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"Written by the people, for the people"

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Serving Fair Oaks, Orangevale & Sacramento County

NOVEMBER 3, **2017**

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Village Staying Focused

Story and photo by Jacqueline Fox

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Members of the Fair Oaks Village Enhancement Committee (FOVEC) are rolling up their sleeves and, once again pushing to obtain enough support from local property and business owners to launch a Property and **Business Improvement District** (PBID) for the village.

PBIDs, proved to be successful in other parts of the county, including Citrus Heights and Carmichael, create a funding pipeline through assessments on commercial and residential property owners situated in the PBID zone. Once established, PBID assessments are collected and managed by an elected PBID board, generally comprised of stakeholder members, and used to pay for services to invigorate the local economy, mitigate blight and vandalism and other security issues linked to homelessness and vagrancy.

While FOVEC has the support needed from the county, including the roughly \$50,000 needed to form a PBID, the group, now comprised of roughly 12 members, failed to obtain the required 51 percent approval from local business and property owners last June to move forward with its application. As such, FOVEC was granted an extension until spring of 2018 to try once more to convince enough business and property owners in the PBID zone to get on board.

"We are going to go at this again because we need to, and we are going to give it our best shot," said Greg Vincent, a local



Daneece Frazier, owner of EJ's Little People Hair Salon & Boutique in Fair Oaks Village and FOVEC's current treasurer, hopes the sun will shine on the new PBID efforts.

homebuilder and current FOVEC president. "We were only able to get roughly 26 percent of the (business and property owners) to support the idea of a PBID last time around, despite a lot of hard work and outreach by this group. This time, we have to invigorate our base and really get the information out there about the importance of forming the PBID, what it is and what it can do."

PBID membership is mandatory, once approved by a 51 percent majority vote and business and commercial property owners are assessed, usually quarterly, based on

square footage of their buildings. The assessments are collected by PBID officers who also determine how to allocate the funds, who to contract with for services, such as street cleaning, graffiti removal and private security, and keeping members

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Taxes, Taxes and More Taxes

By Robert Gutierrez, CTF

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - This year, California lawmakers proposed increasing taxes and fees by \$373.4 billion annually - a staggering amount that would cause rampant unemployment by forcing many businesses to close their doors, leaving taxpayers wondering if the "California dream" is finished.

The California Tax Foundation recently released the 2017 edition of "Tax Watch: Major Taxes and Fees Introduced in the California Legislature," identifying all measures that proposed a new or increased tax or fee, and showing which became law, which failed, and which remain alive for consideration next year.

The cumulative sum of the proposals identified in Tax Watch is the highest since this annual report was first published in 2015.

While some proposals are dead and the fate of others remains up in the air, the report notes that taxpayers will have to pay \$8.75 billion a year more in higher taxes and fees under legislation approved by the Legislature and signed by the governor this year.

Even proposals that were rejected this year have a negative impact on the state's jobs climate. Attempts to eliminate Proposition 13 property tax protections, to dramatically increase taxes on employers, or to expand regulatory fees are enough to stifle investment and expansion, because such efforts create uncertainty, and promote the perception that California is a hostile place to do business.

Lawmakers sought to increase taxes and fees that would raise the price of basic necessities housing, health care, child care, groceries and driving. In addition to costing individuals and families, these taxes impact employers, making it costlier for start-ups, family businesses, neighborhood restaurants and California's iconic industries to stay afloat.

Most Californians want to remain in the Golden State -California is our home. Yet we all have at least one friend or family member who left California for a better job in another state, or to enjoy a reduced cost of living.

It is no secret that California has costly regulations, a litigious atmosphere and a high tax burden. Legislative leaders often dismiss these complaints and point to California's economic output and job growth - after all, California is the fifth largest economy in the world. But how much better would the state jobs climate be without the job losses that wipe out so many of the gains?

Business owners considering whether to hire more employees for stores, offices and factories in California now have 373.4 billion reasons to consider other locations first.

Robert Gutierrez is director of the California Tax Foundation, a nonprofit organization funded through grants and donations from taxpayers. The foundation is online at caltaxfoundation.org. ★

Keeping Schools Safe

Story and photos by Jacqueline Fox

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- Just days prior to the mass shootings in Las Vegas that left 59 dead and more than 500 wounded, Bob Erickson was presenting a day-long training for educators and staff in the San Juan Unified School District that could not have been more timely.

"Basically, we were talking about things that were done right and others that could have been done differently during the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings," said Erickson, a retired sergeant with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, now managing San Juan Unified's Safe Schools Program.

Safe Schools is essentially the backbone of the district's campus safety and security system, which covers all policies and procedures for initial assessments and, if necessary, responses to myriad issues and events that can go on at any one of the district's 65 campuses in a single day, including bullying, weapons found in back packs or lockers, drug and alcohol-related offences, assaults, intruders, gang



(From L to R) Bob Erickson, Manager, Safe Schools Program, San Juan Unified School District leads the staff of Chris Cooley, Field Operations Coordinator for Safe Schools, Kevin Givens, Team Leader for Safe Schools and Barry Cox, School Resource Officer for Citrus Heights campuses within the SJUSD.

activity, suspected child abuse, and, sadly, the very real possibility of a student suicide on campus.

Established in 1988, Safe Schools operates through a partnership with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department. to select, train and assign offduty officers to serve as School Resource Officers (SROs) who

patrol, monitor and respond to incidents across five designated school zones that include all 64 campuses in the district. SROs are assigned to roughly 5 schools each, but if needed, they will cross out of their districts to support other SROs in crisis.

In addition, the Citrus Heights Police Department also

of two, full time SROs at Mesa Verde and San Juan high schools, which sit within the SJUSD's boundary lines. They also will cover a crisis if needed at other schools in Sacramento County's unincorporated areas. All calls for SRO assistance

participates with the provision

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In The Spirit

UC Davis, Shriners Hospitals Party Down With the Kids

Story and photos by Jacqueline Fox

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- Children, few would argue, should never have to spend a single day in a hospital bed, hooked up to life-saving monitors and medications, undergoing treatments for things like cancer, head trauma from accidents and the myriad things that can go wrong. But, sadly, many do.

