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# M Citrus Heights Messenger

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

Volume 2 Issue 7

Serving the City of Citrus Heights and Sacramento County

First Edition for April 2012

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## What's Up With Hiring?

Job demand & hiring trends looking up

**SACRAMENTO REGION** – Hiring motivated by the need to grow workforces in Sacramento will rise above hiring only for replacements for the first time in several years in the Second Quarter of 2012.

In direct contacts by phone with Sacramento's top regional companies, Pacific Staffing has discovered significant indications of economic improvement as seventy-one percent (71%) of employers say they are hiring in April, May and June 2012. For the first time in years, forty-two percent (42%) of planned hiring was motivated by the need to grow existing workforces. While just thirty-eight percent (38%) of Sacramento regional employers, polled directly between February 27th and March 17th, attributed hiring needs to attrition, or replacements within their existing workforces. Hiring attributed to growth demands has trended up for three Quarters in a row among Sacramento employers surveyed.

Warmer temperatures are also heating up hiring demand as Sacramento's regional agriculture, recreation and hospitality companies begin seasonal hiring. Ten percent of hiring demand in the second quarter is attributed to seasonal change. While most of the regional economy is improving, some of those involved in residential construction, property



development and some peripheral industries remain slow. Three percent of those surveyed report they will consider reducing workforces in the next three months as business remains slow for their individual companies.

Sacramento's employment marketplace is warming back to life but recent strong spikes in gasoline costs were of great concern to those polled. In anecdotal conversations with

company contacts, higher transportation costs for employees; and increased company transportation and petroleum related products costs could throw cold water on hiring plans quickly forcing a renewed slowdown.

While companies are getting a large number of applicants, many are noting the first problems in selecting specific qualifications. Finding applicants with specific skills are among first concerns

as companies seek customer service, sales, technical, general office, manufacturing and warehouse workers in the next three months.

How does this Quarter compare to last Quarter, or last year? Find out for yourself.

For more information, employment blogs & market surveys go to [www.pacificstaffing.com](http://www.pacificstaffing.com).

Source: Pacific Trends Quarterly

## Cool California Challenge

By Leslie Carrara

**CITRUS HEIGHTS** – The city has joined "Cool California" beginning April 1, 2012 in an effort to reduce the carbon footprint of residents while the city and top eco-friendly residents receive cash awards.

A workshop will be held April 5th at the Civic Center Complex on Fountain Square Dr., in Trellis Hall about how to join the program and ways to reduce energy use and less gas usage. The workshop begins at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 7:30 p.m.

Citrus Heights is one of three area cities signed up for the challenge. Sacramento and Davis are also registered and there will be a news conference on April 3rd in Sacramento. Ten cities in California are registered.

In order to sign up for participation in the challenge, residents need to register at [CoolCalifornia.org](http://CoolCalifornia.org) after April 1 for the yearlong event. Also, this just happens to coincide with the city's first annual Earth Day, which is scheduled for April 21, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Skycrest Elementary School between Greenback and Madison on Mariposa. Interested participants can attend Earth Day to receive new ideas about saving energy and therefore, saving money.

If Citrus Heights wins the challenge, Associate Planner Casey Kempenaar of the Planning Department said the city could receive \$100,000 towards eco-friendly sustainability. "It helps the city reach its greenhouse gas reduction goals," he said of residents' participation in the challenge. Businesses can also register.

Once the challenge begins, cities have three months to earn points for each household that registers online. The challenge will focus on household energy efficiency and transportation.

## Women Partners of Asperger Men A free education and support group

**SACRAMENTO REGION** - On Tuesday April 10, 2012 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., and continuing on the second Tuesday of each month, a free education and support group will be held for women partners of men with Aspergers Syndrome. The meeting will be held at the U.C. Davis M.I.N.D. Institute at 2825 50th Street, Sacramento and led by Sally B. Watkins L.C.S.W., a psychotherapist. Call Sally at 916-939-8249 or email her at [sbw9@mindspring.com](mailto:sbw9@mindspring.com) for more information.

A formal diagnosis is not required to attend the group. Aspergers is a form of high functioning autism and is characterized by difficulty expressing emotion, reading behavioral and non-verbal cues, and the inability to recognize differing perceptions and feelings in others.

## Public Safety As Our Number One Priority



Commentary by Roberta MacGlashan,  
County Supervisor

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY** – Sacramento County confronts an influx of new criminal offenders as the State implements its prison realignment plan, shifting thousands of convicted felons to local jails. As the County plans to deal with this new responsibility, we must take every necessary step to maintain public safety for our law abiding residents.

The Board of Supervisors has not wavered in affirming public safety as our number one priority. We are joined in this effort by Sheriff Scott Jones, who works with his deputies every day to fulfill this obligation to our community.

The State has provided some funding to offset the costs associated with supervising these offenders, which can be used for jail facilities, home monitoring,

and establishing new rehabilitation programs. As we collaborate in dealing with the flood of State prisoners into our local criminal justice system, we must be careful to ensure that we not risk public safety by too quickly establishing new rehabilitation programs that result in placing criminal offenders out on the street.

Any approach must first ensure the public's safety by establishing enough capacity in our local jail system to accommodate these convicts. If funds remain, consideration should be given to establishing new rehabilitation programs that could lead to lower recidivism. These programs can also be provided while inmates are still in custody.

Additionally, we must have confidence that the State will actually provide the long-term funding necessary to sustain such programs.

We will have to review the criminal records of those who may be coming under local supervision as this process unfolds. While the State plans to only realign inmates sentenced for "non-serious offenses," that classification is based only on an individual's most recent conviction.

At the local level, though, we must consider why a judge in Sacramento County would sentence someone to State prison if their only offense was "non-

serious." The reality is, people who end up in State prison are there for a good reason.

It makes logical sense that we would want to keep such a person locked up while these questions and others remain unanswered. I would note that District Attorney Jan Scully, Sacramento Police Chief Rick Braziel, and Presiding Judge Laurie Earl supported the initial plan adopted in Sacramento County.

Recently, criticism has been directed towards the Sheriff for not opening all of the jail capacity funded in the County's first months of realignment. However, the new inmates have only begun arriving in our facilities, with many yet to come. Based upon my discussions with Sheriff Jones, I have no doubt about the need for this jail capacity as realignment is fully implemented.

Recidivism is a huge issue for our criminal justice system, and imposes substantial costs on the limited resources of the County's taxpayers. I agree that finding ways to reduce and eliminate re-offenses is an admirable goal that would benefit us all in the long run. However, I cannot and will not support an approach to rehabilitation that would constitute an experiment with the safety of the children, families, and businesses I have been elected to represent.



## Sertoma Club Celebrates 100 Years of Service



Joan Osborn, President of the Sacramento Valley Sertoma Club, presents a check for \$1000.00 to Kristin Haas of the Folsom Lake College Foundation to "name a seat" at the Three Stages Performing Arts Center. The donation is to honor the 100th anniversary of the SERTOMA International, founded April 11, 1912. Accompanying Joan are SERTOMA members Hal Scott and Bill Hupp. Photo provided by The Sacramento Valley Sertoma Club.

The name SERTOMA is derived from the words "SERvice TO MAnkind". SERTOMA International has the primary project of assisting the more than 50 million people with speech and hearing disorders. Sertomas also sponsor community projects to promote freedom and democracy, to assist youth, and to benefit a variety of other local community needs.

Locally, the Sacramento Valley Sertoma Club has been serving the Sacramento Area since May 1980 with a current membership of 50 dedicated men and women.

Some of the many organizations sponsored are: the deaf and hard of hearing programs of Dewey Elementary School, the David Lubin Elementary School,

and The Del Oro High School. The CCHAT Center(Children's Choice For Hearing and Talking), Mustard Seed School for homeless children, Camp SignShine and Camp Grizzly for deaf and hard of hearing children, Sacramento CASA(Court Appointed Special Advocate) for foster children, Ski-For- Light (cross country skiing for blind children), Christmas Promise, Clean and Sober programs, and many other programs.

