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Citrus Heights Messenger

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KINGS KORNER

By V.G. Harris



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Battle of the Bands and BBQ Raises \$14K



The family of the late Nicole Gee is presented with an official flag recognizing her service in Afghanistan. Photo by Chris Jones

By Elise Speiss

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - On Sept. 14, the Citrus Heights American Legion Post 637 raised a total of \$14,000 at its 10th Battle of the Bands and BBQ event for its Vets Helping Vets Fund. This fund helps veterans and their families during times of need throughout the year.

American Legion Post 637 provides services to veterans in crisis by filling their short-term needs



Family members of Nicole L. Gee sit on the bench given in her honor. Photo by Chris Jones

until the post can connect them with VA services. Examples of needed services include paying to

repair a broken-down car of a stranded veteran, temporary housing for families, diapers for a family with no funds, emergency food and more. Many veterans will not ask for help, so many "fall through the cracks."

The Citrus Heights Community Marching Band, founded by Bill and Kathy Cook, led the bands off with patriotic music. Local bands competing throughout the day were

Continued on page 4

Grants to Protect Water Quality Available



Grants awarded will go toward supporting school or community projects that protect or improve local creeks and rivers. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Department of Water Resources (DWR) is pleased to offer grants to support school or community projects that protect or improve local creeks and rivers within the unincorporated areas of Sacramento County.

Eligible recipients will receive up to \$2,500 for their project through the Sacramento County 2024-25 Watershed Stewardship and Education Grant.

Schools and student groups, service clubs, youth organizations, homeowner's associations, community and neighborhood groups, not-for-profit groups and informal groups with innovative ideas can apply. Individuals and for-profit groups are not eligible. To verify if your school is eligible, contact Jeanette Huddleston at 916-874-4711 or email huddlestonj@sacounty.gov.

Eligible projects must be located within the Sacramento County Storm Water Utility Boundaries and/or directly affect the residents of these areas.

The Department of Water Resources has awarded grant projects for more than 20 years, including trash clean-up events, nature-friendly landscapes, field trips to learn about Sacramento's watershed, water quality studies, and the development of outreach materials that educate the community about pollution prevention.

The deadline to apply is Oct. 15 and the grant application process is simple so applicants can submit their project proposals with ease.

For more information and requirements or to download the grant application, visit the Sacramento County Department of Water Resources 2024-25 Watershed Grants page at waterresources.sacounty.gov/stormwater/Pages/grants.aspx.

Band to Host Howl-o-Ween Parade and Harvest Festival

By Sarah Hendricks, Citrus Heights Community Marching Band

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - The spooky season is upon us and you're invited to the Howl-o-Ween Parade and Harvest Festival.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, Oct. 19 and join in on the fun. The Citrus Heights Community Marching Band will lead the parade and the marching band promises it will be a frightfully good time.

The parade kicks off at 9 a.m. Oct. 19. Grab your lawn chair and enjoy the show.

Due to the construction on Auburn Boulevard, the parade has been rerouted. The new parade route starts at Grand Oaks Elementary School, marches down Grand Oaks Boulevard, turns onto Oak Forest Street and winds into Rusch Park. During the parade, the west-bound lane will be opened in case residents need to leave.



The Citrus Heights Marching Band, decked out in costumes, will lead the Howl-o-Ween Parade this year. Photo courtesy of the Citrus Heights Marching Band

But wait, there's more! Stick around after the parade for the Harvest Festival at the basketball court area in Rusch Park. Here's what's in store for you:

There will be live music to keep your feet tapping, raffle prizes you'll want to win, a pet costume contest

for your furry (or scaly!) friends, a classic car show with some truly timeless rides, craft and vendor booths to explore and loads of fun for the entire family.

If you want to join the parade, enter your pet in the costume contest or learn more, visit <https://chemb.org/howl-o-ween/>.

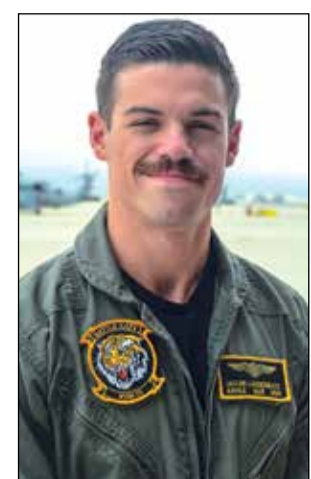
Don't forget to follow the Citrus Heights Community Marching Band on Facebook for event updates and more fun.

The Citrus Heights Community Marching Band members say they can't wait to see you there in costumes, cars and all.

More photos on Page 3

WE SUPPORT OUR MILITARY

Orangevale Native Supports U.S. Navy Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron



Jacob Louderback graduated from Bella Vista High School in 2019. Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Isaiah Williams

By Alvin Plexico, Navy Office of Community Outreach

SAN DIEGO, CA (MPG) - Petty Officer 2nd Class Jacob Louderback, a native of Orangevale, California, serves the U.S. Navy assigned to Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 73.

Louderback graduated from Bella Vista High School in 2019.

Louderback joined the Navy five years ago. Today, Louderback serves as a naval air crewman (tactical helicopter).

"My youth pastor inspired me to pursue something higher than myself," said Louderback. "I love my country, and I want to

serve it with honor."

The skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Orangevale.

"My family taught me mental toughness," said Louderback. "The church taught me how to find joy and peace in God when things are not going your way."

According to Navy officials, members of HSM-73 fly and maintain the MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter, the Navy's most advanced rotary wing maritime strike platform. The Navy MH-60R is able to perform many different missions. Some of the most common operations include strikes on maritime targets, submarine hunting and attack, electronic warfare, search and rescue, medical evacuations and supply support.

With 90% of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the United States is directly linked to recruiting and retaining talented people from across the rich fabric of America.

Louderback serves a Navy that operates far forward, around the world and around the clock,

promoting the nation's prosperity and security.

"We will earn and reinforce the trust and confidence of the American people every day," said Adm. Lisa Franchetti, chief of naval operations. "Together we will deliver the Navy the nation needs."

Louderback has many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during military service.

"I am most proud of completing the training at fleet replace squadron, which is required to be a fully qualified aircrewman," said Louderback. "I learned how to think critically to solve problems and now I get to teach this technique to other aircrewmen."

