



**We Wish All Our Readers  
A Happy Fourth of July!**

**PLUS:  
Mayor Declares July  
"Power of Purple" Month**

Page 2

# M Citrus Heights Messenger

*"Written by the people, for the people"*

Volume 2 Issue 12

Serving the City of Citrus Heights and Sacramento County

Second Edition for June 2012

**Tonya Wagner Earns  
NUSA Special Award**



Page 2

**Get the Most Bang  
for Your Buck:  
2012 Fireworks  
Buyers Guide**



Page 9

**Basketball Rocks  
in Citrus Heights**



Page 10

## Hoping for Booming Business



Annual sales of fireworks represents a critical fundraising effort for many non-profits in Placer County. Photo courtesy TNT

By David Dickstein

SACRAMENTO REGION – What they're selling can't explode according to state law, but that's not stopping local non-profits from hoping for booming business starting June 28, the day fireworks can be sold in Citrus Heights, Orangevale and Fair Oaks.

If fingers are crossed a bit tighter this season, it's because America's 236th birthday falls on a Wednesday, the first Fourth of July on "hump day" since 2007. Consumer fireworks leaders suggest a 10 percent drop in sales when Independence Day is smack in the middle of the week,

but at least one industry leader believes that every smoke cloud has a silver lining.

"Because many people won't be able to make a 3-day or 4-day weekend out of holiday, they'll probably stay home, and that's a good thing for our non-profit groups," said Cathy Castilone, vice president of TNT Fireworks' Northern California region. "We've seen that when families don't go out of town they often light fireworks the weekend before the fourth and on the fourth itself."

The competition agrees. "Sales are strong on the fourth no matter what day of the week it is, and we're actually expecting better

sales than usual on the 29th and 30th with people wanting to celebrate early on a weekend," said Linda Hass, Phantom Fireworks' Sacramento-based regional manager. "Sales should be brisk as well because the weather is cooperating, the economy seems to be moving in the right direction and Californians are eager to celebrate our great Independence Day with fireworks."

That should be patriotic music to the ears of dozens of cash-strapped area charities, athletic groups, youth organizations and service clubs.

Hoping to hit a home run with its fireworks fundraiser is Bella Vista High's Baseball Boosters,

which last year was able to pay for new uniforms with proceeds made at its TNT stand next to McDonald's at Madison and Hazel avenues in Fair Oaks. Sharing the wealth, and ensuring adequate staffing, the boosters are offering \$10-20 an hour to supporters of other Bella Vista High clubs.

"It's a way to help other BV groups while the baseball boosters earn money toward operating costs, field maintenance, equipment, umpires – well, everything, since we get no funding from the school," said first-year fireworks co-chair Joanna Lee, a Fair Oaks resident who is expected to have two sons pitching next season for the Broncos; Gavin as a returning senior and Aaron as a freshman.

With TNT Fireworks carrying a fountain named Home Run, the Bronco baseball team might push that 2-year-old item a bit harder than other groups. Same can be said for TNT's best-selling Piccolo Pete by Bella Vista High's Band Boosters, which will be banking on heavy sales at its own TNT stand.

For the volunteers supporting the school's music groups and drill team, the week-long fundraiser means that every Big Timer assortment, Delirium fountain and ground bloom flower sold gets the musically inclined Broncos to more competitions and closer to new uniforms and equipment. The group's TNT stand in Citrus Heights, adjacent to Olive Garden at 5425 Sunrise Blvd., raised \$4,000 in net profits a year ago, and first-year fireworks coordinator Tami Miller is looking to make a grand more this go-around.

Continued on Page 11

## SMUD Announces New Mobile Public Access

SACRAMENTO REGION – Electric utility's user-friendly website is now available on smart phones. SMUD has a new way for customers to view their account, see their energy usage, pay their bill and check on power outages via their mobile phone.

SMUD's new mobile website, SMUD Mobile, is optimized for use with iPhone and Android smart phones and is compatible with many other browser-enabled phones as well. The application was also designed to minimize impact to mobile phones that have data plan caps.

SMUD Mobile is very easy to navigate. It features a single menu button in the upper right section of the screen that is available from any page. It flips or fades the screen to display a full-screen option that presents the user with all available navigation options in one place. When a user logs in, the logout button is available in the menu as well as from any page.

Since smart phones make up about 50 percent of the mobile market nationwide, they are an important way for SMUD to connect with customers.

The My Account section of the site offers those with a login the ability to view the outage status at their specific location, see their energy usage, view their bill and pay their bill—all online from their phone. The mobile site accepts Visa or Mastercard or users can pay with a bank account.

To make it easier for customers to pay their bill, SMUD Mobile also provides alternative ways to pay such as showing users where local pay stations are and allowing them to display a map of their location or call the pay stations. It also allows a user who does not have a My Account login to make a one-time payment.

The outage map lets users see the entire SMUD service territory and gives them the same data available on the current website.

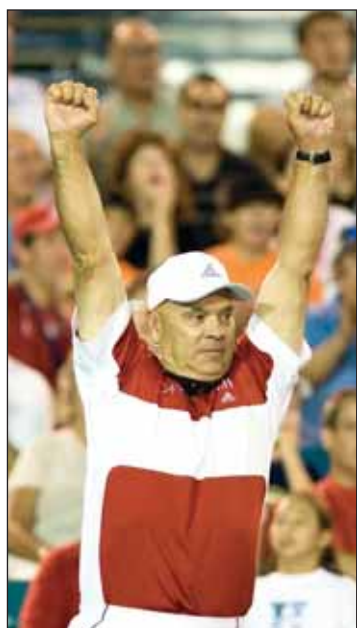
Already, about 10 percent of SMUD customers are using SMUD Mobile, which can be accessed by typing smud.org in your mobile phone's web browser.

## Sunrise Marketplace Retires Fireworks Display to Make Way for Exciting New Events

CITRUS HEIGHTS – After last year's phenomenal success of the Sacramento Capitals, Sunrise Marketplace Business Improvement District (SMP) is happy to announce exciting new plans for the expanded use of the stadium, now known as "Sunrise Marketplace Outdoor Pavilion" situated in the Sunrise Mall parking lot. Simultaneously, the fireworks display at Sunrise Mall has been retired to make way for a multitude of new entertainment and events in the District.

The Sacramento Capitals World Team Tennis returns to SMP for the second consecutive year this summer. Seven matches take place July 12 - 28. The team also played in the Sunrise Mall parking lot from 2002-2006. Beginning in August, SMP and Sunrise Mall will host the Sunrise At Night Concert Series expanding the entertainment options available in the Sacramento region.

In addition to the Capitals tennis matches and the Sunrise At



Capitals Coach Wayne Bryan

Night events, a wide range of activities will be taking place at Sunrise Marketplace, including free summer concerts at the redeveloped and rebranded Citrus Town Center, which will occur biweekly on Saturdays

from June through September from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM near Marshall's.

"With the addition of the concert series, along with an array of entertainment and event choices throughout the District, we felt this was the most reasonable time to retire the fireworks display in order to develop a significant concert series for our community," said Christi Woodards, Sunrise Mall General Manager. The evening summer concert series will feature performers including Kool and the Gang with The Commodores, Lonestar with The Charlie Daniels Band, Blondie with DEVO, Three Dog Night with America and Spyro Gyra with Lee Ritenour.

The 2,500-seat pavilion offers an alternative to larger venues located in the area. Several attributes distinguish the outdoor pavilion including a convenient location in the center of the region; spacious and comfortable seating with extra leg room;

a range of seating choices and ticket prices as well as an array of food and beverage options.

Sunrise Mall is also home to the weekly Farmers Market, every Saturday from 8 AM to 1 PM in the parking lot behind Sears and this summer; special vendors will be added, bringing variety and entertainment. Sunrise Mall will also be hosting a carnival June 28th through July 2nd.

"While the fireworks display has been hosted in the District for several years, it is a 20-minute event that takes place on only one night. We are thrilled to now be able to provide the community with several months of summer fun and at the same time, drive traffic and increase sales revenues for our businesses and generate additional sales tax revenues for the City of Citrus Heights" said Kathlynn Carpenter, Executive Director-Sunrise Marketplace.

Source: SMP

## Summer Family River Safety Program Offered

CITRUS HEIGHTS – The Sunrise Recreation and Park District will be offering a unique Family River Safety Program aimed to provide immigrant families with water safety skills. The program was created due to the high number of drownings among immigrant families in Sacramento Area Rivers.

The Sunrise Recreation and Park District developed the program with the Kiwanis Club of Citrus Heights. The Kiwanis Club of Citrus Heights contributed a grant of \$3,000 and the Sunrise Recreation and Park District will provide the facility and instruction for the program. Sylvan Middle School will provide advertising and translation services for the program.

The program will consist of 4-weeks of swim lessons for children and teens from July 2 through July 26 at Rusch Park Swimming Pool. Additionally there will be 3 days of River and Lake Safety classes for the entire family on Fridays July 13, 20 and 27th from 4:00-5:00pm.

To sign up for the program families should contact Sunrise Recreation and Park District or Sylvan Middle School.



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## Mayor Declares July 'Power of Purple' Month in Citrus Heights



Mayor Slowey was joined at the signing by volunteers Candy List, Event Chair, Susan Stapleton, Event Co-Chair, and Maria Mengotti, Team Captain of SAFE Credit Union. Photo courtesy of Candy List, CH Relay for Life

CITRUS HEIGHTS – You've heard about the power of love, flower power, Power Rangers, Powerball, Austin Powers and solar power. For the month of July, the City of Citrus Heights will be all about the "Power of Purple."

