



Badges with Buckets Raises Special Olympics
PAGE 3

Family Hits Jackpot for Local Charities
PAGE 2



Citrus Heights Messenger

VOLUME 14 • ISSUE 51 Serving the City of Citrus Heights & Sacramento County DECEMBER 20, 2024

SEE INSIDE

KEEP YOUR PETS SAFE DURING THE HOLIDAYS



PAGE 11

BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT RECEIVES EXCELLENCE AWARD



PAGE 3

HORNET FOOTBALL COACH RESIGNS



PAGE 8

Merry Christmas!



Sacramento New Home Sales Ending 2024 on a High Note

North State Building Industry Association News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - During a time of year when new home sales in the greater Sacramento region normally are dipping to their annual low point, buyers continued to purchase new homes at near-record levels in November, the North State Building Industry Association (BIA) reported Dec. 10.

Building Industry Association members reported selling 524 new homes in the region in November. That was a scant 1.2% lower than in October and 4.6% higher than in November 2023. However, sales were 47% above the average sales volume for the month (356).

November was the fourth straight month in which 500 or more homes were sold. July was the only month so far this year in which sales were below 500 (433).

November's sales were the second-highest in the region for the month since 2004's monthly record of 821 during the height of the housing boom (also trailing 554 sales in November 2021).

Tim Murphy, North State Building Industry Association's president and CEO, said the year's strong late-year surge shows that demand continues to be incredibly strong, despite mortgage rates ticking upward, and reinforces the Building Industry Association's message that new home construction continues to be far below the level needed.

"We continue to stress to elected officials throughout the region that excessive regulations and sky-high fees averaging over \$100,000 per home make it more difficult and more costly to build the new homes the region needs," Murphy said. "Reforms to speed the approval process and reduce the fee burdens would allow our members to build more homes than they can today, improve affordability, and begin to bring supply and demand into balance. These changes are needed statewide but especially here in Sacramento, which was historically far more affordable than today."

During October, Continued on page 7

Citrus Heights Police Chief Alex Turcotte Honored with Stones 21 Award

By Elise Spleiss

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Citrus Heights Police Chief Alex Turcotte was presented with the 21 Award at the ninth annual Stones Gambling Hall 21 Award Reception on Dec. 12.

Many Citrus Heights leaders, past and present, attended, from City Council, city staff, Sacramento County and the Citrus Heights Police Department, to honor the 2024 recipient of the award. The award is named after the blackjack hand.

Stone's owner Kermit Schayltz introduced the guests of honor, including County Supervisor Sue Frost, Mayor Jayna Karpinski-Costa, City Council members, City Manager Ash Feeny and



Alex Turcotte, left, Kermit Schayltz of Stones received praise from retiring County Supervisor Sue Frost, far right. Photo courtesy of Stones Gambling Hall

former 21 Award recipient, the city's first Police Chief, Christopher Boyd.

One poignant moment was the introduction of

Connie Turner, wife of former Mayor Mel Turner, who served as mayor from 2013 to 2014 and was the recipient of the first 21

Award. He passed away in 2017 and was very active with the police department and in many other aspects

Continued on page 12



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

Family Hits Jackpot for Local Charities

By Gary Zavoral

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Seven is a special number for Kelvin and Leslie Moss of Granite Bay. They have seven children, and their last child was nicknamed "Seven." And, on the night they went to the Sacramento area's charitable vending machines, there were seven members of their family present.

And sevens are especially lucky for struggling individuals and families throughout the Sacramento region and the world. Because last week, the Moss family typed in "777" into a Light the World Giving Machine and donated 30 gifts to those in need. It is considered a "Giving Machine jackpot," worth \$2,035 for five local charities and two global ones.

"We didn't know we'd do this until we got there that night. We had seven children, and seven of us were at the Giving Machines that night. It just felt right to choose 777," mother and grandmother Leslie Moss said. "We really felt we hit the jackpot for our community. It was a great night."

Light the World Giving Machines, sponsored and financed by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, are at the Westfield Galleria at Roseville for a third year and are filled with cards detailing charitable gifts. When one item is purchased, the card falls to the bottom, just like a candy bar drops when purchased at a vending machine. Joining Kelvin and Leslie at the Giving Machine were son-in-law Eric Stratton and four grandchildren.

"It was really fun to see every single card drop to the bottom one by one," said Leslie. "The kids would shout as they dropped: 'Someone is getting new underwear!' 'Someone is getting diapers for their baby!'" And so on, she says, until all 30 cards dropped.

Twenty-five of the 30 gifts are for individuals or families in the greater Sacramento region who are suffering financially or emotionally,



From left, Eric, Win, Daisy, Freddy and Bennett Stratton show off some of the gifts for others that they purchased. Photo courtesy of Gary Zavoral

and the gifts are designed to provide food, comfort, counseling and other services to help them on their path toward self-reliance. The Moss family knows a bit about suffering emotionally, as they lost three of their sons to accidental deaths in the past four years.

"Our grandchildren were really on board with this, in giving to others who are less-fortunate and suffering at this time," Leslie said. "They wanted to make sure that heaven could be involved, that their uncles could be there, too."

Before heading to the Giving Machines, Grandma and Grandpa talked to the children about what the Giving Machines are all about and to think about the specific gift they wanted to choose for a needy person or family.

"We talked about how usually with a vending machine you get something for yourself, but with the Giving Machine, this time you are getting something to help someone else," Leslie said. "They were so thoughtful about why they chose that specific gift."

Bennett, 14, chose suicide

prevention therapy from Lighthouse Counseling & Family Resource Center because "it's the gift that will keep giving," Leslie said. Lighthouse, based throughout Placer County, provides counseling, educational classes and programs and assists clients in obtaining resources to help them through a challenging time. The other gifts in the Giving Machine for Lighthouse that the Moss family also purchased are child abuse and domestic violence prevention counseling sessions, one week worth of diapers for a single mother with a newborn, and a three-day supply of emergency food.

Winston, who goes by Win, is 8 years old, and he chose three days of safe shelter for a family or individual in need, provided by Catholic Charities throughout the Sacramento region. Win chose that, Leslie says, "because whenever he sees a homeless person, he feels so sad for them and wants to help take care of them." Other gifts for Catholic Charities are an infant care kit for a new mother, a "dress for success" gift that provides a job seeker a new outfit, one week of food for a senior

experiencing food insecurity, and job training for someone entering the workforce.

Daisy, 5, "couldn't bear to think about someone going to bed without a blanket and a pillow," so she wanted to give the "Pillow & Bedding" provided by Al-Misbaah Charitable Aid, Leslie said. The Sacramento-based charity has helped numerous refugees and vulnerable families get established in Northern California. The other gifts for Al-Misbaah are socks and hat for someone who needs the extra warmth, a hygiene kit to help a community member stay clean, a backpack filled with school supplies for a student, and a bicycle for a child for exercise, adventure and to ride to and from school.

Daisy's twin brother, Freddy, "loves to play soccer, and he couldn't figure out how any child could go without a soccer ball," Leslie said. So, he chose the gift of four soccer balls for a school to help teach students teamwork and promote fitness. That gift is offered by Right to Play, a global charity that helps children in impoverished

nations thrive by promoting the "power of play." The other gifts in the Giving Machine purchased are 20 storybooks for primary school-children and menstrual hygiene kits to help female students stay in school.

The Moss family purchased all those gifts, along with others from three other charities. They are:

First Step Communities in Sacramento and Roseville, which provides interim housing and emergency shelter in the Sacramento area and Roseville. Their gifts in the Giving Machines are a kit of hygiene essentials, new underwear, a warm blanket and pillow, a winter coat and 100 laundry vouchers.

Rancho Cordova Food Locker's Community Food Hub, whose gifts in the Giving Machines are two gallons of milk for children, an emergency weekend food pack for students, a one-month supply of fresh produce for a family, a kit of essentials to feed 10 senior citizens, and a group cooking class to teach 25 families cooking techniques and nutrition principles.

The global charity Academy for Creating Enterprise, which provides business opportunities for individuals and families in impoverished countries. The two gifts in the Roseville Giving Machines are a basket as a way to carry goods for a new business owner and, probably the most unique gift in the machines, two piglets to help a family start a business.

"It was just an awesome experience for us to give to so many people at the same time," Leslie said. "We hope to do again next year and make it a family tradition."

The Light the World Giving Machines are located on the first floor of Westfield Galleria at Roseville, near the giant Christmas tree. The Giving Machines will keep giving through New Year's Day.

To see all the gifts available, their prices and links to all the charities, go to the Sacramento and Modesto Giving Machines website at www.givingmachinesgreatersacramento.org/. ★

Lisa D. Presents
Sponsored By: City of Citrus Heights

The Purple Pageant's YOUNG TEEN SOCIETY
Dec 29th, 2024
Specializing In:
Etiquette, Life Skills, Financial Literacy
Daily Affirmations, Mannerisms & More.
Evening Classes 5pm-830pm
SIGN UP TODAY!!!
Call 916-856-4536
AGES: 8-18y/o

The Young Teen Society Orientation
Date: December 29th Time: 5:00 PM
Location: 5150 Sunrise Blvd, Suite C3, Fair Oaks, CA

The Young Teen Society is a 12-step program sponsored by the Purple Pageant and the City of Citrus Heights. This program teaches manners, etiquette, and essential life skills.

Program Highlights:
Graduation Dinner and Awards Ceremony include
Limited to 20 girls per class • Age Groups: 8-12 and 13-18

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Curriculum Includes: Building confidence and self-esteem Effective communication skills Etiquette essentials Personal grooming and presentation Social media and online etiquette Financial literacy Time management Leadership development Community outreach Bullying prevention Starting a business Resume writing and mock interviews And more!</p> | <p>Cost: \$200.00 per student \$50.00 deposit (nonrefundable) required to reserve your seat—due ASAP Remaining balance of \$150.00 due on or before December 30th</p> <p>How to Sign Up: Visit purplepageant.org/blog to register!</p> <p>For More Information: Call (916) 856-4536</p> <p>Note: Evening classes only!</p> |
|---|---|

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

LOCAL ARREST RECORDS

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

Find out what's happening in your local area at...