To make things feel a little better, to normalize the experience to some degree for the children admitted as patients (and their families) at UC Davis Children's Hospital and Shriners Hospitals

as far north as Redding, CA.

For the last six years, the Pierce's and several of their Spirit Halloween store employees have brought costumes, backpacks, toys, face paint, photo booths, craft fixings, live character "actors," along with a boat-load of Halloween fun to UC Davis' Children's Hospital and organized a Halloween bash for the children admitted as patients and their visiting family members.

In addition to the parties, in the weeks prior to Halloween, Spirit Halloween stores across the region organize a range of fundraisers, including the company's

Placer and Yuba Counties, and company, actually started this program for children's hospitals back east several years ago and we began participating in 2011," said Pierce. "We start planning for the Halloween party and raising funds in all of our stores right after we open in early September, and we don't stop until we close the doors November 2."

To date, the Pierce's stores have raised roughly \$360,000 for UC Davis Children's Hospital, and the company, via the generosity of its customers and other fundraising channels, generated just under \$50,000 for Shriner's the first year of participation, Pierce said. "Every penny, 100 percent of what we raise in the stores and through fundraisers goes to fund the two facilities' children's programs now."

For William Banks, 5, of Chico, CA and his mother, Amanda, the Halloween "spooktacular" brought a welcome respite from the day-to-day routine they've been operating on since he was diagnosed with lymphoma in August. Banks' wore a contagious, ear-to-ear smile as he spent the afternoon painting his face and head, crafting and mingling with other kids and their families—doing everything a kid should be doing this time of year, never mind the cart of medications and monitoring devices he had to push around the party. Those things are just part of life

"This is so great," William said, freezing for selfies with his mother, taking in the attention from staff, media representatives from this paper and others, including local TV reporters, and of course his fellow patients. "I feel really happy today," he said, and then went off to paint the top



Lisa and Jason Chandler from Cottonwood, CA, joined their daughter, Anastacia Reynolds, 12 for the fun at UC Davis. Anastacia is recovering from a near-hanging accident on a swing set that has I eft her with a traumatic brain injury, from which she is recovering at a pace that has even astonished her doctors,

"This place is amazing," said Lisa Chandler, wrapping her arms around her daughter who must currently use a wheel chair to stay mobile. "We can't believe how awesome all this is. She's making such amazing progress and this is really a great way to give her and all the kids a chance to socialize and just be kids for a little while. This facility is

according to her parents.

absolutely amazing. They are the best."

The UC Davis Child Life and Creative Arts Program is a direct beneficiary of Spirit Store donations. The program helps

Shanda Pierce (left), Franchisor Spirit Stores and sponsor of the party, and William Banks, 5, a Chico resident undergoing treatment at UC Davis.

coordinate the Halloween party, as well as other events throughout the year, including a holiday with Santa at Christmas. But its core services provide an ongoing menu of programs and services for patients and their parents through the work of child life specialists, as well as music and art therapists, among others, who deliver a range of powerful coping strategies and educational information for the patients and their parents.

Diana Sundberg who runs the program at UC Davis, said the donations and party made possible by Spirit Stores is a vital part of the process of keeping kids' spirits high as they go through what is, in most cases, the scariest time of their lives.

"We do everything we can to help minimize fears and normalize the hospitalization experience for the children," said Sundberg. "By throwing the kids a Halloween party with costumes and games, we give them something they can recognize from home, be a part of, and a little bit of normal that they can carry with them while they are going through their treatment or in the recovery process. It's a very scary experience for kids to be away from home, let alone in a hospital. So bringing in Halloween fun for them is one of the ways we work to take those fears away, even if for just a little while."



Anastacia Reynolds, 14 (center), and her parents, Lisa and Jason Chandler.



the process of keeping kids' spirits high as they go through what is, in most cases, the scariest time of their lives.

for Children in Sacramento, staff and supporters delivered the "spirit" of Halloween, literally and figuratively, and threw them all a big fat party Oct. 18 and 19.

It's an annual event, says Shanda Pierce, who, alongside her husband, Kirk own more than 20 Spirit Halloween popup stores across the Central Valley, as well as Sacramento,

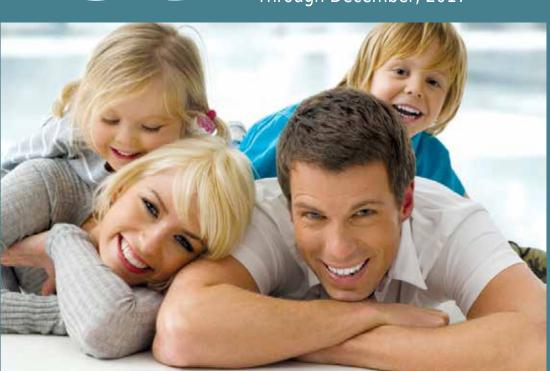
Vampire Ball, a purple pumpkin painting contest, as well as in-store outreach to Halloween customers to benefit UC Davis programs. And, last year, Spirit of Halloween fundraisers expanded to include support for Shriners Children's Hospital next door and now both facilities are recipients of the company's program.

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Keeping Schools Safe

Continued from page 1

that are not initiated through a 911 call for police are filtered through a Safe Schools dispatcher at the district offices in Carmichael. And, while the majority of dispatched calls for an SRO response are not lock-down or high-level emergencies like Sandy Hook or Vegas, as unlikely as they are to occur, according to Erickson, trainings for campus shootings are necessary and, in the recent case, involved the keen eye of hindsight to in reinforcing protocol.

"The seminar was called 'Lessons Learned From Sandy Hook,' and I started out by saying the chances of a school shooting happening on one of our campuses are very slim," says Erickson. "We are constantly aware that a school campus or workplace shooting can happen anywhere, but statistically, the odds are very low that we will have a campus shooting like Sandy Hook. That said, someone always wins the lottery. Our trainings are not to scare anyone, but we need to be prepared."