Mayor Jeff Slowey signed a proclamation proclaiming July 2012 as "Power of Purple" Month in an effort to encourage citizens as well as businesses in Citrus Heights to participate throughout the month in "Power of Purple" activities for the American Cancer Society.

Monies raised during "Power of Purple" Month support the American Cancer Society's mission of saving lives and creating a world with less cancer and more birthdays—by helping people stay well, get well

and finding cures for cancer. Relay For Life is the national signature event of the American Cancer Society, and has just surpassed \$4 billion dollars in funds raised since the first Relay For Life held in 1985. Relay For Life is unique in this community in that it blends fundraising, cancer awareness and prevention activities, fellowship, and support for cancer survivors and family members.

Mayor Slowey was joined at the signing by volunteers Candy List, Event Chair, Susan Stapleton, Event Co-Chair, and Maria Mengotti, Team Captain of SAFE Credit Union.

As Citrus Heights prepares for the annual Relay for Life, purple bows will be available for purchase to residents and businesses to display wherever appropriate,

with the hope the bows will remind citizens to support fundraising activities for the event. A special thanks goes to the Citrus Heights Lions Club who, with the help of their friends, purchased the ribbon. The Relay for Life is set for July 21-22, at San Juan High School.

"The Relay for Life is one time the whole city has an opportunity to get together, and it's very rewarding to meet and get to know our cancer survivors. With Mayor Slowey proclaiming July as 'Power of Purple' Month, we should all support his efforts by wearing and displaying PURPLE wherever possible," Candy said. Throughout July, the relay team "Reliv'n For Prevention" will be selling purple bows to adorn homes and businesses in Citrus Heights. The bows cost \$10, which is donated to the American Cancer Society, and are available by calling Team Captain Paul List at (916) 435-2050.

Candy, Susan, and Maria hold special places in their hearts for the annual event. Susan is a four-year cancer survivor, and Candy and Maria have been touched by cancer through family, friends, and acquaintances. All three volunteers agree cancer affects too many people, so all this is worth the effort. There's nothing more rewarding than celebrating this event with cancer survivors.

Source: Candy List, CH Relay for Life

## FBI State and Local Law Enforcement Recover Six Juveniles During Child Sex Trafficking Operation

### FBI Release

SACRAMENTO – The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Crimes Against Children Unit and its state and local law enforcement partners are pleased to announce the recovery of six children who were being victimized as prostitutes in the Chico, Redding, Sacramento and Vallejo areas.

The number of minors recovered locally is one of the highest in the nation, making this local achievement one of Operation Cross Country VI's top success stories. The Sacramento Division of the FBI and multiple local and state law enforcement participated in the operation from June 19 through June 23, 2012. In addition to six juveniles recovered in Sacramento, multi-agency teams also arrested six pimps during the three-day operation. The

local efforts account for nearly 8 percent of the children rescued during Operation Cross Country VI.

In addition to the FBI Sacramento Division, the following agencies participated in last week's local operation: Butte County District Attorney · California Highway Patrol · California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control/Chico Police Department · Redding Police Department · Sacramento County Sheriff's Department · Sacramento Police Department/Vallejo Police Department

Operation Cross Country is a multi-day national enforcement action targeting the domestic sex trafficking of children. The operation is coordinated by the Innocence Lost initiative and is a partnership between the FBI, state

and local law enforcement partners and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Since the first Operation Cross Country in June 2008, multi-agency teams in the Sacramento Division's area of responsibility have recovered 23 children and arrested 18 pimps.

Nationwide, 226 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in 57 cities participated in Operation Cross Country VI, resulting in the rescue of 79 children and arrest of 104 pimps.

There are 47 task forces and working groups throughout the country addressing the issue of child sex trafficking. Additional information about Operation Coast to Coast and video that depicts local activities can be found on [www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov) at the conclusion of the national press conference.

## Tech Job Training Course for Aspiring Geeks

SACRAMENTO REGION – The Sacramento Stride Center is looking for a few good students. The non-profit trains students selected for the five month course to become certified computer technicians in a short term, intensive course that leads to A+ resting and certification.

According to Darby Patterson, Sacramento director for the 12-year-old program, potential students need not have prior tech training. "Most of our students

are displaced workers or people looking to make a change in their lives through education. All that's required is aptitude, attitude and determination."

Classes are held in collaboration with Goodwill Industries at their North Sacramento location. According to Patterson, the class is very demanding and structured. Students wear uniforms and follow a set of strict guidelines designed to lead to success. "For us, success is getting a job after passing

the test," she explains, adding that the Stride Center assists students in getting job opportunities after graduation.

Stride Center assists students in getting job opportunities after graduation.

The next class starts on July 16th and applications are currently being accepted and the class size is limited. For more information call 916-596-0569 or 916-432-9177 and find program details at [www.stridecenter.org](http://www.stridecenter.org).

## What's Coming Up In Citrus Heights

By Leslie Carrara

**JUNE 30** – Self Defense, Self Awareness and Self Esteem free workshops presented by the Domestic Violence Intervention Center, 6060 Sunrise Vista Dr., Citrus Heights. Girls 13-17, young women 18-25 and women 25+. Age 13-17 at 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 25+ from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**JULY 7 through AUGUST 4** – Saturdays only Youth Summer 2012 Flag Football presented by the Citrus Heights Police Activities League and

Sunrise Recreation and Park District. For boys and girls, grouped by age. Mesa Verde High School Gym 7501 Carriage Drive, Citrus Heights. Fee is \$35. For more information, contact Brady at 599-9993 or SRPD at 725-0186.

**JULY 14 - 15** – Citrus Heights Community Campout, Registration open now, space is limited. \$7 per person. To register, visit [www.sunriseparks.com](http://www.sunriseparks.com) or call (916) 725-1585. Presented by SRPD, REACH and the City of Citrus Heights.

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# Saving the Family Stories of Patriotism for Prosperity

By Karen Everett Watson & Mark J. Cimino

CITRUS HEIGHTS – It's been our privilege to serve and interview many seniors over the years and write some of their life experiences. Almost without exception, we've been amazed by their tenacity, endurance and zest for life. Some of the most inspirational stories we've heard have been about the men and women who left their homes at tender ages to serve their country.

It has often made us wonder how many of these wonderful stories have died with those who lived them. What a sad thought to think the legacies of so many will be forgotten. Our generation and all those to come after need to know who we came from and what enormous prices have been paid for our freedom.

Norm Rosenburg, for one example, was a law student when Pearl Harbor was bombed. He intended to set up a law practice after college but his patriotic spirit had him sign-up for duty the day after the bombing. Rosenberg said he intended to become a pilot but when he took his physical, the Navy changed his mind. "I was a stocky Michigan football player," said Rosenberg, "There was no way I could lose 15 pounds!" Instead his service would have him on a number of huge ships. One was quite memorable to Rosenberg. It was a flag ship that set the course for 40 other naval ships. Much to Rosenberg's distress, they promoted him as Navigator which was third in line to command the ship. "I called my mother and my wife," said Rosenberg. "I was so upset. I was nearly in tears when I told my mother, 'I'm way out of my league.'"



Hank Henderson, US Navy

Duty and courage saw him through and he was able to navigate the ship, leading the convoy of 40 across the Pacific every 10 days, through the Panama Canal, the Suez Canal and the Red Sea. Each return trip included bringing wounded troops back home.

Hank Henderson, a long time resident of Auburn Oaks senior Independent living, in Citrus Heights, CA is another distinguished vet who served in 16 Pacific campaigns during WWII aboard a ship. We have listened for hours as he recounts the many fascinating adventures he experienced. Like many men from the "Greatest Generation," Hank's zeal for living has not diminished. A while back, Hank decided that one of the things on his "bucket list" was to jump out of an airplane. So he did just that! A group of his fellow residents and Auburn Oaks staff went to Lodi airport to watch his bravery displayed yet again.

Men were not alone when it came to serving their country. Karen had interviewed women who left their families to serve as nurses. Millie Robinson left the Wisconsin dairy farm that had

always been her home just after high school. "Before I joined the Navy, I had worked in an ammunition plant where I was trained to take blood and test it for the absorption of ammo powder," said Robinson, 92, a resident of Roseville. "When I was transferred to Corpus Christi, I was just 22. They (the Army) knew I had experience drawing and testing blood. When you give I.V.'s, you have to have a certain touch. They had me training corpsmen, ready to go overseas, in how to draw blood and give I.V.'s." The corpsmen used their training in the battlefields.

Millie used that "certain touch" long after she returned home. For many years, she volunteered at Travis Air Force Base where she administered chemo therapy to cancer patients. Her devotion to public service lives on in family members including a grandson who has served twice in Iraq and another who works as a paramedic.

These are just some of the stories those of us who daily work with our Seniors are blessed to capture. Sitting down with your senior loved one, and capturing their story, and putting them in writing, will preserve their legacy for you and your family. Do it today, so there will be no "Oh, I wish I had..." regrets. And really, take it from us, it genuinely fun.

*Karen is a Freelance Journalist/Gerontologist, can be reached at: watson@softcom.net*

*Mark is CEO of CiminoCare, a Northern California senior care organization, can be reached at mark@ciminocare.com.*



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# City Council Places New Tax on Ballot

By Leslie Carrara

CITRUS HEIGHTS – The four-member city council voted unanimously in favor of placing the utility tax initiative on the November ballot to let the public decide the measure's fate while one city council member resigned due to personal reasons.