CITRUSHEIGHTSMESSENGER.COM

ARREST LOGS UPDATED DAILY

City Beautification Project Receives Excellence Award



The City of Citrus Heights receives the Helen Putnam Award for Excellence from the League of California Cities for their Beautification program. Photo provided by the City of Citrus Heights.

By Shaunna Boyd

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - The Citrus Heights City Council certified the Nov. 5 election results, swearing in the elected councilmembers at the Dec. 11 meeting for four-year terms: Councilmember Tim Schaefer will continue to represent District 3 and newly-elected Councilmember Kelsey Nelson will represent District 1.

Each December, City Council selects members to serve as mayor and vice mayor. Schaefer nominated Mayor Jayna Karpinski-Costa and Vice-Mayor MariJane Lopez-Taff to continue serving in those roles. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Porsche Middleton and passed unanimously.

In recognition of the Citrus Heights Cares campaign and the Beautification Crew program, the League of California Cities presented the City of Citrus Heights with the Helen Putnam Award for Excellence in the category of Public Works, Infrastructure, and Transportation.

Blight abatement and homelessness prevention were community priorities, and the League of California Cities was impressed by Citrus Heights' innovative approach to meeting the challenge. The Citrus Heights Beautification Crew is a proactive, strategic program that has made significant improvements to the city's image.

Karpinski-Costa thanked the League of California Cities for recognizing the city's hard work and Schaefer called it a "proud moment" for the city.

Middleton said it was an "amazing accomplishment" and an "honor to be able to say that Citrus Heights was leading the way in Sacramento County."

City Council then considered an application for an alcohol sale license for a proposed new business, Bourbons and More, at 8067 Greenback Lane in Citrus Heights. The applicant requested a Type 21 license for the sale of alcohol for offsite consumption and a Type 86 license for instructional onsite tastings. Bourbons and More provides tastings and distillery tours, and sells high-end luxury liquor



Newly-elected Citrus Heights Councilmember Kelsey Nelson represents District 1. Photo provided by the City of Citrus Heights.

with many bottles in the \$500 to \$600 range and some priced as high as \$10,000. Bourbons and More currently has locations in Roseville and Rocklin.

When an area already has an overconcentration of alcohol licenses within that particular census tract, the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) will not issue a license without the approval of a Letter of Public Convenience and Necessity (PCN) by the local jurisdiction. Based on population, that area was allowed two alcohol licenses and Public Convenience and Necessities have already been granted for other businesses, which makes a total of five active licenses.

During Public Comment on this item, dozens of residents spoke in opposition to the alcohol sales license for the new business. Most said there were already too many liquor stores in that area and they didn't need another one. Others expressed concerns that another liquor store would create competition for existing businesses.

Councilmember Nelson said she was sympathetic to the "entrepreneurial mindset"

but was hesitant to approve the Public Convenience and Necessity due to the amount of existing liquor stores. She encouraged the applicant to consider other areas of the city.

Schaefer said that the number of residents in opposition was "compelling," so he would vote no.

Councilmember Middleton said that she would abstain from voting at this time, because while "the proposal technically meets all regulatory requirements," the overconcentration of liquor stores in the area could have long-term impacts, "which deserves to have a more robust discussion."

Vice-Mayor Lopez-Taff said she wants Citrus Heights to be a community that is welcoming to new businesses but suggested the applicant consider other locations in the city because of the "overconcentration and community opposition."

When the council gets feedback from the community, Mayor Karpinski-Costa said, "we need to listen." While it sounds like a good business, the mayor said, "I don't see a necessity."

"We're thrift stores. We're drive-thru fast foods. And so we are not the \$10,000 bourbon



Newly-elected Citrus Heights Councilmember Kelsey Nelson represents District 1. Photo provided by the City of Citrus Heights.

people. I don't know that it fits our community," Karpinski-Costa said.

Since no City Council member moved to approve the Public Convenience and Necessity, Middleton moved that the council deny the application. City Council voted 4-0 to deny the Public Convenience and Necessity, with Middleton abstaining. Mayor Karpinski-Costa encouraged the applicant to look for another location in the city.

City Council then considered a proposed new drive-thru Starbucks location at 6970 Auburn Blvd. in the Stock Ranch Special Planning Area. Businesses in Stock Ranch have restricted operating hours to ensure residents aren't disturbed by noise issues. The earliest allowed opening time is 6 a.m. in Stock Ranch. However, most Starbucks open earlier, sometimes at 4:30 a.m., so the applicant requested an allowance of a 5 a.m. opening time.

Staff and the Planning Commission reviewed the request and recommended approval, finding that a drive-thru opening at 5 a.m. did not increase the general ambient

noise at that time. Also, having a similar opening time would create a more consistent customer experience for residents visiting the new Starbucks location.

During Public Comment on this item, Citrus Heights resident Alfred Sanchez submitted a written comment stating that allowing a drive-thru at that location "would not be a good idea."

A project representative from Starbucks' architecture team said there "is a lot of demand" for Starbucks' services, and another very busy Starbucks location is nearby. The proposed new location would help reduce customer wait times, traffic impacts and staff workload at the existing location. The representative said Starbucks is excited about this new location and "eager to get this project started."

Schaefer moved approval of the use permit, design review permit and extended operating hours for the new Starbucks location, and City Council members unanimously approved it.

The regularly-scheduled Citrus Heights City Council meeting on Dec. 25 will not be held due to the Christmas holiday, so the next meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Jan. 8. ★

Badges with Buckets Raises Special Olympics Funds

By Thomas J. Sullivan

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Heavy rain didn't deter the generosity of many who donated to a recent "Badges with Buckets" fundraiser to benefit Special Olympics - Northern California.

More than \$4,000 was raised at the Nov. 21 fundraiser held at Miller's Ace Hardware, 8077 Madison Ave., Citrus Heights, according to owner Jessica Rowell-Greenfield.

"It's not bad for our very first try," Rowell-Greenfield said. "We're thankful for all who braved the rain to support Special Olympics."

She acknowledged law enforcement personnel from the city of Citrus Heights and the Sacramento



City of Citrus Heights officials, Miller's Ace Hardware owner Jessica Rowell-Greenfield and Citrus Heights Police Chief Alex Turcotte hold the Torch Run banner. Photo courtesy of City of Citrus Heights

County Sheriff's Office, who teamed up to support the event.

The event was moved to just

outside the front doors of Miller's Ace Hardware, due to heavy rains that moved through the greater

Sacramento area.

Citrus Heights Police Chief Alex Turcotte, city staff and City

Manager Ash Feeney were on hand to accept donations and to thank the public for their support of Special Olympics - Northern California.

Miller's Ace Hardware, named after the owner's son who is dealing with a rare neurological disease, is located in Citrus Heights across the street from the Fair Oaks Library, where the two communities meet.

Funds raised from the Badges with Buckets campaign will help Special Olympics of Northern California support the many sports, education and health programming offered to children and adults with physical and intellectual disabilities in their own communities.

Donations are still being accepted at p2p.onecause.com/badgeswithbuckets ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Things can change quickly in Kings Town, and the happenings of the past week certainly demonstrate exactly that.

The hardcourt gladiators from Sacramento are currently on a torrid 3-game winning streak, looking ahead to Monday night's game against the Denver Nuggets.

If you hadn't paid attention and just tuned into the Kings, you'd discover a team that is just finding themselves 26 games into the regular season, after losing every game in the preseason.

Fans and pundits alike have riddled the airwaves with remedies for multiple losing streaks, along with advice to coach Brown as to who should be his starting five.

I am more than happy to announce that coach Brown's decision to finally insert Malik Brown into the King's starting lineup has produced four wins in the last five games, and everyone is now wondering why it took three seasons to figure this one out.

But rather than casting aspersions, I will take the high road, and just give him an attaboy for making a decision that was long overdue. Malik is thrilled to be where he always thought he should be, and now coach Brown can simply focus on his bench that is currently ranked in the bottom of the league.

Kevin Huerter is showing signs of returning to form and seems to be comfortable taking the 6th man position that was formerly Monk's, so it's really the next three or four rotations that are going to tell the tale.

What has created chaos with the team is the night-in and night out inconsistency as to who will sit the night out completely, or who will garnish the majority of the minutes.

Big man Alex Len cannot catch a break, as he all too often finds himself at the end of the bench being a spectator for the entire game. This 7-foot giant has NBA game, and from my perspective, it's up to coach Brown and his staff to build this big man's confidence. One way you do that is by giving him a consistent rotation that he can count on every night.

Len has played several good games and shows real promise, only to find

himself relegated to the bench the very next game with no explanation except for the dreaded, coaches' decision.

The Kings can keep scouring the league for another trade/acquisition, or just look at their own bench, and perhaps realize that there is more talent already on this team than they are giving them credit for.

I for one believe that Alex Len has a big upside, but it takes a coach and staff that are willing to build a player's confidence if you want to see the desired result.

So far, I'm giving this staff a failing grade as it relates to evaluating talent, and you need to look no further than the inexplicable trade of Davion Mitchell to qualify my comments.

The Kings are still feeling the void left in Mitchell's absence, and all he is doing in Toronto is making Canadian fans fall in love with him. From the Kings bench to the Raptor's starting point guard, Davion is making the Toronto GM look like a basketball wizard.

The Kings cannot afford to continue undervaluing talent, or simply not see the forest for the trees. Let's get everything out of the team currently constituted, and that means starting with consistency as it relates to players coming off the bench. If Huerter is the 6th man, who is #7, 8, and 9? At this point no one but coach Brown knows, and he doesn't know until just before gametime.

Here's the good news! At 13-13 it's time to hit the reset button. Yes, the Kings are at 500, and now is the time to start making a run that can propel this team to the playoffs.

The starting five of, Fox, Monk, DeRozan, Murray, and Sabonis are a formidable group to guard, and I look forward to watching this team come out of the blocks on all 8 cylinders every night.

So, take heart Kings fans, because the best is yet to come, and that's without a trade or an acquisition.

Merry Christmas to one and all and go Kings!

Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

How California Can Fix Its School Crisis. Two Projects Point the Way



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

When the state Department of Education released academic test scores of California's public school students in October, it cast them in positive terms.

"Overall," the department said, "the percentages of California students meeting or exceeding standards (demonstrating proficient or advanced grade-level knowledge and skills) in (English language arts), mathematics, and science increased, from 46.7% to 47% percent in (English language arts), from 34.6% to 35.5% in math, and from 30.2% to 30% in science."