Louderback can take pride in serving America through military service.

"Serving in the Navy gives me the opportunity to serve the people around me," said Louderback. "It also means that I can look outside of myself and put my ego aside for others."

Louderback is grateful to others for helping make a Navy career possible.

"I want to thank my mom and dad for supporting me in this journey," added Louderback. "I also want to thank my Lord Jesus Christ for giving me everything good in the world." ★

Miller's Ace Hardware Named Small Business of the Month



Assemblyman Josh Hoover presents Miller's Ace hardware of Citrus Heights with recognition as Small Business of the Month. Photo courtesy of the Office of Assemblyman Josh Hoover

Office of Assemblyman Josh Hoover News Release

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Assemblyman Josh Hoover recently announced Miller's Ace Hardware as our Small Business of the Month for September 2024. It is located at 8077 Madison Ave. in Citrus Heights.

Miller's Ace Hardware has established itself as an essential part of the Citrus Heights community, offering top-quality services that residents have come to rely on. Celebrated for its commitment to fostering connections with customers and supporting local vendors and artists, Miller's Ace Hardware is more than just a

hardware store, it's a community hub.

Jessica Rowell Greenfield, the dedicated owner, operates Miller's Ace Hardware as a family business, inspired by her son, Miller.

Watch the inspiring video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXMqWUU-Clhg> to learn more about Miller and the work Jessica is doing to create an inclusive work environment and promote the employment of teens and adults with physical and cognitive disabilities.

Over the past year, the store has gone above and beyond to serve its community, embodying the hard work and dedication that small businesses contribute to the prosperity of Citrus Heights and the broader 7th Assembly District. ★

KP International MARKET
 10971 Olson Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
 916.853.8000
 Market: 7 Days: 8am - 9pm
 Food Court: 7 Days: 11am - 2:00pm
 Korean / Mex / Viet: 7:30pm last call
 Chinese / Japanese: 4:00pm last call

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

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Fermented Soybean Natto 45g x 2 REG. \$3.99/ea \$1.99/ea	Frozen Raw Octopus lb REG. \$5.99/lb \$2.99/lb
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WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS

Beef Cross Rib/Shoulder Roast - Bnds REG. \$4.99/lb \$3.99/lb	Beef Ribeye Roast - Boneless REG. \$6.99/lb \$6.99/lb	Beef Ribeye Steak - Boneless REG. \$7.99/lb \$7.99/lb
Pork Baby Back Ribs REG. \$3.99/lb \$3.99/lb	Boneless & Skinless Chicken Thigh Meat REG. \$2.69/lb \$2.69/lb	Pork Neck Bones REG. \$1.79/lb \$1.79/lb
Pork Butts Boneless REG. \$2.99/lb \$2.99/lb		

FRESH PRODUCE

Yukon Potato 99¢/lb	Celery Sleeved 89¢/lb	Green Bell Pepper \$1.39/lb	Italian Squash 99¢/lb
Taiwan Cabbage 99¢/lb	White Beech Mushroom 10 oz \$3.99	Fairytale Pumpkin 99¢/lb	Hami Melon 59¢/lb

AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY

Clamato Tomatoes 64 fl oz \$4.99	Costa Del Sol Refried Red Beans 25 oz \$2.69	LA Pasa Chunk Light Tuna 6.5 oz \$4.49	Bone Cass Aluminum Steamer Pk 5 sizes 20 - 52 qt \$21.99	Alexandria Harvested Lump Charcoal 16 lb \$14.99
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ASIAN GROCERY

Super Q Golden Bihon 16 oz \$1.49	Lee Kum Kee Chili Bean Sauce (Toban Djan) 13 oz \$3.79	Pure Gold Lato Sea Grapes 8.11 oz \$2.99	Lucia Jackfruit (in syrup) 20 oz \$1.99	Tomiko Granulated Chicken Soup Mix 1 lb \$5.99
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EUROPEAN GROCERY

Polyanova Kosovan Suvayva, Ljutanakaya Mineral Water 1.5 liters \$2.69	Zorichini Carver Extra Veres 310 g \$2.99	Polyovsky Kross 1.5 liters \$2.99	Big Sprays in Oil 240 gr \$3.40	Lekona Wilder Sheets for Cake 2 flavors 90 gr \$1.99
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KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY

Seika White Rice 44 lb \$6.99	Milky Chu Chu Bar 2 kinds 25.07 oz \$1.99	Seasoned Seaweed 60 g \$2.49	Korean BBQ Sauce 4 kinds 840 g \$3.99	O'Food Lunchbox Meat 340 g \$2.99	Korean Red Ginseng 20 x 50 ml \$15.99
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HOUSEWARES

BIGEN SPEEDY HAIR COLOR (REFILL ONLY) \$5.99	ELECTRIC BBQ GRILL \$39.99	ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (4 CUP) \$49.99	ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (6 CUP) \$54.99	ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (8 CUP) \$59.99
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FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Red Bean Dorayaki 300 g REG. \$6.99/ea \$3.99/ea	European Deli Columbus Pastrami REG. \$12.09/lb \$12.09/lb	Green Olives Stuffed w/ Feta REG. \$8.09/lb \$8.09/lb	Kalamata Olives with Garlic & Pepper REG. \$6.39/lb \$6.39/lb
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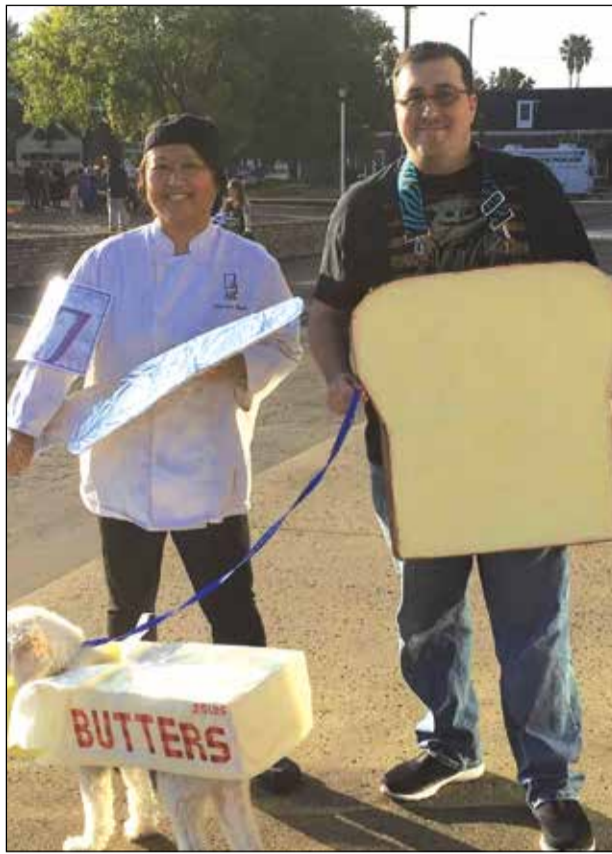
Advertised items good at KP International Market - Rancho Cordova location ONLY. We reserve the right to LIMIT QUANTITIES. Not responsible for TYPOGRAPHICAL OR PICTORIAL ERRORS. All advertised items are SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. Sorry NO RAINCHECKS. PRICES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 02 - OCTOBER 06, 2024.