District-wide staff trainings like these, as well as a regular review of policies and procedures for handling an entire range of campus emergencies are held roughly every three months for teachers and staff, along with SRO representatives and other Safe School team members.

All schools in the district are required to have a "Comprehensive School Safety Plan" in place that should be made available for public review at any time.

In the case of Sandy Hook, says Erickson, many teachers and students exposed themselves to the gunman by trying to run first rather than hide, following a previously standardized policy of run, hide, fight, which today winds counter to the tactic advocated by many Safe Schools teams, including San Juan's.

"Here in the San Juan School District, we look at it as hide, run, fight," says Erickson. "If you can run to safety, do it. But if you are not sure, we advocate hiding first. At Sandy Hook, you had teachers who hid kids in cupboards and other places and called 911. That was exactly the thing to do. In other instances, however, teachers



Julie Sarell, Safe Schools Dispatcher (center) is an important member of the Safe Schools staff. District-wide staff trainings, as well as a regular review of policies and procedures for handling an entire range of campus emergencies are held roughly every three months for teachers and staff.

heard shots and went out to investigate and they were killed. So if you hear something that sounds like a shot, it's probably a shot and you should hide."

In addition, first responder protocol has also changed, according to Erickson, since the Columbine school shooting in Colorado in

"Before Columbine, law enforcement or SROs would arrive on the scene, form what's called a 'perimeter' around the school, and then wait for reinforcements before going in," said Erickson. "Now, they are trained to just go in."

Trainings rotate from campus to campus and are usually held on shortened days in the afternoon to ensure everyone who wants to attend can, Erickson said. In a few weeks another "active shooter" and high-alert response workshop will take place. Attendees will be given a range of scenarios, broken up into groups and charged to each come up with their own strategies for effective response.

One aspect that also gets emphasized in active shooter trainings that will also be highlighted, is the concept of friendly

fire. Erickson explains it best. "One of the things we also emphasize is a hands up policy," Erickson said. "If you are walking on the campus during a lockdown and law enforcement is there with weapons drawn, you always want to keep your hands where they can see them. Hands are what kill people. The hand is

needed to make the gun go off." The district is also amidst implementation of a campus fencing program launched several years ago. According to Keith Reed with the schools facilities department, a total of eight campuses identified as high-priority sites, such as Del Campo High School, now have fences. At a cost of \$1 million, the pace of the project is slow and, cautions Reed, they serve as deterrents, not guarantees against the possibility of a high-alert crisis.

"The fencing helps, but really the focus is to serve as a deterrent. which is why we have the SROs and trainings in place," Reed said. "They are designed in a way that forces visitors to enter the campus through the main office and they are not cheap, so completion is based on when funding comes available. But we do prioritize based on the needs of each school."

Greif counselors are also part of the Safe Schools team and are trained to provide support to school counselors and psychologists in the district in responding to a crisis, such as a student suicide and other highly charged, emotional events.

"Sadly, we do have student suicides in schools," says Erickson. "It happens. And when it does we have staff who are trained to comfort those in crisis and help allow students to have their emotions. We never want to advocate for anything else."

Student threats against schools are common. And, it's Erickson's job, working with Safe Schools team members, to identify those threats, discern which are real and respond accordingly. As unlikely as mass shootings in schools are, in all cases where they have occurred, according to Erickson, there were warning signs.

"Kids post threats against their schools on social media all the time," says Erickson. "It's almost weekly that the threats come in. Now, is it likely the student is going to come (to school) with a loaded gun? No. But we take every single threat as if it were real. Every shooting we've had (in the country) there was a message sent out by the shooter in advance. In cases where we do perceive the potential of a threat to be real, we will go out to visit

check it out to see what's going." While parents have not been flooding the district since the

homes. We'll find out if there are

guns registered at the house. We

look in (students') bedrooms, we

Believe me, I spend a lot of my day on the telephone just talking to parents to assure them that we are all about student safety, safety for all the students and the staff and the families.

BOB ERICKSON MANAGER, SAFE SCHOOLS PROGRAM, SAN JUAN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Vegas shootings to ask about their school's safety plans, they do call. Regularly. And their calls, says Erickson, are important.

"I wouldn't say that I've had any calls of concern about Vegas or since that event," says Erickson. But we do get calls from parents every day about something and when we do, I investigate it, triage it and if there is something we need to respond to, we do. Believe me, I spend a lot of my day on the telephone just talking to parents to assure them that we are all about student safety, safety for all the students and the staff and the families."

For more information about Safe Schools, visit www.sanjuan.

Village Staying Focused

Continued from page 1

informed of the PBID's progress.

The process of obtaining support for a PBID sounds straightforward on paper. What business wouldn't want to take a chunk of their sales to help support viability for the area and future growth? Well, for starters, not everyone likes the idea of a "tax," which is essentially what the assessments are. So getting businesses operators who own their buildings to agree to one is proving difficult. In other cases, property owners are not locally based and it can be difficult to convince them of the need for changes when they may live thousands of miles away. Property owners who support the PBID would likely also pass assessments down to their business tenants, also an extremely unpopular idea for some small mom-and-pop shops in the village to grapple with.

"There are many property owners who never come to the village and don't see the need for improvements the way the business owners who are here in the village doing business daily," Vincent said. "In many cases, it is almost impossible to get them to come out for public meetings and hear from us in person about the advantages of forming a PBID. They just don't want to come."

According to the findings of an economic opportunity study completed in March of this year for FOVEC by an outside consultant, roughly 86 percent of business and community members surveyed about the value of the Village as a destination say they have a vested interest in the PBID's overarching goals. They want more parking, but they want to keep the village "walkable." They also want better marketing opportunities to generate sales that could justify opening longer hours, as many businesses in the village are closed on Sundays and Mondays and roughly only half are open past 5 p.m.

Both residents and stakeholders said they wanted a better mix of businesses in the village to bring in a different demographic, such as cafes and restaurants to invigorate the village's reputation across the region. According to the report, 87 percent of visitors surveyed for the study live in the area.