What the department didn't say is that those minuscule increases from the previous year meant that California remains one of the states where academic achievements are still below what they were prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As CalMatters' account of the test scores notes, "both English language arts and math scores are 4 percentage points below their 2018-19 levels, which were among the highest scores for California students since the state began administering the Smarter Balanced test in 2014-15."

Alix Gallagher, director of strategic partnerships at the education research nonprofit Policy Analysis for California Education, told the San Jose Mercury News

that the slow recovery from the pandemic indicates that the massive federal and state funds given schools to cope with the pandemic failed to prevent declines.

"What we would want to see is that with those additional funds, we had a really strong recovery. Instead, what we saw were really modest gains," Gallagher said.

The department's obfuscation continued a month later when it released its "dashboard" of public education markers that trumpeted nonacademic factors, such as increases in attendance and decreases in student suspensions, but ignored California's subpar academic outcomes, which should be the most important.

That's not surprising, given that the state's education bureaucrats consciously developed the multipoint dashboard to conceal the chronic lack of academic achievement.

A state-by-state report on school system transparency of academic test results issued by the Center for Reinventing Public Education, based at Arizona State University, gives California a "D" for its lack of clarity.

"I have a Ph.D. in education policy and I can barely navigate these sites," Morgan Polikoff, a USC professor who worked on the report, told CalMatters. "How do we expect a typical parent to access this information and make sense of it?"

Are California's stubborn failings in teaching basic subjects such as math and reading, which the educational establishment hopes no one will notice, fixable?

Two recent projects to improve academic skills indicate that learning can be improved with sustained effort that uses proven techniques and shuns trendy short-term

fixes that school systems often adopt in their desperate efforts to raise test scores.

Policy Analysis for Public Education, a think tank jointly operated by several major universities that studies California schools, cites the math project in Lake Tahoe Unified School District's Sierra House Elementary School and a reading program in Grass Valley School District as successful examples.

In both, California Education Partners, a school reform organization staffed by academic experts, provided three years of hands-on help to improve instruction, and PACE evaluators found significantly positive results. "The Sierra House model serves as a blueprint for building adult capacity and fostering instructional coherence," they said, while Grass Valley's phonics-based reading program was adopted district-wide and "improved student outcomes."

California's educational crisis is palpable. Not only do California schools fare very poorly vis-a-vis other states in federal academic testing — seventh from the bottom — but there's a yawning "achievement gap" between low income and English learner students and their more privileged classmates that widened during the pandemic.

Rather than hide the problem with gimmicks such as the school dashboard, California should own up to it and embrace successful examples such as those in Tahoe and Grass Valley.

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. ★

Citrus Heights Community Update

Serving You: The Honor of My Lifetime



By Sue Frost

As my tenure as Supervisor for District 4 comes to a close, I am overwhelmed with appreciation. It has been a profound honor to serve the diverse and vibrant areas of Sacramento County. From the soulful avenues of North Highlands to the tranquil settings of Rancho Murieta, each community has its own unique charm, and a collective will to enhance our region.

During my years in office, I've had the pleasure of seeing and contributing to significant improvements that have positively impacted the lives of our residents. Together, we have achieved notable progress, all aimed at enriching the Sacramento Region.

We successfully allocated \$4.5 million in ARPA funds to bolster services and housing initiatives across District 4. These projects have spurred growth and enhanced the quality of life in our communities.

Significant projects include the revitalization of the Rio Linda Firehouse and restoring Fire Engine #2 to operational status. These upgrades are critical, ensuring that our emergency services are well-prepared

to safeguard our community. Community gatherings like the Rio Linda/Elverta Country Faire and the Christmas Light Parade have not only spread cheer but also fostered a strong sense of togetherness.

I had the privilege of leading efforts that substantially supported local veterans' services, aiding veterans and non-profits, and fostering economic vitality. The enhancements to the Orangevale Library and our support for the Orangevale History Museum have played pivotal roles in preserving our local heritage and expanding access to educational resources. The Orangevale-Fair Oaks Big Day of Service exemplifies the positive outcomes that arise from community cooperation and common goals.

In safety and preparedness, we secured a significant \$400,000 grant from Caltrans to fortify emergency evacuation routes for Rancho Murieta, enhancing the area's readiness for any emergency.

This year, I played a pivotal role in fostering unity and collaboration in North Highlands by engaging with local leaders committed to enhancing well-being and economic vitality. This collaboration led to the successful "Celebrate North

Highlands" event, which brought together over 2,000 residents on Sept. 28, to celebrate the spirit of the community.

I have always stood firm in my commitment to our local economy, advocating for a strategic approach to reopening that maintained the competitiveness of our businesses and kept our shopping local. My commitment to openness and honesty has been central, admitting to and learning from any missteps to maintain a transparent relationship with you.

Reflecting on these efforts, I am proud of what we have accomplished together. Serving you has been a tremendous privilege, and I am thankful for the opportunity to have been part of your stories and your advocate.

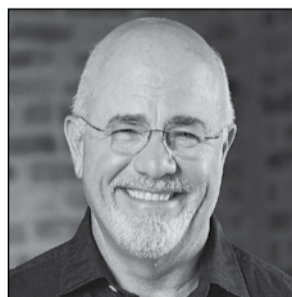
Thank you for your trust, your active participation, and your steadfast commitment to our community. Although my role as Supervisor is concluding, my dedication to supporting and uplifting our region remains steadfast.

If you would like to stay in touch with me, please feel free to reach me at sue@suefrost.com.

Thank you all for a wonderful and impactful journey.

God Bless.

Sue



Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

A friend told me about your Baby Steps plan, and after years of living paycheck-to-paycheck and running up credit card bills, I'm ready to get control of my finances. I just have one question. Baby Step 1 is saving \$1,000 for a beginner emergency fund. Do you recommend getting current on past due bills before starting Baby Step 1?

– Miles

Dear Miles,

Congratulations! I'm glad to hear you're finally sick and tired of being financially tired and tired. This is the perfect question for someone is your situation, because it gives me a chance to walk you all the way through the Baby Steps. So, let's go!

First, make sure all your necessities are taken care of. By necessities, I'm talking about food, clothing, shelter, transportation and utilities. Then, get current on anything you owe, or make payment arrangements for past due bills. After you've done this, it's

Dave Ramsey Says The Roadmap to Financial Peace

time to take your very first Baby Step.

You've already mentioned getting \$1,000 in the bank for a starter emergency fund. That's Baby Step 1. After that comes your debt snowball, which is Baby Step 2. Here, you'll pay off all your debts from smallest to largest—except your home. Attack the first balance on your list by paying as much as you can each month, while making minimum payments on the other debts. When you've paid off the first one, add what you were paying on it to the payment on your next debt and start attacking it. As the snowball continues to roll over, you're picking up more and more money to apply to your debts.

In Baby Step 3, you'll save money and increase your emergency fund from \$1,000 to a full three to six months of expenses. You're going to be surprised how fast you can save money when your income isn't flying out the door to pay off debt every month.

Now, it's time to really start looking toward the future. In Baby Step 4, start investing 15 percent of your income for retire-

ment. College funding is next in Baby Step 5 for any kids you have, or plan on having one day. And here's a big one. Baby Step 6 is where you pay off your home early. How great will that feel?

But Baby Step 7 is the real deal. Now, you start building wealth and giving with outrageous generosity. When you've completed all the other Baby Steps, and are able to do these two things, you've achieved the pinnacle of smart money management. Or in other words, you've reached the point of financial peace.

Make it happen, Miles. You can do this!!

– 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. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS Mornings, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company, Ramsey Solutions. ★

LEGAL ADS FOR SACRAMENTO COUNTY?

We Can Do That!

MPG 916-773-1111

All Legal Ads Published by Messenger Publishing Group



WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS

MPG Messenger Publishing Group

Social Security Matters

About How Medicare Premiums Are Determined



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: Please explain the Medicare premium increase based on income reported to Social Security? For those of us that waited to draw Social Security until age 70, and who are still working - drawing a salary, and planning to retire at age 75 after RMDs kick in at age 73 - how do we make sure that Social Security reports our earnings accurately, so we don't wind up with increased Medicare premiums? Why not charge increased Medicare premiums when we are younger, instead of waiting to sneak up on us when we are older? **Signed: Confused about Medicare Premiums**

Dear Confused: I believe you are referring to Medicare's "Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount," or "IRMAA." IRMAA increases the Medicare Part B (and Part D) premium amounts for those whose combined income from all sources exceeds specified levels for their IRS tax filing status. Social Security (and Medicare) get your earnings information from the IRS and use your reported IRS income (on your income tax return) to calculate your Medicare

premium each year. But there is a twist - they use your reported combined income (also known as your "MAGI" or "Modified Adjusted Gross Income") from 2 years ago to determine your current year's Medicare premium. For example, they will use your 2023 MAGI to determine your 2025 Medicare Part B premium (and your Part D premium if you have Part D). So, if your income reported to the IRS on your tax return in 2023 is correct, Social Security will use that amount to determine next year's Medicare premium.

IRMAA uses a sliding income scale to determine your Medicare premium. If you filed your 2022 taxes as "married/jointly" and your combined income for that year was \$206,000 or less, for 2024 you are paying the standard Medicare Part B premium of \$174.50, and there is no additional amount added to your Part D premium. But if your MAGI as a married couple was over \$206,000 your Medicare premiums will be more - e.g., MAGI up to \$258,000 makes your Part B premium \$244.60 and results in a Part D supplement of \$12.90 per month. And so on - as your MAGI further increases, so will your Medicare premiums until you reach the maximum. MAGI over \$750,000 means a Part B premium of \$594/month and a Part D supplement of \$81/month. Thus, Medicare premiums are "means-tested" (those with higher income pay higher premiums).

A word about "MAGI" - MAGI starts with your Adjusted Gross Income on

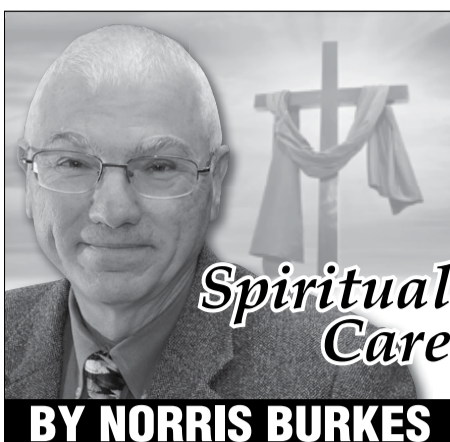
your tax return, to which is added any non-taxable interest you may have had, and 50% of the Social Security benefits (if any) you received during the income tax year. The total of those three amounts is your MAGI, from which your Medicare premium is determined for the forthcoming year.