In addition, two scholarships of \$500.00 each are provided each year to students at Sacramento State University pursuing the Audiology field of study.

To achieve 100 years by any service club is a rare and commendable accomplishment. SERTOMA Club members take pride in a century of Service to Mankind.

The Sacramento Valley Sertoma Club is looking for new additional members that are serious about giving back to the community. They meet every Thursday, 7:00am, at CoCo's Restaurant, Madison and Sunrise Blvd. Visitors welcome.

Contact Bill at 916-966-1361 or Hal at 916-966-3629.

## Mel Turner: A Focused Spirit

By Julie Parker

CITRUS HEIGHTS – At the turn of the century, Dolphus Stroud faced unconscionable racial assaults. Yet, he pushed through to receive a Masters degree (he wrote a thesis in Spanish), a Harvard teaching position, broke a 25-year record running the Pikes Peak Marathon in 1928, and qualified for the final Olympic tryouts.

His grandson, Mel Turner, inherited that focused spirit, which he has applied to his career, family, and duties as an elected official on the Citrus Heights City Council. Like his grandfather, he has been a teacher, and is fluent in Spanish.

Born in Detroit, his family relocated to the Bay Area when he was ten years old. In high school, he remembers attending Vietnam protests and rallies, in an attempt to understand our country's involvement. "To this day, I don't understand," says Turner.

He attended Hartwick College, in upstate New York, which offered a Junior Year Abroad Program in Mexico, where he learned Spanish, and the culture's history. "One thing I was surprised to learn was there had been slaves in Mexico. I saw people who were darker than me. I was shocked."

He was also a winning contestant on Mexico's version of The Dating Game. "This was in 1969-70, right after the Olympics. The young lady choosing the date was a Cuban actress. She picked me, she said, because she loved my accent."

After graduating from Hartwick, he returned to California, first working as a bilingual vocational counselor, then a probation officer in San Mateo County, where a particular memory stands out. "I went to a house for a probationary visit, and the guy opened the door with a gun pointed at me, finger on the trigger. That was a defining moment. Let someone else be a probationary officer."



Mel Turner and his wife Connie. Photo by Julie Parker

He also remembers meeting Connie, who was working at the County Manager's Office at the time. "When I first saw her, I told her, 'You're going to be my wife one day.' It took five years, but it happened." They have a daughter together, and Turner has a son from a previous marriage.

Turner briefly worked as a recruiter for the Urban League, then a crime prevention specialist for the San Mateo Police Department. After about seven months, he took over as director. He subsequently accepted a position in Sacramento with the Attorney General's Office, and experienced a diverse career with the State for almost 25 years, before retiring.

He's taught at UC Davis Extension, St. Mary's College, Golden Gate University, and currently teaches at Sacramento Community College. "My passion is teaching. So, I do a lot of that on the side."

Meanwhile, Turner attended Citrus Heights City Council meetings to educate himself, as a taxpayer. "The more I met the people involved, the more I learned about the plans for the city, and wanted to be involved myself."

He was appointed to the Sheriff's Community Outreach Advisory

Board, followed by a position with the Planning Commission, then an introduction to the Leadership Citrus Heights program. "That really opened up my eyes to the City Council, and my future career goal to be a Council member."

Turner appreciates what Citrus Heights has to offer. "It reminds me of the community I grew up; where cops are friendly, they wave to you. Volunteerism is huge here. It is rewarded and celebrated."

When a "walkabout" is needed, he takes advantage of the area's options of fly fishing, kayaking, walking and cycling the American River bike trail. As an avid backpacker, hiking Mt. Whitney was a crowning achievement. "It was a seven-day hike, because we came in the back way. That really tested me."

When a vacancy in the City Council opened up, he considered it carefully, weighing the effort, cost and time involved. "I went on a backpacking trip, meditating on it. I decided I wanted to do it. I didn't have any issues, or an ax to grind. I just wanted to serve, to give back."

Citrus Heights may look like any other community, but it has a sense of belonging; an old fashioned sense of pride. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else."

## PONA Creek Clean Up Week

By Leslie Carrara

CITRUS HEIGHTS – The Park Oaks Neighborhood Association, area 5 under the Residents' Empowerment Association of Citrus Heights, is hosting a creek clean up at Shadowcreek Park on Park Oaks Dr. on Sat., April 14th from 9 a.m. to noon, all as part of Creek Week, sponsored by the Sacramento Area Creeks Council.

According to President of SACC Alta Tura, other creeks in Citrus Heights slated for a

clean-up include Arcade Creek, which runs behind Costco and WalMart on Auburn Blvd., ultimately leading to the Sacramento River, and Cripple Creek, which runs behind Mesa Verde High School in area 2. She said that Arcade Creek on Auburn is not very dirty this year, however, volunteers will be removing invasive plants, including black berries.

All total, the SACC receives approximately 2,000 volunteers for Creek Week each year. Last year, over 21 tons of garbage was cleaned

up in the Greater Sacramento Area, from Folsom to Galt.

After the clean up, volunteers are headed to Carmichael Park, where exhibits about water and food booths will be available. They are serving barbecue hot dogs.

While the clean up is underway, people who want to participate somehow but can't volunteer, can take e-waste to Carmichael Park on Fair Oaks Blvd., in Carmichael, as the SACC is sponsoring an e-waste drive as part of Creek Week celebrations.

### California State Youth Pageant

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### Red White & Blue Parade Committee Kick-off Meeting

*Would you like to be a part of the planning committee for the 2012 Citrus Heights Red, White & Blue Parade?*

*It is scheduled for June 23, 2012.*

*Please contact Michele Saario at (916) 727-5402 or email to [msaario@citrusheights.net](mailto:msaario@citrusheights.net)*

Meetings are held at the Citrus Heights Community Center, 6300 Fountain Square Drive. More volunteers are needed to make this a terrific success for Citrus Heights.

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**Publisher, Paul V. Scholl**

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# Tax Increase Reviewed by City Council

By Leslie Carrara

CITRUS HEIGHTS – The Citrus Heights City Council narrowly passed a proposal for a future vote on the city manager's utility tax/parcel fee proposed increase, the first ever vote of its type facing council members since incorporation. The meeting lasted over 4 and a half hours, with discussions about the tax proposal beginning at 7:40 p.m.

The vote was 3-2 in favor of reviewing the proposed increase on June 14, which City Manager Henry Tingle presented to council prior to the March 8 city council meeting. Tingle proposes raising utility tax fees 1.75 percent and imposing a \$50 parcel fee for residents within the city limits, all in an effort to staff four additional detectives on the police force following the passage of AB109, a Police Activities League officer and to maintain the deteriorating neighborhood streets within Citrus Heights. Councilman Mel Turner, Vice Mayor Steven Miller and Councilwoman Jeannie Bruins voted to keep the proposal alive, with a final vote to put it on the November

ballot in June. Councilwoman Dr. Jayna Karpinski-Costa and Mayor Jeff Slowey were not in favor of pursuing the proposal at this time.

One area the entire council agreed on was staffing the police department with four additional detectives to meet the demands of an increased number of criminals being released within the city. As Citrus Heights Police Chief Christopher Boyd told the council, an individual charged with attempted murder is being released into the city as part of the AB109 realignment. However, council members did not necessarily agree on adding a PAL officer and combining the street work with the additional detectives in one vote. Councilwoman Karpinski-Costa indicated she would be in favor of the proposal but not as written. She said a .75 utility tax increase as well as the parcel fee to support the additional detectives and not combining the street repair with the police department needs is what she would support. Slowey was interested in helping out the police department at the current time, rather than waiting until the November ballot.

The cost for the street repairs as presented at the meeting would be covered by one million from cash reserves per year and one million in new funds from the proposed tax increases. The additions to the police force would cost \$500,000 and an extra \$250,000 would be included for police equipment technology. All of this would come out of the 1.75 per cent utility tax increase. This includes a tax on phone usage, sewer, electric, gas and cable television.

Bruins told the people at the meeting that the council was being asked to give direction to staff. "I believe we need to do the right thing for our community," she said. She is in favor of a survey being conducted prior to June 14 to get community feedback on the proposed tax increases.

