

M Citrus Heights Messenger

"Written by the people, for the people"

Volume 2 Issue 17

Serving the City of Citrus Heights and Sacramento County

First Edition for September 2012

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Just Plane Awesome



In addition to delighting crowds with his aerobatic feats, Weber is an accomplished musician. Photo by Paul V. Scholl.

By Julie Parker

SACRAMENTO REGION - What were you doing at age 13? Tim Weber would ride his bicycle down to Phoenix's Turf Soaring School, where (pre-TSA) he could walk right up to personnel, help them wash airplanes, and whatever else they let him do. "It was awesome," recalls Weber. A year later, he was flying solo on a glider. He paid for lessons by working after school, weekends, and during the summer. "I traded ten hours of work for one lesson, which sometimes would be ten minutes. I still thought it was a great deal." Within a year after that, he was flying glider aerobatics, then performing competition aerobatics in powered airplanes. "I was too young to know any fear, and it was just a natural thing for me. Never got air sick." He now spends 20 weeks a year performing in air shows. His

aircraft has included ultralights, WWII biplanes, the legendary Pitts Special, Russian YAK55M, Extra 300's (one of Weber's favorite aerobatic planes), and several types of jets, including the F-16. "Wayne Handley and Sean Tucker are two guys I look up to. You always model yourself after somebody that's the best in the industry. Those two guys are as good as it gets. The airshow community is an extended family. It's an intense industry, and we share a bonding that no else can understand; sharing losses and successes together." In addition to delighting crowds with his aerobatic feats, Weber is an accomplished musician, supplying his own compositions to accompany his performances. (<http://vimeo.com/channels/timweberairshows>) You can catch Weber's Geico Aerobatics, Handley, and Tucker at the Seventh Annual California

Capitol Airshow, Mather Airport, on September 7 and 8, 2012. You'll enjoy Thunderbirds, aerobatics, barnstorming, inspecting the underbelly of a cargo ship and other assorted aircraft, and the Kids' Zone will be available for the younger crowd. Although last year's Reno air race tragedy may remain fresh in memories, it is important to understand that it was an air race, and Sacramento will be hosting an air show. "An accident like that is impossible at an airshow," says Weber, "because we're not allowed to direct our energy towards the audience in any way, shape, or form. Pilots don't fly over an audience below 1,000 feet, and it can't be aerobatic. We haven't had a spectator get injured, or even scratched, in an airshow in over 50 years in this country. Safest country in the world for airshows." Over the years, Weber has received a lot of mail, and email

from fans. The ones I'm always appreciative of are the ones from kids. Sometimes, it's heart-breaking. I've had notes from kids saying, 'I've been diagnosed with cancer, and I'm ten years old,' and it's written with crayons. 'I know if you can do what you're doing, I can make it through this.' It breaks your heart. But, there are people I met when they were little, that are now Air Force pilots who have stayed in touch with me. I love that. It's the neatest part of this whole business. One kid I'm thinking of in particular was about 15 when I met him." If you've never attended an airshow, or are a longtime fan, the Capital Airshow is a treat for all. Gates open at 9:00 a.m., and close at 5:00 p.m. All acts are scheduled for both days of the show. For ticket prices, parking information, and other questions, visit californiacapitalairshow.com.

Mosquito Control an Issue in Citrus Heights

By Leslie Carrara

CITRUS HEIGHTS—Area 10 (Sylvan Old Auburn Road or SOAR) residents received quite an education about the mosquito problems and life cycle of the pests presented by the manager of the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District. David Brown, manager for over 10 years, told the large gathering that female mosquitoes are the ones that draw blood as part of their reproductive process. They need the protein from blood to develop eggs. He went on to say that female mosquitoes are attracted to water, carbon dioxide and light. "The males, when they are not looking for females, are pretty stupid," he joked. "They go straight for the light."

He explained that there are 20 different species of mosquitoes in this area and some lay eggs in the ground, some in the water and some in trees. After the gal draws blood, she then drinks nectar from a plant. Then she produces 50-100 eggs. The bump produced by the female mosquito is actually an allergic reaction to the mosquito's saliva, Brown said. After the mosquito gnaws a hole in the skin with its nose, she then spits in the hole to prevent a scab from forming. She then draws the blood out. Some people can receive bites and not know it because they do not have an allergic reaction to the saliva. He also indicated that mosquitoes are the most dangerous animal on earth. In Africa, one million children die from malaria before they are six years old. Sacramento County sees 20 cases of malaria each year.

West Nile Virus arrived in Sacramento County in 2005. In June, Brown said, they found 200 dead birds a day that were infected with the disease, and by July of 2005, there 500 a day. He said that 80 per cent of people infected have no signs of the virus, while 20 per cent feel as if they have come down with the flu. Overall, one per cent of those infected have a neuro-invasive reaction, such as paralysis and/or swelling of the brain, which can cause death.

Finally, he said that when chickens get the virus, locating the source is easy because they do not fly. Chickens and turkeys have natural antibodies to fight off the virus. For horses, owners can get them vaccinated against it. Horses sometimes have to be put down because of the infection. Also, it is easy to pinpoint the source of heart worm producing mosquitoes in dogs as these mosquitoes only travel 50 feet. The West Nile carrying mosquitoes travel one to five miles.

New Law Requires Out-of-State Retailers to Collect Use Tax

SACRAMENTO – Beginning September 15, 2012, a new law takes effect (Stats. 2011, ch. 313 (AB 155) that expands the types of out-of-state retailers required to register with the California State Board of Equalization (BOE) and requires them to begin collecting and remitting use tax on sales of tangible personal property to California consumers. The law applies to out-of-state retailers that have substantial nexus with California consumers. This includes any out-of-state retailer that has sold more than \$1 million to California consumers in the past year and has had more than