The city boasts a bank account of \$33 million, however, needs in the police department and streets in need of repair could potentially drain the funds, leaving residents to pay for 4 detectives, police equipment, a police office for early intervention with at risk youth and for the failing neighborhood streets in Citrus Heights. The tax rate to be voted on is 1.75 per cent on all utilities, including cell phones and phone usage in bundle packages, landline phones and all other utilities except the

internet. Cable is also included to be taxed. Monies coming in from the state and other sources have declined substantially.

Meanwhile, Dr. Jayna Karpinski-Costa resigned her seat on the council recently as she has numerous personal plans to attend to, some of which are out of state. She has devoted eight years to the city and let her personal life simmer, but it is time for her to take care of her personal business.

"My personal affairs have been on the back burner for seven years," she said. "I have let me business fall apart. I want to thank my friends and supporters for their support and caring."

Karpinski-Costa will undoubtedly be missed as she has served selflessly to this community for some time. She is still the president of Sylvan Old Auburn Rd. Area 10 in the Residents'

Empowerment Association of Citrus Heights and if you want to visit her, you can find her every fourth Monday night meeting of SOAR at the Citrus Heights Club House on Sylvan Rd. The social begins at 6:30 p.m.

Teichert Construction presented the low bid for the Sunrise Blvd. Complete Streets Project at \$4.2 million. Vice Mayor Steven Miller pointed out that they only had enough for a 9 percent contingency fee, however, Principal Engineer Stuart Hodgkins indicated they would be able to secure enough funds to reach the required 15 percent.

Finally, Police Commander Mark Boettchrt retired and David Christianson was named the new commander, after being promoted from within the department.

# Tonya Wagner Earns NUSA Award

By Leslie Carrara

CITRUS HEIGHTS – A local resident received national recognition recently, receiving an award for her volunteer service.

Tonya Wagner received the Neighborhood USA award recognizing her volunteer work that she does right here in Citrus Heights. Already recognized by Sacramento County, Wagner said she went into shock when she realized they were talking about her.

"I was so elated that a national organization would recognize me as a volunteer," she said. "I've always been really involved in NUSA. I'm a neighborhood groupie."

Wagner has been volunteering locally for around 10 years. She is president of Area 1, the president of Residents' Empowerment Association of Citrus Heights,



Tonya Wagner received the Neighborhood USA award. Photo courtesy of Leslie Carrara.

she volunteers at the Citrus Heights Community Center and she is on the parade and campout committees. Closest to her heart, however, is the fact that she is president of the Sacramento Chapter of Gold Star Wives, for which she is always selling candy bars so she can make care packages for service men and women overseas.

Also at the national event in Indiana, the Citrus Heights Community Campout, held in July this year, took third place overall.

NUSA is a national organization dedicated to bringing neighborhoods together. Their mission statement is: "NUSA provides opportunities for diverse people and organizations to share their ideas, values and experiences to build stronger communities."

Congratulations, Tonya!



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**Gates open @ 6:30 pm**

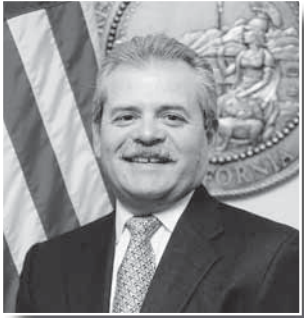
Tickets may also be purchased in the Village at American River Bank, Oaks Hardware, BBQPro, Bella Fiore Florist and the Recreation and Park District office.

Proceeds from the concert go to the Fair Oaks Theatre Festival, a non-profit summer theatre company, and the New Christy Minstrels Foundation providing music education, concerts and music to schools throughout the country. Both organizations are Charitable/Education entities under Federal law.



# DMV: "Ask George"

## Expert Answers to Common DMV Questions



By George Valverde – Director, California Department of Motor Vehicles

**Do you have questions about general driving related requirements like registration and insurance?**

**Are you unclear about laws and restrictions related to driving?**

**The California Department of Motor Vehicles has answers.**

**"Save Time by Going Online," at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov).**

**Q:** I am moving out of state. I know my California vehicle registration is due soon. Should I notify the California DMV that my car will no longer be in the state?

**A:** As with any time you move, you should report this change of address to the California DMV using a Change of Address form that can be found at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov). Please also notify DMV, in writing, to report that the vehicle was removed from California and will be registered in another state or country. Your letter must include the following information:

- California License plate number, and/or,
- Vehicle identification number, and
- Date vehicle left California (MM/DD/CCYY), and mail to: DMVPO Box 942869, MS C271 Sacramento, CA 94269-0001

A status will be added to the vehicle record to prevent billing notices from being mailed.

**Q:** Is it possible to "remove" points from your driving record?

**A:** Points are not something you want on your driving record,

and they can be assigned as a result of collisions or traffic tickets. Generally, collisions where you are at fault are one point and tickets are between one and two points. The only way to remove points from a driving record is to wait. Most points stay on your record for three years. Depending on severity, points may stay on your record for up to 10 years. If you receive a traffic citation, some courts will allow you to attend traffic violator school to keep a point from being added to your record. To avoid accruing points, always follow the traffic laws and avoid reckless behavior. Be certain that you are driving defensively and never distracted while on the road. Keep this advice in mind, and you will be able to keep points off of your driving record! For more detailed information about points on your driving record, visit [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov).

**Q:** I received a letter stating that my Personalized License Plate request was denied. Why wasn't I informed of this when I placed the order online?

**A:** When ordering a Personalized License Plate online, a general search of our records allows the order if the plate configuration is available. However, specific regulations require DMV to review every order and ensure that the plate does not violate these regulations. This manual process is not done when your plate is ordered. When the review is complete, a final determination regarding the acceptability is made and the customer is notified. For more information on specialized plates, please visit [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov).

The DMV is a department under the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Acting Undersecretary Traci Stevens. The DMV licenses drivers, maintains driving records, registers and tracks official ownership of vehicles and vessels, investigates auto and identity-related fraud, and licenses car dealers, driving schools, and traffic violator schools. For more information about the DMV, visit [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov).



# POPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

to your strengths brings real happiness.

**4) Build richer relationships with loved ones.** Is your marriage running on autopilot? What about your relationship with your kids? Do you come home from work and just sit in front of a computer or TV and never engage with your family in a meaningful way?

**5) Celebrate your spouse.** If you're mired in negativity with bickering and tension, you'll never be happy. But ending the relationship is a last resort. The good news is that it may not take a lot of effort to dramatically change the tenor of your marriage.

**6) Let the people you appreciate know it.** Of course you need to let your close friends and family know how you feel about them. That's a given. But what about your coworkers...your barber... your child's teacher? Even the neighbor who keeps an eye on your house when you are away?

**7) Forgive someone who has wronged you.** This is the other side of the "forgive yourself" coin. Just as you deserve a break, so do other people. Forgiveness is an act of love. If you can't let go of pain and anger, you can't be happy.

**8) Become a giver. Happiness is not about how much you make; it's about how much you share.** Your income and/or net worth has nothing to do with happiness. You should find a way to share

your fortune (not necessarily the monetary kind) with others.

**9) Take a "baby step" toward finding some faith.** Think a little more about your faith. Check out a few spots and read a couple of spiritual books. Happy people have a connection to a higher power.

**10) Make this year one of gratitude.** If you only make one change this year, make it this one. Work to be more appreciative in general. Did you know that, for the most part, becoming more grateful just means opening your eyes to the blessings you already have.

There you have it. It's not rocket science, but according to Patkin, it is ironic. He says, "The tragedy is we're sleepwalking through life without really noticing the truth. If we could learn to live with an attitude of gratitude, for our kids, our homes, our friends, our health, the food on our tables...we wouldn't need worry about finding happiness. We'd be living it every day. Check it out "Finding Happiness" One man's quest to beat anxiety and depression and finally let the sunshine in. You can also check out his website at [www.FindingHappinessbook.com](http://www.FindingHappinessbook.com). Let life shine for you today!!!

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

## Sacramento County DA Reports

Recent cases of interest

**CASE: SSD Deputy Kelly Smith (06/25/12)**

**PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Michael Blazina**

District Attorney Jan Scully announced today that 43-year-old Kelly Curran Smith pled no contest to felony charges of unlawful possession of a controlled substance and identity theft.

While a deputy with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, Smith befriended the 90-year-old victim. Smith ordered and acquired Hydrocodone (Vicodin) using the victim's prescription information she obtained during a visit.

Under the plea agreement, Smith will be referred to a drug diversion program on the unlawful possession of a controlled substance charge. She will be placed on probation and ordered to serve 120 days on the identity theft charge.

Sentencing is set for August 6, 2012 in Department 8 before the Honorable Kevin McCormick.

**CASE: Company Nurse, LLC (06/22/12)**

**PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Dale Kitching**

District Attorney Jan Scully joins Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo and the District Attorneys of Amador, San Joaquin and Yolo counties in announcing the settlement in a civil law enforcement action against Company Nurse LLC, an Arizona company, and its parent company Comptivity, Inc., a Delaware corporation. The civil action was filed in Monterey County Superior Court, and the settlement resolves allegations of unlawful business practices.

Company Nurse provides telephone medical advice services for employees of numerous businesses and public entities throughout California. An investigation found that Company Nurse had failed to register with the California Department of Consumer Affairs' Telephone Medical Advice Services Bureau, and also failed to ensure that all persons providing telephone medical advice services were California licensed registered nurses as required by law. After the investigation began, Company Nurse came into compliance by registering with the Telephone Medical Services Bureau and working to ensure that it uses California licensed nurses when providing telephone medical advice services.

