said former cybersecurity integration center commander Jonathan Nunez in a video posted to YouTube two years ago. He took the helm in June 2020 and was the last commander appointed by Newsom, leaving the position in June 2022.

State officials say the vacancy hasn't hampered the state's ability to respond to threats, but experts outside the state government are concerned that an acting commander is spread thin.

The commander job entails assisting law enforcement agencies with criminal investigations and safeguarding California's economy and critical infrastructure. Other job duties include maintaining a security operation center that disseminates actionable information to all state entities, forming public and private partnerships, and developing state cybersecurity strategy. The commander is paid a salary of up to \$187,000 a year.

The challenge of a position like cybersecurity commander is it's not a matter of public or media interest until something goes wrong, said Dan Schnur, a former spokesperson for Gov. Pete Wilson who now teaches political communication at

the University of Southern California and University of California, Berkeley. There's no set timeline for appointments and depends almost entirely upon the urgency to fill the job and quality of applicants, but in his experience, taking more than a year to appoint is an unusually long amount of time.

"Either they're going through a painstaking process to pick the right person or it slipped through the cracks and there's no way to know which of the two it is," he said. "Unless you find a unicorn who's willing to forego that kind of financial compensation in exchange for public service, you're already starting out with a compromise."

There have been four full-time commanders prior to the current acting

commander. Keith Tresh was appointed by former Gov. Jerry Brown and acted as commander from 2016 to 2018. He is now chief information security officer at consultancy firm AMEG. Mario Garcia served as acting commander from 2018 to 2020 and now works as state coordinator for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. Jonathan Nunez was appointed by Gov. Newsom in 2020 and now works as an analyst at consultancy firm Gartner. David Lane served as acting commander for an unspecified period of time in 2022. Deputy Director of homeland security Tom Osborne is also the acting commander.

Tresh previously served as chief information security officer for the states of California and Idaho and was the first Cybersecurity Integration Center commander. He said he jumped at the opportunity because the job acts as a second set of eyes for public institutions like city and county governments, not just the state of California.

"We helped school districts and regional transit authorities when they had breaches," he said. "That's why I think it's absolutely a perfect position to continue on." Cyber attacks on public institutions like local governments, hospitals, and school districts are on the rise. Hospitals and health care providers are still

recovering from a ransomware attack that affected payment processing for Change Healthcare, which processes roughly half of all health care claims and payments nationwide.

The Cybersecurity Integration Center receives reports when a school district, state agency, or private company experiences a data breach. The center also receives threat reports from federal agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and the Department of Homeland Security.

Former Gov. Jerry Brown created the cybersecurity agency in 2015 to operate within the governor's Office of Emergency Services. It works with the Department of Technology to investigate

and report incidents and helps restore operations after an attack. Director Liana Bailey-Crimmins told CalMatters in an interview in February that her agency works closely with the office of emergency services to address the needs of the state as they fill key positions so they never miss a step.

A spokesperson for the governor's Office of Emergency Services said Osborne is serving as acting commander while the governor carries out a nationwide search for a qualified candidate.

Over the course of the past month CalMatters repeatedly asked details about data breach reports and compliance with additional duties assigned to the commander and cybersecurity integration center by a five-year cybersecurity plan approved in 2021 but received no comment.

The last time the state compiled a report detailing the kinds of data breaches, number of records compromised, and number of Californians affected in cyber attacks was back in 2016, before the cybersecurity integration center existed. CalMatters reached out to the office of Attorney General Rob Bonta for the latest data breach report. The attorney general's office referred CalMatters to the cybersecurity center, which did not share new information but said it would post new data publicly later "this spring."

After audits found that

state agencies were woefully unprepared for cyber attacks, California Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, a Democrat from Thousand Oaks, coauthored a 2018 law that made the Cybersecurity Integration Center a permanent state agency and required development of a state cybersecurity strategy. Irwin, who is also chairperson of the Assembly cybersecurity committee, told CalMatters in a statement that finding a new commander has not been easy.

Ward said the vacancy is reflective of a number of trends: First, the cybersecurity threat landscape moves quickly, and public agencies move slowly. Second, it mirrors a larger cybersecurity workforce shortage. California has the second-highest in the U.S., according to a 2022 report by the nonprofit International Information System Security Certification Consortium.

Third, public agencies can't compete with pay and benefits offered by private companies. Another 2022 study found that the private sector pays 14% more than government agencies. The pay gap creates a situation in which entry-level employees are responsible for guarding highly sensitive systems. It's hard to say what the consequences of the vacancy are, but since the center develops the state cybersecurity strategy and is a hub for sharing attack threat information and how to patch vulnerabilities, Ward said he's worried that the acting director might be spread too thin.