\$10,000 in sales referred by an affiliate operating in California. "This new law may require some out-of-state online retailers to start collecting tax, but others will remain completely unaffected," said Board of Equalization Member George Runner. "The good news is that rather than engage in a costly, drawn-out legal fight, Amazon.com has decided to voluntarily invest in California and bring thousands of jobs to our state. I applaud their decision and hope other out-of-state companies will consider doing the same." The BOE is sending letters to more than 200 out-of-state

retailers notifying them about the new law. Retailers will be able to easily register online with the BOE's secure and innovative electronic registration system (eReg) and remit the tax collected by e-filing their returns. AB 155 does not create a new tax — the California Use Tax has been on the books since 1935. It expands the types of out-of-state retailers required to collect the tax. When AB 155 takes effect September 15, some additional out-of-state retailers, including Internet retailers, will collect the use tax at the point of sale, and California consumers will

begin to see a tax on their bill. However, if out-of-state retailers do not collect the tax, California consumers must continue to report and pay their use taxes. Consumers can pay directly to the BOE using eReg or pay on their California income tax returns with the option of using the Use Tax Lookup Table. AB 155 is expected to help the BOE collect tens of millions of dollars in use tax that will help pay for services such as public safety, schools and health care. The BOE does not have a precise estimate because AB 155 is a new law. Source: BOE Newsroom

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Camaraderie, Education and Relaxation Shared at Veteran's Resource Picnic



Sue Frost (L), a local Marine, and Ed Bly display the Freedom Quilt. Photo by J. Frost.

By Elise Spleiss

CITRUS HEIGHTS - The 3rd Annual Citrus Heights Veterans Appreciation and Resource Picnic is now a memory for approximately 500 Citrus Heights Veterans and their families. Hosted by American Legion Post 637 and GFWC Citrus Heights Women's Club, the event took place at Rusch on August 25.

We were blessed with good weather throughout the day. Festivities kicked off with the Citrus Heights Community Marching Band marching across the bridge in full regalia, playing the National Anthem and the songs of each branch of service. The Folsom Marine Corps Honor Guard presented arms. Greetings and recognition for our veterans commenced with an invocation by American Legion Chaplin Steve Bogart. Mayor Jeff Slowey, and City Council members Mel Turner and Jeannie Bruins recognized and thanked all our veterans for their service. American Legion Commander Paul Reyes read the poem I Know You, a disturbingly poignant "thank you" he wrote for Vietnam veterans.

Attendees enjoyed a barbecue lunch with all the trimmings and were entertained throughout the day by music and were entertained throughout the day by the music of Assorted Nuts, Dana & Jim Papastathis, Steve Stizzo and Larry Wood. Becca Danielson.

Volunteers from 25 Veteran resources and related organizations provided participants with valuable information on all benefits, education, finances, PTSD, reintegration into society, and much more.

One of the most moving is the FREEDOM QUILT, commissioned by Wayne Bellows, U.S. Army retired, and created and sponsored by the Sacramento Elks Lodge #6 in 2007. Created as a memorable tribute to accompany a group of Veterans traveling to the Vietnam Veteran's Wall in Arlington, Virginia, it arrived on Memorial Day, 2007. It now carries over 1,800

signatures of Servicemen and Servicewomen of all Service Branches from all wars and conflicts. Two memorable signatures are of 2 Bataan Death March POW's, acquired at the inaugural presentation and signing of the quilt at the Elks Lodge #6. The stories are endless and remind us all of who we are and where we've been in our country's history and our need to fight to preserve that. Signatures were added at the picnic and will continue to be until full.

A lot of Red was added to the mix with newcomers to the event, the Sacramento Marine Corps League, 23rd Detachment. Their red hats (covers) and jackets could not be missed throughout the grounds. The only federally chartered veteran's organization, their first charter was signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1937. A manifestation of the Marine's *Once A Marine always a Marine*, and an extension of "no man being left behind", "the Corps reaches out to all it's active and retired Marines and those of all Service Branches whenever needed. They "raise money for the various charities throughout our community of Sacramento who reach out to the many families of Active, Retired, Active Reservists, veterans and their families, and widows/widowers and orphans of those men and women who gave their lives for our freedom and liberties". Contact: Bob Edwards 916-952-9778.

Also adding color and character to the day were Civil War re-enactors Kevin Groom in his Confederate Navy uniform, and Karen Groom in an orange and black everyday 'visiting' hoop skirt dress.

In addition, picnickers were fascinated by the Service stories of 86-year-old Ed Bly, showing off his well fitting 1943 issue Navy whites and 91-year-old George Marks, US Army in World War II. Ed served in WWII and Korea, and briefly in Vietnam as a civil engineer. George served 4 years in North Africa, France and Germany as a radioman,

intercepting, interpreting and passing on enemy radio transmissions to his superiors.

Finally, showing their appreciation this year with their service to the vets were our local youth. A new sponsor this year was Sunrise Mall Certified Farmers Market by BeMoneySmartUSA who along with their produce, provided four hard working student volunteers who donated 130 combined volunteer hours to help make all phases of the picnic a success. Plans are already in the works for 2013!

Twelve girls of the Citrus Heights Queens and Princesses Scholarship Program provided face painting. Girl Scouts from Girl Scout Troop 858 helped serve lunch and performed other various tasks, and Boy Scout Troop 228 worked hard before, during and helping with clean up.

Jason Trimble 15, a Boy Scout with Troop 228 for 4 years, used this opportunity as a way to give back to the American Legion 637 who has been mentoring him throughout this time. Jason also took on the picnic as his required service project towards becoming an Eagle Scout. He demonstrated initiative and leadership as he took charge of 13 fellow scouts in the setting up, breaking down and clean up at the picnic, along with tasks during the event. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouting program.

Jason is following in the footsteps of Ed Bly, mentioned above. Ed attributes his acceptance into a specialized wartime officer's training program during WWII, and subsequently becoming an officer, to his being an Eagle Scout. His having earned this distinction told others he was hard working, and leadership material.

This picnic was a tribute to all our servicemen and servicewomen who have served our country and will continue to. For information on our resources or if you would like to be involved in 2013 contact Bill Muth at 207-5788.

City Seeking Facility Attendants and Facility Aides

CITRUS HEIGHTS - The City of Citrus Heights is seeking Facility Attendants and Facility Aides to assist the public with rental and use of its new state-of-the-art Community Center and its Civic Center complex facilities. These facilities will provide space for banquets, receptions and community meetings, as well as providing a center for teens and seniors.

The positions will be part of the Facilities Division of the General Services Department which oversees the maintenance and operation of City buildings, grounds, and facilities.