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Citrus Heights Community Marching Band Hosts Howl-o-Ween Parade and Harvest Festival



Pictured here is the 2022 winner of the Judges Favorite at the Howl-o-Ween Parade, thanks to her spooky makeup. Photo courtesy of the Citrus Heights Marching Band



The pet costume contest is always a favorite, as people get creative with their furry friends. Pictured here is a dog dressed as butter, with its owners dressed as the knife and bread. Photo courtesy of the Citrus Heights Marching Band



Harvest Festivalgoers will see a wide variety of craft and vendor booths. Photo courtesy of the Citrus Heights Marching Band



A Citrus Heights clown shows the prices of raffle tickets. Photo courtesy of the Citrus Heights Marching Band



The Harvest Festival will feature live music. Photo courtesy of the Citrus Heights Marching Band



A previous pet costume contest featured a dog dressed as a "taco dog" with its owners dressed as tacos. Photo courtesy of the Citrus Heights Marching Band



In the parade in years past has been a Citrus Heights Police rescue vehicle. Photo courtesy of the Citrus Heights Marching Band

Spaghetti Fundraiser to Fight Homelessness

By MPG Staff

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - The Citrus Heights Homeless Assistance Resource Team (HART) will hold its 2024 Spaghetti Fest Fundraiser on Friday, Oct. 18 at the Citrus Heights Community Center

Doors will open at 5 p.m. with the feast being served at 6 p.m.

"Come out and join us for our Annual Spaghetti Fest Fundraiser! This annual event is our biggest fundraiser of the year, which helps to support our ongoing programs: Winter Sanctuary, The Underground Clothing Connection, Rental Assistance, and Navigator Support." the spaghetti fest organizers declare on the HART website

Dinner includes spaghetti and meatballs, salad and garlic bread. A dessert auction will also be available and is always popular. A cash bar will serve beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages.

HART is a volunteer-run community effort to end homelessness in the city of Citrus Heights. Citrus Heights HART was established in 2016 to help mitigate the challenges facing the local at-risk population. This includes low-income students and their families; those at risk of becoming homeless and those living on the streets.

The Hart website explains, "These are local issues, best dealt with at a local level. We depend on the generous donations of individuals, churches, businesses, as well as government and private grants. Each year, we host the Spaghetti Fest, and it is an important foundation for our fundraising efforts."

The impact of the funds raised by HART through past fundraisers include:

- Winter Sanctuary, giving 20 to 30 homeless guests a warm dinner, a safe place to sleep and breakfast in the morning during the coldest months.
- The Underground Clothing Store, located in Sunrise Mall, provides vulnerable students and their families with clothing and resources to ensure students remain in school. The store has served hundreds of families and distributed thousands of clothing items.
- Rental Assistance, working with St. Vincent's De Paul and the City's navigator to find and vet those in need of rental assistance.

Tickets for the Spaghetti Fest Fundraiser 2024 must be purchased by Oct. 4. For more information or to buy tickets, visit the Hart website at www.citrusheightshart.org/spaghetti-fest.

The Citrus Heights Community Center is located at 6300 Fountain Square Drive. ★



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

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

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS

Battle of the Bands and BBQ Raises \$14K



Marines stand with the late Nicole L. Gee's family at the Sept. 14 event. Photo by Chris Jones

Continued from page 1

Mojo J, The Rubber Band and Jared Blum Band.

Local barbecue masters competing were Taeza's Bottomline BBQ, Taste of Tuscany, Wild Wade's, Texas Roadhouse and Hicks BBQ. The Way Riderz and The Way Ministries served a hot dog meal as an alternate to barbecue.

Also helping to make this event happen were Citrus Heights Women's Club members, who ran the registration table and served cookies for dessert. Citrus Heights Police Department's Police Explorers program members oversaw the wristbands, and Daughters of American Revolution (DAR) provided raffle tickets and elegant raffle baskets. The Lions Club of Elk Grove provided ice cream for dessert. Sunrise Park and Rec representatives were busy entertaining the children, with volunteers manning the bounce house, crafts and more.

Sponsors included Sacramento County Supervisor and event Co-Founder Sue Frost, the City of Citrus Heights, Stones Gambling Hall, Rotary Club of Citrus Heights, Republic Services and City Councilmember Porsche Middelton.

Local deejay Carlos Verrett, a 23-year Air Force veteran, emceed the day and provided music in between the bands playing.

Following introductions led by Paul Reyes, the day began with a Ghost Soldier Ceremony honoring Nicole L. Gee, who was killed in action with 12 other Marines on Aug. 26, 2021, during the military withdrawal from Afghanistan. The family was presented with an official flag, which had been flown at the Naval Reserve Center in Sacramento for 24 hours in recognition of Gee.

Reyes read a poem, "Ask Me What I Was," which was



Battle of the Bands and BBQ raised money for veterans and to honor a late Marine. Photo by Chris Jones

followed by Taps and "Amazing Grace" on bagpipes.

American Legion Post 637 Commander Charles Stone stated that Gee was one of many service members who saved 123,000 people from possible execution by the Taliban for supporting the Americans. Gee and her fellow Marines provided order to the chaos of the evacuation and allowed for all these people to be processed and evacuated safely.