Miller told the council that "no one is going to help us. We need to help ourselves. I need some more feedback."

And Turner indicated that he doesn't think the council can separate the street repairs from the additional detectives, as both are important.

# Crystal Apple Awards 2012

LDS Seminary students honor their favorite high school teachers

By Gary Zavoral

High school students who attend early-morning seminary at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints honored their most influential high school teachers in the San Juan Unified School District during the 10th annual Crystal Apple Awards Wednesday, March 21.

More than 200 youth in the Carmichael and Citrus Heights Stakes of The Church of Jesus Christ attend seminary, an hour of religious instruction, before heading to high school at Bella Vista, Casa Roble, Del Campo, Mesa Verde and New San Juan. On Wednesday evening at The Church of Jesus Christ meeting-house on Van Maren Lane, one of four seminary sites in the two stakes, the students presented Crystal Apple awards to those high school teachers who inspire and motivate them the most.

This year's Crystal Apples were awarded to:

- Karen Perry, an English teacher at Bella Vista High School
- Robert Leever, who teaches wood shop at Casa Roble High School
- Karen Greenberg, an English teacher at Del Campo High School
- Carole Bystrom, who teaches English at Mesa Verde High School
- Sandi Coulter, who launched the culinary arts program at New San Juan High School

In her introduction of Perry, Bella Vista senior Lindsey Childs said, "Every day, she greets me with, 'Hey Pumpkin, how are you? Are you hungry?' I think she's fed the entire student body. ... She's a fantastic example of happiness, having fun and being an excellent teacher."

Showing an interest in the students and making their classrooms a fun learning environment were consistent comments in the students' introductions of their teachers.

"He believes that what makes teaching great is making the class enjoyable," said Casa Roble student Alan Felt, who introduced Leever.

Del Campo sophomore Matt Zavoral said of Greenberg, "She's one of those teachers where you just wish the school year would go slower, so you can have more time with her."

Andrea Sands of Mesa Verde High School praised Bystrom for something she teaches: "Mrs. Bystrom, I agree with you – God is the best author ever."

In accepting their awards, the



Del Campo High School sophomore Matt Zavoral of Citrus Heights, left, and senior Jacob Stoeltzing of Carmichael, right, presented the Crystal Apple to their favorite teacher, Karen Greenberg, who teaches English at the Fair Oaks school. Photos by Jeslin Owens

teachers also praised the students and parents.

"I thank you parents for these students," Greenberg of Del Campo said. "They're the pleasure of a teacher's life. ... Thank you for letting me teach them."

Leever hit on a consistent theme among the educators during the evening by saying that he can tell which students are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"I can pick your kids out of my class," he said. "There's just a spark about them, and they're a pleasure to teach."

San Juan Unified Acting Superintendent Glynn Thompson praised the Crystal Apples event for acknowledging the quality teaching in the school district.

"When you pick up the newspaper, or turn on the TV or surf the Web, you hear some rhetoric that it's somehow sexy to beat up on public education and bash teachers at public schools," Thompson said. "But, as you have proven tonight, when parents and students support their schools and teachers, public education works every time, and it is working in the San Juan Unified School District."

Dr. Jon Dresser, the Citrus Heights Stake director of public affairs who organized the event, also presented Thompson with a Crystal Apple for his dedication to the students and his commitment to teach Christ-like principles.

Thompson told the audience of about 300 students, educators and parents that he also attended religious instruction when he studied Christian ministry in college. Complimenting the students on their commitment to early-morning seminary, he said he rises every morning at 4:45 a.m. to read Scripture. He paraphrased the Gospel of John, saying that "the greatest love you

can show is to give your life for your friends. That is the greatest love we can show, to be of service to others."

Stephanie Bedford of Casa Roble High School was the first speaker of the evening and gave an overview of the Church's seminary program, which is celebrating its 100-year anniversary this year. High school students attend seminary, beginning at 6:30 a.m. every school day, for all four high school years, and the subject matter rotates annually from Old Testament, New Testament, Book of Mormon and Church history.

President Stephen Taylor of the Carmichael Stake – a stake is similar to a Catholic diocese, consisting of several congregations – then spoke about two tough teachers he had in high school who motivated him to learn.

"The basic skills of math and English I was taught by these teachers helped me to be successful in my career, because these are the two skills I use every day as a CPA," he said. "Teachers, you may never know the impact you've had on your students' lives."

Following musical numbers by teen choirs from both stakes, including songs from a recent Citrus Heights Stake performance of the musical "Savior of the World," Citrus Heights Stake President Ned Telford closed the meeting by thanking the teachers for their service to our children.

"You are a second witness," he said. "As I've learned as a parent, you can tell your children something over and over again, but until they see and hear it from someone else, they don't really learn. They hear it from you, too, and it finally clicks. I appreciate you for being that second witness and for the common values that we have and that you teach."

# Job Forecast Bright for Sacramento's HIREvent



SACRAMENTO REGION – Rain or shine, experts predict a 100-percent chance of jobs at Sacramento's HIREvent on Tuesday, April 10th, from noon to 4pm at the Masonic Temple downtown, 1123 J Street (12th and J). This exceptional employment event will feature private organizations and public agencies from around the region, with a variety of immediate staffing needs ranging from entry-level to management positions.

First impressions will be very important, as all the employers

will be eager to hire. Jobseekers should dress to impress and be prepared to pitch their qualifications to company recruiters. Attendees who want to polish their resumes can consult with employment experts offering free one-on-one evaluations.

Admission is free to Sacramento's HIREvent, which is sponsored by Telemundo 33, Entercom Communications and Job Journal. For more information, visit JobJournal.com or call 888-THE-JOBS (843-5627).

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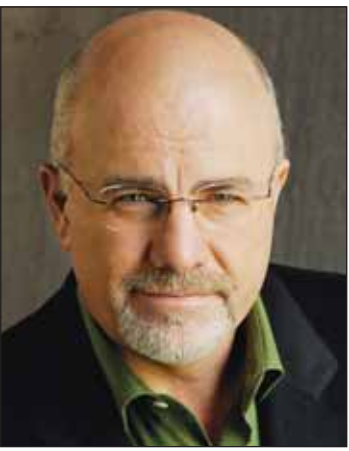
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# Dave Says

Dear Cheryl,

Yes, you are. Life never works out exactly the way you think it will. You can make all the well-reasoned and best-intentioned plans you want, but sooner or later that snake is going to bite you.

The only thing I'd consider in a situation like this is a debit card that has a rewards system attached. Lots of debit card programs offer the same kinds of rewards programs offered by credit card companies, with one big exception—you don't have to go into debt!

You need to stop chasing these stupid brownie points, Cheryl. According to *Consumer Reports*, 78 percent of credit card airline miles are never redeemed. Studies also show that people spend more when using credit cards as opposed to cash. That extra money you spend on things you don't need is money you could have been saving and investing. So, where's the reward?

Cut up the card and close the account, Cheryl. You don't build wealth by using credit cards!

- Dave

### Pension? Invest Anyway!

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are both active duty Marines. She's planning to get out in a few months, but I'm staying in for the long haul.

You recommend saving 15 percent for retirement, but how does that apply in my case when I'll be getting a good pension after 20 years?

- James

Dear James,

I'd like to see you do both. Just imagine the money you guys would have for retirement with your military pension and a big pile of cash from having saved 15 percent of your income over the years.

Having options is a great thing. Think about all the things you could do down the road if you save for retirement and have your pension in place. You could pay cash for a home, or even open a business when you retire from the military. And these are things you probably wouldn't be able to do working with just your service pension.

You've got a great future if you'll just keep plugging along and saving, James. Let the military do its thing, and you guys keep pumping 15 percent of your income into Roth IRAs and other pre-tax retirement plans. It's going to be pretty cool!

- Dave

\*For more financial help, please visit [daveramsey.com](http://daveramsey.com).