So, if your 2023 combined income (your "MAGI") as a couple was under \$206,000 you will pay the standard 2025 Medicare premium which, for Part B, will be \$185/month. If your 2023 MAGI as a married couple is more than \$206,000, you will pay higher Medicare premiums in 2025 due to IRMAA.

Why not pay higher Medicare premiums when we are younger? Well, that's because IRMAA only applies when you are enrolled in Medicare, and your premium relates to your income while receiving Medicare benefits.

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). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★

Definitely NOT the Best Christmas Ever



BY NORRIS BURKES

This is the time of year when writers like to recount their "Best Christmas ever."

Their stories often include a video of a slobbering puppy leaping from a ribbon-covered box or a marriage proposal, or my favorite, a deployed soldier surprising her family with an early homecoming.

But if you've read my column long enough, you'll know that this columnist seeks to fill the holes of the unexpected. So, today, I recollect my very worst Christmas ever!

I was only 4 years old, but savvy enough to ask my parents why our Charlie Brown Christmas tree was so bare. I didn't understand why my father, a poor ministerial student, had nothing to place under the tree.

However, I became cautiously optimistic on Christmas Eve when my dad called us one-by-one into his study cubby.

My sister came away with a new doll. My brother followed holding a kinetic car, the kind you roll backwards to wind up the energy.

Score! Seeing that kind of haul, my kinetic energy was pushing full throttle.

I approached my dad's desk and climbed into his loving lap.

"I have something very important to tell you," he said.

My little eyes reflected with the anticipatory joy of Tiny Tim.

"There is no such thing as Santa Claus," he said. "We celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas, not Santa."

My eyes blinked with tears. Could it get any worse for a preschooler than that?

Yes, actually, it could.

When I asked about my present, my dad told me that I'd be sharing the kinetic car with my brother.

"Does it get it any sadder?" you ask.

In fact, it did..

I joined my brother on the kitchen floor where we took turns sending the car careening back and forth like a game of catch.

Twenty minutes into the game, my 5-year-old brother began speculating on how the car mechanism worked.

"Let me take it apart," my brother begged with screwdriver in hand. I was curious, too, but I would only agree if he promised to restore it to working condition.

He promised.

Ten minutes later, with wheels, chassis and motor spread on the kitchen table, the car was humpty-dumptyed.

Saddest, worst, most disappointing Christmas ever, right?

So, why would I write about a Christmas memory worthy of Debbie-downer?

As foul as it was, it still points toward some spiritual takeaways of Christmas.

First, Christmas needn't be all about materialism, about what we buy or what we consume. It might also be about sacrifice.

My sacrifice fed my brother's mechanical mind. He explored the workings of the tiny engine, gaining early insights into motion, potential energy and kinetic energy. He may have failed the car restoration business, but he became an electronics repairman and later started his own electronics business.

Second, my worst Christmas inspired me to share what we are given. Christian scripture reminds us, "To whom much is given, much shall be required."

I didn't get much, but in sharing it, I perhaps inspired greater generosity. For years to come, my brother modified other gifts into things much more interesting.

One year he rigged a toy tank to burst from a record player box and shoot rubber bands. Another year, he removed the capacitor from an old radio to make an electric shock device capable of repelling the school bullies.

I've shared this sad story with my wife many times over the years. So, last week I told her I'd have my best Christmas ever if she'd give me a miniature Schnauzer puppy for Christmas.

At first she said no, but after reading this column, she assured me that our neighbor would likely "share" his new puppy.

So much for the worst Christmas ever. ★

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

I Thought She Said, "Doughnut"

Dr. James L. Snyder

As hard as I try, and believe me I try, I don't always hear correctly, especially regarding The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I don't always hear every word she says.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage once set me up and said, "Did you hear what I just said?"

"Oh, yes, my dear, I heard you clearly."

Then she said, "Well then, what do you think I should do?"

At this point, I knew she was trying to set me up because she knew I wasn't listening, but I had to respond. Believe me, I was nervous.

"Oh, my dear, I think your idea is splendid. Go with it."

Then she got up, walked to the kitchen, and says, "Okay, then it's broccoli for supper."

The other day, she asked if I would go to the grocery store and pick up a few items.

I went to the store, checked off every item on the list, and went to the checkout line when I remembered she told me something after giving me the list. I tried to think of what it was, and then it came to me. She mentioned something about doughnuts. I think she wants me to get some doughnuts.

I picked one, went to the checkout counter, paid for the items, and then got in my truck to go home.

I was very happy as I drove home because I usually don't get things done exactly the way she likes them. I drove into the driveway, parked my truck, and went inside with the bag of groceries.

Walking through the door, I shouted, "Honey, I'm home."

It wasn't long until she entered the kitchen, and I heard her say, "What is this?"

I had no idea what she was talking about, but as she walked over to me, she was holding the box of donuts. "What is this?"

Looking at her with a big smile, I said, "Oh, my dear, those are the donuts you asked me to get. Remember?"

She went back into the kitchen. I heard her going through the grocery bag. Then she came back and handed me the grocery list she had given me and said, "Where do you see donuts on this list I asked you to get?"

I was a little confused, so I said, "Don't you remember as I was leaving you told me to get doughnuts?"

"I said no such thing. What I said was, Do Not get anything that is not on this list."

Oh boy, was I in trouble? All I heard was the word "doughnut," which got me into trouble.

Looking at her, I said, "Do you want me to return the donuts?"

That afternoon I was reading my Bible and came across a verse that encouraged me.

"To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the Lord is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it" (Jeremiah 6:10).

I believe it takes all of the Bible to make it the Word of God. I can't cherry-pick what I want to believe. If I only hear part of the Bible, I will get it wrong and bear the consequences. All heresy is built on fragments of the Bible.

Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.james-snyderministries.com ★

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.

Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

Citrus Heights Messenger is a member of **Messenger Publishing Group**

To submit your articles, information, announcements or letters to the editor, please email a Microsoft Word file to: Publisher@mpg8.com.

Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher". If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.

MPG **ENPA** **CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL**

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 **916-947-7150** 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.

Hornet Football Coach Resigns

By Daniel Canfield

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Friday, Dec. 6, Sacramento State University announced that Hornet Football head coach Andy Thompson had resigned to pursue other career opportunities. Thompson's departure after two years at the helm of the Hornet Football program comes at the conclusion of a 2024 campaign that saw the Hornets finish with a 3-9 overall record and 1-7 in Big Sky Conference play. Sac State dropped the final five games of the 2024 season including the annual causeway classic matchup with UC Davis which was played on Nov. 23 at Hornet stadium.

The official news release from the university includes a gracious statement from Athletic Director Mark Orr regarding Thompson's tenure with the Hornets. "We want to thank Coach Thompson and his family for all they have done for Sacramento State football over the last five seasons," Orr said. "Under his watch, the program has achieved its highest level of success. We wish him the best of luck in the future."

In his two years as head coach Thompson posted



Sac State's Football program is in search of a new head coach to replace Andy Thompson who resigned on Dec. 6 to join the Stanford University football coaching staff. Photo by Sacramento State Athletics

an overall record of 11 wins and 14 losses. In his first year as head coach in 2023, the Hornets enjoyed an 8-5 record and made it to the second round of the 2023 FCS Playoffs. Unfortunately, that success was not seen again in the disappointing 2024 season.

Thompson had been on the Hornet coaching staff since the 2019 season.

As defensive coordinator, Thompson was instrumental in the Hornet football program earning Big Sky Conference titles in 2019, 2021 and 2022. Following the conclusion of the 2022 season, Thompson was promoted to the Hornet head coach position which had been vacated by Troy Taylor who left Sacramento State to take

the head football coaching position at Stanford University.

On the heels of the official announcement from Sacramento State Athletics regarding Thompson's departure on Dec. 6, Stanford University officially announced that coach Thompson would be joining the Stanford Football coaching staff

as Stanford Football's assistant head coach and co-defensive coordinator. Reuniting Thompson with his former boss and former Hornet head coach Troy Taylor.

The Hornet Football program owes a debt of gratitude to Coach Thompson as his involvement with the program led to success and accolades

not previously enjoyed by the Hornets. Best wishes to Coach Thompson in his new position, as long as Stanford football's interests do not conflict with Hornet football's interests.

Sacramento State officials announced that a national search will begin immediately to find the next head coach for the Hornets. ★

Jesuit High's Cross Country Coach Honored



Jesuit High School's Cross Country Head Coach Walt Lange, photographed here with his 2024 State Championship team, was named the Joe Newton Coach of the Year at the Nike Cross Nationals on Saturday, Dec. 7. Courtesy Photo

Jesuit High School News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Jesuit High School Cross Country Head Coach Walt Lange received a prestigious honor on Saturday, Dec. 7, as he was named the Joe Newton Coach of the Year at the Nike Cross Nationals (NXN).

This award, named after legendary coach Joe Newton of York High School, celebrates lifetime achievement in high school cross country. Newton's teams captured at least 24 Illinois State Championships, and his legacy extends far beyond victories, having profoundly shaped the lives of countless young athletes.

Coach Lange, with an extraordinary 55 years of coaching at Jesuit High

School, including 54 years as head coach, now joins the ranks of elite coaches recognized on a national stage. Known for his humility, Lange's contributions to high school cross country and the countless lives he has impacted over the decades make this recognition richly deserved.

"I'm overjoyed that the boys were there to witness this moment," shared Assistant Coach David Zielke, reflecting on the significance of the occasion.

Lange's dedication, passion, and lifelong commitment to developing athletes both on and off the course embody the Jesuit tradition of excellence and service. Congratulations to Coach Lange on this remarkable and well-deserved honor! ★

UC Davis To Join Mountain West Conference

UC Davis News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The University of California, Davis has accepted a formal invitation to join the Mountain West Conference beginning July 1, 2026.