While this was dangerous, Stone said that Gee had more love than fear to be able to stand there to protect all the innocent people during the evacuation. It was this love that allowed Gee to be where she was, protecting those who were coming into the airport.

American Legion District 6 Commander Mark Rice said, "Freedom is not free and sometimes the cost is high," speaking of Gee's sacrifice. He explained that Post 637 and the other District 6 posts had come together to purchase a special



Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost, far left, stands with Battle of the Bands and BBQs representatives. Photo by Chris Jones

bench that will be located in Rusch Park to honor and remember Gee who "gave that last

measure of devotion. May those who rest on her bench honor her love and her sacrifice."

Gee's uncle Toby gave a poignant story of life with Gee, saying that even with five boys in the extended family,

Commander Stone said of the day, "American Legion Post 637 is truly blessed to have many community partners to be able to provide the benefits for our service members. The Citrus Heights Women's Club, Rotary, the Lions Club, and Daughters of the American Revolution all partnered to put on the Battle of the Bands and Barbecues. Besides recognizing the sacrifice of Nicole Gee in helping to evacuate and save the lives of 123,000 people, (in 18 days) we were able to raise funds to assist needy vets in our community. This could only be done with the support of the community."

At the end of the day, it was announced that Mojo J had been

voted the top band and Taeza's Bottomline BBQ took the top BBQ vote. ★

California's Water Workforce Is Aging, Promoting The Next Generation of Workers Is Essential

Commentary
by Travis Hinkle
CALMatters.org

A career building and maintaining California's water and wastewater treatment systems may be unglamorous, failing to spring to mind — at least it did for me — when young people contemplate their future careers.

However, the state faces a looming shortage of workers in these critical roles. It is imperative to support local, state and federal policies that help fill them.

Some 17 million workers will be retiring from infrastructure jobs during the next 10 years, taking their skills and institutional knowledge with them, as the workforce ages. According to a US Water Alliance report, approximately one-third of water utility operators are eligible to retire during the next decade. In 2018, Brookings

projected that water utilities must fill 9,200 water treatment positions annually.

While President Biden and Congress agreed to spend \$1 trillion on thousands of infrastructure projects, including \$50 billion alone on water resilience projects in the West, California needs to ensure that there are enough workers equipped with the know-how and sweat equity to build and operate these projects.

These are jobs that get your hands dirty. It's work that makes a difference. It typically requires less formal education than many other jobs, but can offer a lifelong career, good pay and solid opportunities for advancement.

Infrastructure work pays 30% more to lower-income workers and those just starting their careers, relative to all jobs nationally.

I got my own start after high school by joining my brother's

remodeling business — kitchens, bathrooms and the like — in San Jose, where I grew up. But a friend in Sacramento stumbled into wastewater collections for Sacramento County and encouraged me to visit his plant. There I discovered the range of jobs available: electricians, control technicians and treatment and distribution operators.

Even though I pursued online specialty courses, it took a few years for my first job in the water industry to come together.

My work requires lots of on-the-job training, but all of it is teachable and learnable. Once hired, workers can bid through labor unions for other available positions they're qualified for. Even if they decide to go elsewhere, they'll leave the department knowing how a water distribution system works.

I have noticed that more

attention is being paid these days to proactively recruit water industry workers, helping them understand the training and skills needed to grow in the industry. Last fall, I even told my story to a joint session of the California Public Utilities Commission and the California Workforce Development Board, as the state seeks to widen doors to infrastructure jobs, especially for disadvantaged workers.

When I entered this field, serendipity was my guide. Today, there are resources such as the EPA report "Making Water a Career of Choice," with case studies of utility-worker pathways to encourage more people to consider working in water systems. In the years ahead, tens of thousands more workers will be needed to meet California's water delivery and other infrastructure needs, and more effort required to attract new talent into this crucial industry.

While work in the water industry may seem obscure, it is rewarding, meaningful and essential for the wellbeing of communities throughout our state. Promoting community college, state university, private sector and state and federal programs designed to inspire and train the next generation of water infrastructure leaders is vital for California's future.

Encouraging more young people to enter this career field will not only help California meet its mushrooming needs, but will provide important, well-paying work for those who don't mind rolling up their sleeves to keep California's water pipelines flowing.

Financial support for this story was provided by the Smidt Foundation and The James Irvine Foundation. Travis Hinkle is a distribution system supervisor for San Jose Water. He has worked in the water industry for 13 years. ★

Hitch In Higher Ed Master Plan: California's Colleges Still Don't Work Well Together



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

California's Master Plan for Higher Education, adopted 64 years ago, envisioned that three systems — the University of California, California State University and dozens of community colleges — would cooperatively, seamlessly and inexpensively generate the educated citizenry and workforce a rapidly growing state needed.

The plan assumed that community colleges — eventually numbering more than 100 — would provide sub-professional job training to some students while preparing others for transfers to four-year schools.

The state colleges (later state universities) would train teachers, engineers, accountants and other professionals and award master's degrees in some fields.

The University of California would admit students with especially high potential, educate them in scientific and other complex fields up to the doctorate level and conduct research.

It didn't quite work out that way.

The three systems often have been more competitive than cooperative, particularly when vying for money from governors and state legislators. They've erected barriers that make transfers

difficult and squabble over academic turf.

Community colleges, for instance, have encountered stiff opposition from the state university system as they sought legislative permission to award four-year degrees in some fields, while the state universities have faced equally tough resistance from the UC system to their efforts to award doctorate degrees.

The master plan's assumption that higher education in California would be inexpensive to students also has taken a beating as other programs and services claimed ever-larger shares of the state budget.

That's been particularly true since 1978, when the passage of Proposition 13, California's iconic property tax limit, forced the state to become the major source of financing for K-12 schools, a role that a 1988 ballot measure, Proposition 98, lodged into the state constitution.

The current state budget allocates more than \$81 billion to K-12 schools while higher education would get less than \$24 billion. UC estimates that a year of attendance at one of its campuses costs about \$45,000.

Finally, students who seek to transfer from community colleges to either a UC campus or a state university face daunting barriers because the three have differing notions of how that should occur, as a new report from state Auditor Grant Parks underscores.