### Asking for Trouble

Dear Dave,

I want to keep one of our credit cards open and use the bill-pay option for utilities and other monthly bills. I want to do this so we can continue earning rewards points, and the way I look at it, we'd just be re-routing the money and paying it off every month. My husband doesn't like this idea and thinks we should get rid of them all. Am I just asking for trouble by wanting to keep the rewards card open?

- Cheryl

## Citrus Heights Regional Chamber Of Commerce

[www.chchamber.com](http://www.chchamber.com)

### Upcoming Events

**April 5, 2012**  
Time: 5:30 PM - 11:00 PM  
Chambers Night at the Kings vs. Clippers Game

**April 6, 2012**  
Time: 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM  
Ambassador Meeting 2012

**April 10, 2012**  
Time: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM  
Monthly Membership Luncheon 2012  
Speaker: Fred Smith, CEO, Sed Corp  
Topic: Economic Development & Small Business Lending  
Sponsored by: New York Life Insurance

**April 11, 2012**  
Time: 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Economic Development Committee Meeting

The Citrus Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce, a unifying force for business, government, education and community involvement, is recognized as a vital resource for businesses in the Greater Sacramento Area, committed to promoting economic prosperity. Visit their website for more information.

**Citrus Heights Regional Chamber Of Commerce**  
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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual

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Sunday, May 6, 2012 9:00am

Folsom Lake State Recreational Area at Granite Bay

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Pre-Registration (By April 15th):	On-Site Race-Day Registration:
Adults: \$25    Seniors (65 and over): \$20	7-8:30 am
Children (12 & under): \$15	Adults: \$35
<b>Register on-line at:</b>	Seniors: (65 and over) \$30
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# KVIE Contest Calls for Young Writers & Illustrators

Annual KVIE Contest Fosters Reading, Writing, and Creativity

SACRAMENTO REGION – Kinder-garten through third graders are invited to write and illustrate original story-books and enter them into KVIE Public Television's annual Writers Contest. Children writing and illustrating their original story can enter for a chance to win prizes at both the local and national levels. KVIE Public Television works together with more than 100 other PBS stations nationwide to offer the Contest, attracting close to 1,000 entries locally. Kindergarten through

third graders may enter the Contest by creating an original story with illustrations and submitting it with an official entry form to KVIE. Contest Rules (PDF), Entry Forms (PDF), and a Writing Guide (PDF) for the Contest are available online at kviekids.org. Every child who enters the Contest receives a special Certificate of Achievement. Local winners receive additional prizes at a special recognition ceremony, and their stories will be posted online at kviekids.org. Local first place winners

advance to the national competition. National prizes are awarded to three winning stories in each grade. In addition, national winning stories are featured on pbskids.org, one of the most-visited national websites for children.

To read previous winning stories, visit PBS Kids' Story Central at [www.kvie.org](http://www.kvie.org).

From Sheryl Brown  
Marketing Communications  
Manager  
KVIE Public Television



## Dare to Live Without Limits

THERE ARE NO SHORTCUTS



by Bryan Golden

When someone is successful, they are more visible than when they were struggling along their path to attain their goals. Few people draw much attention while they are confronting challenges and overcoming numerous obstacles.

When a person has reached the top of the mountain and is standing on the summit, they are much more visible than when they were climbing up the side. We all desire success, however we define it.

However, very few of us relish the time and effort required to bring our dreams to reality. Our fantasy is to be instantly successful, living happily ever after, forever. Therefore, the possibility of any type of shortcut has a certain innate appeal.

The reality is that shortcuts typically don't produce the desired results. In fact, shortcuts invariably extend the journey towards success and may even derail it. Rewards come to those who are willing to expend the required energy.

Reaching your goals is like climbing a ladder. The only way to get to the top is to climb one rung at a time. A ladder with missing rungs is unsafe. In order to reach a summit, a mountain climber starts at the bottom and takes as many steps as needed to arrive at the peak.

On your journey to success, there are certain steps you must go through. Any shortcut will attract

what you don't want. Before becoming reality, a goal requires a specific mix of components.

You must have enough desire. The higher the goal, the stronger the desire required. There is a big difference in results between someone who says, "I'd like to do that, it would be nice if it happens," and another person who exclaims, "I want that more than anything else, I'll do whatever it takes to make it happen."

A burning desire keeps you going in spite of setbacks, obstacles and challenges. Unless you want it bad enough, you are likely to give up when the going gets tough. Successful people have a laser like desire that keeps them focused on their destination.

Effort is also essential. Anything worthwhile takes effort. Being successful takes a lot of effort. Working hard while working smart is essential. Not only is the easy road not a route to success, the so-called easy road isn't that easy or rewarding.

Successful people never take the path of least resistance. They are more noticeable once they have attained their dreams than when they were trudging up the mountain. There may be envy of success, but never of the hard work.

Success also takes time. Exactly how much time is needed is never known. Subsequently, many people give up when they are right

around the corner from succeeding. Since you don't know how long your path is, you never know how close you are to your destination, and therefore you should never give up, believing you have failed.

Shortcuts are appealing because they offer the illusion of success without effort. Again, there is no such thing. Shortcuts are in reality, pitfalls. Common shortcuts are cheating, stealing, deception, profiting while causing harm, unethical behavior, taking advantage of others, and illegal activities.

All of the above shortcuts will attract negative, rather than positive outcomes. There may be some very short-term gains, but the long-term journey of those choosing this path will be filled with undesirable consequences.

Don't look for shortcuts and don't take them if offered. Shortcuts have never worked for others, and they won't work for you. You will achieve your dreams if you are willing to take the journey. Once you reach your goal, you will be glad you avoided shortcuts.

NOW AVAILABLE: "Dare to Live Without Limits," the book. Visit [www.BryanGolden.com](http://www.BryanGolden.com) or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at [bryan@columist.com](mailto:bryan@columist.com) or write him c/o this paper. © 2007 Bryan Golden

## Sacramento's Best Poets Perform to Benefit the Food Bank

The April 30 Fundraiser at the Sacramento Poetry Center Will Raise Funds for a Vital Local Charity

SACRAMENTO REGION – Seven local poets will feature in a charity reading at the Sacramento Poetry Center, located at 1719 25th Street in Sacramento, on Monday, April 30, 2012 at 7:30 PM. All proceeds and donated canned goods collected at the event will go to support the Sacramento Food Bank.

The talented poets who will read include Allegra Silberstein (current Poet Laureate of Davis, CA), David Gay, Jen Jenkins, Josh Fernandez, Rebecca Moos, Trina Drotar, and Todd Cirillo (a

Grass Valley poet). The event is also being hosted by local poets, including Lytton Bell, Bill Pieper and Laura Baumann Otsubo.

The Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services is a local, non-profit agency committed to serving individuals and families in need. With a staff of 40 and a volunteer force of over 4,000, Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services provides free emergency goods and services to nearly 15,000 unduplicated men, women and children each month.

Since 1979, the Sacramento

Poetry Center's mission has been to promote and advance the practice and application of poetry and the literary arts in our community, to enliven and extend the cultural boundaries of Sacramento's literary arena by creating and maintaining forums for local writers; to support and empower emerging and established poets, and to bring the best practitioners of the craft into the community.

For questions or to arrange interviews, please contact Lytton Bell at [lytton\\_bell@hotmail.com](mailto:lytton_bell@hotmail.com) or (916) 331-3546.

## Widowed Persons Association of California, Inc.

Office Hours 10:00 am-3:00 pm  
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By Ronnie McBrayer

# Easter and Incomplete Answers

one: "What is Easter? Do we really know what it is about?" Despite a gazillion Easter sermons and Sunday School classes, our answers may still be a little lacking.

Many believers spend Easter morning proclaiming or listening to massive, exhaustive explanations of the resurrection miracle (though miracles, by default, are inexplicable). The gospel accounts are analyzed and reconciled; scientific objections are considered and then dismantled; skeptics are scolded and unbelievers are disregarded. It is apologetic calisthenics, a vigorous workout in defending Jesus' reputation, and not quite the answer.