Company Nurse cooperated with the investigation, and without admitting or denying any wrongdoing, agreed to pay a total of \$200,000. These payments include \$150,000 in civil penalties and \$50,000 for the costs of the enforcement. The terms of the settlement also provide for a permanent injunction.

Sacramento County will receive \$9,000 in costs and penalties.

**CASE: Saul Isidoro-Ausencio & Francisco Delgado (06/22/12)**

**PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Donell A. Slivka**

District Attorney Jan Scully announced today that the Honorable Judge Helena Gweon sentenced Saul Isidoro-Ausencio and Francisco Delgado to three terms of life in prison without the possibility of parole for the first degree murders of 15-year-old Jamir Miller, 16-year-old Richard Ward and 20-year-old Robert Corpus. Isidoro-Ausencio was sentenced to an additional term of 75 years to life and 16 years, 8 months in prison for the personal and intentional discharge of a firearm for each murder and for committing the crimes for the benefit of the Sureno Street Gang.

In February 2011, the victims were shot as they were riding their bikes on Malaga Way in Rancho Cordova because Isidoro-Ausencio was seeking revenge for a beating he suffered at the hands of rival gang members. When he was unable to find the gang members who had assaulted him, he and Delgado drove up behind the victims and shot them instead. They believed that the victims were gang members, even though they had nothing to do with the assault on Isidoro-Ausencio.

**CASE: Emery Allen (06/15/12)**

**PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Michael Blazina**

Sacramento County District Attorney Jan Scully announced today that Emery Allen was sentenced by the Honorable David De Alba to 40 years to life in prison. In April, Allen was convicted by jury for the attempted murder of his co-defendant and rival gang member, Junius Winters. The jury also found true arming and gang allegations connected to that charge.

On September 15 2009, Allen, a Gunz-Up gang member, instigated a conflict and engaged in a mutual combat shooting against several members of the rival gang G-Mobb/Guttah Boy in south Sacramento. It is believed that as many as six Gunz-Up gang members and seven G-Mobb/Guttah Boyz gang members participated or were present during the shooting. This was one of 26 shootings that took place between 2008 and 2010 as a result of a gang conflict between G-Mobb/Guttah Boyz and the Oak Park/ 4th Ave Bloods and Gunz-Up street gangs.

**CASE: Kenju Osborne (06/13/12)**

**PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Amy Holliday, Adult Sexual Assault Prosecution Unit**

District Attorney Jan Scully announced that Kenju Osborne pled guilty yesterday to multiple charges relating to six armed robberies and a sexual assault.

Between May 16, 2011 and June 1, 2011, Osborne committed six armed robberies at businesses throughout Sacramento County. In each robbery, Osborne pointed a handgun at the employees and demanded their money and personal property. During one robbery at the Pavilions Shopping Center, Osborne sexually assaulted a female employee.

Detectives from the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department worked with the Spark Police Department in Nevada to apprehend Osborne after he committed an attempted robbery in Sparks. DNA analysis conducted by the District Attorney's Crime Lab identified Osborne as the suspect in the Pavilions Shopping Center sexual assault and robbery.

Deputy District Attorney Amy Holliday states, "I commend and thank Sacramento County Sheriff Detectives Jeff Wright and Paul Biondi, Kelly Clark of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, and District Attorney Victim Advocate Mailyng Chuong for their hard work and dedication to obtaining justice for these victims."

Osborne will receive a sentence of 31 years to life in prison. Sentencing is set for July 13, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in Department 23 in front of the Honorable Geoffrey Goodman.

## Sacramento County Moves Towards Paperless Personnel System

SACRAMENTO COUNTY — With the Board of Supervisors' June 12 approval of the purchase of updates for the "SAP" system, Sacramento County is on the way to a paperless personnel system.

"Reducing time and paper consumption in personnel operation for more than 10,000 employees will result in significant savings," said Brad Hudson, County Executive.

"With continued downward pressure on local budgets, it's imperative that we use technology to streamline and improve operations wherever possible." The Department of Technology will implement the system upgrade and hopes to have the new improvements online within months.

The software package is an extension of the current County Enterprise

Resource Planning System (ERP) known as COMPASS, installed in 1999. The improvement package will allow employees across the organization to access, update and print their personnel forms rather than contacting someone in Personnel Services to input the information, email confirmations or print and interoffice forms to employees. It is an intuitive system, easy and flexible to use, and allows for improved process transparency and audit readiness.

Funding for the \$224,770 software purchase will come from the Department of Personnel Services and is expected to save more than \$500,000 over the next five years.

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By Ronnie McBryer

When that little group of Separatists left England for the New World in a little boat called the Mayflower, they landed at Plymouth Rock in a territory that would eventually become known as the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The Colony became, obviously, the seedbed for the nation whose birthday we celebrate this week.

These Pilgrims had been oppressed and persecuted by the state church and, looking for relief, set out to create a type of religious retreat and sanctuary. The Pilgrims were not very successful and a decade later, under a new charter, they were replaced by the Puritans.

The Puritans were governed by a man who continues to have influence on the New World, Governor John Winthrop. Winthrop claimed that God had given the Puritans this new land in order to purify Christianity, to save this continent from being wasted, and to serve as an example to the Old World for building a model society.

John Winthrop delivered his most famous sermon to this end, before he even set foot on North American soil. Just off of the beach on the boat that had brought the Puritans to their new home, he preached a sermon entitled, "A Model of Christian

## A City on a Hill

Charity," delivered in 1630.

A portion of that sermon reads: "The Lord will be our God and will command a blessing upon us in all our ways...He shall make us a praise and glory...We shall be as a City upon a Hill, the eyes of all people are upon us. Keep his commandments and his laws that the Lord our God may bless us in the land we go to possess."

This high idealism that a human nation, united with religious fervor, can serve the grand and glorious intentions of God has been written into this nation's history and psyche. That phrase, "city on a hill" or "shining light" has been used to describe the hopes and dreams for America by everyone from John Adams and Abraham Lincoln to John Kennedy and Ronald Reagan — but these words have been terribly misappropriated.

"City on a hill" language is verbiage that belongs in the realm of faith, to followers of Jesus, to disciples who are on the path into the Kingdom of God. No government, country, or Empire can ever serve as the light of the world. Any earthly nation claiming otherwise has plagiarized the words of Jesus, attempting to use human power to birth what can only come into the world by the power of God.

Many Christians in the United States have been operating under the illusion, from John Winthrop forward, that this is a Christian nation. No such entity exists. Just because we live in a nation that treats people of faith with some respect and allows us to pursue our personal ambitions, does not mean that the power-protecting

Empire and the self-sacrificing way of Jesus are compatible.

Eugene Peterson makes this point eloquently clear. He says the North American church conspicuously embraces the way of the Empire while living "in Jesus' name." The church "replaces the Jesus way with the American way. Yes, the American way works, sometimes magnificently, in achieving grandly conceived ends. Wars are fought, wealth is accumulated, elections are won, and victories posted. But the means by which those ends are achieved leaves a lot to be desired."

So with apologies to John Winthrop, do not expect government — any government — to be the light of the world, shining as a City on a Hill. Do not expect this from your employer, a corporation into which you invest, a social service organization to which you belong, or a charity to which you give. Expect great and noble things from these other organizations — even demand it — but do not expect more than these can give.

We might wish things were different, that nation states were our partner in advancing the Kingdom of God, but they are not. They can't be. All Empires belong to this dog-eat-dog world of power and power-seeking, even the Empire begun with a sermon off the Massachusetts shore.

*Ronnie McBryer 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.*

## How to Ruin a Perfectly Good Day

By Rev. James L. Snyder

Speaking of good days, and who isn't these days, I am looking forward to two in a row. I know it may be wishful thinking on my part, but a person has to do something with his time.

Last week I almost broke my record with two consecutive good days. But, wouldn't you know it, it just did not happen.

With all my experience in this matter, I plan to write a book someday: "How to Ruin a Perfectly Good Day." I know 197 different ways to ruin a good day. Who knows, by next week it might pass the 200 mark. When that happens, I will celebrate.

For those who do not know how to ruin a perfectly good day, let me outline some tried and true suggestions from my vast wealth of experience.

The first thing is to define what a perfectly good day is. After all, how can you ruin a perfectly good day (PG day) if you don't recognize it? Of course, I agree that nothing is really perfect.

Perfect is in the eye of the beholder and nobody can hold her for very long. What is perfect to me may not be perfect to someone else—like my wife.

A perfectly good day is one of those rare days when everything goes according to plan—my plan that is. I like to get up in the morning and over my morning coffee, review my "to-do-list" for the day and put things in order of importance.

A successful "to-do-list," in my opinion, is a list that does not take all day to do. I need some time for myself.

If my "to-do-list" has too much to do, the chances of the day being a PG day is between slim and nil.

A PG day has more hours in it than things to do. I hate it when I run out of day before I finish my "to-do-list."

Last Monday, I had just finished my morning cup of Joe and finished reviewing my "to-do-

list" and seemed to have the day well in hand.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage noticed my face sporting a playful smile. If there is something my wife can't stand, it is a playful smile across my map. For some reason she thinks I'm up to no good. Usually she's right.

"Why don't you call and straighten out the telephone bill?" she said, as coolly as a preacher at a summer picnic.

It was on my list but not anywhere near the top.

I was rather nonchalant and not ready for this task. I had not seen my chalang for weeks but it did not concern me. Looking back, I should have been concerned, or at least looked for my chalang.

Actually, I was upbeat and gingerly picked up the phone and dialed the number.