"We are thrilled to join the Mountain West Conference, and we look forward to an incredible experience for our student-athletes and for our fans," said UC Davis Chancellor Gary S. May. "Our transition to the highly regarded conference will introduce our Aggie community to a broader audience, in major metropolitan areas and through increased media coverage. It also provides us with an opportunity to align with universities that share similar academic strengths while also expanding our competitive presence in the Western United States."

The Aggies will compete in all Mountain West Conference-sponsored sports, except for football, which will continue to participate in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) in the Big Sky Conference. Men's and women's water polo as well as beach volleyball will seek to remain in the Big West through affiliate membership but are prepared to explore other options, if necessary. No changes will occur with membership

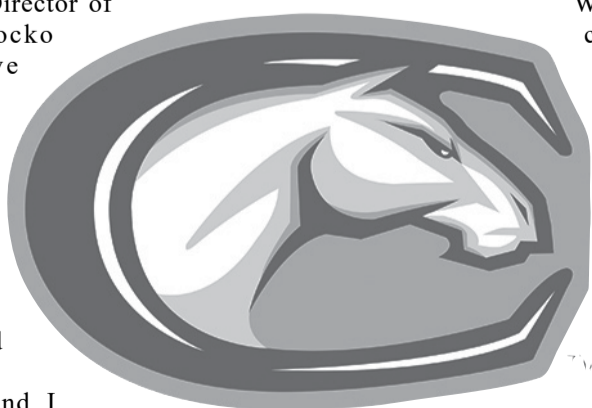
agreements for equestrian, field hockey and lacrosse.

"Adding UC Davis further strengthens the trajectory of the Mountain West as it continues to build its brand that has proven to elevate institutions and student-athletes," said MW Commissioner Gloria Nevarez. "Chancellor Gary S. May and Director of Athletics Rocko DeLuca have shared their strategic plan and financial vision for enhancing student-athlete development, welfare, and competitive excellence, and I believe UC Davis brings a wealth of positives in the continuing growth of the Mountain West."

The announcement comes on the heels of a historic fall sport season for the Aggies in which all eight varsity fall sports teams qualified for postseason competition.

Men's soccer secured a Big West championship and a trip to the NCAA

tournament. UC Davis football finished the regular season seeded fifth in the nation with a bye in the first round of the NCAA Division I Football Championship followed by a win against Illinois State on Dec. 7. They will play South Dakota on Saturday, Dec. 14 at noon in the quarterfinals.



hockey finishing sixth in the America East.

"We are grateful to the Mountain West Conference membership for this incredible opportunity and for sharing our vision of academic and athletics excellence," said UC Davis Director of Athletics Rocko DeLuca. "Our campus leadership, students, Aggie alumni, fans, the Davis

community and the broader Sacramento region all recognize the unique spirit of UC Davis and carry Aggie Pride with them each and every day. They have invested their time, talent and resources in supporting our growth, and the success of our fall sports is a clear reflection of those efforts. Now is the time to showcase Aggie Pride on a national stage, and the Mountain West's brand and strategy align perfectly with our aspirations."

Additional costs to support the transition, including travel, staffing and support services, will be primarily offset by increased revenues from ticket sales, donations, multimedia rights and, for the first time, revenue distributions from the conference. A ramp-up period of three to four years is anticipated before revenues fully reach projected levels. The university does not plan to use existing institutional funds to support the transition.

Starting no later than the 2026-27 academic year, the Mountain West will feature the United States Air Force Academy; University of California, Davis; Grand Canyon University; University of Hawaii at Mānoa; University of Nevada, Reno; University of New Mexico; San José State University; University of Nevada, Las Vegas; University of Texas, El Paso and the University of Wyoming. ★

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

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

All American Pro Construction & Restoration
Family-owned & operated.
We offer Veterans & Senior Discounts
Great Craftsmanship & Customer Service

Specializing in Kitchen & Bath Remodels, Water Damage, plus Much More.
BIG or SMALL, We Do It All. Give Us a Call.
916-504-0188

CSLB# 1089369, Licensed, Bonded & Insured

Patch Masters Drywall
Acoustic Removal & Drywall Textures

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

Mike Church
Owner
CA Lic# 1004984
Bonded & Insured

(916) 847-7783
PatchMastersDrywall@yahoo.com
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

CASH for Diabetic Supplies

CONTACT 916 505-4673

- We come to you
- We pickup in 1 hour or less
- We buy other items
- We pay the most!

WE PICK UP AND PAY YOU CASH ON THE SPOT

BRIAN OLSON
OWNER
License #982398

916-912-0293
info@olsonswoodworx.com
olsonswoodworx.com

CUSTOM CABINETS CRAFTED JUST FOR YOU!

Mr. Handyman
Home Improvement Professionals

Professional • Safe • Reliable • Fully Insured
(916) 487-8655
www.mrhandyman.com/arden-arcade

SENIOR DISCOUNTS!

SMOOT LANDSCAPING LANDSCAPES & DESIGN

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

916-454-1300
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

Local Classifieds Advertise in your local community newspaper Call 916-773-1111

Announcement

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-424-7581 (Cal-SCAN)

Computer Service

Zinsky's
PC Configurations
"Don't replace it - REPAIR IT!"
Custom Desktop Computer Configurations
• PC Repair • Home Wireless Networking
• Installations • Virus & Spyware Eradication

Alan Zinsky
Phone: 916-622-2269
Zconfig@sbglobal.net
Bus. Lic. # 305312 • B. E. A. R. Reg. #84816
www.zinskyspcrepair.com

Health/Wellness

Attention: VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! A cheaper alternative to high drugstore prices! 50 Pill Special - Only \$99! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW: 1-888-256-9155 (Cal-SCAN)

JOIN FOR FREE - NO KITS OR QUOTES & FREE WEBSITE. CTFO (Changing The Future Outcome) Has the best CBD oil available. Products for health, beauty, weight or hair loss and even for your pets. Check out these products: canderson.mycfto.com (TFN)

Insurance/Health

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-844203-2677 www.dental50plus.com/calnews #6258 (Cal-SCAN)

Home Warranty

Don't Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Our home warranty covers ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. We stand by our service and if we can't fix it, we'll replace it! Pick the plan that fits your budget! Call: 1-855-411-1731 (Cal-SCAN)

Miscellaneous

DID YOU KNOW Newspaper-generated content is so valuable it's taken and repeated, condensed, broadcast, tweeted, discussed, posted, copied, edited, and emailed countless times throughout the day by others? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecelia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

Roofing

BERNARDINO ROOFING
Reroofs, Repairs, Maintenance, Dryrot, Gutters, Family Operated. BBB MEMBER!

FREE ESTIMATES
SENIOR DISCOUNTS
Lic.#817945 43 Years Experience
916.920.0100
www.bernardinoroofing.com

Are You a Pro?
Get the word out!

Advertise in the Classifieds
Call 916-773-1111

Cellular Plans

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-844-908-0605 (Cal-Scan)

Help Wanted

SK Hynix NAND Product Solutions Corp (DBA Solidigm) has an opening in Rancho Cordova, CA for Qlty Reliability Eng. Dev & mntn qlty & rblty stndrds for procssng mtrls. MS+6 months exp rqd. Salary Range: \$99,486-\$128,577. Telecom permit. To apply email resume to HRresumes@solidigm.com and ref job #6544763 (12/20/24)

SK Hynix NAND Product Solutions Corp DBA Solidigm has an opening in Rancho Cordova, CA for System Validation Eng. Creat, define & dev syst vldtn. MS+1 yr exp rqd. Salary Range: \$97,531-\$120,050. Telecom may be permit. When not telecom, must rprt to wrksite. To apply email resume to HRresumes@solidigm.com & ref job#7643972 (12/20/24)

Home Remodel

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/29/24.) Call 1-833-985-4766 (Cal-SCAN)

Landscaping

CREATE YOUR PARADISE

Winter Yard Cleanups, Complete Landscape Design/Installation, Sprinkler System Installs/Repairs, All Types Concrete Work, Fence Installation, Retaining Walls- All Types, Drainage Systems-all types, Landscape Lighting, Residential/commercial

American Landscape Design & Installation. Est 1987
American Construction & Property Maintenance Company
WE ACCEPT VISA & MASTER CARD
(916)612-0776

Miscellaneous

The difference in winning and losing market share is how businesses use their advertising dollars. CNPA's Advertising Services' power to connect to nearly 13 million of the state's readers who are an engaged audience, makes our services an indispensable marketing solution. For more info call Cecelia @ (916) 288-6011 or cecelia@cnpa.com

Music Lessons

Guitar Lessons
Beginner to Advanced . \$20/ half-hour; \$30 full hour. 916-507-6658, freddiebbalbert@gmail.com (12/31/2024)

Tree Service

BP TREE SERVICES LLC.

TREE & STUMP REMOVAL
TREE TRIMMING/ SHAPING
FREE ESTIMATE
10% OFF WITH THIS AD
Insured, Workman's comp, Arborist
916-722-6321
BPTreeServices.com
VISA / MASTER CARD
California Contractors Lic #1036031

Elder Care

GoGo. Live and age your way. Get help with rides, groceries, meals and more. Memberships start as low as \$1 per day. Available 24/7 nationwide. BBB Rated A+ Business. Call GoGo to get started. 1-855-476-0033 (Cal-SCAN)

KP International MARKET

Many Positions are Available. Please no phone calls. Apply in person.
10971 Olson Dr.
Rancho Cordova,
CA 95670

Home Repair

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-877-252-9868 (Cal-SCAN)

YARD SERVICE

ONE-TIME CLEANUP
Mow, Weed, Prune & Haul
NEED: Landscaping bark?
Gutters cleaned?
Light fence work?
Call 916/205-9310
or 916/627-9000

Real Estate

RETIRED COUPLE \$\$\$\$ for business purpose Real Estate loans. Credit unimportant. V.I.P. Trust Deed Company www.viploan.com Call 1-818-248-0000. Broker-principal DRE 01041073. No consumer loans. (Cal-SCAN)

We Support Our Military

Financial

Struggling with debt? If you have over \$10,000 in debt we help you be debt free in as little as 24-48 months. Pay nothing to enroll. Call Now: 1-877-435-4860 (Cal-SCAN)

Hall Rentals

VFW Post 6158

8990 Kruithof Way,
Fair Oaks, CA
916-966-1663
vfw6158.org/rent-our-hall/
Advertising Works!

Need Help? Hire a Pro!