Other believers hear or give Easter explanations that deal almost exclusively with life after death. The resurrection of Jesus is presented as our ticket to ride the divine bus, transporting us to heaven when we die. Interestingly, the New Testament never directly says "Jesus was resurrected from the dead so you can go to heaven when you die." The eventual application is made to that effect, but that is not quite the message of Easter either.

Rather, the New Testament says, over and over again, that "Jesus is raised from the dead, therefore he must be Lord over creation. Jesus is raised from the dead, he must be — he has to be — the grounding to what life today is all about. Jesus is raised from the dead, therefore God has done something unique and life-giving in this his servant and something unique and life-giving has invaded the entire world."

So Easter, it seems, is not

so much about defending the Christian belief system (Jesus didn't come to provide a "belief system" or a collection of doctrines in the first place; he came to give us life) as it is a revolution of transforming hope for the world.

Easter is not so much a passage way into the nether regions of tomorrow, as it is a powerful, redemptive way to live today. For you see, when God raised Jesus from the dead — and Christians believe Christ is indeed risen — he signaled the beginning of the redemption of all things, and provided the potency to bring this redemption to its fulfillment.

So we must do more than explain Easter. We must live it and "get in" on it today. We must do more than use the resurrection as a hope for heaven. We must use it to instigate heaven on earth. We must do more than say "He is Risen," we must become proof of Christ's resurrection power.

If we have reduced the resurrection of Jesus to mere dogma, or if we employ it as an escape hatch from this life for the life to come, we are responding to the question, "What is Easter?" with an enthusiastic, but incomplete answer.

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](http://www.ronniemcbrayer.net).

*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](http://www.ronniemcbrayer.net).*

On Easter morning a Sunday School teacher began to quiz her class of young children about the real meaning of the day. She asked them, "What is Easter?" and the students were quick and ready to respond.

A little boy jumped up and said, "Oh, I know! Easter is that holiday when we get together with our families, eat turkey, and everyone is thankful." The teacher answered, "No, not quite. Does anyone else know?" Another child enthusiastically answered, "This is easy! Easter is the holiday when we grill burgers and hotdogs, shoot off fireworks, and celebrate our country's birthday."

Again, the teacher replied, "No, not quite." She began to wonder if anyone in the room knew what Easter was really about. But then a little girl stood and began speaking, "Easter is a Christian holiday that follows the remembrance of Jesus' death on Good Friday. Jesus was buried in tomb, and a large rock was rolled over the entrance."

The teacher nearly squealed in delight. She was about to thank the child for such a good explanation when the girl continued, "And on Easter morning the stone is rolled away so Jesus can get out. Then, if he sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter." No, not quite.

While the children in this story gave incomplete answers, the question asked is still a good

# It's My Body; I'll Exercise It If I Have To

By Rev. James L. Snyder

Lately, I have noticed a lot of news regarding all aspects of the body. According to one report I read, this is a multibillion dollar-a-year business. I never knew my body was worth so much money. I'm tempted to sell it, or at least rent it out on a part-time basis.

I did not know how big of a deal this was until one night this past week I had a little trouble sleeping.

One reason I have trouble falling asleep is my deep fear of falling. Actually, it's not the fall that worries me so much as that sudden stop. For some inexplicable reason I always stop three inches past the floor.

I would not worry so much about falling asleep if I knew I was going to fall on my pillow instead of the floor. However, I can't count on anything these days. Not even my fingers.

I once woke up in the middle of the night engaged in a vicious life or death pillow fight. Unfortunately, the pillow won and I cannot find anyone to take my case.

I did find one lawyer but he was three-sheets-to-the-wind and my case was no breeze.

One fear I have in the middle of the night is falling into the hands of some vicious nightmare because of my horsing around the day before. My wife keeps nagging me about my daytime activities but I have a hard time harnessing these erratic urges.

Often when I have trouble going to sleep or when I wake up in the middle of the night and can't get back to sleep I simply get up quietly so as not to disturb the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and turn on the television. I once disturbed her; when I came to, I vowed never to repeat that offense.

You would think with so many channels on television there would be something interesting to watch in the middle of

the night. Something that would make the time spent profitably. Unfortunately, the nighttime airwaves are devoted to things holding no interest for anybody still clutching to a slim strand of sanity. You do not have to be crazy to watch nighttime TV; it is just a consequence of watching nighttime TV.

What I do not understand is why they run so many infomercials for exercise equipment at two o'clock in the morning. Who in their right mind is up that time of night? I know I'm not.

Using my remote, I channel surfed for probably 20 minutes and found nothing but people demonstrating exercise equipment and taunting me that I need to begin an exercise regimen if I am going to live a healthy life. One man's healthy life is another man's pain in the back, the knees and the elbows. After all this exercise, I only end up with a tennis elbow and athlete's foot.

Not only exercise equipment, but also a good portion of these infomercials touts on the latest fad diet. According to one commercial I can lose all the weight I want to lose in a six-month period for only six easy payments of \$99 which they would gladly charge to my credit card account. "Call right now," they invite through the television screen, "for this special one-time offer."

This "special one-time offer" is conveniently offered every night. The only weight being lost is from my checking account. If anyone ever had a gander at my checkbook, they would readily see that my goose is cooked. Perhaps I could start a new fad diet: Cooked Goose. I could market myself as the "Cooked Goose Gourmet."

All this hype made me hungry, so I raided the refrigerator and kidnapped a tasty snack and immediately put it out of its misery and into my middle-age spread.

I say enough is enough. I am tired of other people telling me how to take care of my body. It takes all the strength and energy I have to drag my body from one place to another, let alone adding exercise to my daily schedule.

For a person my age I get plenty of exercise, more than I really need. A typical day for me always includes a rigid exercise regime; jumping to conclusions, running my mouth even when I'm told to be quiet from You Know Who and throwing my weight around every chance I get. After a full day of this, I am thoroughly exhausted.

For my money, it's my body and I'll exercise it if I have to, thank you. However, right now, I have more important things to do. Places to go. People to see. Experiences to enjoy. I can't think of any right now, but anything is better than some artificial exercise program. Who do you think I am? Jack LaLane?

With all this emphasis on exercise, I wish some of these people would exercise the right to keep their viewpoint to themselves.

In my opinion, the apostle Paul had the right attitude about all of this. I like what he writes to a young man by the name of Timothy. "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come" (1 Timothy 4:8 KJV).

The body exercised is no substitute for the daily exercise of godliness. To exercise godliness is to make the best possible use of each day.

*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](mailto:jamesnyder2@att.net). The church web site is [www.whatafellowship.com](http://www.whatafellowship.com).*



By Marlys Norris, Christian Author

# You Are Someone Special

comes alive in your heart and life, amazing things will begin to happen. He will give you a life full of meaning and purpose you never had before. He will miraculously fill you with His Spirit. You will experience His presence as you talk to Him in prayer and study His Word. (Bible)

You will be surprised as you begin to say and do amazing things that bless others -- experiencing the sovereign hand of God inspiring you. You will do many things beyond your natural inborn abilities, you never dreamed possible before you found Him. He gifts you with His endearing and everlasting love and gifts you with new talents to serve in the "Family of God." He said, "These words are written, that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you might have life through His Name". (John 20:31) "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord". (Romans 6:23) God declares you have been wonderfully made and He

is anxious to empower your life to honor Him that others might desire Him. He will be with you always. You will declare, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". (Philippians 4:13)

Eventually you will be awed and amazed, as you humbly realize, that a loving God has brought seeds of greatness into fruition into your life. Great Faith only comes from God. "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you shall ask what you will and it shall be done unto you. (John 15:7) Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth". (2 Timothy 2:15) What you once thought impossible is now a part of your personal testimony of God's greatness and power in your life.

Marlysjn@gmail.com

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When you begin to sincerely SEEK God's perfect will for your life, you are destined to experience an adventure beyond anything you ever imagined possible. For God is the God of the impossible. God's Holy Words says, "When you seek for Me with your whole heart, you will find Me" and that is just the beginning!. When God's Word

# What Matters Most



By Pastor Ray Dare

One day a man walked up to Jesus and asked, "What's the life all about...what should I be doing...what's the greatest commandment?" Jesus said, "Loving Relationships". Jesus said, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength...and you must love your neighbor as yourself." Mark 12:30-31 (NLT) What is Jesus talking about? Loving relationships. Love God, love others, that's it! You can sum up the entire Bible in just two words, loving relationships. Love God, love others...this is life's highest priority.