"Although most transfer students who applied to CSU and UC gained admission to at least one campus in those systems, CCC students still struggle to transfer," Parks said in a letter summarizing

his agency's audit. "Only about 1 in 5 students who began community college from 2017 to 2019 and intended to transfer did so within four years, and transfer rates were even lower for students from certain regions and demographic groups. The vast majority of students who did not transfer never reached the point of applying to CSU or UC, mainly because they had not earned enough units."

Parks suggests that community colleges could make transfers easier with counseling and giving students "a clear roadmap," but he points out that "another barrier to transfer is the variation in transfer requirements across and within the three systems, which makes the process difficult for students to navigate."

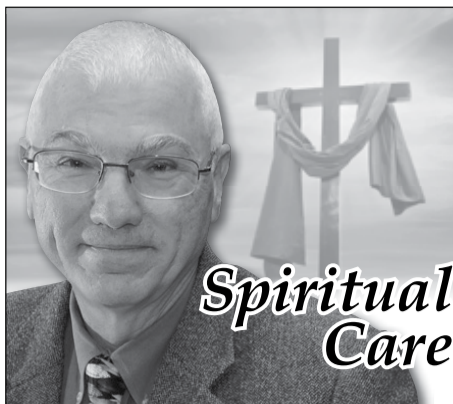
There's nothing that would prevent the three systems from reducing the barriers to transfer that Parks cites, but they have taken only fitful and obviously inadequate steps in that direction.

Parks' report is only the latest bit of evidence that the 1960-vintage master plan never worked out as planned and needs a thorough overhaul if its rosy vision is to even approach reality.

Although the plan's deficiencies have been obvious for years, neither governors nor legislators have expressed interest in making needed changes, because the politics of dysfunction are so daunting.

Dan Walters is one of most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends. ★

Your Sentiments Exactly



BY NORRIS BURKES

For the past 23 years, I've written this syndicated column about my adventures, misadventures and philanthropic ventures. During that time, you've responded to my commentary with hundreds of emails.

Since I've not always answered those emails, I'm taking a moment today to give a summarized response to several concerns. And even if you've never written, you may likely share the sentiments of those who have.

Grammar/Spelling

Some readers gently chastise me for my lack of a comma or overuse of commas. Sadly, I also battle with when to use "me" or "I." Or I misspell something, usually a homophone, words that sound the same but are different, like two, to and too.

Theology

Every once in a while, someone writes trying to convince me that there is no God. They have as much chance of persuading me of a godless world as the white-shirt fellas do who knock on my door trying to convert me though their Bible studies.

Some folks want me to explain God, as to why he did something in the world. I'm not too good at explaining God. Sometimes I gently remind them that I'm in sales, not the service department.

I get the theology critics from both sides. Pluralistic liberals sometimes read my column as being too limited to Christianity while fundamentalist Christians have suggested I might be working for the "enemy."

Politics

Readers have asked me to avoid politics and keep to my religious lane. I usually respond by saying, "I'm in good company with the prophets of old in talking about social injustice."

I once had a reader who seemed convinced that I was wisest-of-the-wise, but he turned on me when I wrote against the hate speech of Rush Limbaugh and Howard Stern.

"Your column is no longer fit to line my bird cage," he wrote. I wanted to tell him

that birdcage is a single word, not two, but I thought better of it.

Life Advice

But it has been the tragic emails that have broken my heart. Those from readers seeking solace over their lost child or spouse, or their broken marriage. Victims seeking escape from abuse at home or at church, both sexual and psychological.

Many other readers are lonely, like the elderly or terminally ill or the imprisoned population.

How could I possibly give so many people the specific help they seek?

First of all, the only advice I give is to refer people to their local clergy or therapist. I can't give advice by email any more than I can discuss theology by email.

However, I have been known to respond with a few guiding principles.

When readers share their life tragedies, it feels empty to promise "thoughts and prayers." These readers aren't seeking a fix, but rather to make their hurt known to someone who cares. So I begin with, "I've read your email, and I hear your unimaginable pain."

In relationship issues, it's impossible to know all the sides, so I ask them to consider two things.

Listen to understand before insisting that you be understood. Identify the emotions. Fear? Hurt? Embarrassment? Proverbs 18:13 says, "A person who answers without listening first is foolish and disgraceful" (ICB).

I challenge them to consider what part they may have played in the hurt. I try to avoid prescribing a one-size-fits-all Bible verse, but I do hear wisdom in the Psalmist's prayer, "Search me, O God, and examine my heart. Test me and know my anxious thoughts" (139:23-24 NIV).

Finally, there is a little piece of advice I admittedly pass on from the Lord's prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." Forgiveness is the most powerful force in the world. But we must do it first for ourselves.

Sadly, I can't satisfy all my readers, such as the professor from a prestigious New York seminary. She had nearly the entire alphabet following her name, yet saw nothing socially redeeming in my writing.

"Your columns are nothing but drivel!" she told me.

I'm grateful for her comment, because ever since I looked up the word drivel, I take great delight in including a little bit of "hogwash" or "gibberish" in my columns now and then. ★

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Board Revises Approved 2024-25 Budget

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Sept. 4 to revise the Approved Budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

The \$9.2 billion Revised Recommended Budget included an increase of \$340 million in total appropriations from the \$8.8 billion Recommended Budget the Board approved in June. The increases included \$68 million in General Fund appropriations, \$272 million in other funds: \$249 million base budget changes resulting primarily from re-budgeting of capital projects and other contractual expenditures and \$23 million in non-General Fund growth.

The following prioritized General Fund growth identified in June is funded in the Revised Recommended Budget: \$20 million General Fund contribution to the Roads Fund for roadway rehabilitation and maintenance, approximately \$300,000 for upgrades to the County's Emergency Operations Center and approximately \$17,000 to reallocate a position within Animal Care Services.

Additional recommended growth in the

Revised Recommended Budget included \$900,000 to the Sheriff's Office to fund four Deputy Sheriff positions responsible for escorting inmates and medical staff to health appointments in compliance with the Mays consent decree, \$200,000 to Probation to restore one full-time equivalent position to maintain service levels in Treatment Courts, in compliance with the Mays consent decree, \$500,000 to restore positions in Probation and the Public Defender's office to maintain service levels associated with SB 823 Juvenile Justice Realignment and \$400,000 to Human Assistance to fund the County's required cost of the California Statewide Automated Welfare System (CalSAWS).