The specific work schedule(s) of a Facility Attendant and/or Facility Aide may vary based on the needs of City. These positions will be flexibly scheduled as needed, generally less than 20 hours per week. Part-Time employees are limited to working no more than 1,000 hours each fiscal year.

ABOUT THE POSITIONS

Facility Aide: Assists the public in the use of the Community Center and Civic Center complex facilities for scheduled events; prepares facilities for use

by private parties and community groups, sets up/takes down tables and chairs; performs minor maintenance and janitorial duties and set up of audio-visual systems.

Facility Attendant: In addition to the duties of a Facility Aide, Facility Attendants may be responsible to open and close rented facilities for daytime, evening, and weekend rentals; and to provide information to potential users regarding facility rentals and scheduling. Facility attendants may supervise other part-time staff and/or volunteers.

COMPENSATION

Facility Aide: \$8.32 per hour. No benefits are included.

Facility Attendant: \$10.81 per hour. No benefits are included.

APPLICATION PROCESS

This recruitment is open until filled. The City may choose to close the recruitment at any time if there is no longer a need for the position. To be considered for this position you must submit a completed, official City Employment Application and responses to a Supplemental Questionnaire. If you do not complete and submit all required information, your application may be disqualified

from further consideration.

ON-LINE APPLICATION: You may apply on-line by visiting www.CalOpps.org to complete the City Employment Application and Supplemental Questionnaire.

HARD COPY APPLICATION: You may obtain a hard copy Employment Application and Supplemental Questionnaire by visiting <http://jobs.citrusheights.net> and downloading these materials, or you may request these materials by calling the City's Recruitment Hotline at (916) 727-4900 or TDD (916) 725-6185. Submit hard copy application materials to: City of Citrus Heights/Human Resources, Attention: Facility Recruitment, 6237 Fountain Square Drive, Citrus Heights, CA 95621. No postmarked, faxed, or e-mailed materials will be accepted.

You may obtain additional information about this recruitment at <http://jobs.citrusheights.net>, or email hr@citrusheights.net, or call Human Resources at (916) 727-4900 or TDD (916) 725-6185.

MONTHLY MILITARY RETIREE/SPOUSE MEETING

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for 11 Sep 2012. Meeting location is the North Highlands Park and Recreation District, 6040 Watt Ave, North Highlands 95660. Our meeting starts promptly at 1030 hrs. Our speaker is Suzi

Vinci, Veterans Service Officer for the Disabled American Veterans organization. Come on out and enjoy a cup of coffee and some great fellowship. Questions can be referred to our volunteer staff at 916-923-4979, Mon thru Thurs, 9 to 3PM.

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Friday, Oct 19, 2012 - 11:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m.
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9189 E. Stockton Blvd., Elk Grove, CA 95624 (I-99 @ Laguna)
RSVP to MEL OSBORNE @ (916) 732-2031

Tuesday, September 25, 2012 - 11:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday, October 31, 2012 - 11:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 29, 2012 - 11:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m.
LOCATION: St. Francis Community Hall
6700 Verner Ave., Sacramento, CA 95841 (I-80 @ Greenback)
RSVP to LISA WEST @ (916) 732-2020

PRESENTER: Mel Osborne

PRESENTER: Josh Tuttle

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THANK A VETERAN TODAY

Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

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Citrus Heights Messenger

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Girl Scouts
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girl scouts

Parents, join us at one of these meetings
to find out how to join:

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OR

Tuesday, Sept 11th - 6:30 PM
Sylvan Oaks Library
6700 Auburn Blvd., Citrus Heights

Can't make it to an info meeting this month? Want to know more?
Contact Jodie at 916.453.5250 or jodie.hughes@girlscoutshcc.org

Visit us at www.girlscoutshcc.org or www.facebook.com/gshcc

This is not a program of the San Juan Unified School District and San Juan accepts no liability or responsibility for this program/event. Girl Scouts of the USA is a nonprofit serving all girls ages 5 to 17. It is not associated with Boy Scouts of America. For local Boy Scout information, call 916-929-1417.

What's Coming Up In Citrus Heights

Compiled by Leslie Carrara

Saturday Mornings year round, Farmers Market, Sunrise Mall behind Sears, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

September 8 - Sunrise at Night Concert Series featuring Kool and the Gang and the Commorores, tickets \$39.50 to \$82.50, 8 p.m. Sunrise Mall Grandstand

September 14 - Sunrise at Night Concert Series featuring Blondie and Devo, tickets \$39.50 to \$82.50, 8 p.m. Sunrise Mall Grandstand

September 15 - Citrus Town Saturday Nite Concerts featuring PointDexter, free, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Citrus Town Center off Greenback Lane.

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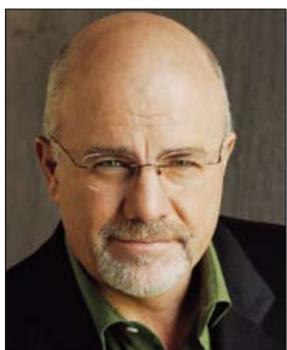
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Dave Says

you've got a little hooptie worth \$1,000 but by putting \$500 into it, you can have it up and running again. Suddenly it's worth \$2,500. That's money well-spent, because what you've done has significantly increased the value.

The other side is that at some point, the hassle factor of an old car can turn it into a money pit. If you can't get anywhere because the car's always busted, then you need to find something else for the sake of safety and reliability. If this happens, though, you should still pay cash for a better car. Even if you're not taking a step up in price or fanciness, it's still better than taking on a car payment. I'd walk or ride a bike everywhere before I did that!

- Dave

You Lacked Clarity

Dear Dave,

About 17 months ago, my wife and I allowed a lady who had lost her home to a fire to move into an empty house we own and had thought about selling. During that time she's made no effort to pay rent. My wife wants to write it all off and just give her the house and title, but I think she owe us something for putting a roof over her head. What do you think?

- Thomas

Dear Thomas,

Honestly, I think you handled this situation poorly from

the very beginning. From what you're telling me, you put her there originally on a charity basis, and now you want to change the deal. You didn't say anything about giving her a house, but you didn't set up a rental agreement either. And now you're acting like she owes you 17 months of back rent. I don't think so. I think that's on you.