The Bible says, "Make love your greatest aim." 1 Corinthians 14:1 (LB) If you don't get anything else done in life, get this done: Become a loving person.

Love God, love others. Life is not about the acquisition of things...you know, "He who dies with the most toys wins." Wrong. He who dies with the most toys still dies and you're not going to take any of that with you! Life is not about popularity or position within the company or power or prestige. Life's greatest pursuit is to become a loving person.

Why make love your primary pursuit? Because it's the only thing that's going to last. The only thing that's going to last in your life is love, the loving relationships that you develop. The Bible says everything else is going to burn up; it's going to wither away. Your big house, your nice cars, all your possessions, your degrees on the wall, your trophies and certificates, none of that is going to last. The only thing that you're going to carry with you into eternity is your loving relationships.

The Bible says, "There are only three things that will endure — faith, hope and love — and the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NLT) Would you like to leave a lasting legacy, to make a positive influence in the world around you, to make a difference? Would you like to

leave a deposit in the lives of others which will outlast you? God shows you how right here in the verse: Become a loving person. It's all that you will be remembered for: Were you a loving person? Nobody's going to care about your business savvy, nobody's going to care about how many deals you closed or contracts you signed or position in the company, but they will remember the love that you showed them. People will forget what you say, but they'll never forget how you made them feel.

The best use of life is love, the best expression of love is time and the best time to love is now. Don't put it off another day. Today is the day to develop loving relationships. Begin loving NOW. You don't know how long you're going to have the opportunity. Circumstances change, people die, children grow up and leave home. You're not guaranteed tomorrow, so if you're going to express love, you need to begin today. Don't wait until you have more time, make the time. Don't make it one of the things you want out of life. No! Make love the main thing! It's what matters most.

Pastor Ray

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# Riley Reviews

## RELENTLESSLY VIOLENT "RAID" IS ALL ABOUT THE ACTION

fighting instincts who has the primary role to play in the police raid.

The audience instinctively knows that Rama is the good guy when the film opens with him in a tender moment with his pregnant wife as he prepares for his big mission.

Within minutes, the focus of "The Raid" turns to Rama and his crew in a police van on their way to Tama's 15-story tenement building, where the drug lord is holed up on the top floor.

Under the command of a mysterious police lieutenant, the tactical squad, armed with knives, pistols and automatic weapons, has an objective to secure one floor at a time in order to take down Tama.

This mission is incredibly dangerous and suicidal, as even the bravest cops have never been able to breach Tama's fortress in the past. Not surprisingly, the stealth mission is quickly compromised.

Tama is a vicious criminal kingpin who uses his building to shelter his army of loyal dealers and many customers, all of whom are more than willing to take up arms against any invaders.

It takes only a matter of minutes for the police undercover operation to be blown, resulting in about half of the team being shredded in a barrage of gunfire and machetes.

Still, some of the cops manage to survive, including the valiant Rama, and they realize the only way out of their predicament is a determination to complete the mission and take out Tama for good.

The end result is a non-stop bloodbath that unleashes violence so brutal and unrelenting that "The Raid" might as well be marketed as a video game unsuitable for impressionable

adolescents.

A serious drawback is the deficiency of character development which might give viewers a greater rooting interest in the heroic exploits of Rama and his dwindling crew.

Nevertheless, it's very impressive to see Rama almost singlehandedly continue his explosive march through a seemingly endless parade of henchmen and drug-addled crazies.

Though not in wide release, "The Raid: Redemption" will find its audience looking for vicarious thrills in bloody action that makes audiences gasp.

### TELEVISION UPDATE

Few television shows get more press coverage and less viewers than "Mad Men," and that's unlikely to change any time soon.

Anyone who has not been watching "Mad Men" on the AMC Network all along could not be expected to pick up on the storylines and intrigues of a Madison Avenue advertising agency.

It's bad enough that the show has been on a long hiatus, and now the fifth season picks up somewhere in the mid-Sixties, when New York City loses its glamour as urban decay begins to set in.

The new season picks up where Jon Hamm's debonair ad man Don Draper is making a go of his impulsive decision in the last season to propose to his secretary.

Those who were curious about Don's rash engagement to Megan (Jessica Pare) will learn some interesting things in the season premiere.

Over at the Reelz Channel, Steven Seagal, who apparently has run out of opportunities for martial arts films, brings his crime fighting style to the new TV series "True Justice."

Seagal leads a hardcore undercover team of Seattle cops who take on the local criminal element with the high-octane style that marked so many of his films.

One problem for "True Justice" may be the inability of the target audience to locate the Reelz Channel.

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# Movies and DVDs for the Whole Family

by David Dickstein

### Family Films

#### “Chimpanzee”

Opens April 20, rated G  
[disney.go.com/disneynature/chimpanzee](http://disney.go.com/disneynature/chimpanzee)

Set in the Ivory Coast and Ugandan rainforests, this documentary from DisneyNature follows a baby chimp whose playful and curious world is turned upside down when a rival band of chimps takes on his family. Orphaned, Oscar fends for himself until a surprising adoption by an alpha male. The film, the fourth from DisneyNature (“African Cats,” “Oceans” and “Earth,” all available on home video), is intentionally being released on Earth Day. During the first week of release some of the ticket proceeds will benefit the Jane Goodall Institute.



date with “Chimpanzee,” this might be the first time polar bears and primates battle for superiority.

### Family DVDs

“**Dougie in Disguise**” Volumes 1 and 2 (ages 2-5, released April 10, not rated): Sold separately, these two discs out of Spain (dubbed in English) teach preschoolers about different jobs, animals and parts of the world. Dougie and his dog Tim, both with heavy British accents in the English version, move from vignette to vignette with the help of young viewers who “choose” stickers from an album. Cute graphics and simple, yet fun stories make these a winner. *Grade: A-*

“**Adventures in Lalaloopsy Land: The Search for Pillow**” (ages 3-8, now available, not rated): The first movie based on the successful toy line for girls deals with the tragic news that Pillow Featherbed has gone missing. Because the Lalaloopsy dolls can’t cry in their pillow, because it’s disappeared, of course, they set out on a cheaply

animated adventure where creativity and teamwork do magical things. *Grade: B-*

“**Scooby-Doo! Music of the Vampire**” (ages 4-10, now available, not rated): Big shock that when Scooby-Doo and the Mystery Inc. gang travel to the Deep South for the Vampire-Palooza Festival, things go south, and deeply. This continuation of the vampire craze in movies and TV is entertaining for the target audience, and there’s some cool tunes in the franchise’s first-ever original animated musical movie. *Grade: B*

“**Space Dogs in 3D**” (ages 4-10, released April 10, rated G): Before they were stuffed and exhibited in Russia as two national heroes, Belka and Strelka were among several astrodogs chosen to prove that a human being can go into space and returned safely. In 1960 these two became the first, and their tale, made into a Russian animated feature in 2010, now wags for English-speaking homes. Nice change of pace from the usual red, white and blue-blood space race flick. *Grade: B+*

“**We Bought a Zoo**” (ages 5-15, released April 3, PG): Corny and sappy work splendidly around Christmastime, so we cut this dramady some slack when theatrically released last December. On video in April, however, the tale of a widowed father who buys a dilapidated zoo in hopes of making a fresh start for his family probably won’t go down so easily with the hard-edged. Matt Damon and Scarlett Johansson star. *Grade: B-*



#### “The Three Stooges”

Opens April 13, rated PG  
[threestooges.com/movie](http://threestooges.com/movie)

A new generation gets introduced to the trio’s classic slapstick stylings with Will Sasso, Sean Hayes and Chris Diamantopoulos as Curly, Larry and Moe, respectively. The farcical fun begins on a sad note – they get dumped as newborns at the door of an orphanage – but all it takes is one eye poke to the unfortunate nun who makes the discovery to lighten the mood. The plot involves the stooges being taken advantage of by socialites, but story always come secondary to zaniness when watching these working-class wackos.