Soon a cheery voice was giving me instructions; "Our options have changed to serve you better. Please listen carefully. If you wish to continue in English please press 1."

In the confusion, I pressed 4 and got Japanese.

I began the process all over again. This time I pressed the right button and got the rest of the instructions in English. From then on, I pressed number after number and got nowhere.

For the next 12 minutes, I was pressing numbers and listening to instructions. Finally, I heard the telephone ringing and a cheerful voice answered. At this point, I thought I was home free, but alas, fate was only putting a hefty mortgage on my home.

"Ello, can I to help please you?"

"Huh," I said as diplomatically as I knew how.

"Can I to help please you?" the voice in the phone repeated.

I may not be the sharpest pencil in the box but I knew I was talking to someone as familiar with the English language as a politician is to the truth.

"Is there anyone there," I pled, "who speaks English?"

"Ah, yes, I to speak berry goot English. Can I to help please you?"

So, I threw caution to the wind and explained the mix-up on my bill.

"Aaah, I understand. This is billing problem. I transfer you to billing department."

For the next 20 minutes, I was treated, and I say this with tongue firmly planted in my cheek, to a musical interlude. It was elevator music; it raised my blood pressure.

For the next three hours, I went from pillar to post in the telephone department and got no nearer to solving my telephone-billing mix-up.

One of the problems with being a minister is you are not allowed to swear. By 2:30 in the afternoon, I had an overwhelming urge to swear. My difficulty was simply, I could not think of any swear words to use and "ah, fiddlesticks" does not seem to carry much significance in such circumstance.

By 4 that afternoon, I still had no solution to my billing problem. I had exhausted all my options, not to mention my patience, and nothing to show for it. All I wanted to do was pay my bill.

Through my experience with the telephone company, I was reminded of one of my favorite verses from the Bible. "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." (Jeremiah 33:3 KJV.)

It is comforting to know that God is only a prayer away.

*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

**Believe and you will be saved! No, believing alone is an empty word, there is so much more to just believing.** Beginning a walk with God it is necessary for a person to invite Jesus Spirit into their life, committing and surrendering one's life to His will. **Without this act, "belief alone" is empty and of no effect in a person's life.** Some say it is "adding to" what Jesus did for us, actually it is a requirement to experience a walk He desires us to enjoy! No surrender or commitment equals absolute spiritual poverty!

*Note: Personal Testimony of my own experience: When I was 12 I believed in God and that Jesus died for me and I accepted His death, so if I died I would go to heaven. So yes, I probably was saved. Understanding and Growth was tragically missing of what I did when I was twelve years of age, when I only just believed. BUT my life was a real mess as I strayed away from my childhood belief. 22 years later when I prayed with our pastor and again invited Jesus into my heart and surrendered and committed my life to Him things changed drastically. Someone came along side and taught me about prayer, God's love and forgiveness and she cared about my growth and knowledge about God. I began to experience TRUTH, "knowledge" of Him, His Power, His Love, His Grace,*

## Belief is Merely the Beginning!

*His Mercy, His Forgiveness and Answered prayer. I changed and Miraculous things began to happen in my life!*

*I was finally reading and understanding the Bible and obedient to what it said. I was truly "born again" and filled with His Holy Spirit. He filled my life and the fruit of my life surrender and commitment began to be noticed as I served the Lord in various numerous capacities in the church, as His Spirit led me.*

*ALL Evangelism is God's tool to "plant good seeds of His love" into a people, but it is not the complete answer to only lead someone to accept God's Son and leave them alone.*

*A child of any age (5 to 100) — does not know what to do next without guidance. If you think one only needs to accept Jesus as their Savior, read my story over again. Without anyone to guide, lead or care for my spiritual life, I went astray.*

*Evangelism is wonderful tool but alone it is not the complete answer when anyone is left to the influence of the world, possibly for years! They may or may not be saved. The devil will deceive them, just as he deceived Eve in the Garden. He cannot possess them because Jesus has been invited into their heart, — but he will "oppress them" and it can last for years. It is equally as devastating, it happened to me! Satan will also lead them off into various cults and ideas apart from Jesus Christ and programmed, they will easily follow — believing his lies that ultimately will destroy their lives.. My desire today is to reach those who have been deceived as I was for 22 years. I am now delivered and FREE. Please contact me if I can help you.*

*If accepting Christ is ALL that is the only thing really*

*accomplished, lacking no future connection and teaching — in my opinion and within this experience, something is obviously missing! Yes, we have trusted in the Holy Spirit to do ALL final work, I ASK "so then, has the person who prayed with them been irresponsible?" Every single Evangelist needs to expand their ministry into continued future follow-up of every person that accepts Christ under their ministry. At least letters and a yearly personal telephone call or a visit might help! Otherwise they are just forgotten and are pulled in by the world's ways and views! Note: Billy Graham did it right — all should too!*

One can believe, yet never grow in the richness of God's teaching. They may believe but there is no fruit of mere belief because they do not really "know" God at all. It takes a study of God's Holy Word and following and living in obedience to what one learns to grow spiritually. And all those things compile the real meaning of belief and the Salvation message, without them the word belief is all there is..

I do not believe that any kind of follow-up action by a person who has prayed with someone who has accepted Jesus is "not adding to what Jesus did for us" but is with certainty sincere appreciation of His gift" of complete forgiveness and eternal life. Following through is really getting to "know" Him and learning and knowing how to experience the abundant blessings of His gift.

Marlysjn@gmail.com

*God Moves Mountains, It was a Miracle!*

*"Recipes for a Happier Marriage"*

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By Pastor Ray Dare

God always answers prayer, but not in the way we always want Him to answer. God has not said, "I will answer your prayers any way you want Me to answer them." God answers prayer in three ways; sometimes God says, "Yes", sometimes God says, "No" and sometimes God says, "Wait, I have a bigger plan".

In the Old Testament, in the book of Daniel, there's the story of three guys who are going to be thrown into a fiery furnace. I'm sure they prayed not to be put in that fire, yet God allowed them go through the fire. While in the fire, a fourth man was seen with them (Jesus) and the ropes that were binding them were burned off. God is bigger than your problem and He wants to burn off the ropes that may be binding you.

God wants us to focus on our character while we want to focus

## How God Answers You

on comfort. What is God's purpose in your problems? He has many of them. But one of them is this verse...1 Peter 1:7, "The purpose of these troubles is to test your faith as fire tests how genuine gold is. Your faith is more precious than gold."

God wants to test your faith. Sometimes He delays an answer and says, "Will you trust Me?" Sometimes God says no and says, "Will you still trust Me?" It's like every parent has said to a child : Sometimes when they say, "Why?" and you say, "Because I say so!" At that point you're saying, "You need to trust me. I'm bigger. I'm wiser. I'm more experienced. I know more than you. I love you and I want what's best for you. So you need to trust me." We, as human imperfect parents, say that. Certainly we should be able to trust a perfect heavenly Father who says that.

I have no doubt that many of you are probably discouraged about something in your life. God is saying, "Will you trust Me? Will you trust My timing? My love? My purpose? My plan? My perspective? Will you trust Me?" The antidote to discouragement is to look past your problems and realize that

God is bigger than the problems. Realize that He has a bigger purpose and plan in it all.

If you want to be happy in life and you want to really want to have less stress and more peace, you're going to have to come to grips with two fundamental truths. First, some things you're never going to understand. You just need to accept it. There are some things in life you're never going to understand until you get to heaven. Second, there are some things in your life that are never going to change no matter how much you pray because God has bigger perspective.

So what do you do? Just give up praying? Of course not. You keep on praying but you live day by day saying, "God, I'm going to pray for this, but if You choose not to give it I'm going to still trust You and I'm going to still love You. You are bigger than my problems and You have a bigger plan and purpose in it for me."

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# Assault with a Deadly Weapon

## CHPD Report

On June 12, 2012 at approximately 2:58 am, a 36 year old male victim called Citrus Heights Police to advise he had been stabbed during a physical altercation. The victim suffered three stab wounds to his torso and back areas. The victim had been at a residence in the 6400 Block of Denton Way, visiting his ex-girlfriend, 44 year old Gayleen Ramsay, when the incident occurred. While visiting, the victim and Ramsay engaged in a verbal altercation that culminated in an assault. There were several other adults present, who were visiting Ramsay, at the time of the assault. Preliminary investigation has revealed the possibility that several of the parties present



**Gayleen Ramsay, 44, arrested for assault with a deadly weapon.** participated in the assault against the victim.

The victim managed to free himself from the assault, flee to safety and call police. Sacramento Metro Fire Department responded and transported the victim to an area hospital where he is being treated for serious non-life threatening injuries.

44 year old Gayleen Ramsay was subsequently arrested for assault with a deadly weapon, for her role in the assault against the victim. CHPD Investigations Division is currently conducting follow-up investigation as to the possibility of other involved suspect(s). Citrus Heights Police Crime Scene Investigators are processing the scene for evidence.

Anyone with additional information about this incident is encouraged to call Citrus Heights Police, 727-5500.

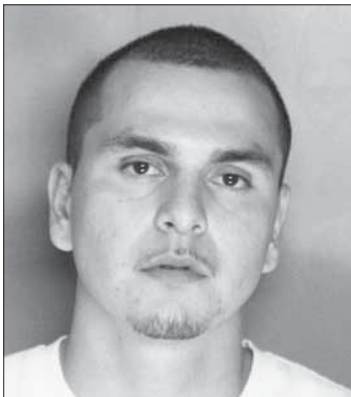
# Carjacking Suspects Arrested

## CHPD Report

On Tuesday, June 12, 2012, Citrus Heights Police Department Detectives successfully served arrest and search warrants on two suspects wanted for carjacking, robbery and conspiracy. The warrants were the culmination of a lengthy investigation and search for the suspects.