GOT LOCAL NEWS?
Call
(916) 773 1111

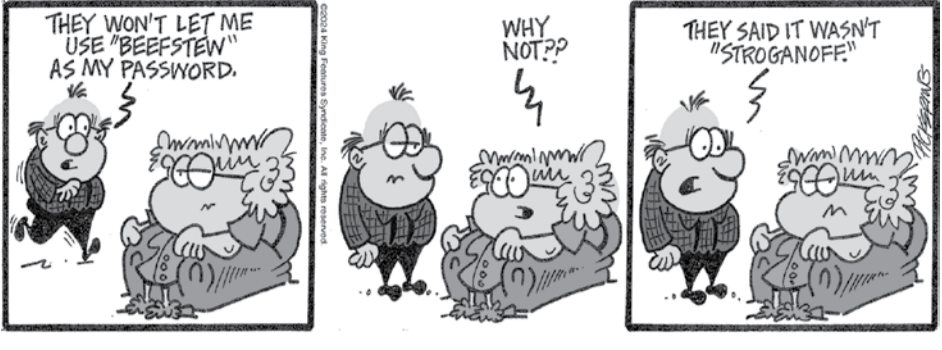
MPG

RETIRED COUPLE
HAS \$1MIL TO LEND ON CA. REAL ESTATE*
V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY
Buys T.D.s and Buys/Lends on Partial Interests
OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING
Principal (818) 248-0000 Broker
WWW.VIPLAN.COM *Sufficient equity required - no consumer loans
Real Estate License #01041073 CA Department of Real Estate, NMLS #339217
Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional discount loans

COMICS & PUZZLES

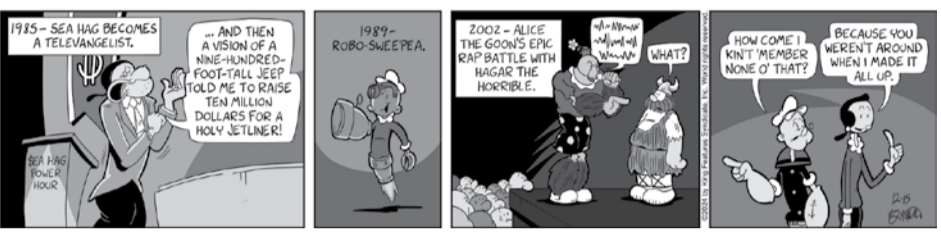
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



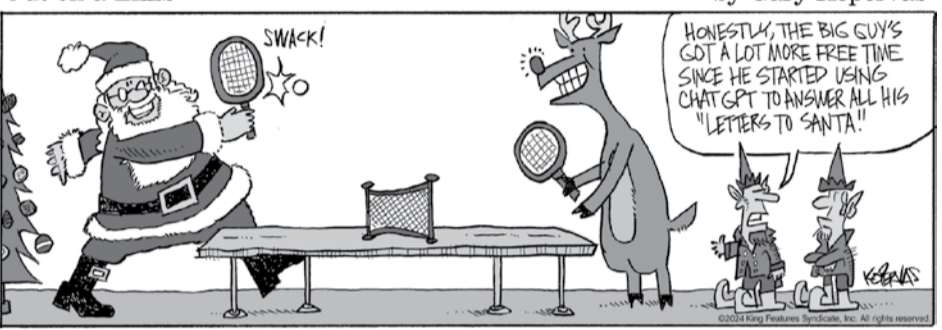
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



HOCUS-FOCUS

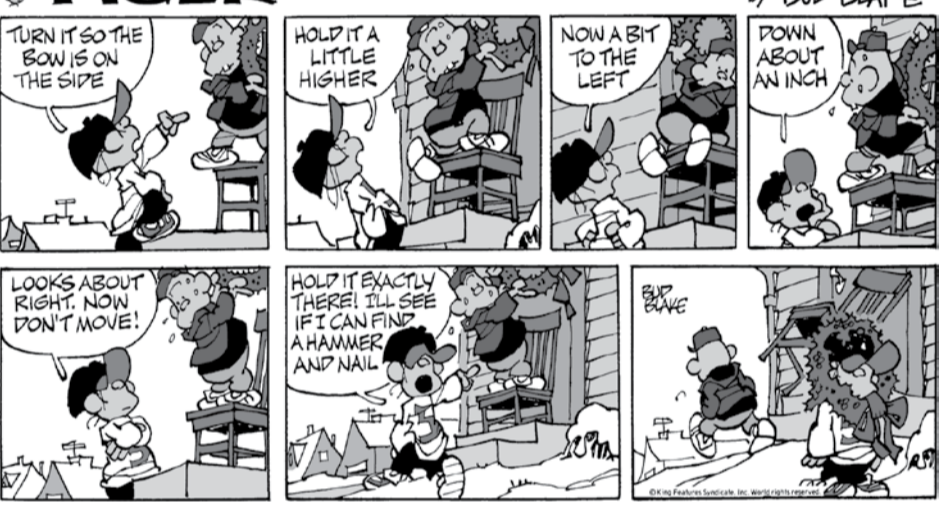
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



GRIN & BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | L | E | P | H | O | R | C | P | L | E | A | |
| R | E | T | R | O | B | A | R | N | O | O | K | S |
| C | A | N | O | N | E | M | U | E | G | R | E | T |
| F | A | M | I | L | Y | S | E | C | O | N | D | I |
| O | N | O | W | H | E | T | | | | | | |
| T | W | O | G | O | T | O | L | A | P | T | O | P |
| O | O | P | S | M | A | R | C | R | U | R | A | L |
| Q | U | I | P | S | U | S | H | I | P | I | T | A |
| U | L | N | A | R | T | H | E | N | S | T | E | T |
| E | D | E | M | A | S | I | F | F | Y | E | N | E |
| B | U | R | P | R | O | E | | | | | | |
| C | U | I | S | I | N | E | M | A | I | T | R | E |
| I | N | D | I | E | C | O | Y | C | H | A | R | M |
| G | I | L | D | S | A | W | N | K | Y | R | I | E |
| S | T | Y | E | P | E | A | S | L | E | E | T | |

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • AT THE RESTAURANT

- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Bet's predecessor
 - Ogre-like creature
 - Attorney's bargain
 - Old but in
 - *Restaurant waiting area?
 - Located near crannies?
 - List of Catholic saints
 - Down Under runner
 - White heron
 - * ____ meal, or staff meal
 - *Meat and fish, in Italian restaurant
 - Singer/songwriter Yoko
 - *What appetizers do to appetite
 - *Deuce
 - Like a reliable move
 - Not a desktop
 - *My bad!
 - Painter Chagall
 - Beyond suburban
 - Wisecrack
 - *Nigiri, e.g.
 - *Middle Eastern bread
 - Of an arm bone
 - That time
 - Let it stand, to proofreader
 - Swellings
 - Chancy
 - Between E and NE
 - Stomach reflex
 - *Fish eggs
 - *Second C in CDC
 - * ____ d'hotel
 - Not mainstream, as in art
 - *To His ____ Mistress
 - Bracelet add-on
 - Covers with gold
 - Stiff grass bristle
 - Irving of Dallas Mavericks
 - Eyelid affliction
 - Fairytales princess test
 - Winter driving hazard
- DOWN**
- Curved one
 - Table extender
 - Sicilian erupter
 - Movie trailer, e.g.
 - Perfecting, as in skill
 - Toe the line
 - Popular pickup
 - Puppy love
 - Jumping stick
 - Forsaken
 - Barely got by
 - Spumante-producing town
 - Greek god's libation
 - Rumpelstiltskin's machine, pl.
 - *Freshwater staple in sushi restaurant
 - Idolize
 - *Chef's hat
 - Modified "will"
 - Offer two cents
 - Drawn tight
 - Baby porcupines
 - Commonplace
 - Like Cheerios
 - *Blue- ____ special
 - Unsubscriber's focus
 - * ____ de partie, or line cook
 - ____ structure or

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | |
| 13 | | | | | 14 | | | 15 | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | 17 | | | 18 | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | 20 | | | 21 | 22 | | | |
| 23 | | | | | 24 | | | | | | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | | 28 | 29 | | | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 |
| 35 | | | 36 | | 37 | | | 38 | | 39 | | |
| 40 | | | | | 41 | | | 42 | | 43 | | |
| 44 | | | | | 45 | | | 46 | | 47 | | |
| 48 | | | | | 49 | | | 50 | | 51 | | 52 |
| 53 | | | | | 54 | | | 55 | | 56 | | |
| 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | | | | | 61 | | 62 | 63 | |
| 64 | | | | | 65 | 66 | | 67 | | | | 68 |
| 69 | | | | | 70 | | | 71 | | | | |
| 72 | | | | | 73 | | | 74 | | | | |

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

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

SUDOKU

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

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

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

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS

MPG

- red
- Cujo's disease
- Ray shooter
- Foxhunter's call to hounds
- Short version C2H5
- Marlboros or Camels, slangily
- Army group
- Lazily
- *Complimentary dish
- Asian starling
- *Steak choice
- Great Lake
- Be in the red
- Were introduced

Keep Your Pets Safe During the Holidays



Small and Mighty Women's Club Issues Call to Action Reviving the Veteran's Appreciation Picnic

By Patsy McGavock,
JustServe.org

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Nearing 50 years of serving and supporting Citrus Heights, the Citrus Heights Women's Club invites the community to join them in compassion and service, starting by reviving the Veteran's Appreciation Picnic.

Planning meetings are expected to begin in late January. Find details in a future Citrus Heights Messenger or by attending a club meeting. Regular meetings are the first Wednesday of each month at noon at the Sylvan Community Center, 7521 Community Drive. To be notified of periodic evening zoom meetings, contact the club directly.

The first Veteran's Appreciation Picnic, held in 2010, was inspired by two Vietnam veterans' wives, who watched their husbands endure the hardships of returning from an unpopular war. Under then-President Carol Spiker's collaborative leadership, the event grew into a thriving appreciation and veteran resource expo. The American Legion partnered as co-chairs, with city groups, organizations and businesses joining the effort.