#### “To the Arctic”

Opens April 20, rated G  
[imax.com/tohearctic](http://imax.com/tohearctic)

Meryl Streep narrates the journey of a mother polar bear who navigates the challenging Arctic wilderness with two cubs in tow. The 40-minute film, debuting



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with Mary Jane Popp

some help. Here’s what she says.

1) **The way to navigate this Wild New World is to mend your own life...and that process means you will also mend other people and situations.** As the world around us becomes less predictable and systems dissolve, **we must let go of our familiar, rigid ways of thinking and behaving to embrace the fluidity of our true nature... the essential characteristics that makes each of us unique.** Helping our true nature allows us to surf the change tsunami while helping others in the process.

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desire to forgo fixed and traditional careers or choices in favor of more fluid and unconventional ones.

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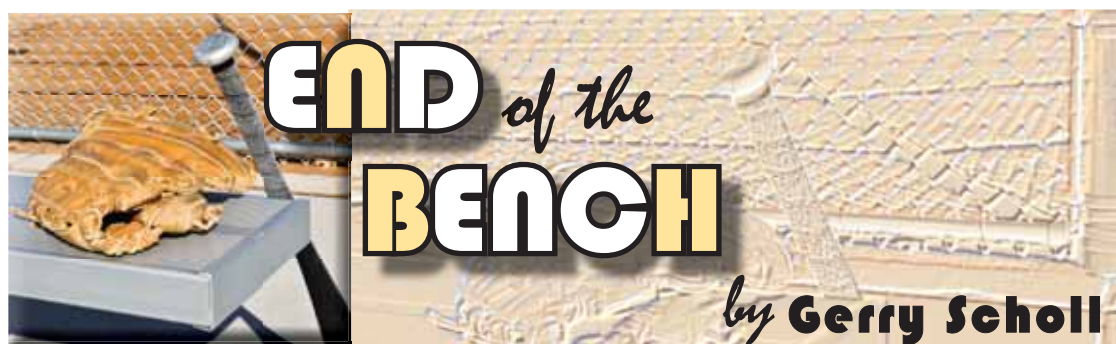
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## Together, We're Not Who We Used to Be

The San Francisco Giants will have their final roster decisions for 2012 sorted out by the time they take the field Friday at Arizona for the season opener, but, for sure, they will have quite a different look compared to who they were seventeen months ago when they won the World Series.

Only three of the nine players, including starting pitcher Tim Lincecum, who ran out on the diamond for Game One of that Series are still with the team. Catcher Buster Posey will be back, trying to return to form after missing most of 2011 due to his horrific ankle injuries. First baseman Aubrey Huff is back after a poor 2011 season and in the final year of his contract, trying to retain his position ahead of youngsters Brandon Belt and Brett Pill.

I was flipping through a little book I have on the Giants' 2010 postseason run called "Giant Surprise." There are a lot of pretty cool pictures in there from those forever memorable games.

There's a picture of Cody Ross and Edgar Renteria chest-bumping — both gone now. There's one of Ross, the NLCS MVP, making contact on one of his five postseason home runs, and one of Renteria connecting on his famous homer in Game Five of the Series which provided the clinching margin.

So many of those grinning Giants heroes who paraded triumphantly through the streets of The City are gone now. Loveable Andres Torres and handsome Pat Burrell, particular favorites of female Giants fans, — traded to the Mets and retired, respectively. Juan Uribe and his classic home run pose at the plate in Game One — gone. Overpaid outfielder Aaron Rowand was released and may be found somewhere in the minor leagues, and infielder Mike Fontenot was recently let go. Clutch-hitting, but fragile, second baseman Freddy Sanchez is back on the disabled list again. Starter Jonathan Sanchez — off to Kansas City.

Possibly only four of the fourteen position players on that World Series roster will be with the team this year. But for a team that turned in an astonishingly abysmal offensive performance in 2011, that might be a good thing. Changes for the better had to be made and, hopefully, "Together, We're Giant."

Three new outfielders, Angel Pagan, Melky Cabrera and Gregor Blanco, along with returnee Nate Schierholtz, and young infielders Brandon Crawford and Emmanuel Burriss will provide upgrades in speed and defense. Their power numbers will be a big question, however. That department will be the specialty of a more healthy and more committed third baseman Pablo Sandoval. It would be hard to imagine the new group could do any worse than last season's offense, one of the worst in Giants history.

The best news is that the Giants have retained the services of eight of the eleven pitchers from the World Series team and may still have the best overall staff in the majors, anchored by Lincecum and Matt Cain, who just re-signed with the team on a long-term deal.

Across the bay in Oakland, the Athletics are, and then again they aren't, who they used to be. There are in the sense that the player turnstiles are fully operational — most of their better players are, once again, gone after ultra-short tenures with the team. They aren't in that there are, once again, a lot of new faces around. The "A" on the cap could stand for "Anonymous."

At least they have decided to start building a regular lineup around young burgeoning stars. Second baseman Jemile Weeks was somewhat of a revelation through late last season and newly signed Cuban star center fielder Yoenis Cespedes has a bit of a Bo Jackson look about him. First baseman Brandon Allen has impressive power and may be the "sleeper" in the lineup. Young versatile outfielder Collin Cowgill could be a big help off the bench.

The A's have improved the

offense and will add suspended veteran star Manny Ramirez to the mix as a designated hitter fifty games in, but that may be too late because of the gutted pitching staff.

Can you name the A's starting rotation? Can manager Bob Melvin name the A's starting rotation? Maybe he could, and maybe he would cringe doing so. And then when he calls for his closer he'll say, "Grant Balfour." And that's the last thing you want your closer to do.

And now I have to go see if the Kentucky Wildcats can go close their deal in the NCAA Championship Game, and wait and see if their drunken fans burn down the whole city of Lexington, win or lose. What's the deal with all these sports celebrations? What spirit!

Coach John Calipari is a hard one to root for with his checkered past of indiscretions at Massachusetts and Memphis. It wouldn't be a surprise to see him leave Kentucky with a probation to face as well, as he moves on again for another bigger payday elsewhere. Go Kansas, I guess.

It has been a relatively uninspiring tournament, but the one lasting impression will be the highlight play against Louisville in the semi-final by Kentucky's freshman sensation Anthony Davis, taking a tipped lob pass with a long reach and slamming it emphatically through the rim. Game Over.

**Outdoor World**

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In early spring, catchable bass can be scattered almost anywhere in a lake, but you can up your odds by fishing northern shorelines where the sun warms the water the most each day. Your odds get even higher in isolated backwaters along the northern shoreline where water warms faster even yet.

Always remember, the warmer the water the more active the fish. Even in these areas though, the bass aren't going to be active all the time. If an early season lure like a ¼ ounce white single spin doesn't produce try small jigs and in line spinners.

The single most productive presentation in early, early spring is to stop retrieving your lure and let it sit. Small tube type baits, grubs, jig & pig, and 4" long natural colored bait fish shaped lures all work well on early bass.

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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.