According to Daneece Frazier, owner of EJ's Little People Hair Salon & Boutique in the village and FOVEC's current treasurer, PBID supporters and those on the fence essentially want the same things. But there is some form of a disconnect, she said, between the two sides when it comes down to taking the next steps forward.

"We have been working very closely with all the business owners at our events and our public meetings, and we had a lot of people tell us to our face they support the concept," says Frazier. "But a lot of them just wouldn't support the idea of the PBID once they walked away."

The Carmichael PBID, approved in fall of 2016, was used by FOVEC as a model for its PBID application. The PBID for Fair Oaks Boulevard. now called the Carmichael Improvement District (CID), was approved by just under 70 percent of local property owners. In July, CID board members signed contracts with a street cleaning service and a private security patrol company to serve the PBID area, kicking off an Aug. 1 "Clean and Safe" initiative.

County Supervisor Susan Peters, whose district includes Fair Oaks, said she's seen the numbers for Carmichael and points to its successes as evidence of a PBID's efficacy.

"The numbers have come across my desk and I know Carmichael is seeing percentage drops on crime and other issues," Peters said.

FOVEC is amidst planning out future community meetings, upgrading its website and has approved funds to launch a "Support the PBID" bumper sticker campaign.

For more information, visit www.fovec.org

What's Up in Fair Oaks

By Dot Boyd

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Time really does fly when you're having fun in Fair Oaks! We're just one month away from our 34th Annual Christmas in the Village event on Saturday, December 2nd from 3 pm to 7 pm in Fair Oaks Village! Bring the whole family for a festive afternoon filled with live holiday music, children's crafts in Santa's Workshop, the festival of trees, and a wide variety of arts and crafts vendors. You can enjoy strolling in the village shops and dining in the local restaurants and at the food trucks. Did I mention free photos with Santa and the spectacular parade down

the middle of town?! Wouldn't you like to showcase your club or business in the parade or decorate your own tree? If so, you had better hustle and contact the Fair Oaks Chamber to reserve your spot now! Stick around for the lighting of the beautiful 38 ft. Christmas Tree followed by a showing of a children's cartoon. All in all, a wonderful old-fashioned community tradition for the 34th year! Details and sign-up forms can be found at www.fairoakschamber. com/communityevents or call 967-2903. Volunteers and sponsors are welcome, too.

Back by popular demand is the 2nd Annual "Best of Fair Oaks" contest. Now until 5 pm on Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce★

December 31st, you can vote for your favorite businesses at www. BestofFairOaks.com. Look for more details in this issue. The winners for 2017 will be revealed at a gala reception on Thursday, January 25, 2018! Save the date and come cheer on your favorites!

One last thing...we invite you to "shop locally" throughout the year and in the upcoming holiday season. Please check out our Member Directory at www.fairoakschamber. com. Your support of our member businesses helps us give back to our community year after year. Thank

See you in Fair Oaks! Dot Boyd: Ambassador Chair



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Tickets will sell out fast so don't miss your chance to attend the "Best of Fair Oaks" event. This year's event will be held:

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Cost: Contact the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce for details. To purchase tickets for this event please call 916-967-2903 or go to FairOaksChamber.com.

Contest Rules

Business must be located in Fair Oaks.

All votes must be received no later than December 31, 2017 at 5:00 pm at the office of Messenger Publishing Group.

Only one vote per category per person. All voting entries must have complete information or the votes will not be counted.

> Best of Fair Oaks winners will be presented at this year's "Best of Fair Oaks" event.



Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

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R Α Ν Ε Ν K Υ С 0 O Ε Ε R 0 Α R Ε

Sudoku Puzzle on Page 5

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 5

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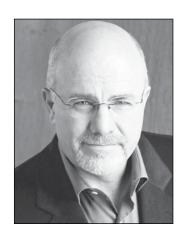
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Separate accounts?

Dear Dave,

What is your opinion of buying a vacation home, then renting it out when you're not there?

- J.P.

Dear J.P.,

I see nothing wrong with it, as long as you're buying with cash and you're also **debt-free**. A vacation home is a wonderful "extra" as you start building wealth. Remember though, it's still basically a very large, very expensive toy. In most cases it will go up in value, and if you rent it, it might become something of a money maker for you.

But here's another side to vacation home rentals. You'll probably make some money, but in most cases there will be several weeks during a year when it sits empty. You're not going to get rich renting it out. So, they're not really great investment properties. What you're talking about is more of a plan to offset the annual costs of your toy. If you look at it that way, I don't think you'll be disappointed.

If you're determined to go this route, be ready to deal

Dave Says

with spills on the carpet and damage from your guests, along with general maintenance and repairs. There's always something that needs attention when you own a property. But if you can handle all that emotionally and financially – and you're not looking for it to be a bigtime investment that will make you rich - you'll be

-Dave

Balance rebuilding and repaying

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are on Baby Step 2 of your plan. We have about \$60,000 in debt left to pay off before we'll be debtfree, and a household income of \$140,000 a year. We have one child, but we would like to expand our family. We would have to do this using in vitro fertilization. We've talked to a doctor, and he's given us a ballpark figure of about \$20,000 for the procedure. Should we wait until we're debt-free to have this done?

- Jim

Dear Jim,

Babies are wonderful, important things. Having kids, even the thought of having kids, is a big emotional deal. But sometimes it can cause people to change their financial plans and directions.

I would urge you not to accept the first opinion and pricing model you receive on something like this. I've heard prices of \$35,000, but that includes as many attempts as it takes until your wife becomes pregnant. I've also heard of single attempts priced at \$7,500 each. There are all kinds of options and guarantees, because they understand someone who is willing to do this really wants a baby.

If I'm in your shoes, I'm not accepting the idea that there's one approach and one pricing structure to all this. I would explore other options, as far as doctors and clinics are concerned. Then, with your income, you could consider taking off a couple months from paying down debt and put some money toward the IVF. If it doesn't work pay off a little more debt, pause the debt payoff, and try for a baby again.