Past Messenger articles describe the Citrus Heights Community Marching Band welcoming multigenerational ensembles of honored veterans with patriotic music as they entered over the Veteran's Grove covered bridge. There was food and fun, roaming entertainers, veteran's resource tables and games children. There was also remembrance two "missing man" tables, one for fallen veterans and one for police.

This gathering, like many, ended in 2020 in the wake

of COVID-19 lockdowns. Spiker says it's time to revive this tradition.

Currently, the Citrus Heights Women's Club is a small but dedicated group inviting everyone, women and men, to join them in rebuilding.

"While we are a women's club, we do not discriminate," said outgoing club President Jeanmarie Willbee. "We all work together."

Dedicated to enhancing lives through hands-on service, the club supports cultural, educational and social well-being through local, national and global efforts. Spiker recalled a time when the club considered becoming purely social.

"I told them, 'You can't do that! This organization is too important!'" she said, citing what women's clubs have done. That included the first library in Roseville, one of many Carnegie-funded libraries initiated by a women's club, and the veteran's rose garden in Citrus Heights. Over the years, the club has raised funds for high school scholarships and supported veterans and first responders.

"We got to work," Spiker said. "I recruited everywhere I went. Many joined solely for business networking, yet a dedicated core remained as they experienced the collaboration and service."

COVID-19 significantly impacted membership and funding.

"We didn't come back the same," said Elise Spleiss.

Today, the club primarily supports other organizations while rebuilding its own programs. A city grant continues to fund their Friendship Bags project, through which members deliver essentials and fun

items to seniors in assisted living and Meals on Wheels. Plans include oncology patients and hospitalized children, if the club reaches additional sponsors.

"We'd like to return to our traditional events, starting with the Veteran's Appreciation Picnic," said Willbee. "We are seeking dedicated women to join us."

Reflecting on her own club's recent growth, Orangevale Woman's Club President Judy Elston said, "There is space here where every member can grow, contribute and shine." She credited the club's "collective spirit and empowering nature" with helping her develop the confidence to lead. The Orangevale Club, established in 1913, is now one of the largest in the area.

"There are things we want to do to impact our community," said Willbee. "Because we love it. People feel how we care about them — appreciated, loved, safe, less alone. We want to continue that work and are asking you to join us."

If this article has stirred your volunteer spirit or Citrus Heights pride, the Women's Club might be the community connection for you. Begin by attending a meeting or collaborating on the Veteran's Appreciation Picnic. More information will be available soon in the Citrus Heights Messenger.

Get Connected: Email: CitrusHeightsWomensClub@gmail.com.

Text: Jeanmarie Willbee (iPhone): 916-712-3256 or Elise Spleiss (Android): 916-498-4541.

Patsy McGavock is a volunteer writer seeking to inform, empower and engage readers with their community. She can be reached at PatsyMcGavock.JustServe@gmail.com. ★



Take a cute holiday photo together, give them a special gift or spend extra time snuggling to show how much they mean to you. Image by Oli R from Pixabay

Sacramento County News Release

The holiday season is a time for joy, celebration and spending time with loved ones — including our furry, feathered and scaly family members. However, this festive time can also bring unique challenges and hazards for pets. By taking a few precautions, you can ensure your pet stays safe, comfortable and stress-free while enjoying the holiday spirit.

Decorate with Care

Holiday decorations add charm, but they can pose risks to pets.

Christmas Trees: Secure your tree to prevent it from tipping over if your pet gets curious. Avoid using tinsel, which can cause intestinal blockages if ingested.

Ornaments: Keep fragile or small ornaments out of reach. Opt for shatterproof decorations on the lower branches.

Lights and Wires: Tape down wires and unplug lights when you're not home to prevent chewing accidents.

Candles: Use flameless candles to avoid burns or fires if a tail or paw knocks them over.

Watch What They Eat

Holiday meals often include foods that can be harmful to pets.

Toxic Foods: Avoid giving your pet chocolate, grapes, raisins, onions, garlic and anything sweetened with xylitol.

Bones: Cooked bones can splinter and cause serious injuries. Offer pet-safe treats instead.

Alcohol: Keep alcoholic drinks out of reach — even small amounts can be toxic to pets.

If you want to include your pet in the festivities, prepare a special holiday treat just for them, like a dog-friendly "pupcake" or some plain, cooked turkey (without seasoning or bones).

Provide a

Stress-Free Environment

With guests coming and going, homes can become chaotic during the holidays. Create a calm, safe space for your pet.

Safe Spaces: Set up a quiet room or corner with their bed, toys and water where they can retreat if they feel overwhelmed.

Guests: Remind visitors to keep doors and gates closed and to ask before offering food or treats to your pet.

Fireworks and Noise: If your holiday

celebrations include loud noises like fireworks, consider using calming aids such as white noise machines, anxiety vests or pet-safe CBD oil (with vet approval).

Traveling with Pets

If you're traveling for the holidays and bringing your pet along, make sure they're travel-ready.

Car Safety: Use a pet seatbelt, carrier or barrier to keep them secure.

Pet Identification: Ensure your pet has an updated ID tag and microchip.

Packing: Bring their food, water, medications and a few comfort items, such as a favorite blanket or toy.

If leaving your pet at home with a sitter, provide detailed care instructions and emergency contact information.

Be Mindful of Plants

Many holiday plants are toxic to pets, including Poinsettias, which are mildly toxic and can cause irritation if ingested; Mistletoe and Holly, which can cause severe gastrointestinal upset or worse if consumed; and lilies, which are extremely toxic to cats, even in small amounts.

Opt for pet-safe alternatives or artificial plants to avoid any accidental nibbles.

Monitor Outdoor Time

If you live in a cold climate, limit your pet's exposure to chilly weather.

Protective Gear: Use pet sweaters, coats and booties for dogs who need extra warmth.

De-Icers: Avoid letting pets walk on areas treated with salt or chemical deicers, which can irritate paws or be toxic if licked. Rinse their paws after walks.

Keep an Eye on Your Pet's Health

The holiday season can be unpredictable, so monitor your pet for any unusual behavior or symptoms of distress. If your pet eats something potentially harmful or shows signs of illness, contact your veterinarian or an emergency pet clinic immediately.

Don't Forget to Include Them in the Fun!

The holidays are all about family, so don't forget to involve your pet in the festivities. Take a cute holiday photo together, give them a special gift or spend extra time snuggling to show how much they mean to you.

By taking these simple steps, you can ensure your holidays are not only merry and bright but also safe for your beloved pets. Wishing you and your furry family a joyful and safe holiday season! ★

Society For the Blind Announces Vision Forward Initiative Launch

Kristin Thebaud
Communications
News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Society for the Blind recently launched its \$1-million Vision Forward Initiative at its 70th anniversary celebration.

The three-year initiative will increase the nonprofit organization's capacity to meet growing demand for services, create a resource and learning center on the second floor of the group's Midtown Sacramento building and build Society for the Blind's endowment to respond to new opportunities and challenges. To donate, visit www.SocietyfortheBlind.org/Donate.

"Our Vision Forward Initiative will ensure our clients of all ages have access to our services for years to come," said Shari Roeseler, Society for the Blind executive director. "This will help us serve more people, reduce wait times, offer the latest assistive technologies, and quickly respond and adapt to meet the needs of our clients."

The initiative was announced to 300 event guests gathered to



Shari Roeseler of Society for the Blind and event emcee Cristina Mendonsa announce the \$1-million Vision Forward Initiative launch at the nonprofit's 70th anniversary gala. Photo courtesy of Kristin Thebaud Communications

celebrate Society for the Blind's 70th anniversary and its 2024 Briggs Award honoree, Retinal Consultants Medical Group, for extraordinary contributions to eye care in the community. The event raised more than \$375,000 as seed funding for the Vision Forward Initiative.

Sacramento-based Society for the Blind continues to create innovative ways to empower individuals living with low vision or blindness to discover, develop and achieve their full potential. Since 1954, Society for the Blind has grown

from a dedicated group of volunteers to a nationally recognized agency and the only comprehensive rehabilitative teaching center that provides services for a 27-county region of Northern California and the state of Nevada.

The nonprofit organization provides low-vision eye care, life and job skills training, mentorship and access to tools to maintain independence for more than 5,000 youth, working-age adults and seniors in the region experiencing vision loss each year.

To learn more or make a donation, visit www.SocietyfortheBlind.org. ★

National Homeless Persons Memorial Day Vigil to be Held Dec. 21



Participants in the 2023 Homeless Persons Memorial Day vigil begin to gather for the two-block walk to the local fire station and back. Alfred Sanchez, left, leads the silent vigil. Courtesy photo

By Elise Spleiss

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - National Homeless Persons Memorial Day is observed annually on Dec. 21, which is also the winter solstice and the shortest day of the year. This day is set aside to remember and honor individuals who have died while experiencing homelessness.

The National Coalition for the Homeless, the National HealthCare for the Homeless Council and the National Consumer Advisory Board encourage communities to hold events and ceremonies to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives.

The vigil serves as a tragic reminder that homelessness is a matter of life or death. The first National Homeless Persons Memorial Day was commemorated in 1990.

Alfred Sanchez, also known as Snack Man, a Citrus Heights advocate for homeless residents, will lead another Homeless Persons Memorial Day vigil at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21. Those who would like to join the vigil are invited to meet at Adalberto's Restaurant, 6171 Greenback Lane for the short two-block silent walk to the local fire station and back.

Contact Sanchez for more information at 916-517-6207. ★

Citrus Heights Police Chief Alex Turcotte Honored with Stones 21 Award

Continued from page 1 of the city, carrying on the tradition of strong community involvement.

After guests arrived, Schayltz introduced Turcotte. He read that the award "is presented to a member of the community who has shown commitment and dedication to the advancement of the city of Citrus Heights, with a history of leadership and who has demonstrated a passion for making a difference."

Turcotte thanked Schayltz, acknowledging Stone's strong support for the police department, military and fire service and its support of the Police Activities League (PAL) and service clubs.

Schayltz noted Turcotte came to Citrus Heights in October 2006 as a patrol officer and "has been with us for 18 years." Turcotte was past president of the Rotary Club and has been working with Paul Reyes and Post 637 on the creation of a permanent replica of the Vietnam wall in Citrus Heights.