On October 19, 2011, CHPD Officers were called to investigate a report of a carjacking and robbery. During the crime three masked suspects approached the victims who had just arrived in a car at a residence in Citrus Heights. At gunpoint, the suspects stole the victims' cell phones and car. The suspects were identified through fingerprint analysis.

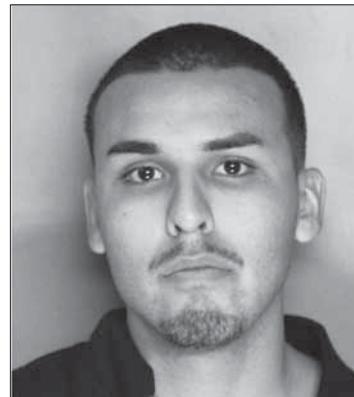
The suspects were arrested in at their homes in Citrus Heights



**Alejandro Reyes, 20**

and Sacramento. The third suspect is still outstanding and has not yet been identified. The suspects arrested were:

*Alejandro Reyes*  
Male/Hispanic/20 years old  
6800 block of Trovita Way,  
Citrus Heights



**Marlin Garcia, 20**

*Marlin Garcia*  
Male/Hispanic/20 years old  
3800 block of Balsam Street,  
Sacramento

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# Get the Most Bang for Your Buck: 2012 Fireworks Buyers Guide

By David Dickstein

Whatever your fireworks budget, getting the most bang for the buck is critical. After all, no one with money to burn, literally, wants to get burned, figuratively, even if it's for a good cause. Because fireworks range widely in performance and price, we put all the new state-approved fireworks for 2012 to the test, along with other individually sold items.

Fireworks are rated on a 5-star scale for performance, duration, distinctiveness and overall comparative value. Judges included firefighters of Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, Station 65 in Rancho Cordova, where the test was conducted. Products are listed in order of price, high to low.

A tip: Shop early or risk having to choose from items not good enough to make this list, meaning, except with the new stuff, they didn't score at least 4 stars.

Let the sparks fly!

## New for 2012



• **Opening Show** (TNT), \$59.99 – Winner of “Best New Finale” honors, this 500-gram marvel is a must-have despite the record-setting price for a California fountain. The spread of sparks at the 2-minute mark is the ultimate crowd-pleaser. Similar, if not identical to Shogun's Tailgate Party found in other states. 130 seconds. 4 1/2 Stars



• **Stacks Up** (TNT), \$39.99 – Out of the fountain's dozen “smokestacks” spews a lack-luster combination of glitter, crackles, chrysanthemums, snow and multi-colored rain. Don't be fooled by labeling that gives the impression this is a 500-gram firework. It's got to be closer to 350. 144 seconds. 3 Stars



• **Peacock Tail Fan Fountain** (Phantom), \$29.99 – Taking top honors as “Best in Show,” this isn't the longest fan fountain on the California market, but it is the most impressive. Each stage is different and builds excitement. Dazzles with silver flowers, stars of red, green and blue, and a titanium crackle finish. A must-have. 54 seconds. 5 Stars



• **Independence Day** (TNT), \$19.99 – With a name like that, of course this fountain has sparks of red, white and ... orange, green and purple? Well, it is a free country. Blue isn't the only thing lacking in this long-lasting, but run-of-the-mill rookie. 130 seconds. 2 1/2 Stars



Fireworks are rated on a 5-star scale for performance, duration, distinctiveness and overall comparative value.



• **O-Blivion** (TNT), \$19.99 – This lord of the ring-shaped fountains emits multi-colored chrysanthemums with pine and some of the best titanium crackles of any new firework. 125 seconds. 4 Stars



• **Phantom Joker's Wild** (Phantom), \$9.99 for three – Separately they're a joke. Together they're wild. Distancing the dissimilar trio in the driveway and lighting them simultaneously offers a better performance than many single fountains at the same price. 35 seconds. 4 Stars



• **Parfait Fountain** (TNT), \$6.99 – Its namesake means “perfect” in French, but this freshman falls short of that with middling colorful chrysanthemums and silvery crackles. 59 seconds. 3 1/2 Stars



• **Little Miss** (TNT), \$4.99 – One of the few fireworks named and labeled to appeal to young

girls, this well-priced opening act packs plenty of color plus silver rain and crackles. 47 seconds. 4 Stars

• **14" Morning Glory** (Phantom), \$3.99 for 20 – This newbie handheld measures 3 inches longer than regular morning glories, but 2 of those inches are stick. The extra powder makes for a more intense burn, but peters out 30 seconds quicker. 17 seconds. 2 Stars

• **Phantom Magic Torch** (Phantom), \$2.99 for two – A miniature California candle is all this is. Nothing magical here. 21 seconds. 2 Stars



• **Short & Stout** (TNT), \$1.50 – It's a little teapot, short and stout, it has a handle, it has a spout. More short than stout, but a cute, cheap novelty for kids. 17 seconds. 2 Stars

## Best of the Rest (4-5 Stars)

• **Delirium** (TNT), \$49.99 – Fan-shape fountain conserves none of its 500 grams from the get go, making for brief, yet dazzling intensity and beauty. Get ready for a lot of “Are you nuts?” comments from whoever knows the price, which, by the way, went up a Lincoln bill. 133 seconds.

• **New York Harbor** (Phantom), \$39.99 – Stellar burn time and multiple effects, including some of the highest-quality chrysanthemums you can buy. This 500-gram classic proves that not all standard-effect fountains are the same. 195 seconds.

• **Star Voyager** (TNT), \$34.99 – Earned “best new finale” honors last year with a fantastically priced, long-lasting 500-gram performance of bright and crackling titanium bursts that push the 10-foot-high legal limit. A worthy buy even at \$5 more this year. 173 seconds.



• **Phantom Crown Jewel** (Phantom), \$29.99 – Dazzling 500-gram display of white flowers, colored pearls and crackles, gold chrysanthemums and silver crackle. Packs a wallop, though that also reduces burn time. 90 seconds.

• **Brew Haha** (Phantom), \$29.99 – Beer stein-designed fountain brims over with above-average effects, including a loud opening whistle and a cavalcade of color. Fun packaging. 145 seconds.

• **Alpha Wolf** (Phantom), \$21.99 – Green and purple droplets,

gold shower and crackling stars finale are awesome. No whistles, doesn't need them. Up \$2 from last season. 83 seconds.

• **American Spirit** (TNT), \$21.99 plus bonus – Offers up a patriotic blend of red, white and bluish stars, gold showers and decent whistles and crackles. Comes with the boisterous, multi-colored Sizzler Fountain (90 seconds). Pretty good deal even with the \$2 increase. 80 seconds.

• **Molten Pot** (TNT), \$19.99 – Entertaining combo of colorful blooming globs (always a crowd favorite), titanium crackles, fish, glitter and chrysanthemums. 86 seconds.

• **Pyropalooza** (TNT), \$19.99 – Excellent height, crackle and vivid hues – a vivacious visual. 115 seconds.

• **Hasta La Vista Baby** (Phantom), \$19.99 – Like color and hate whistles? Then this is a solid pick with a screech-free spectrum of fast-changing colors. \$3 more this year, but still a winner. 125 seconds.

• **Funky Monkey** (Phantom), \$18.99 – This pyrotechnic primate features red pearls and a solid overall performance. Worth the \$3 increase because of its distinctiveness. 90 seconds.

• **Apache Firedance** (Phantom), \$17.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) – Makes the list only because of the two-fer deal. Long burn time is overshadowed by low-altitude and humdrum crackles, whistles, white flashes and multi-colored sprays. 210 seconds.

• **Mad Dog** (TNT), \$14.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) – Amazing crackles, whistles and multi-color sparks are improved by TNT again making this a two-for-one item. 80 seconds.

• **Firecracker Fountain** (Phantom), \$14.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) – Lives up

to its name with a remarkable crackling barrage among multi-colored pearls. 76 seconds.



• **Phantom Night Owl** (Phantom), \$14.99 – Phantom's only internally glowing fountain has four loud screeches and an exciting overall performance. Eyes and mouth that light up make this item a real hoot and a wise buy, even at \$2 more this year. 65 seconds.

• **Night Treasure** (TNT), \$14.99 – Looks like a fan fountain, and it is, albeit only for the final 22 seconds. Went up \$2, but still a value-priced fan. 98 seconds.

• **Flying Stars** (Phantom), \$12.99 – Fantastic fish-featuring fountain that, because it's noiseless, is also friendly to pets and fuddy-duddy neighbors. 97 seconds.

• **King of Bling** (Phantom), \$12.99 – The crackles heard during the final third sound just like popping popcorn. Majestic chrysanthemums and whistle, even at \$2 more this season. 90 seconds.

• **Volcanic Vortex** (Phantom), \$12.99 for three – Cones usually produce more yawns than sparks, but not this awesomely

intense trio. Definitely worth the \$2 increase. 45 seconds each.

• **L.O.L.** (TNT), \$11.99 – The eyes and mouth of the clown face glow from within, making for loads of fun right after an opening shriek. Hope you're sitting down -- the price actually went down a buck from last year. 61 seconds.

• **Radiant** (TNT), \$10 – This instant classic debuted last season and got a rare 5 of 5 stars for stunning performance and price, which TNT hasn't changed. This solid buy pushes the legal limit for spreading sparks. 93 seconds.