Take some time, learn a little more, and go from there – always using cash for the endeavor. God bless you two!

—Dave

Dave Ramsey is America's trusted voice on money and business. He has authored five New York Times best-selling books: Financial Peace, More Than Enough, The Total Money Makeover, EntreLeadership and Smart Money Smart Kids. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 8 million listeners each week on more than 500 radio stations. Follow Dave on Twitter at @ DaveRamsey and on the web at daveramsey.com.

The Human Trafficking **Battle Continues**

FBI Announces Results of Operation Cross Country XI

FBI Special Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Federal Bureau of Investigation, along with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), announced October 18th, that 84 minors were recovered and 120 traffickers were arrested as part of Operation Cross Country XI, a nationwide effort focusing on underage human trafficking that ran from October 12-15, 2017.

Within the FBI Sacramento field office's 34-county area of responsibility, the FBI and its law enforcement partners conducted operations in the four metropolitan areas: Chico, Fresno, Sacramento, and South Lake Tahoe. Local recoveries of minors and pimping arrests during Operation Cross Country are as follows:

- Thursday, October 12, 2017 Sacramento County Sheriff's Department recovered one
- Friday, October 13, 2017 FBI and Chico Police Department recovered one minor
- Saturday, October 14, 2017 **Porterville Police Department** arrested an adult male on felony pimping charges.

In addition to successful recovery of two minors and the arrest of a pimp, more than 23 arrests were made for a variety of charges including prostitution and probation violations. The following agencies participated in Operation Cross Country XI. Butte County District Attorney's Office, El Dorado District Attorney's Office, El Dorado County Sheriff's Office, Fresno County District Attorney's Office, Fresno Police Department, Hanford Police Department, Placer County Sheriff's Department,

Attorney's Office, Sacramento County Probation Department, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, Sacramento Police Department, South Lake Tahoe Police Department, and Tulare County District Attorney's Office.

This is the 11th iteration of the FBI-led Operation Cross Country (OCC), which took place this year in 55 FBI field offices and involved 78 state and local task forces, consisting of hundreds of law enforcement partners. This year's coordinated operations took place with several international partners, including Canada (Operation Northern Spotlight), the United Kingdom (Aident 8), Thailand, Cambodia, and the Philippines.

"We at the FBI have no greater mission than to protect our nation's children from harm. Unfortunately, the number of traffickers arrested—and the number of children recovered—reinforces why we need to continue to do this important work," said FBI Director Christopher Wray. "This operation isn't just about taking traffickers off the street. It's about making sure we offer help and a way out to these young victims who find themselves caught in a vicious cycle of abuse."

As part of Operation Cross Country XI, FBI agents and task force officers staged operations in hotels, casinos, and truck stops, as well as on street corners and Internet websites. The youngest victim recovered during this year's operation was 3 months old, and the average age of victims recovered during the operation was 15 years old. Minors recovered during Cross Country Operations are offered assistance from state protective services and the FBI's Victim Services Division. Depending on the level of need, victims are offered medical

Sacramento County District happening in every community across America, and at the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, we're working to combat this problem every day," said NCMEC President and CEO John Clark. "We're proud to work with the FBI on Operation Cross Country to help find and recover child victims. We hope OCC generates more awareness about this crisis impacting our nation's children."

Operation Cross Country XI is part of the FBI's Innocence Lost National Initiative, which began in 2003 and has yielded more than 6,500 child identifications and locations. For additional information on Operation Cross Country XI and the Innocence Lost initiative, please visit www.fbi.gov.

Examples of stories from various cities that took part in **Operation Cross Country XI:**

On October 13th, FBI Denver recovered two minor girls-one 3-month-old and one 5-year-old. The subject, a friend of the children's family, offered an undercover officer access to the two children for sexual purposes in exchange for \$600. The FBI is working with Child Protective Services to conduct a forensic interview and secure safe placement of the children. The subject was placed under

Also on October 13th, a 16-year old female victim was recovered by FBI El Paso, after an undercover agent called an online advertisement for entertainment. Shortly thereafter, the agent met with a 21-year-old female, who offered a fee of \$200 to engage in sexual intercourse with her and another female, the 16-year-old victim. Further investigations revealed that a second adult female drove the minor and the 21-year-old to the undercover's location. Both female subjects have been arrested on fed-

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CLUES

- 1. *Stars of "The Waltons" and "Roseanne," e.g.
- 6. Equinox mo. 9. Don't do this to the
- messenger
- 13. Whitman's dooryard
- 14. *Logo of "All in the
- Family" network
- 15. Beyond normal limits
- 16. *Where to hear Frasier Crane
- 17. Workout segment
- 18. Nary a soul
- 19. *TV's largest family 21 *Flintstones' hest friends
- 23. Before now 24. Catch some Z's
- 25. Car nut 28. "Brave New World" drug
- 30. "Can't stop! I'm _ 35. Big Bang's original matter
- 37. Sheep's milk cheese
- 39. "So You Think You Can
- 40. Knowing about 41. *Sansa, Arya, or Robb 43. Narcotics agent
- 44. Nymph of lakes and springs 46. Most populous continent
- 47. Major bike maker the Clowns,
- nast tense 50. "Me and
- Dying Girl" 52. "Da" to a Russian
- 53. Source of protein
- 55. More, in Madrid
- 57. *"Blackish" family 61. *"Fuller House" family 65. "So long, farewell, auf
- Wiedersehen, 66. Skeleton in a lock
- 68. Part of gastro-intestinal system 69. Modulator-demodulator,
- 70. Proper place for a napkin 71. Inspiration for poets and

C StatePoint Media

31. Deliver a tirade

45. Chinese tapas

56. Sleep sound

62. Joie de vivre

head

57. Doorframe part

58. Airy emanation

32. Opposite of binary

33. Rocks at mountain base

34. *Family in "The Middle"

36. Castle's line of defense

38 "Mi chiamano Mimi," e.g.