The Board of Supervisors approved the following growth during the hearings: \$62,500 to Human Assistance to fund CalFresh operations at the Florin Certified Farmers' Market.

The Board is scheduled to formally adopt the Budget Recommended for Adoption on Sept. 24.

For details, read the Budget Letter to the Board of Supervisors or view all budget documents on the Office of Budget and Debt Management website at <https://bdm.sac-county.gov/FY2024-25BudgetInformation/Pages/default.aspx>.

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Sacramento Kings fans will be watching with great interest, as training camp begins Oct. 1, and there will be long shots looking to make the team. Names like Terry Taylor, Skal Labissiere, Jalen McDaniels, Colby Jones, Boogie Ellis and recent invitee Justin Powell are but a few of the players with aspirations of making the big club roster.

Add Orlando Robinson's name to the list, but Orlando could potentially have a good chance of making the opening day roster because of his NBA experience with the Miami Heat, and his size. Robinson at 6'10" represents the type of front court player the Kings are in desperate need of, and he showed flashes with Miami that give the Kings hope that this aspiring 24-year-old may be able to provide some valuable minutes off the bench.

Without question Sacramento will be leaning on the talents of power forward Trey Lyles, who at 28 is in his prime, and showed Kings fans last year that even coming off the bench, Trey can be an impact player. Like his teammates De'Aaron Fox and Malik Monk, Lyles came to the NBA from the Kentucky Wildcats and was drafted twelfth overall in the 2015 NBA draft by the Utah Jazz. Trey spent time with the Denver Nuggets, San Antonio Spurs and Detroit Pistons, before being acquired by the Sacramento Kings in February of 2022.

Lyles found a home in Sacramento, and his production immediately took a jump, as the Kings gave their young big man an average of nearly 23 minutes per game. Showing this kind of confidence led to Lyles most productive season as a pro, and in 2022 Trey averaged 10.6 points per game.

The last two seasons, for reasons that are difficult to understand, Lyle's time on the hardwood has diminished, and with it his scoring as well. Averaging seven points per game, Lyles has struggled to get the consistent playing time he needs to be a double-digit contributor, and I am hopeful, that coming into his prime and going into his fourth season as a Sacramento King, coach Brown will give this talented forward more

time on the court.

As fans we each have our favorites, but in Trey Lyles I see a player that needs to feel the confidence of his team and his coach, and I would like to see how he would produce in a starting role.

The Kings have been unable thus far to land an impact power forward, and it may be inevitable that they may have to look from within or continue to build this roster via the draft.

Without question Monte McNair has had opportunities to land an impact forward, but I give him great credit for passing up on trades that would have sent the Kings in the wrong direction. Too many NBA general managers are looking for steals, and I love the fact that McNair has kept the fabric of today's team intact.

Many pundits and I could myself as one, feel that with the addition of DeMar DeRozan the Sacramento Kings have arrived, and without that elusive forward they have been seeking, I want to see what the team we have assembled can do.

In just a little over a week the Golden State Warriors come to town, and thirsty for basketball Kings fans will get their first taste of the new look Kings.

I can't deny that I will miss Davion Mitchell, but I am also very curious to see what newcomers like Orlando Robinson or Boogie Ellis may contribute. Is there a diamond in the rough on this team?

I don't know that I ever expected to read or hear that NBA pundits would rate the Sacramento Kings as the best basketball team in the state of California, but that is exactly what is occurring.

The LA Lakers, Golden State Warriors, and LA Clipper do not represent bad basketball teams, so to be touted as the best of them, should be something to make every Sacramento fan smile.

So, break out those cow bells Kings fans, and get ready to light the beam 50 times or more! It can happen and I expect it to happen!

Enjoy the preseason. This is going to be fun!

All the best Kings fans!
Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com.



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Publish: October 4, 11, 18, 2024
BOYLAN 10-18-24

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STATEMENT OF WITHDRAWAL FROM PARTNERSHIP OPERATING UNDER FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE #FBNF2024-05326
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have withdrawn as a general partner(s) from the partnership operating under the FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME "The Practitioners' Post," located at 6330 Sunrise Boulevard, Suite #1032, Citrus Heights, CA 95610. Karri L Biehle, 6330 Sunrise Boulevard, Suite #1032, Citrus Heights, CA 95610. The Fictitious Business Name Statement for the partnership was filed on July 10, 2024 in the County of Sacramento. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County on September 25, 2024.
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Dave Ramsey

Dave Ramsey Says

Rewarding Success and Planning Ahead

house. So, let's start calling it a "commission" instead of an allowance. Why? Because in situations like these shouldn't be viewed as "allowing" them something. It should be looked at—by you and by them—as rewarding success.

My wife and I did this very thing with our kids as they were growing up. Each of them had a list of chores that were expected of them each day. If they did their jobs, they got paid at the end of the week. If they didn't, they didn't get any money.

Some people may look at this method and call it "tough love." But it's really not. It's just love. It's something you do when you're trying to teach your children, and guide them toward becoming independent, responsible adults.

– Dave

Planning Ahead

Dear Dave,

I was wondering if you recommend including future purchases, especially major purchases, into your monthly budget. If so, how far in advance should you do this?

– Andie

Dear Cody,

When you wait until things go wrong or something breaks down, you'll find yourself in a mess and the victim of your own poor planning. That's why I'd start putting money aside in my budget as soon as I saw signs there would be a need for whatever item it may be.

Let's say you're pretty sure you'll need a newer vehicle in a couple of years. Go ahead and start putting the money aside now. Decide on a reasonable, affordable ballpark price, then do the math to see how much you'll have to save every month to make it happen. And if you can make it happen faster than two years? Great!

And remember, this kind of stuff is a whole lot easier when you don't have things like car loans and credit card payments hanging around your neck!

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is a national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 20 million listeners each week. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. ★



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Office Administration – We are seeking a full-time administrative support person for our newspaper group. This position works in the Carmichael office and works directly with the Office Manager. Work hours are between 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Previous office experience is required. Primary duties are working with customers and assisting with weekly legal advertising filings. We also have a part-time position available in West Sacramento available in August.