• **Luck of the Irish** (TNT), \$9.99 – This classic fountain features gold and silver spray, red and green balls, crackles and four super-loud whistles. 75 seconds.

• **Lil Red Devil** (TNT), \$8.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) – Packs plenty of heat for the size and price. Ends strong with titanium crackling sparks spreading out an impressive 9 feet. 35 seconds.

• **Pink Diamonds** (TNT), \$7.99 – Not much pink in the fireworks marketplace, so props to this unique item still modestly priced with a dollar increase. 46 seconds.



• **Phantom Mystical Magic** (Phantom), \$6.99 – Fleeting duration, but love those multi-colored, marble-sized blooming globs and a new price that proves last year's \$8.99 for two offer was mystically crazy. 32 seconds.

• **Phantom Dragon Slayer** (Phantom), \$6.99 – Got some white, blue and lemon chrysanthemums, rowdy crackles and red stars going on. 66 seconds.

• **Electrical Shock** (Phantom), \$5.99 – Red and green showers give way to a raucous whistling and crackling finale. Fantastic buy. 121 seconds.

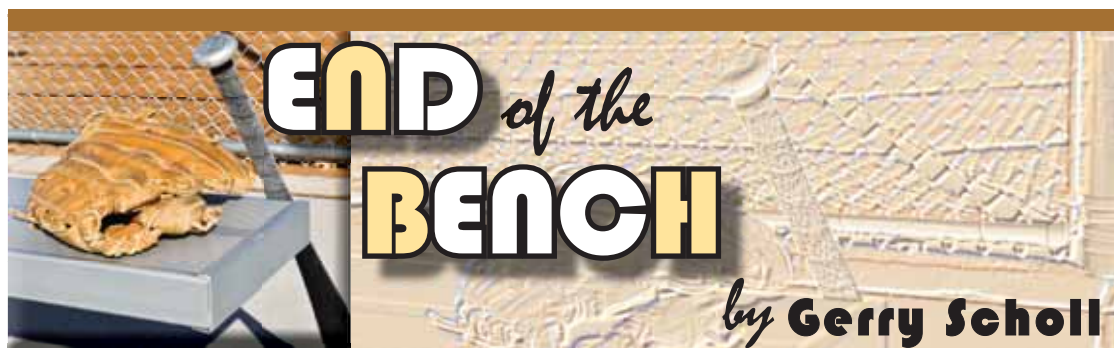
• **Moondance** (Phantom), \$3.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) -- 4-inch dynamo spews loud crackles, purple pearls and glittering gold and white sparks. [Note: Identical to TNT's Purple Rain, \$5.99 for two.] 45 seconds.

## Happy Fourth of July to All Our Readers!




## Buy Fireworks from Your Local Charities to Support Them!





# END of the BENCH

by Gerry Scholl

## It All Comes Down to This

It has been a very busy sports world of late and I just can't seem to keep up.

There have been so many good story lines recently, I'm having trouble narrowing things down to focus on just one.

I've been deleting recordings from the DVR that I never had time to watch. Even over Father's Day weekend when there is sort of a right-of-way to do whatever you want, there were ones that got away.

Making a point to see most of the great NBA Finals series between Miami and Oklahoma City, at least I got to see King (LeBron) James turn in an all-time performance (a triple-double in the clinching game, while averaging 30.3 pts. 9.7 rebs., 5.6 asts. per game for the series) in winning his first championship. Despite his shortcomings, James is so exciting to watch. Long live the King.

I almost completely missed the Stanley Cup Finals. It was pretty weird that the heart of the hockey world beat in Los Angeles. The 8th-seed Kings made history, steamrolling all comers through the playoffs, going 16-4 to win the first Cup in the franchise's 45-year history.

I caught a good portion of the final game, when the Kings scored three quick power-play goals to lead 4-0 on the way to a 6-1 rout. A single moment told the story — as players were bludgeoning one another on the ice with an Advil advertisement prominent on the boards in the background, the broadcaster said, "What a night of pain!"

Trying to settle into some tennis a couple weeks ago when Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal faced off in the French Open, just because the top men's singles players have been putting

on such great shows, my interest was shattered by an 18-hour rain delay. Nadal rallied for his record seventh French Open title the next day, and I missed it. And now here's Wimbledon.

Also this week is the NBA Draft. I don't get too caught up in forecasts, predictions, what-ifs and what-should's. I'm an after-the-fact guy when it comes to player drafts — look it over when it's over.

When the Toyota/Save Mart 350 auto-racing banter hit the airwaves last week I just couldn't go there. Certainly the Nascar Sprint Cup race at Sonoma Raceway, won this year by Clint Bowyer, has been a fantastic annual Northern California event for 24 years. After all, 91,000 people can't be that wrong. But it's not likely I'll be getting out there (my hearing is already failing), unless I get an offer I can't refuse. I get a little nervous and claustrophobic in big crowds — anything over 35-40 thousand.

That's the range that showed up at the sold-out Coliseum in Oakland for all three games of the latest version of the Bay Bridge Series. Each game went down to the final batter and each was decided by one run, with the Giants taking two of three — showing good cause to keep inter-league play alive in some form.

Incredibly bad form was on display in a number of other sports stories. Soon after Roger Clemens was getting off in his obstruction-of-justice trial, former Penn State assistant coach Jerry Sandusky was getting his from the jury in his child sex-abuse case, found guilty on 45 counts. Goodbye.

In the aftermath of the Manny Pacquiao-Timothy Bradley fight, it has been determined that

boxing is rigged. (Of course, that's not news). Won by Bradley in a controversial decision, the fight was reviewed by the World Boxing Organization, which determined Pacquiao should have been scored the winner. So, what fans want to know is, who really won? Welcome to the rematch. Save your money.

I was even going to check out my recording of the European Championship soccer match between Italy and England. I have trouble hanging in there for the duration when it comes to soccer. When I heard they played for two hours to a scoreless tie and Italy won its way into the semifinals via penalty kicks — I checked out. This may be my link to the age of instant-gratification, and I'm sure this would be considered soccer-heresy, but my suggestion for soccer is to institute a shot-clock. That would force the games' amazingly-talented players to put those talents on display constantly throughout a match in a more aggressive style. A foolish idea, maybe, but an interesting thought. The hooligans are after me!

Also in bad form was Giants struggling former-ace Tim Lincecum (2-8) in his start in the A's series. He allowed three runs and loaded the bases with nobody out in the first inning. But then, hopefully, he turned a corner and returned to his old Cy Young form, striking out the side and not allowing another hit through six innings.

Which leads me to the real story. That's the Giants-Dodgers for three games at AT&T Park. From here, that story rises above all else. By the time you read this, the pennant race between the two will have taken a few dramatic turns. Hope you didn't miss it.

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Larry Whiteley is host of the award-winning Bass Pro Shops® Outdoor World Radio

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Come back every week for Sudoku!

For Solution See Page 7.

## Basketball Rocks in Citrus Heights



CITRUS HEIGHTS – Sunrise Recreation and Park District has many fun upcoming youth sports camps and leagues. If your child age 3-12 years is interested in learning the basics of soccer Goal-to-Goal youth soccer may be the perfect fit for them. The participants are divided into age appropriate groups and will learn basics like conditioning, offensive and defensive fundamentals and proper warm up techniques. The camp will be taught by Jared Rains at the Antelope Crossing Sports Field July 7th through July 13th. The camp costs \$30.

Basketball Rocks is an awesome program that introduces boys and girls ages 4-7 to the exciting and fast paced sport of Basketball. The clinics run July 7 through July 28 for \$35.

There are two different age groups to ensure safety and fun. Participants will have a great time playing games in a non-competitive environment on specially constructed baskets.

The Citrus Heights Police Athletic League and Sunrise Recreation and Park District have partnered to put together and Summer Flag Football League. The league will run Saturdays, July 7 through Aug 4th from 8:00 am to 1:00pm. Boys and Girls ages 4-15 will have fun learning the fundamentals of football and the rewards of competition. Each Saturday the participants will group by age, warm up, practice offense and defense and then compete all while building friendships with local Citrus Heights Police Officers.

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**CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

- \*#34 Down did this
- Pre-1947 British rule over India
- "George Washington chopped one down as a lad"
- "Popular feeling"
- Australian bird
- \_\_\_\_ two shoes
- Without illumination
- Greed or sloth, e.g.
- "April showers bring May flowers," e.g.
- "British soldier"
- "Pre-Independence Day "state"
- Used for soaking
- "Dirty Jobs" host
- NHL's rival, 1972-1979
- Deceptive maneuver
- Lay to rest
- Abrupt stop
- 18-wheeler
- Eagle's nest
- Not active
- Deteriorate
- Colloquial "aren't"
- Ivan and Nicholas, e.g.
- Pi times square of radius
- Short spaces of time
- Type of food
- John Galsworthy's Forsyte story
- Grazing land
- Effected by the moon
- Member of the Benevolent Order
- "Born on the Fourth of July" star
- Three-tiered Roman galley
- Gain knowledge
- Follows soh
- Death \_\_\_\_ in "Harry Potter"
- Tapestry
- H1N1, e.g.
- Two in eighteen
- Orange part
- \_\_\_\_ the season"
- Tent anchor

**CLUES**

**DOWN**

- Rider's prod
- European sea eagle
- Like old West
- "Declaration of Independence, e.g."
- Roundabout road
- None of this for the weary
- Friend from Provence
- Snowbird
- Type of list
- Multicolored horse
- Jumpy
- Cyclops had one
- Major source of lead
- Bullying, e.g.
- Be obliged to pay
- Deep regret
- "Between red and blue"
- Shakespeare: "Thou call'st me dog before thou \_\_\_\_ a cause..."
- Islam's Supreme Being
- "Will be," according to Day
- "East India Company ware, pl.
- Bay window
- Kind of pie
- \_\_\_\_ Foss
- Type of seabird
- Often symbolized by light bulb
- Like a beaver
- Form of civil disobedience, pl.
- Post-Soviet Union union
- "Independence Day" invaders
- Blue and white pottery style
- Brightly colored snake of southeast Asia
- Wrap up in cerecloth
- One in a million
- Russian mountain range
- Therefore
- Highest volcano in Europe
- Like those who will inherit earth
- Gaelic
- Once around
- He stung like a bee?