49. What's old is new again, prefix

51. Jousting match participant

54. Bracelet-wearing part

59. Sweep under the rug

60. Financial aid criterion

61. Done on a Smith Corona

42. Deserved consequence

- musicians 72. Born and
- 73. Before of yore
- 74. Sign up again
- DOWN 1. Simpleton
- 2. Hokkaido native 3. Smeltery refuse
- 4. a.k.a. boreal forest 5. Scrawny ones
- 6. Armv hall 7. Pirate's affirmative 8. Old but in
- 9. Door opener 10. Adored one 11. Half-moon shaped object
- 12. Tommy and Spike, e.g. 15. Straighten a paperclip, e.g.
- 25. *Lucious and Cookie
- 20. Abode toppers 22. Israeli submachine gun 24. Computer program input
- 26. Arm bones __ on the ground floor" 29. Of higher order



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Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 4 GOT KNEE PAIN?

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63. One way to memorize 64. *"Game of Thrones" bastard 67. Inner, middle or outer, on one's 2 4

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. **Solutions on Page 4**

and mental health counseling, as well as a number of other services. eral charges. "Child sex trafficking is Porterville Police Department, Please Join Us For

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By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

From the beginning of time and creation, our Master/ Creator has known the plan He had for our redemption and eternal life. His design is perfect. He did create us in His likeness with the hope that the desires of our hearts and life would like up with His sovereign plan. Unfortunately many of us have self-will and it takes a long time for us to connect. He provided free-will enabling us to choose His ways and will for our lives becoming His adopted children. Everyone must be "Born Again" to

Know it All - Let's Get Ready!

understand His sovereign plan and enjoy the life He offers to everyone.

Living on this earth we never will completely know it all but we do know we are in the process of becoming a true heir of all He planned for us. Our magnificent Creator/ God knows the exact number of hairs on every head. He knows all about us, from the rising of the sun to the going down of the moon every single day. He loves us completely and formed us in our mother's wombs. He knows our strengths, weaknesses and our shortcomings and His plan is to use them to teach us and to draw us closer and closer to Himself. Then we do move into His perfect will and plan for our individual lives. We are not to become discouraged because it does take a lifetime!

Yes, for most of us it takes a lifetime! A lifetime of learning His laws and instructions through the study of the scriptures provided in the Holy Bible. Many stories about people of God and their personal struggles help us to know, listen, then, follow the precepts given and preserved for hundreds of years. God's Promises are all included and written and preserved for all mankind. Learning truth and freedom from His sacred Holy Word teach us how to live an obedient life that provides blessings and abundance beyond measure. "Seek FIRST His kingdom and righteousness, then all things will be added unto you!" It is an awesome experience -Come, join His huge family all over the world today!

If you would like a copy of my testimony, contact me and I will be happy to mail one to

Marlys Johnsen Norris American River Columnist since 2006 Christian Author of 7 Books SENIOR GLEANINGS Marlysjn@gmail.com

Many people think that happiness is simply a matter of luck. They think if you're happy you're just lucky. You got lucky and have good circumstances, so you're happy. The trust is, happiness can be learned. There are certain qualities that if you learn them, your happiness will increase. If you don't learn these qualities, your happiness decreases.

You probably have never thought about this, but if I mention it to you, you will automatically know what I'm talking about, because you can instinctively pick out qualities that cause you to be happy and qualities that cause you to be unhappy.

For instance, if we made two

You Can Learn Happiness

Encouraging Words

more patient you are, the hap-

pier you will be. That obviously

If I said, "Cruel". That would

go in the unhappiness column.

Kindness would go in the hap-

piness column. This is kind of

obvious. We could make an

entire list. If I said if I'm arro-

gant, I'm going to tend to be

unhappy. And if I am humble

I'm going to tend to be happier.

So, as you can understand, there

are some very important quali-

ties that you need to build within

your life to increase your hap-

piness. Here are four significant

qualities that will increase your

Considerate: I shift the focus

away from myself. That is the

starting point for all happiness.

I have to care about more than

just me. You've got to care about

the needs of those around you. If

all I think about is me, me, me,

myself and I, I'm going to be a

pretty miserable person. Shift the

Dependable: The more reli-

able, consistent, trustworthy you

become, the more others will

trust you and the happier you

will be. The greatest ability is

dependability. It's more impor-

tant than any other ability in life.

focus off of yourself. Phil. 2:4.

makes sense.

happiness:

to be unhappy people. And the Prov. 25:13. Cooperative: if you don't know how to work with people different from you, you're in deep, deep guacamole! Because let me tell you, most of the world is different from you! The more you learn to work well with others, the happier you will be. 1 Cor. 1:10.

Significance: Live for something worth dying for. Most people give first class allegiance to second class causes. A lot of times we give big-time commitment to small-time causes. You need to live for something worth dying for. Ask yourself, "How much of what I'm doing is going to matter in eternity?" Is your commitment to Christ deep enough to die for? If it's deep enough to die for then it's deep enough to live for; and that will produce happiness, Luke 9:24.

Let me summarize, the happiest people on earth are caring, consistent, cooperative, considerate and courageous! Learn these qualities and you will learn happiness!

Pastor Ray New Beginnings Church 10am Sundays, You're invited! www.NBC4U.org

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By Pastor Ray Dare

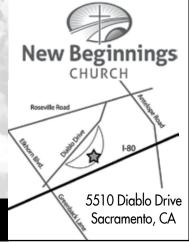
columns – a happiness column and an unhappiness column, and I said "Impatience". Which column would impatience go in? The Unhappiness column, of course! Impatient people tend

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Sacramento County DA Reports



Defendants Sentenced for Crime Spree Involving Multiple Robberies, Rape

DATE: October 13, 2017

CASE: Anthony Cotton, Latrale Way, Lamar Edwards & Donny Smith (Case #14F05913) **PROSECUTOR:** Deputy District Attorney Aaron Miller, Career Criminal Prosecution Unit

The Honorable Michael Savage sentenced Anthony Cotton to 49 years plus 8 months to life in prison. Latrale Way was sentenced to 108 years to life in prison. Lamar Edwards was previously sentenced to 16 years in prison and Donny Smith was previously sentenced to 15 years in prison.