Now, you have some decisions to make. Were you providing free housing to someone who was struggling, or were you providing a free house to someone who was struggling? I understand this lady has experienced a terrible tragedy, but even with that, I'm not hearing lots of evidence that she's moving toward gaining control and getting her life back together. You may be giving a drunk a drink, if after 17 months of this situation she's not back on her feet again and out on her own.

If it were me, I'd sit down with her and have a gentle talk. Let her know the last 17 months were a gift, but you want to see her making her way and winning at life again. Set a reasonable time limit, whether it's six months or even a year, and tell her you'll be selling the house at that point. This is fair to her and to you guys as well.

- Dave

**For more financial help, please visit daveramsey.com.*

Dave Ramsey is America's most trusted voice on money and business. He's authored four New York Times best-selling books: *Financial Peace*, *More Than Enough*, *The Total Money Makeover* and *EntreLeadership*. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 5,000,000 listeners each week on more than 500 radio stations. Follow Dave on Twitter at @DaveRamsey and on the web at daveramsey.com.

Fix it or Sell it?

Dear Dave,

My old car has been having lots of problems lately. Do you have any advice on how to decide when it's best to just fix an old car or get a newer one instead?

- Kristin

Dear Kristin,

This is a good question! Mathematically, the first thing to look at is the car's worth if you don't make repairs. Should you spend \$1,000 to increase the value of the vehicle \$500? Dumb question, right? At that point, you sell the car as-is and put the \$1,000 it would take to fix it toward something newer.

On the other hand, let's say

Governor Brown Announces Pension Reform Agreement

LOS ANGELES—Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. outlined on August 28th a sweeping pension reform agreement that saves billions of taxpayer dollars by capping benefits, increasing the retirement age, stopping abusive practices and requiring state employees to pay at least half of their pension costs.

"These reforms make fundamental changes that rein in costs and help to ensure that our public retirement system is sustainable for the long term. These reforms require sacrifice from public employees and represent a significant step forward," said Governor Brown.

"If the legislature approves these reforms, public retirement benefits will be lower than when I took office in 1975," said Governor Brown. "Additional changes would require a vote of the people," he added.

The pension reform agreement includes substantial benefit rollbacks for public employees. It requires all current state employees and all new public employees to pay for at least 50 percent of their pensions and establishes this as the norm for all public workers in California. Importantly, these new reforms eliminate state-imposed barriers that have prevented local governments from increasing employee contributions.

Further, it bans abusive practices used to enhance pension payouts.

"No more spiking, no more air

time, no more pensions earned by convicted felons," said Governor Brown. "We're cleaning up a big mess and the agreement reached with Legislative leaders today is historic in its far reaching implications."

Public Employee Pension Reform Act of 2012

Caps Pensionable Salaries

Caps pensionable salaries at the Social Security contribution and wage base of \$110,100 (or 120 percent of that amount for employees not covered by Social Security).

Establishes Equal Sharing of Pension Costs as the Standard

California state employees are leading the way and are paying for at least 50 percent of normal costs of their pension benefits. Requires new employees to contribute at least half of normal costs, and sets a similar target for current employees, subject to bargaining.

Eliminates current restrictions that impede local employers from having their employees help pay for pension liabilities.

Permits employers to develop plans that are lower cost and lower risk if certified by the system's actuary and approved by the legislature.

Provides additional authority to local employers to require employees to pay for a greater share of pension costs through impasse proceedings if they are unsuccessful in achieving the goal of 50-50 cost sharing in 5 years.

Directs state savings from cost sharing toward additional payments to reduce the state's unfunded liability.

Unilaterally Rolls Back Retirement Ages and Formulas

Increases retirement ages by two years or more for all new public employees.

Rolls back the unsustainable retirement benefit increases granted in 1999 and reduces the benefits below the levels in effect for decades.

Eliminates all 3 percent formulas going forward.

For local miscellaneous employees: 2.5 percent at 55 changes to 2 percent at 62; with a maximum of 2.5 percent at 67.

For local fire and police employees: 3 percent at 50 changes to 2.7 percent at 57.

Establishes consistent formulas for all new employees going forward.

Ends Abuses

Requires three-year final compensation to stop spiking for all new employees.

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Business Association Seeks Vendors for Spooktacular Event

CITRUS HEIGHTS - The Antelope Crossing Business Association is seeking craft and merchandise vendors for their 2012 Antelope Crossing Spooktacular. The event is October 20th from 10:00 a.m.

to 4:00 p.m. in the Antelope Crossing commercial and retail centers (I-80 and Antelope Road). This year's event features live entertainment, a fun zone, costume contest, health fair and more!

To sign up as a vendor for the event, download the Vendor Application. For more information, please contact Barbara Downie, Weingarten Realty, at (916) 727-1005.



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The benefits of this program to game departments, sportsmen, sporting goods retailers and manufacturers, as well as non-consumptive users who still enjoy and appreciate wildlife and the outdoors have been abundant.

It even indirectly helped anglers serving as the model for the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act passed in 1950 and designed to attach an excise tax to various types of fishing equipment to help fund sport fish restoration and opportunities.

Both acts have been invaluable to all of us as outdoorsmen and women.

Larry Whiteley is Host of the award-winning Outdoor World Radio

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DA Scully Urges Governor Brown to Veto SB 9

From the Office of the District Attorney

District Attorney Jan Scully joins the California District Attorneys Association (CDAA) and elected DAs across the state in urging Governor Brown to veto SB 9, which would allow murderers who were under the age of 18 at the time of the crime, and who have been sentenced to life without the possibility of parole, to have their sentence modified to allow parole. After a similar bill failed in the previous legislature, SB 9 was passed in the Assembly by a single vote.

Scully noted that current law provides adequate safeguards against the abuse of the life without parole penalty for those under the age of 18. The penalty is only possible for those who were at least 16 years old at the time they committed murder.

Prosecutors have discretion whether or not to seek the penalty. Sentencing judges also have discretion not to impose it even when the proper charges and jury findings have been made.