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**CLUES**

**ACROSS**

- One who pretends to be something he is not
- Cruise or Hanks, e.g.
- A tropical South American monkey
- Far beyond norm
- Bleat
- Floor covering
- Slanted or listed
- Bow shape
- Tripod
- \*Pinching crustacean
- \*Underwater flower
- Make lacework
- Go cold turkey
- International Monetary Fund
- Holier than who?
- A hand tool for drawing angles, pl.
- "Yes, \_\_\_!"
- "Layla" singer-songwriter
- Roman king's abode
- A fit of shivering
- On fishing pole, pl.
- "Coal Miner's Daughter"
- Whatchamacallit
- Relating to the ear
- Caricatured
- \*Octopuses
- On top of
- Put to the test
- Duds or threads
- Wound fluid
- Ancient wind instrument
- \*Daryl Hannah in "Splash"
- Archeologist's find
- Maiden name indicator
- \_\_\_ Domingo
- Kiwanis and Elks groups, e.g.
- Even (poetic)
- \_\_\_ Park, CO
- Contributions to the poor
- H1N1, e.g.
- Crevice stuffers

**DOWN**

- Door sign
- Margarine
- Back wound?
- German surrealist Max
- Knocks on the door, e.g.
- Ski lift
- \*Rowboat propeller
- Reverted to China in '99
- Now Thailand
- In addition
- Type of eye?
- \_\_\_ of Man
- Move unsteadily
- Olden days anesthetic
- Writing point of pen
- Eternal sleep
- Idealized image
- Ex-Laker Johnson
- He sold his soul to Mephistopheles
- Popular dunking cookie
- A sails-shaped constellation
- It borders Mediterranean and Red seas
- \*The Titanic was one of these
- \*Spongebob's air-breathing friend
- Office communique
- Paper holder
- \*A peri \_\_\_ lets a submariner see above water
- Light studies
- Charged particle
- Florence Nightingale and the like
- Thief, Yiddish
- \*Daryl Hannah in "Splash"
- \*Black and white killer?
- Independent unit of life
- Obama to Harvard Law School, e.g.
- Barbequed anatomy
- Carte du jour
- Not in favor
- Individual unit
- Sleep in a convenient place
- \*It can be electric

For Solution See Page 7

## Free e-Waste 3-R Day & Gi-normous Yard Sale

**The Domestic Violence Intervention Center invites you to our 3-R Day (recycle, reuse & re-purpose—FREE eWaste drop), and Gi-normous Yard Sale on Saturday, April 14th.**

**The event takes place at DVIC located at 6060 Sunrise Vista Drive Citrus Heights (off Greenback Lane & Fair Oaks Blvd.)**

**Food and fun starts at 8 a.m. and runs until 3 p.m. Yard Sale Vendors open up at 8 a.m. The eWaste drop-off opens up at 10 a.m.**

**Come sell your goods, purchase some goods, or clean up the electronic clutter in your home, office, garage or backyard. Remember, another person's junk is another person's jewel.**

**Want to Donate or WANT TO BE A VENDOR? Contact the DVIC 3-R Coordinator's at 916-215-6731, or by email [dvic3rday@yahoo.com](mailto:dvic3rday@yahoo.com).**

DVIC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) agency - FEI 68-0457704. All proceeds benefit the youth and family programs offered free of service to the greater Sacramento region. DVIC is a wellness based organization supporting communities in the greater Sacramento region. DVIC is located at 6060 Sunrise Vista Dr., Ste 2340, Citrus Heights, CA 95610. For more information about DVIC call 916-728-5613. DVIC 24 Hour Crisis Hotline is 916-728-7210.

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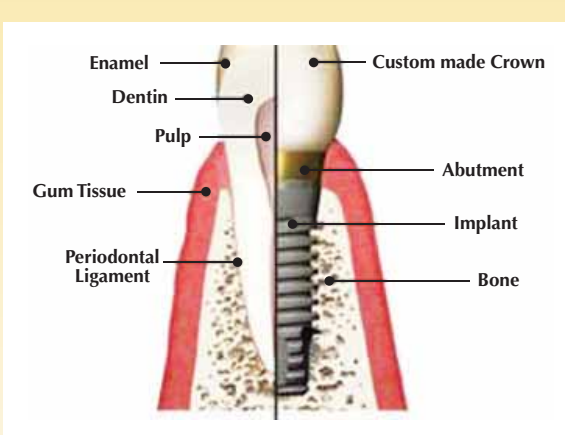
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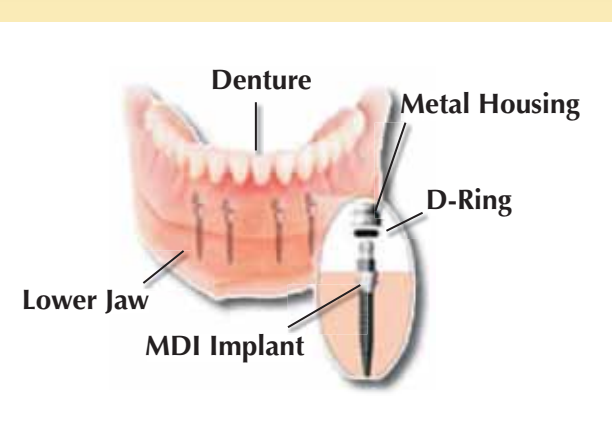
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*A Case in Point*

# The Case of the Unlucky Driver

By David Graulich, Esq.

There's a tug-of-war in society between technology, which changes rapidly and constantly, and the law, which changes gradually and infrequently. Technologies such as cell phones or "tweeting" alter the social patterns of everyday life. The law struggles to catch up and stay relevant.

That's brings us to the story of Carl Nelson, the unlucky driver.

Mr. Nelson was driving his car in the city of Richmond, California on the morning of December 28, 2009. He stopped at a red light and decided, like many of us, to make use of the waiting time. Mr. Nelson opened his "flip-style" cell phone and began dialing to check email.

At this precise moment, a police officer pulled up on a motorcycle directly next to the driver-side door. The officer saw Mr. Nelson holding a cell phone to his ear and dialing. Mr. Nelson looked over, saw the police officer, removed the cell phone from his ear and closed it. We don't know Mr. Nelson's thoughts at this point, but they probably consisted of a two-word expression beginning with "Oh."

When the light turned green and Mr. Nelson drove through the intersection, the officer pulled him over and ticketed him for using a cell phone while driving. In traffic court, the ticket was upheld and a fine of \$103 was levied.

Most people would have given up and paid the \$103. Mr. Nelson, however, was sufficiently disturbed that he retained a law firm and appealed. The

California Appellate Court, First District, agreed to hear the case.

Mr. Nelson's lawyer made an interesting argument. He acknowledged Vehicle Code, Section 2313(a), which says, "A person shall not drive a motor vehicle while using a wireless telephone unless that telephone is specifically designed to allow hands-free listening and talking..."

That's the key, argued the lawyer. Mr. Nelson wasn't driving a motor vehicle. He was stopped at a red light and posed no risk to anyone. To quote the legal lingo: "The term 'drive' requires evidence of volitional movement of the motor vehicle as an element of the offense."

To use a cell phone while stationary was no more hazardous than various other things people do while waiting for a light to change - putting on make-up, eating a messy sandwich, reading a map, or changing radio stations, according to the argument.

The lawyer cited a 1991 decision, Mercer v. Department of Motor Vehicles. Police found a man asleep over the wheel of a car that was legally parked at the curb. The car had its lights on and engine running. The defendant was fined for driving under the influence - but on appeal the fine was overturned. Yes, Mercer was drunk; however, when police observed him, he wasn't driving. He was legally parked and asleep.

That gets us back to the Nelson case. When the Court announced its decision, it turned out that Mr.

Nelson's luck hadn't improved. He lost again.

"Driving" a car, said the decision, meant the same as "operating" a car. The court cited various cited California laws that used the words "drive" and "operate" interchangeably.

The drunk driver in Mercer was in a different situation. Mercer wasn't going anywhere, nor was he about to. However, drivers at a red light are still "operating" a car, and could pose a hazard if distracted - by their feet letting up on the brakes, for example, or by failing to promptly move as required by the traffic laws.

If Mr. Nelson wanted to use a cell phone at a red light, the Court concluded, he should install a hands-free wireless system and be in compliance with the law.

My guess is that California will have more litigation like this. What if I am stuck in dense traffic and call home to alert my family? What if I am in line at the McDonald's drive-thru and use the time to check email or call the office? Technology and law are destined to continue skirmishing in the courtroom.

*David Graulich, Esq. of Fair Oaks is an attorney with The Law Firm of Tim O'Connor. David welcomes comments on "A Case in Point" columns at (916) 932-2312 or by email: David@timoconnorattorney.com. This column is not intended as an offer of legal advice. Contact a qualified attorney to obtain advice with respect to any particular issue or problem.*



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