On November 22, 2016, a jury convicted Anthony Cotton of kidnapping for purposes of robbery, first-degree residential robbery, second-degree robbery, attempted robbery, residential burglary, and assault with intent to commit rape during a residential burglary. Latrale Way was convicted of two counts of kidnapping for purposes of robbery, kidnapping for purposes of rape, first-degree residential robbery, assault with intent to commit rape during a residential burglary, forcible digital penetration, forcible rape, attempted robbery, second-degree robbery, and felony sexual battery. The jury also found true several firearm allegations connected to the crimes.

On September 27, 2016, co-defendants Lamar Edwards and Donny Smith pled guilty to first-degree residential robbery with personal use of a firearm allegations.

Between June and October 2014, the defendants committed a number of crimes in the Antelope and North Highlands areas. While committing a home invasion robbery, all four defendants held a man and his children in their house at gunpoint and ransacked the house. Two of the defendants then attempted to rape the man's 27-yearold daughter, but the father was able to run outside for help and the defendants fled. In a second robbery, Latrale Way and other unidentified suspects approached a man and a woman at a park. After the group robbed the man, Latrale Way kidnapped the woman and forced her to drive to an ATM machine to get money. Way then directed the woman to a nearby neighborhood and raped her in her car. Two weeks later, Cotton and Way

committed three additional armed robberies in the same park. Forensic DNA testing conducted by the Sacramento County District Attorney's Crime Lab conclusively linked Latrale Way to the rape.

Former Baseball Coach Convicted for Child Sexual Assault

DATE: October 18, 2017 CASE: Steven Erickson (Case

#16FE003051) **PROSECUTOR:** Deputy District Attorney Catrina Skor, Special Assault & Child Abuse

Steven Erickson was convicted by a jury of 19 counts of child sexual assault on a child age 13 to 15 years old.

Steven Erickson is a former baseball coach who also ran a traveling baseball academy in Sacramento County. The victim played baseball for Erickson's baseball academy. Erickson knew the victim since he was 9 years old.

Erickson faces a maximum sentence of 37 years, 8 months in prison. Sentencing is set for November 20, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 13 before the Honorable James Arguelles.

Former Teacher Pled to Multiple Child Sexual Assault Charges

DATE: October 23, 2017

CASE: Eric Echols-Gollas (Case #16FE017839)

PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Brian Morgan, Special Assault & Child Abuse Eric Echols-Gollas pled no contest to six

felony counts of lewd and lascivious acts against a child under the age of 14 and one misdemeanor count of annoying or molesting a minor. Between June 1, 2015 and July 24, 2016,

while employed as a paraeducator at Prairie Elementary School, Echols-Gollas sexually abused seven girls within the classroom

Echols-Gollas faces a stipulated sentence of 11 years in prison. Sentencing is set for December 21, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. in Department 61 before the Honorable Michael Sweet.



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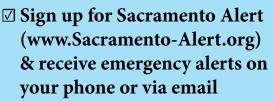
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Natural Travel Remedies

It's that time again as we're on the road to visit family and friends during the holidays. Are you ready for a variety of problems that might arise? Would you like to deal with them naturally? Homeopathic Remedies have been around for some 200 years, but we've gotten used to prescription fixes. Dr. Kathleen Fry hasn't. As Founding Diplomate of the American Board of Integrative and Holistic Medicine, she gave me a Homeopathic breakdown on my radio show POPPOFF with some travel remedies for a myriad of road and fly off into the wild blue yonder. **Dr. Fry** brings a host of homeopathic remedies for chronic conditions in "What's the Remedy for That." Here are her Top Ten Remedies to Never Travel Without!

ARGENTUM NITRICUM. Fear of flying for hot and talkative travelers. ARNICA

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with Mary Jane Popp

MONTANA. Trauma of any kind like painful muscles from over exertion. Prevents bruising and reduces pain when taken every few hours after an injury. May use 200c potency if the trauma is severe. ARSENICUM ALBUM. Food poisoning with nausea, vomiting, diarrhea. Prefers to sip not gulp water. Often have chills alternating with hot sweats. Take 1 pellet every 15-30 minutes initially, then taper down as the symptoms lessen. BELLADONNA. Heat or sunstroke with headache and flushed face. Sudden onset of high fever. Also, very helpful for ear infections (right more than left) that come on suddenly with high fever. COCCULUS INDICUS. Motion sickness made worse by cold air. Also a great remedy for fatigue that develops after worry and loss of sleep while caring for a sick loved one. FERRUM situations as we head out on the **PHOSPHORICUM**. Gradual onset of a cold or other inflammation. Taking the 30c potency every four hours at the first sign of a cold will often prevent or shorten the duration of cold or flu. LEDUM PALUSTRE. Insect stings; punctures of any kind including from needles, nails, or knives. NUX VOMICA. Heartburn or

hangover. Especially wellsuited to Type A personalities who overwork and self-medicate with alcohol or rich spicy foods. STAPHYSAGRIA. Urinary tract infections, particularly after insertion of a bladder catheter or other instrumentation into the urethra and bladder. **TABACUM**. Motion sickness. Fresh air is good. Then Tabacum helps.

Here's how to take them. Place pellet of 30c potency under the tongue. It's best to avoid eating, drinking or smoking for 20 minutes before or after a dose. You can repeat it every 15 minutes for severe symptoms and then taper it to every few hours as your symptoms abate. Continue the remedy at least once a day for a few days after your symptoms are gone to prevent relapse. **CAUTION:** When traveling by plane, be sure to have the remedies hand-checked. X-rays render them useless.