Scully states that accountability is a central pillar of our criminal justice system. SB 9 would weaken that accountability for those, 16 years and older, who commit the worst crimes. Her letter states, "Juvenile murderers can be among the most hardened and calloused of killers." Under SB 9, rapist murderers, gang murderers who coldly ambush their victims, robbers who execute their victims, and multiple murderers, are all eligible to have their sentence reduced. She goes on to cite three cases from the more than 260 defendants serving life without parole for special circumstance murders committed when they

were 16 or 17. The cases include 16-year-olds Daniel Russell and Calvin Pearson, convicted in Sacramento for murdering 90-year-old Marie Oliver in her home during a robbery.

Scully noted that 29 of the juvenile murderers serving life without parole were convicted of multiple murders. In addition, 27 were convicted not only of murder, but also one or more counts of attempted murder - additional victims who would be dead if the defendant's actions had been as effectively deadly as his intentions.

The bill will also subject the families of murder victims to a multi-step process that could force them to relive the events, probably many times, traveling to and speaking at each subsequent parole board hearing if the court did modify a defendant's sentence.

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By Ronnie McBrayer

A Hollywood Revival

an annual time of repentance whether they needed it or not.

As I made my way to the front door I passed by a long line of Harley Davidson motorcycles. These were not the Baby Boomer playthings so many graying men and women ride today as a hobby or youthful escape. No, these were hardcore, gang-style cycles.

And just inside the church, occupying the back pew, lo and behold, there sat the gang. Leather, studs, rippling arms, ponytails, tattoos: It was the complete Hell's Angels package, sitting in a Baptist church in Hollywood, Georgia. Being a young, eager revivalist myself, I said to my friend, "Good. Maybe these heathen will get saved tonight." And I meant it.

I sat several pews away from them and found myself piously praying for their salvation because I just knew they were seconds from splitting hell wide open. After the service got started, the pastor called on one of the deacons of the church to come forward and offer a prayer and word of introduction. One of those wicked bikers rose from his seat and started down the aisle.

At first I thought the call of his bladder had merely coincided with the pastor's invitation. And being a biker and all, I was certain he was short on manners and he did not know that prayer time was an inappropriate moment to visit the latrine. When the big mountain of a man turned for the pulpit, my pulse quickened as I thought he was going forward to cause a disturbance.

He caused a disturbance alright, but not like I thought. This chaps-wearing biker with a beard to his waist was the aforementioned deacon. I found out later that this biker-deacon was a self-financed missionary to the road houses, biker bars, strip clubs, and truck stops of America.

Up and down the highways with his fellow laborers – his motorcycle gang – he rode his horse of steel and entered places that good Christian people would never be caught, not even to share the gospel. He went to places where people drank too much, showed too much skin, engaged in too much sensuality, and waged too much violence. But there he shared Jesus, led Bible studies, prayed for those who thought they didn't have a prayer left, and even baptized a few souls in the truck stop showers when necessary.

I left that Hollywood church thinking that it would have been better to give the revival budget to this biker's ministry rather than spending it on some flamboyant evangelist with a bouffant hair-do and expensive cuff links. And certainly I left with a lesson scorched deep in my conscience: Never point a finger or a prayer at those you consider sinners. They may be more holy than you can imagine.

Ronnie McBrayer is a syndicated columnist, speaker, and author of multiple books. You can read more and receive regular e-columns in your inbox at www.ronniemcbrayer.net.

Solving the Mystery of Picking a President

By Rev. James L. Snyder

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were casually sitting on the back porch enjoying our evening coffee together. Suddenly, the conversation turned to things political. This does not happen very often so at the moment I was a little surprised by this turn of current events.

My wife does not spend much time keeping up with political news or events. Therefore, I was a little surprised when she made some comments in this area. It began when my wife said, "Why is it every politician running for president insists that Washington is broken and they are just the ones to fix it?"

Well, she had me there. Most politicians worth their pork barrel payment have the audacity to believe they are political prophets able to see what is wrong with everything in this country, particularly those things in Washington, DC. Not only can they see what is wrong but also they know the exact way to fix it. However, no two solutions are alike.

They look at the Washington, DC area and view it as a fixer upper. Then they go around the country hammering away with the promise that they can fix it and fix it for good. All these politicians have "fixed" our government for sure, but not in the way they think. It is more along the line of when you take "Lucky" to the veterinarian to have him fixed. The results are the same in both situations.

Then my wife made this observation. "If these politicians are so all fired up about fixing problems, I would like to show them our plumbing problem."

Of course, what my good wife does not realize is politicians can only fix hypothetical problems not real ones. And the more hypothetical the more eloquent they are in their speeches about it. Whenever you hear a politician

waxing eloquent in his speech you always know you are listening to an airbag.

It was my turn to astonish my wife.

"I have solved the mystery of picking the president of the United States," I said rather arrogantly. I was waiting for her response. And I did not have to wait long.

"You what?"

Then I laid out for her my scheme for picking the president.

"It's very simple. People pick a president about the same way they pick their nose."

I knew from her astonished look I would have to explain what I meant. But it is true, nevertheless, picking a president is like picking your nose.

The first thing is that nobody gets to select the nose they will have for the rest of their life unless of course they submit to plastic surgery. I have seen some noses that if it were mine, it would not be mine for long. We may owe plastic surgeons quite a lot for saving the on looking public the excruciating pain of looking at ugly noses.

It is the same way nobody gets to choose the list of potential presidents they will have to decide on in the upcoming election. We all have to learn to live with the one or the other that has been given. Sad to say, in both areas, most of us have truly blown it.

In this area of picking, some do it openly and unashamedly. They do not care who sees them or hears them for that matter. They firmly believe as Americans they have the constitutional right to do this plainly and blatantly.

Of course, there are always those who deny they even have a nose let alone stooping to picking it in public. Some things, according to them, are better done in private, behind closed doors. Whoever invented "closed doors" has probably done society more benefit than any other invention. I

must admit with some people it is quite hard to ignore the fact that they have a nose. It is the most prominent feature of his or her face but everybody has the right to live in the wonderful land of denial.

Then I come to the more technical aspects of this matter of picking. Some prefer the left over the right while others prefer the right over the left. Then of course there are those who do both at the same time confusing everybody watching them.

It is very confusing talking with these people because one time they are on one side and the next time they are on the other side. I know both sides are equally significant but I hate being confused.