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For Solution See Page 7



# Hoping for Booming Business

Continued from Page 1

Triple-dipping with TNT stands in Fair Oaks, Orangevale and Rocklin is Retro Teen Center of The Family Church in Roseville. Multiple locations will enable the church's rock club-teen center to share profits with two public schools and a food bank.

"This is the first year that the Retro Teen Center is donating some of the proceeds to other non-profits throughout the region," said the church's executive pastor Matthew Oliver. "Our goal has always been to give back to the community, and this year we plan to do just that."

While Orangevale Food Closet and yet-named elementary schools will get a cut, the lion's share will help keep Retro open and operating.

"Thousands of young people are helped every month," said Oliver, now in his 10th year as fireworks chairman. "Retro is a place teens can call their own. Throughout the year we provide tutoring, counseling, secular and Christian nightly events and so much more."

Retro's two most local stands are in Orangevale, next to Save Mart Supermarket at 8839 Greenback Lane and in the

Walmart parking lot at 8961 Greenback Lane.

Supplementing funds raised through its annual crab and spaghetti feeds, Faith Lutheran Church in Fair Oaks is putting faith in fireworks with a TNT stand on its premises at 4000 San Juan Ave.

With a goal of \$10,000-\$12,000, according to fundraiser chairwoman Alice Beltran, a retired Faith teacher, proceeds are earmarked for capital improvements to its preschool, which currently serves nearly 40 children.

Also praying for bang-up business is New Life Community Church, which will have two stands for a third straight year. A portion of the proceeds from its dual Fair Oaks locations, at the church at 8101 Sunset Ave. and near Carl's Jr. at 8121 Madison Ave., will help send youths to church camp, noted Kathy Garcia, who is chairing her fifth fireworks fundraiser.

New San Juan High is also getting in on the pyrotechnic action. Proceeds from the Spartan Booster Club's TNT booth at 7598 Greenback Lane will benefit a range of programs, including football, wrestling, cheerleading, Sober Grad Night and PTSO.

Over at Mesa Verde High,

its softball team is banking on fireworks sales to buy equipment and new fencing for the two backstops among other needs, according to fourth-year fundraiser chair Mike Wilgus of Citrus Heights. The team's TNT stand will be near Kmart at 8477 Auburn Blvd.

Also in Citrus Heights, the Lions Club will use profits for such causes as year-round eye care and assistance to needy families during Thanksgiving and Christmas, and offering scholarships to students of Citrus Heights' high schools. Fireworks represent the group's second-largest fundraiser, after an annual crab feed, and Phil Olaverri is hoping experience pays off this year.

"Last year we made \$3,000 and this year our goal is \$5,000," said Olaverri, who will have a season as chairman under his belt when he runs the TNT stand adjacent to Panera Bread at 7901 Greenback Lane.

True for most of the 30 years Knights of Columbus Council 4964 has sold fireworks, a wide range of uses are planned for what it brings in at its stand.

"Monies will go to various charities," said Joe Moureaux, who will manage the TNT stand at Holy Family Catholic Church, 7817 Old Auburn Blvd. in Citrus

Heights. "We will help homeless vets with health and legal assistance through the Operation Stand Down program, prepare a breakfast for veterans and their families who are homeless, bring in doctors and dentists for those who cannot afford it and donate to Holy Family itself."

Moureaux, who is chairing his 14th fireworks fundraiser for the council, said any surplus could also be used on Thanksgiving dinner for seniors in the surrounding area, provide bibles to hospitals as well as 8th graders in the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine program and wheelchairs for those in need

here and in Mexico.

The Sacramento Sirens women's football team will try to blitz the competition by having players sign autographs and take pictures at its stand on all but June 30 due to a playoff game that day for the four-time national champions. The Sirens, a member of the full-tackle, non-profit Independent Women's Football League, play their home games at Natomas High School, but its TNT stand will be in Citrus Heights, next to Jack in the Box at 7807 Sunrise Blvd.

For its fourth fireworks fundraiser, the team will raise money for scholarships given to girls

who play football as well as helping offset travel expenses to the league's championship game in July in Texas, according to the team's optimistic treasurer Sally Rydell. Besides being confident that her team will make the finals, the North Highlands resident is poised for a strong Fourth of July despite the holiday falling on a statistically slower Wednesday.

"We are thinking that people will want to start early in the evening," Rydell said, "so by selling some of the smaller fountains that can be seen while it is still light and then working up to the bigger ones as it gets darker, it should be a fun night for all."

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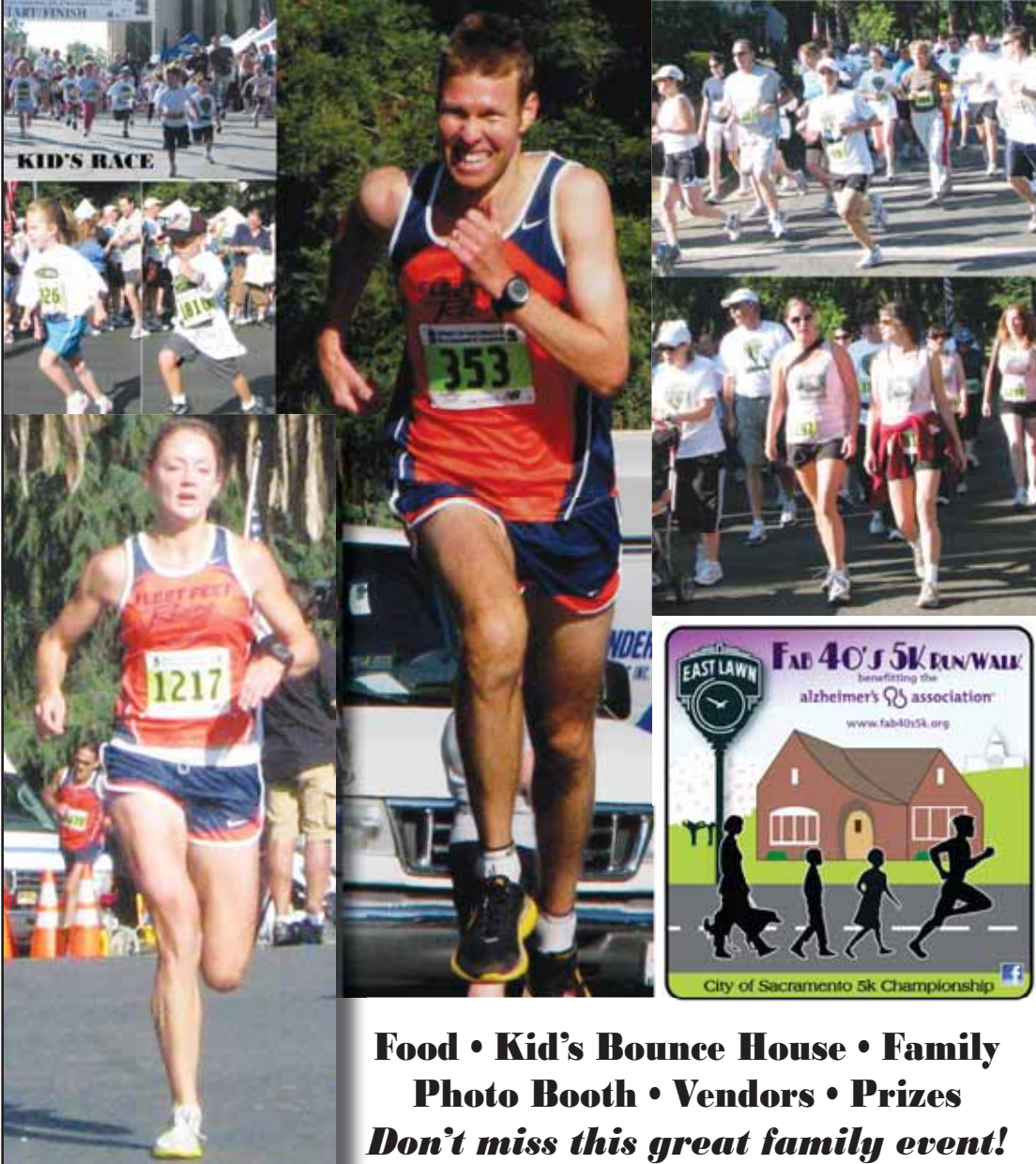
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Citrus Town Center



Enjoy a range of music from classic rock, country, R&B, blues and more. For complete concert schedule, visit [inter-cal.com](http://inter-cal.com).

**Upcoming July & August FREE Concerts**

7/7	6-8pm	Pinkie Rideau & Blind Resistance
7/21	6-8pm	The Indestructibles
8/4	6-8pm	Shadia and A BAAAD BAND
8/18	6-8pm	Four Barrel



Your Center