Homeopathic remedies are available in most health food stores or online. If you want to check out more about

Dr. Kathleen Fry just go to www.DrKathiFry.com. You" find more on "What's the Remedy for That" and "Vitality" How to get it and keep it. SAFE TRAVELS! ★

7th Annual Chili Cook-off and Classic Car Show Raises Funds to Brighten Kid's Holiday

Story by Elise Spleiss

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - The homemade chili was just a good, the classic cars just as 'hot' and the shopping booths just as enticing as previous years, but the 7th annual Citrus Heights Women's Club Chili Cook off and Car Show held on October 7, was a bittersweet day for event organizer Darla Buechner and her family.

Loyd Winner, Buechner's 80-year-old uncle and inspiration for the classic car show component of the event died on September 26, just 10 days before its seventh year. The addition of the car show in 2015 has brought in thousands of additional dollars to help support children and families in Citrus Heights who are victims of domestic violence.

The fundraiser took place at the Lowe's parking lot, a venue popular for classic car shows. Attendees tasted and voted on 15 diverse chili recipes, and inspected 77 vintage cars compliments of partnering with the Nor Cal Cruisers Car Club. Funds raised for A Community for Peace (ACFP) came from car show entry fees, rental fees from 35 vendors, and a \$10 chili tasting fee.

ACFP holds an annual Christmas party each year for the children with a visit from Santa, food, toys and other gifts, along with games and crafts. While their children are being entertained by



Loyd Winner receives the Monsignor Scott's Award at 8th annual Parish Pride Car Show. Left to right: Monsignor Scott, car show organizer Jim McDaniel, Matt Buechner.

staff and volunteers, parents can 'shop' for their gifts bought and donated by the women's club. Each child also receives a huge Christmas stocking stuffed with more surprises provided by Citrus Heights Curves.

Cars were a part of Winner's life before his own prized possessions became classics, and the Buechner family has followed in

his footsteps. Loyd purchased his first car, a 1940 Mercury, in 1954 for \$75. He was 17. More than six decades later at the age of 80, Winner bought his final classic, a 1955 Original Bel Air

His expertise in running a successful car show brought his niece and her family, who also own and restore classics, into the pastime. He attended the club's first car show at Lowe's in 2015.

Winner was born and raised in Porterville, California. He was a Psychiatric Technician for more than 25 years at the Porterville Development Center. He was a founding member of the Rollin' Relics Car Club among many

other shows which remain today. Citrus Heights Women's Club: phone: 751-1918; website: www.chwomwnsclub.com; and on Face Book A Community for Peace - 728-5613 or at ACommunityForPeace.org

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By County Supervisor Susan Peters

Through the generosity of the American River Messenger, this column serves to provide an update about matters affecting the unincorporated community of Carmichael.

Law Enforcement at Community Coffee Meeting

The recent FBI crime statistics show violent crime was reduced significantly in 2016 in the unincorporated area. Sheriff Scott Jones attributes that reduction in part to the implementation of "Intelligence Led Policing" and the Sheriff's North Division (which includes Arden Arcade, Carmichael, Fair Oaks, Foothills and North Highlands) was one of the first commands integrating that approach. Captain Kris Palmer was in charge of that effort at the time and he subsequently has been promoted to Chief Deputy Sheriff and will be the guest speaker at this month's Community Coffee Meeting on Wednesday, November 15, at 7:30 am.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Kris Palmer has held a number of leadership positions in the

FAIR OAKS COMMUNITY UPDATE

Sheriff's Department before his most recent promotion. This meeting will be held at the Fair Oaks Water District's conference room, 10326 Fair Oaks Blvd. near Winding Way. As usual, I will give a brief update on what is going on with Sacramento County then introduce our guest speaker followed by questions and answers.

And coffee, of course, will be provided!

Sac International Airport Update

Do your holiday travel plans involve going to the airport? A new map on the Sacramento International Airport parking webpage can show you what parking spaces are available -- and where. Check it out by going online to sacramento.

This parking page graphic uses a green-yellow-red scale, with green indicating ample availability, yellow showing limited availability and red indicating almost full. And the map shows the number of spaces available at each parking facility. When a lot or the parking garage fills and closes, the map shows it as closed. Plus these maps are updated dynamically on the website and are refreshed every five

There is no app available but you can access the information through the airport website via a smart phone or tablet.

And remember you can avoid circling around the terminals to pick up passengers by using the Free Waiting Area – also known as the Cell Phone Lot. Located near the Interstate 5 entrance/exit, this lot has convenient access to both terminals so once your intended arrival is ready all they have to do is call you on your cell phone and you can proceed to pick them up at curb side.

Check Before You Burn

Effective November 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018, wood burning is restricted in the unincorporated area as well as in the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento in accordance with air quality regulations. The restrictions are applicable to fireplaces, wood stoves, fire pits or chimneys. Implementation of these restrictions has helped reduce pollution and allowed our area to stay in compliance with federal air quality standards.

Before you burn, please check the daily status by calling 1-877-No Burn-5 or visit sparetheair.com

Susan Peters represents the Third District on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. She can be reached at susanpeters@saccounty.net.

Got Darts? Fundraise for Veterans

By Mary Howard

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Mercey Springs Foundation (MSF), the Sacramento Valley Darting Association (SVDA), Smokey Oaks Tavern (SOT), and the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce (FOCC) are cohosting an event to raise money for one or more local nonprofit veterans' organizations. Money will be raised several ways: a dart tournament, raffle prizes, SOT bar proceeds, and other donations. Since there are several local veterans' organizations, the organization(s) to receive donations will be drawn at random. And the amount donated will be contingent on how much is raised.

If you are unable to attend the event, you may make donations via MSF's website. Mercey Springs Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization,



Money will be raised several ways: a dart tournament, raffle prizes, SOT bar proceeds, and other donations. Since there are several local veterans' organizations, the organization(s) to receive donations will be drawn at

whose primary mission is to bridge the gaps in our community. Any donations made through its website between now and November 11 will go towards this fundraiser, and are tax deductible. http://merceysprings.org/

If you are interested in

participating in the dart tournament, a flyer can be found at https://www.svda.org/. It is scheduled for November 11, 2017 from 11am to 9pm.

Smokey Oaks Tavern is located in Fair Oaks at 9634 Fair Oaks Blvd (corner of New



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