These, I think, would be called "equal opportunity pickers." They do not prefer one side to the other but both sides, in their opinion, is good. It is hard to argue with logic like that. It is the same kind of logic that your wife uses when she asked you, "Does this dress make me look fat?"

No matter if you are picking the president of the United States or your nose, you always end up with the same thing.

There is only one selecting process that is devoid of any frustration at all. Jesus mentioned it, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." (John 15:16 KJV).

God's choice has eternal ramifications.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at (352) 687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.



By Marlys Norris, Christian Author

Honoring God With Your Life

of different denominations and the demeanor they displayed was superiority over people who were not of their particular persuasion in a different denomination. It was hard for me to appreciate this attitude of superiority and it probably was the cause for me delaying the decision to accept Christ and becoming a part of any church. And this was evidenced by my own parents being brought up in two different protestant denominations prior to their marriage and never attending either for over eighteen years. I wonder if it could also be a cause for some people today delaying their decision to join some churches.

Occasionally I will hear someone knock another denomination and it makes me sick inside because it is a sinful and unloving act against God's people that dishonors God Almighty. I think about how God must feel when a person makes a statement against someone just because they are not of their persuasion spiritually. The central theme of all Christian churches surrounds the birth, life, death and resurrection

of Jesus Christ. Doesn't the Bible clearly tell us to "watch our words" and one day we will be held accountable for every idle word we speak? (Matthew 12:36)

Our lives as believers are to please Almighty God! We are to be concerned and/or to mourn over the very same things that make God sad! Conviction is a good thing, because it cleanses the soul, changes the direction we are going and brings one closer to God. Thereby, Let us all be honoring Him with our lives.

My question for them involves asking "if" they even have known the words of Scripture that guide and direct lives to bring honor to God? They will never enjoy the love, joy and peace that come in really knowing God intimately. It's Time... do not waste another day!

God yearns for you to love Him with your heart and soul, because that is how He loves you!

Marlys Johnsen Norris

First Book: "God Moves Mountains, It was a Miracle"

Marlysjn@gmail.com

Today we hear pastors of many different denominations talking about "Unity of our faith" in Jesus Christ, his life, death and resurrection being the central theme that unifies us as the Church. Another place during the end times, we are called the "Bride" of Christ and Scripture tell us that those who believe will be invited to the Lamb's supper after we have put on white garments for the celebration. It is an exciting time to be a part of the Body of Christ (The Church) and to love and care for those in any denomination because we are "One" just as God is: the Father, the Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are "One". Each having powerful roles, but equally important to reach, guide and teach us.

When I was young it was very confusing meeting people



By Pastor Ray Dare

Have you noticed how insecure and egotistical people have a hard time taking a joke? When you're humble, you're able to laugh at yourself; you're able to take a joke. Egotistical people criticize much more than they encourage. They attack you, always on the offensive. They always want to get you involved in arguments. It seems like you can never just have a discussion with this person, it's always an argument. The Bible says, "Pride only leads to arguments..." Proverbs 13:10 (NCV)

One of the keys to successful relationships is humility. What is humility? The Bible says in Romans 12:3, "Don't cherish exaggerated ideas of yourself or importance. But try to have a sane estimate of your capabilities..." That means you come to terms with who you really are.

Humility helps relationships because you learn to accept your own humanity and the humanity of others. You accept the fact that you are not perfect and

How to Get Ego Out of the Way

you accept the imperfections in others. Did you know that the words 'humility' and 'humanity' and 'humor' all come from the same root word? Humility is, in essence, being in touch with your humanity. It's realizing that you're not God and you're not perfect. And you stop taking yourself so seriously.

What's the root of egotism? What causes egos to clash? What causes people to promote themselves? What cause people to brag and exaggerate?

Truckers tell us that the trucks which make the most noise on the freeway are the empty ones. A drum makes a lot of noise, because it's empty inside. Egotism is an indication of emptiness on the inside. What's the antidote? The Bible says, "May you be able to feel and understand ... how long, how wide, how deep, and how high God's love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves ... so at last you will be filled up with God himself!" Ephesians 3:18-19 (LB) The antidote is to fill that emptiness with God's love. To be filled up with God's love.

When you let God fill that emptiness inside, you no longer need to run around the world trying to validate your worth, trying to prove yourself. You

no longer need to compete with other people. You no longer need the validation of others because you've experience God's validation. Knowing that God loves you and that He accepts your imperfection and humanity relieves the need to be approved by others. You no longer need to posture yourself. You no longer need to prove yourself or promote yourself, to protect an image, to brag, boast or cover-up your flaws and faults. When you let God love you, you no longer need to drive a particular type of car or purchase things that say, "Look at me, I'm okay!" because you know God says you're okay. The point is, loving others starts with understanding God's love for you. Healthy relationships begin with a relationship with God. Accepting others begins with understanding how Christ has accepted you. Let God love you this week, develop your relationship with Him and He will help you to love others as well.

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1) Look where you're going. Name your desired outcome. Put pen to paper and record, specifically, where you want to go next in your career. Give yourself a date by which you want to accomplish this goal. Does your current position help or hinder you in reaching your goal? Writing your vision helps you articulate where you'd like to be and may help you identify why you're stuck.

2) Name what's stopping you. Write down the obstacles that are standing in your way. What's bugging you about the

job? Take a few minutes to air all your grievances (to yourself) in writing. Next, organize them in three categories: those within your control, those you may be able to influence, and those out of your control. Put a big slash mark through the obstacles that are out of your control entirely. Now, brainstorm what you can do to overcome the remaining ones. Focus on what you can do, rather than what you can't.

3) Adopt a new communication style. Pay attention to your own communication style. Are you assertive? Are you a quiet thinker and planner? Do you talk before you think? Next, pay attention to your boss's style. If your boss is direct and "get it done" but you need time to process information and plan, you may come across to him or her a slow, procrastinating, or even resistant to feedback or authority. Modify your approach to match the boss's style. Use the same words the boss uses, match the tone and approach to the degree you can. Mismatched communication styles lead to many misunderstandings.