"It definitely needs to be filled," he said. "It's important that this type of work continues without interruptions." Khari Johnson is CalMatters' first tech reporter. He previously covered artificial intelligence use by businesses and governments as a senior writer for WIRED and VentureBeat with an emphasis on policy, human rights abuses and telling the stories of people demanding accountability after being harmed by automation. ★

Public agencies, especially in California, are major targets for

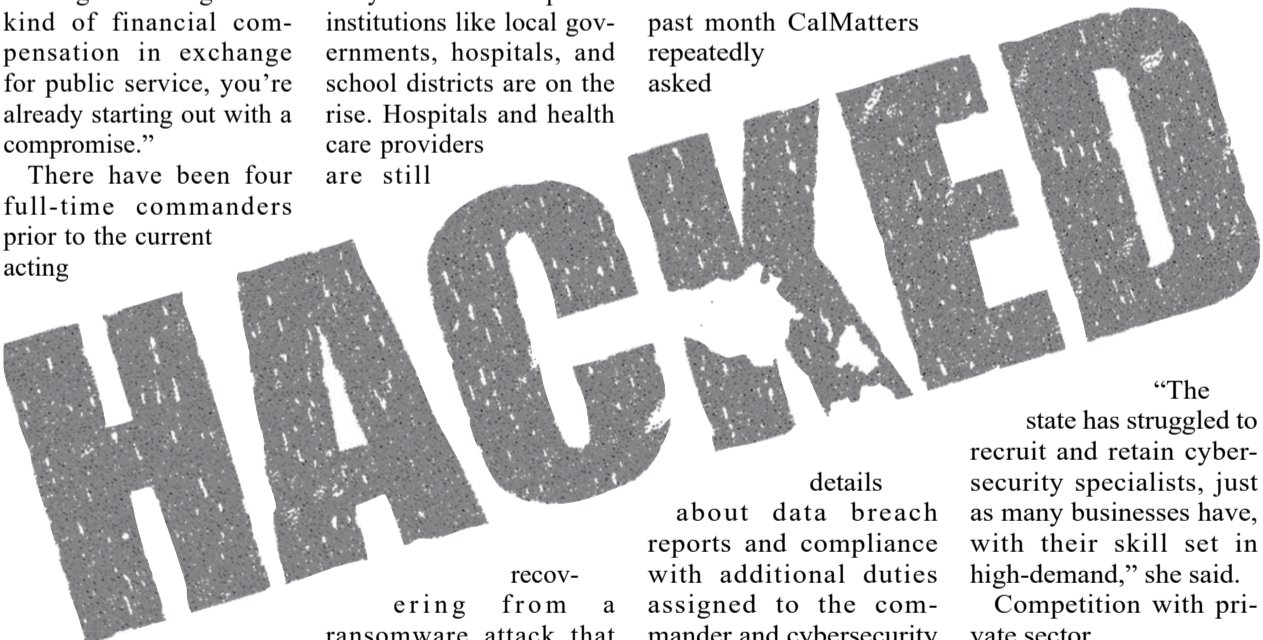
cybercriminals seeking confidential information or just want to cause panic, said Steven Ward, a cybersecurity fellow at center-right think tank R Street Institute and former digital forensics examiner for law enforcement agencies in Sacramento.

Ward said the vacancy is reflective of a number of trends: First, the cybersecurity threat landscape moves quickly, and public agencies move slowly. Second, it mirrors a larger cybersecurity workforce shortage. California has the second-highest in the U.S., according to a 2022 report by the nonprofit International Information System Security Certification Consortium.

Third, public agencies can't compete with pay and benefits offered by private companies. Another 2022 study found that the private sector pays 14% more than government agencies. The pay gap creates a situation in which entry-level employees are responsible for guarding highly sensitive systems. It's hard to say what the consequences of the vacancy are, but since the center develops the state cybersecurity strategy and is a hub for sharing attack threat information and how to patch vulnerabilities, Ward said he's worried that the acting director might be spread too thin.

"It definitely needs to be filled," he said. "It's important that this type of work continues without interruptions." Khari Johnson is CalMatters' first tech reporter. He previously covered artificial intelligence use by businesses and governments as a senior writer for WIRED and VentureBeat with an emphasis on policy, human rights abuses and telling the stories of people demanding accountability after being harmed by automation. ★

Public agencies, especially in California, are major targets for





# CLUB STUDIO®

FITNESS IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN®

Welcome to a new cutting-edge fitness experience that brings top-of-the-line amenities, best in boutique studio classes, and wellness services together in one gym.



**< JOIN THE VIP LIST**  
*and get the best rates before opening!*



STATE-OF-THE-ART GYM & BOUTIQUE STUDIOS  
 BOX / CS4® / RIDE / HOT YOGA / REFORM / REBOUND  
 CRYOTHERAPY & RECOVERY LAB  
 KALOLOGIE® MEDSPA / BEAMING SUPERFOOD CAFÉ



*Visit us at our Preview Center:*  
**CLUB STUDIO CITRUS HEIGHTS**  
 6245 Sunrise Boulevard, Suite C  
 (916) 246-1101  
[www.clubstudiofitness.com](http://www.clubstudiofitness.com)