Under the leadership of Chris Boyd, Frost said, Turcotte and Boyd were always interwoven as part of the community. Under Boyd's leadership, Turcotte worked his way up quickly in every position while creating Police Activities League and other ways to work with the city's youth, showing them that the police are "the good guys."

Turcotte introduced his family, relaying with damp eyes that "my dad is my hero" and taught him his work ethic, saying, "Don't quit until the job is done." His mother taught him to "question everything... and make sure you check your facts."



Alex Turcotte, far left, received many certificates of recognition. Photo courtesy of Stones Gambling Hall

Turcotte thanked his boss, City Manager Feeney. He noted there is now a heavy focus on quality of life in the city. Feeney, the City Council and other colleagues "have been in lockstep to make the city brighter and better. We have problems but never lack support!"

The foundation of the police department has been grounded in that community partnership and police philosophy.

"We don't take no for an answer or worry about what the legislature's trying to do to us. We just get out there and get the job done," Turcotte said.

Turcotte thanked Commanders Kris Frey and Mike Wells for running the place for him when necessary.

"And to our command staff: you are creating an environment that makes our staff successful. The real true heroes aren't here tonight because the true heroes are out there keeping the drunks off the road and protecting our businesses," he added.

On a more personal note, Turcotte's mother said, "We're very proud of him. We had no idea when he

moved up here in 2006 how fast everything was going to take place. He has been involved in the police department at every single level and has brought so much into the department."

Turcotte, when asked by the newspaper about receiving this award, responded on Dec. 16 with grace.

"Receiving the 2024 Stones 21 award is a great honor," Turcotte said. "I am blessed to have spent the past 18 years at CHPD, working with some of the best law enforcement professionals in the business. Their passion for safeguarding life, protecting property, and improving the quality of life for our community has led to wonderful innovations and success. Our City Council, city manager and city directors share this passion and provide exceptional collaboration and support. Our residents and business owners take pride in their city and are not afraid to pitch in and help make the community a little better every day. I count myself lucky to have the opportunity to lead such a fine agency and look forward to the success the future will bring for Citrus Heights." ★

JC Penney Burglary Investigation

By MPG Staff

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Authorities are investigating a burglary that took place early Sunday morning Dec. 15, at the JC Penney store in Sunrise Mall.

According to the Citrus Heights Police Department, officers were dispatched to the store at approximately 7:45 a.m. Dec. 15 after a Sunrise Mall security guard reported a break-in. Upon arrival, officers conducted a search of the store but did not locate any suspects.

Investigators discovered that a man used a Chevrolet Silverado to drive through the store's entrance doors before making his way to the jewelry section. The suspect allegedly took an undisclosed amount of jewelry before leaving the scene in the same vehicle.

Further investigation revealed that the Chevrolet Silverado used in the burglary had been stolen from the Roseville Auto Mall prior to the incident. Authorities

located the vehicle just outside Citrus Heights and it is currently being processed by crime scene investigators.

"The safety of our community is our top priority. This type of bold and reckless crime not only threatens the safety of our community but also impacts the hard-working businesses that are the heartbeat of Citrus Heights. Our commitment to justice is unwavering and we will use every resource available to hold those responsible accountable," said Citrus Heights Police Investigations Lt. Wesley Herman.

Citrus Heights Police detectives and crime scene investigators are actively working on the case. Anyone with information about the theft is encouraged to contact the department's Crime Tip Line at 916-727-5524.

Those who wish to remain anonymous can contact the Sacramento Valley Crime Stoppers tip hotline at 916-443-HELP. Tips leading to an arrest might be eligible for a cash reward. ★

Judge Lindquist Designated Presiding Judge of Sacramento County Juvenile Court



Judge Kristina Lindquist has been named the new Presiding Judge over Sacramento County's Juvenile Court. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County Superior Court

Sacramento County Superior Court News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Superior Court Judge Kristina B. Lindquist will serve as Presiding Judge over Sacramento County's Juvenile Court.

Judge Lindquist had been serving as interim Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court with the elevation of Judge Dena M. Coggins to the federal bench in September.

"I want to thank Judge Lindquist for her recent work in the Juvenile Division and am pleased to make her assignment as Presiding Judge permanent, effective immediately," said Superior Court Presiding Judge Bunmi O. Awoniyi, who signed the order effective Nov. 12.

Former Gov. Jerry Brown appointed Judge Lindquist to the Sacramento County bench in 2018. Since then, she has presided over traffic arraignments, trials, juvenile dependency, and delinquency matters.

Before joining the judiciary, Judge Lindquist

served as the deputy legal affairs secretary for the Office of the Governor, advising on criminal justice issues such as prison inmates' parole consideration and the commutation of sentences. She remained in that position until Brown's term as governor ended.

Previously, Judge Lindquist served as tax counsel at the State Board of Equalization and worked as staff counsel at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Judge Lindquist received a B.A. in philosophy and European studies from the University of Notre Dame. She completed a J.D. from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in 2007. ★

KP International MARKET
 FOOD COURT NOW OPEN
 10971 Olson Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
 916.853.8000
 Market: 7 Days 8am - 8pm
 Food Court: 7 Days 11am - 7:30pm
 Korean: Mon - Wed 7:30am - 12:30pm
 Chinese/Japanese: 4:00pm - 12:30am

FREE PHOTO WITH SANTA!
 12/15-12/25
 10AM-8PM FOOD COURT

HOLIDAY HOURS WE ARE OPEN
 Thanksgiving (11/28) 8AM-4PM
 Christmas (12/25) 8AM-4PM
 New Years (1/1) 8AM-4PM
 KP Employee Party 12/11 Wed
 Store Closes at 7pm

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Seasoned Pollock Roe 1 lb REG. 17.99/EA **\$11.99/ea**

Shirakiku Sweet Rice Cake 195 g REG. 4.99/EA **\$1.99/ea**

WEEKLY MEAT SPECIALS

Beef Cross Rib/Shoulder Roast-Brls **\$4.59/lb**

Beef Ribeye Roast - Boneless **\$6.89/lb**

Boneless & Skinless Chicken Thigh Meat **\$2.29/lb**

Chicken Breast Tenders - IQF 2.5/lbs Bag **\$8.99/ea**

Pork Loin Roast Boneless **\$2.99/lb**

Pork St. Louis Ribs - Single Pack **\$3.99/lb**

WEEKLY HALAL SPECIALS

Boneless & Skinless Chicken Thigh Meat **\$2.49/lb**

Australian Lamb Shoulder Chops **\$2.99/lb**

Beef Cross Rib/Shoulder Roast-Brls **\$4.79/lb**

FRESH PRODUCE

American Cucumber **59¢/lb**

Blueberry Pint **\$2.99/ea**

Aloe Vera **79¢/lb**

Celery Sleeved **\$1.19/ea**

Assorted Mushroom 14 oz **\$2.99/ea**

Young Thai Coconut 9 ct **\$15.99/ea**

Kabocha **79¢/lb**

Orange Navel 10 lbs **\$5.99/ea**

AMERICAN/HISPANIC GROCERY

La Fiesta Chile California Entero 8 oz **\$4.99/ea**

Hawaiian Punch Fruit Drinks 128 oz **\$2.99/ea**

Chamari Tomato Cocktail 64 oz **\$4.99/ea**

Milo Choco Milk Beverage Mix 3.5 lbs **\$19.99/ea**

Walkers Mini Scottish Shortbread 5.3 oz **\$2.99/ea**

ASIAN GROCERY

Chestnuts Roasted & Peeled 5.29 ct **\$1.99/ea**

Lee Kum Kee Sriracha Mayo 15 oz **\$4.59/ea**

Bony Chili Bamboo Shoots 12 oz **\$3.69/ea**

Edison's Lite Chery Pie Regular & Black Sugar 12x28 g **\$10.99/ea**

Elen Cheese Queso Cheese 430g, 500g **\$1.99/ea**

T.L.S Coconut Whisk 16.9 Ltr / Box **\$3.49/ea**

EUROPEAN GROCERY

Safal Special Blend Tea with Cardamom 100 T/B **\$11.99/ea**

Karvika Sterilized Condensed Milk 8.5% 380 gr **\$2.99/ea**

Safal Pickled Cucumbers in Brine 3 kg **\$8.99/ea**

Santa Brewer Lightly Salted Herring Fillets in Oil 1 kg **\$12.99/ea**

Big Sprouts in Oil 240 gr **\$2.49/ea**

KOREAN/JAPANESE GROCERY

Miraf 7 Grains 4 lbs **\$6.99/ea**

Korean Red Ginseng Drink 20 x 50 ml **\$15.99/ea**

Dried Cooked Shrimp 4 oz **\$9.99/ea**

Dried Seaweed & Dried Seaweed 150 g **\$4.99/ea**

Lite Chery Pie Regular & Black Sugar 12x28 g **\$2.99/ea**

Honey Citrus Tea 1 kg **\$5.99/ea**

Tempo Shabu Shabu Soup Base 200 g **\$1.99/ea**

Small Dashi Udon Spicy Seasoned 430 g **\$4.99/ea**

Korea Dashi Seasoned 12x4g **\$3.99/ea**

Asai Kimchi Soft Tofu Soup 550 g **\$3.99/ea**

Java Curry Sauce Mix 2 kinds 155 g **\$3.49/ea**

Kabaya Roasted Sesame Oil 56 oz **\$15.99/ea**

Kewpie Mayonnaise 500 g **\$4.99/ea**

HOUSEWARES

BIGEN SPEEDY HAIR COLOR (REFILL ONLY) **\$7.99/ea**

ELECTRIC BBQ GRILL **\$39.99/ea**

KAIZEN MOK PAN 30 CM **\$14.99/ea**

WATERMELON SLICE KNIFE **\$3.99/ea**

ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (4.5QT) **\$49.99/ea**

ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (1.5QT) **\$54.99/ea**

ELECTRIC RICE COOKER (1.5QT) **\$59.99/ea**

FROZEN & FISH DEPT

Marukyo Meisaku 250 g REG. 6.99/EA **\$3.99/ea**

EUROPEAN DELI

Belmont German Ham **\$5.49/lb**

Ham Off the Bone **\$6.19/lb**

Pitted Olive Garlic Salad **\$5.79/lb**

Green Cracked Olives **\$4.59/lb**

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 DECEMBER 18 - DECEMBER 24, 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 DECEMBER 18 - DECEMBER 24, 2024.