4) Try on a new you. Trying different things to see what works and what doesn't can be fun, if you take the attitude that this is an opportunity to learn. Seek outside experts or inside mentors to talk to about your options for change. Ask for advice and feedback on what you are doing right and where you might need to modify your behavior. To get new ideas and pick up tips, be

like a curious detective. Take a look around the culture...who succeeds and why. Try out a new behavior...such as coming in early, or volunteering for a hard task...and observe how others react and how it makes you feel.

5) Don't be a Debbie Downer. Think the boss is a jerk? Hate the company culture? Can't stand the people in the corner office? The more you tell yourself how horrible they are, the more you will respond negatively in your behavior. Remember that most people, including company leaders, haven't had the chance to learn good leadership skills. They are often doing the best they can. Try to give them a break. Make it your job or your role to be helpful to them and to the company overall. If you just can't stand the person or people in charge no matter what you try, it might be time to find another job. Remember that we often control the perception of people around us more than we think.

So, if you find yourself in a professional rut and think career-limiting behavior might be holding you back, consider these five tips and get all the details from Beverly Flaxington in "Make Your Shift." Want to check out Beverly, then go to www.understandingotherpeople.com. And bets of luck to you in your dream adventures!!!

Join Mary Jane for the **KAHI Noon News Monday-Friday and then again for POPOFF 10 PM - Midnight.**



By Karen Anderson

What a sight as I stand at the top of the fjords in Norway! It was amazing to look down and see what I knew was a huge cruise ship, but it looked no bigger than a small toy you could float in your bathtub. Then again seeing the fjords in Prince Christian Sound in Greenland from our cruise ship, and it seemed like the cliffs reached to the heavens. The awe and wonder washed over my very being as to the magnificence of what was before me and it reached to the very depth of my soul.

ANTICIPATION OF WONDER

In your imagination, go further than what I have described, because God is so much bigger and grander than any fjord or mountain top. You should stand in awe and wonder at how 'BIG' your God is. All creation declares who He is and there is no excuse not to believe He is who He says He is.

GOD'S EXISTENCE...
"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

You may have an understanding of God, but when you open up to His magnificence, you cannot help but be humbled and grateful for whom God is. Don't

let anyone, even yourself, talk you out of knowing, and really experiencing God. I am not talking the head knowledge of Him but a heart and soul knowledge. REALLY KNOW GOD! You should be saying statements like..."God is who He says He is and He can do what He says He can do." Now it is your turn to JUSK ASK Him to be with you forever. Holding His hand, now take your next step into the life of wonder and awe knowing God is beside you all the way.

PASSAGE:
 Romans 1:20 (The Message)
Karen Anderson is an accomplished speaker, author, and chaplain and has a local TV show, Move Your Mountains. Contact Karen at www.doab-leststeps.com, or 916-961-4765.



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Learning on Empty



Commentary by Daniel Ward, Editor, Language Magazine, Los Angeles
www.language magazine.com

For the first time, the U.S. Department of Education has reported that the number of homeless students in America has topped one million while another new report estimates that 23% of children in the U.S. live in "relative poverty." Hungry, tired kids are difficult to teach. Their environment, health and community have an enormous impact on their ability to learn. However, rather than recognize this catastrophe, we continue to blame our teachers and schools for failing our children. It's akin to blaming doctors for failing to save children dying from malnutrition.

One million, sixty-five thousand seven hundred ninety-four (1,065,794) homeless students were reported enrolled in schools during 2010-11, a 13% increase from 2009-10 (939,903) according to data released by the National Center for Homeless last month. To make matters even worse, this figure does not include homeless infants, children not enrolled in school, and homeless students that schools simply failed to identify. These children live on the streets, in shelters, motels, and in corridors

loaned by friends and relatives. It is hardly surprising that only 52% of the homeless students who took standardized tests were deemed to be proficient in reading, and only 51% passed math tests.

More bad news – the latest edition of the United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF's) report on child poverty in developed countries found that about 12 million children in the U.S. live in relative poverty which gives our country the dubious honor of second place on the "relative child poverty" table – above Latvia, Bulgaria, Spain, Greece, and 29 others. Only Romania ranks higher, with 25%, compared to our 23%. Recent U.S. Census Bureau statistics confirm these figures, estimating the percentage of American children living in poverty at 21.6%, while the figure for Hispanic children soars to nearly one in three, and a staggering 38% for African-American children.

Much of the mainstream media has latched on to America's supposed poor results on international tests as justification for its teacher-bashing rhetoric. Students from Finland frequently come out on top in these tests, so it is often cited as the country to emulate. Rarely mentioned is the fact that Finland's child poverty rate at 2.5%, about a tenth

of ours which is certainly worth emulating.

Both President Obama and Mitt Romney often mention the importance of education, usually in the context of improving the country's economy and creating jobs, or of making college more affordable, yet little mention is made of the underlying societal problems which prevent schools from succeeding. And, despite claims to the contrary, these problems can be fixed – as demonstrated by the fact that Canada and the U.S. have the same relative child poverty rate of about 25% before government intervention is factored in. However, once government taxes, benefits, and other social programs kick in, Canada's child poverty rate drops to 13%, while America's remains above 23%. The introduction to UNICEF's report eloquently warns that "failure to protect children from poverty is one of the most costly mistakes a society can make."

The heaviest cost of all is borne by the children themselves. But their nations must also pay a very significant price – in reduced skills and productivity, in lower levels of health and educational achievement, in increased likelihood of unemployment and welfare dependence, in the higher costs of judicial and social protection systems, and in the loss of social cohesion."

Children have only one opportunity to develop in mind and body, so we must commit to protect them from poverty during prosperity, recession, and depression. Otherwise, we are failing our most vulnerable citizens and wasting our most precious natural resource, while storing up intractable social and economic problems for the years immediately ahead. Until we tackle childhood poverty, blaming teachers for our apparent inability to compete on international student assessments is wholly unjust.



by David Dickstein

Family Films

"Dread"

Opens Sept. 21, rated PG-13
dreddthemovie.com

Yet another superhero movie rolls out, this one set in the violent metropolis of Mega City One and featuring Judge Dredd, the comic book character last seen on film in 1995 with Sylvester Stallone as the gavel wielder tasked with ridding the city of thugs. Karl Urban ("Red") wears the metallic robe this time and the main villain is a deadly drug epidemic that leaves users experiencing life in slow motion. It's worse than it sounds, and clearly not for little ones.