City Reporter - We are seeking a full-time City Reporter for our newspaper group. This position may be assigned to work in the Carmichael office or another area office and works directly with the Managing Editor. Work hours are flexible depending on assignments. Previous reporting experience is required.

Copy Editor - We are seeking a part-time copy editor for our newspaper group. This position works in the Carmichael office and works directly with the Managing Editor. Work hours are flexible between 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Previous editing experience is required.

Delivery Driver – Weekly Hauling to Marysville- We are seeking a part-time Delivery Driver for our newspaper group. This position would transport newspapers from our Carmichael office to our offices in Marysville and Gridley. Work hours are from 8:30 to 4:00 every Thursday. Must be able to lift and move bundles of newspapers without assistance. Must have your own reliable cargo van. This is an independent contractor position and pays a flat rate for your service.

Newsstand Delivery Driver/Local - We are seeking a part-time Newsstand Deliver Driver for our newspaper group. This position works from the Carmichael office and delivers to our locations in the West Sacramento/Sacramento Region. Routes also available in Elk Grove, Pocket, East Sacramento, Arden Arcade. Work hours are from 8:30 to 5:00 Thursday and/or Friday. Must be able to lift and move bundles of newspapers without assistance. You must have a reliable vehicle. This is an independent contractor position. Previous experience preferred.

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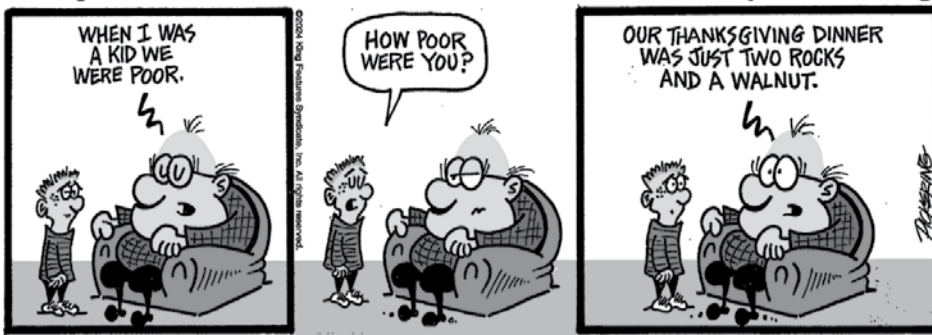
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by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



TIGER

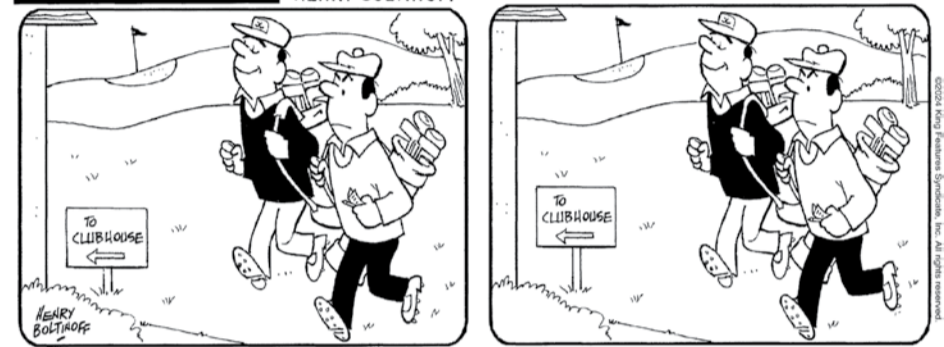
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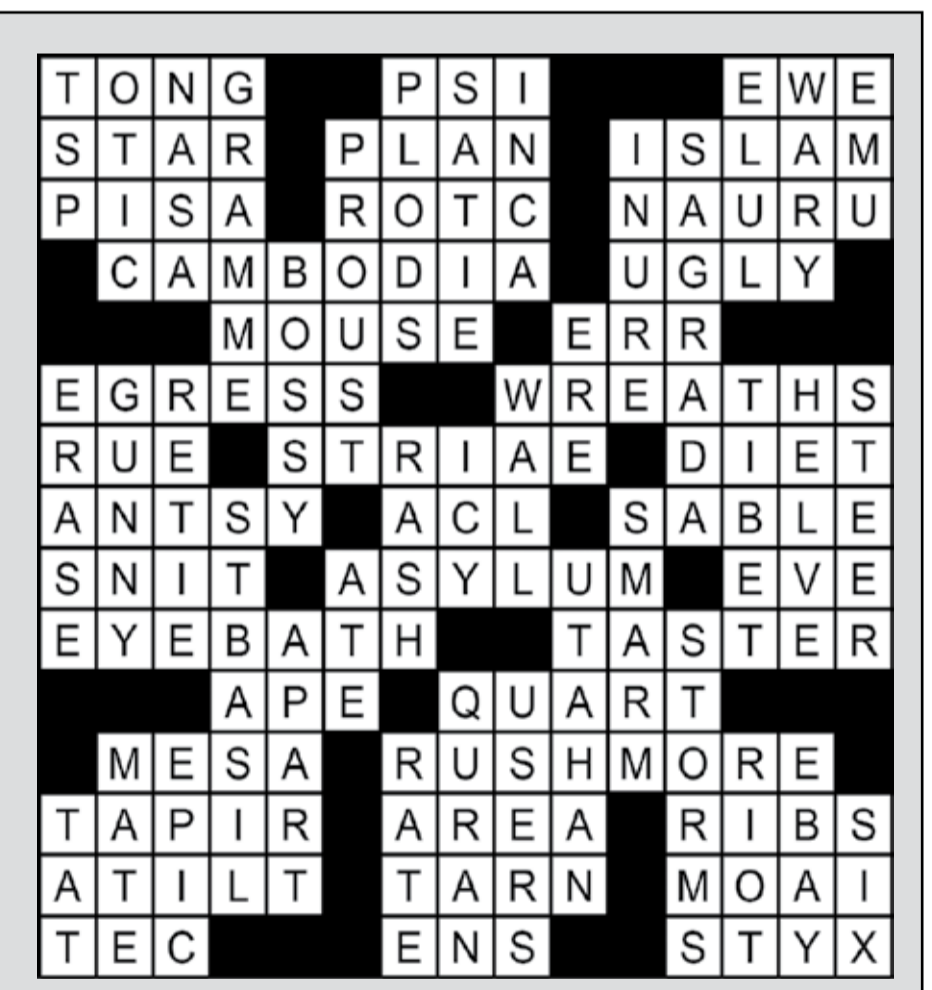
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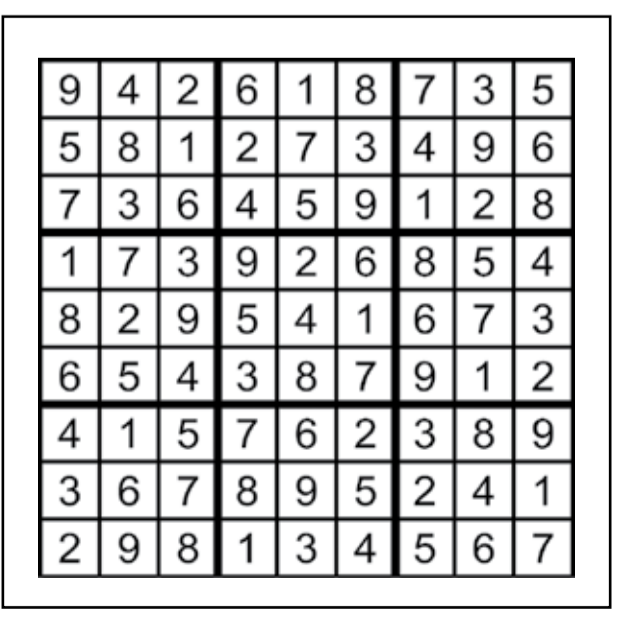