"Finding Nemo"

Opens Sept. 14, rated G
findingnemo.com

If the 3-D reissues of "The Lion King" and "Beauty and the Beast" were huge hits over the past 11 months, we can only imagine the success of the third of five Disney and Disney-Pixar classics scheduled to go multi-dimensional. On the surface, the undersea "Finding Nemo" seems more fitting as a 3-D movie than the previous two and the upcoming non-digital "The Little Mermaid" (Sept. 13) and land-set "Monsters Inc." (Jan. 18). It should be a visual delight retracing the remarkable journey Marlin and Dory take to P. Sherman, 42 Wallaby Way, Sydney.

Films and DVDs for the Whole Family



"Hotel Transylvania"

Opens Sept. 28, rated PG
hoteltransylvania.com

Countless Dracula movies have been made, but here's an animated one that has the world's most famous blood-sucker as a papa. Adam Sandler lends his voice to an overprotective dad who builds a hotel to keep his daughter, Mavis, safe from living out her adventurous dreams. Dracula's blood boils when an ordinary guy stumbles on the hotel and catches Mavis' eye. Also seen, but not heard are Fran Drescher and Sandler's "Grown-Ups" buddies Kevin James, David Spade and Steve Buscemi.

Renner) and Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson). This mega-hit from May ties together five earlier superhero movies, an unprecedented tactic that works. Grade: A



"Thomas & Friends: Blue Mountain Mystery -- The Movie"

(ages 3-7, released Sept. 18, not rated): This direct-to-DVD movie centers on an engine lost on the island of Sodor. Thomas and his motorized mates track down clues to find the lost loco. DVD and Blu-ray bonuses include two karaoke music videos and an edutaining lesson on standard and narrow gauge engines. Grade: B+

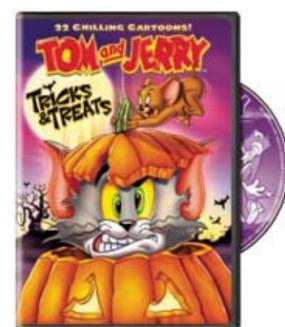
Family DVDs

"Barbie: The Princess & The Popstar"

(ages 4-8, released Sept. 11, not rated): What does a princess do when she'd rather sing and dance than perform her royal duties? That's an easy one when a pop star who looks like Princess Tori visits the kingdom and agrees to switch places. Throw in a magic secret and you've got a cheaply animated, yet watchable cartoon. Grade: B-

"The Avengers"

(ages 11-17, released Sept. 25, PG-13): The baddies don't stand a chance -- OK, maybe a teeny one -- against a team of superheroes made up of Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), The Incredible Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), Thor (Chris Hemsworth), Captain America (Chris Evans), Hawkeye (Jeremy



"Tom & Jerry: Tricks and Treats"

(ages 4-8, released Sept. 4, not rated): Classic cat-and-mouse fun is what this new Halloween-themed collection of 20 cartoons is all about. Covering ghoulish ground from Transylvania to Egypt, the seasonal DVD includes two cartoon bonuses. Grade: B-

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Have You Ever Wondered Where The Term "Slapstick" Comes From??

Schemes and Scams of Scapan Adapted by Michael Messmer



Scapan (Vincent Keene, bench), supposedly mortally wounded, pleads for forgiveness from everyone before he dies including (from left) Leandre (Scott Plotkin), Zerbinette (Laura Hechel), Madame Argante (Keri Long), Silvestre (D. L. Shields), Geronte (Stephen Watson), Hyacinthe (Claire Langton) and Octave (Frank Hickox) in the Arden Playhouse production of Moliere's farce SCAPAN. Photos courtesy of Arden Playhouse, Michael Messmer.

SACRAMENTO REGION – Arden Playhouse is delighted to present the world's most famous farce, Moliere's SCAPIN. First produced in 1671, this wild comedy has seen thousands of productions since...with hundreds of adaptations including a musical and a ballet. Audiences are captivated not just by the exuberant enthusiasm of the story but also by Moliere's genius for turning human flaws into riotous fun. Adapted and updated by producer and director Michael Messmer as the Schemes and Scams of Scapan, this wild farce still rings with as much laughter as it did over 300 years ago. Okay, so we didn't update it that

much...mostly Moliere's comedy is timeless and how often do you get to actually use real slapsticks in a show anymore? Michael Messmer has been acting, directing, writing and producing in local community theater for over thirty years. Most recently he has written and produced a number of his own plays at Arden Playhouse, including Soap Solution, Witherspoon Waltz, Wise Guise, Trust Me, and many more. The ensemble of talented actors bringing The Schemes and Scams of Scapan to life include Keri Long (Madame Argante), Vincent Keene (Scapan), Claire Langton (Hyacinthe), Frank



Scapan (Vincent Keene, center) pretends to protect Madame Argante (Keri Long) from the threats of the wildman...actually Silvestre (D.L. Shields) in disguise...who wants to kill the woman who plans to ruin his sister's marriage in the Arden Playhouse production of Moliere's farce SCAPAN.

Hickox (Octave), D.L. Shields (Silvestre), Laura Hechel (Zerbinette), Stephen Watson (Geronte), and Scott Plotkin (Leandre). Arden Playhouse is located at 5640 Roseville Road, Suite D, Sacramento, and seats 150. Arden Playhouse is a community theater dedicated to continuing its tradition of presenting entertainment in a casual setting. For more information about Scapan or to find out about our group discounts, call the theater office at 332-2582, email admin@ardenplayhouse.com, arden@ardenplayhouse.com, or check the website ardenplayhouse.com. Tickets can be reserved by calling (916) 332-2582.

Schemes and Scams of Scapan opens on Friday, September 14, 2012 with performances on Friday and Saturday nights at 8pm through October 20. Sunday matinees are at 2pm on September 23 & 30 and October 7 & 14. All tickets are \$15 with a reservation and \$18.00 at the door. (Cash or check only.)



Zerbinette (Laura Hechel) is starting to realize that the man she just told about Scapan's tricks to get money from is the very Geronte (Stephen Watson) she has been talking about in the Arden Playhouse production of Moliere's farce SCAPAN.

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