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Council Confirms Nuisance Camping Ordinance

By Shauna Boyd

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - During Public Comments at the Sept. 25 Citrus Heights City Council meeting, several residents asked council to reconsider including cars in the nuisance camping ordinance.

The ordinance will restrict the use of vehicles being used for camping on private and public roadways and allows for enforcement by the Citrus Heights Police Department (CHPD).

While councilmembers "believe the Citrus Heights Police Department would exercise discretion in their enforcement," David Warren said, he worries that the discretion could be seen as "discrimination."

Warren cautioned that unless the ordinance has "a set of parameters for the police department to apply that discretion, we're setting the city up for some very significant issues."

Margaret Cleek said, "I have serious issues with the notion of laws being enacted and the citizens told not to worry, 'It's just a tool for our police and will be used with discretion.' This swings wide open a door to abuse. Perhaps our current police organization will not abuse it but this is no guarantee that changes in personnel

and organizational culture will always make that true."

Cleek said that people who have to sleep in their cars are likely in the midst of a crisis and it is a transitional period as they work to get back on their feet.

"This ordinance assures that what could have been a stepping-stone out of homelessness becomes a tripping stone to even worse circumstances," Cleek said and urged the council to reconsider asking police to roust people out of their "last safe refuge."

Alfred Sanchez reminded the council that people sleeping in their cars typically have jobs and are paying the registration and insurance on their cars. He asked that they think more about this issue before approving the ordinance.

Resident Al Fox spoke on another matter, urging support in the upcoming election for the San Juan Unified School District (SJUSD) Classroom Repair Measure (Measure P). If approved, Fox said, the funding would allow the district to complete much-needed improvements to safety and infrastructure at the local schools. Fox said there were 200 more students in Citrus Heights schools this year and Measure P "is our opportunity as a community to invest in the education of our future

generations."

Before approval of the Consent Calendar, Councilmember Tim Schaefer asked for Items 6 and 10 to be pulled for separate votes.

Item 6 was the second reading of the nuisance camping ordinance and, Schaefer said, "It's not an easy decision."

Schaefer said he hasn't been able to figure out how to reasonably carve out an exception for cars.

"All of the other cities in the region have a very similar ordinance. If we have one that's absent of that, we're going to invite everybody who wants to sleep in their car to our city. ... That's untenable to me," Schaefer said. "We can't ignore the fact that when an officer interacts with a person who is living in their car, it's an opportunity for them to take services...and that's a very compassionate thing to do."

Schaefer moved the item and it was unanimously approved.

Item 10 was an authorization for additional work and a 46% increase to the construction budget for the city's Bridge Maintenance Project for a new total of \$1,087,345. Schaefer asked for a staff summary so the public would understand the requested change.

City engineer Leslie Blomquist explained

that Caltrans (California Department of Transportation) performs statewide inspections of bridges to ensure the safety and integrity of the structures. Citrus Heights owns and maintains 31 bridges, and in 2021, Caltrans issued a report prescribing required maintenance on some of those. Much of that maintenance work had to be done in the creeks, which required regulatory permits from state and federal agencies.

Those permits were acquired in 2023 and construction began this year in June. With the project now underway, additional debris was discovered at some of the bridge sites and Caltrans recently delivered another report with maintenance required at another bridge in the city.

Blomquist explained that it is more effective in terms of both time and cost to add the extra work and additional bridge maintenance into the current project. Councilmember Schaefer moved the item and it was unanimously approved.

The council then considered a \$685,062 contract for professional services with Dokken Engineering for the city's Gateway Activation Project, which will implement multimodal and roadway improvements to increase

accessibility, safety and operations along Old Auburn Road and Wachtel Way.

In addition to safety improvements of roadways and intersections, a major goal of the project is to work in collaboration with Sacramento County and the City of Roseville to connect Citrus Heights' multi-use trail systems (Old Auburn Road Multi-Use Trail and the Arcade-Cripple Creek Trail) to others in the region.

The initial phases of this project, including preliminary engineering, public engagement and environmental documentation, will be included in the current contract with Dokken Engineering. There will be no fiscal impact on the current budget, because the cost will be covered by \$700,000 in appropriated funding from the State General Fund, coordinated by Assemblymember Ken Cooley. Additional funding sources, including state and federal grants, will be identified for future project phases.

The council voted unanimously to approve the contract.

The next Citrus Heights City Council meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Oct. 9 at Citrus Heights City Hall, 6360 Fountain Square Drive. ★

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