

Take a Sentimental Journey via Cabaret Page 3



American Pickers Coming to Northern California: Be a "Junk Opportunist"

"Written by the people, for the people"

Volume 11 • Issue 03

Serving Fair Oaks, Orangevale & Sacramento County

February 12, 2016

State Water Project

Allocation Boosted

Early Winter Storms

Promising, but State Remains in Drought

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- Sacramento Region, CA (MPG) -With winter storms slowly boosting water supply, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) recently increased its water delivery estimate for most recipients from 10 percent of requests for the calendar year, as announced in December, to

Although there is no exact formula for ending the drought and conditions vary region by region,

a rough guidepost is that approximately 150 percent of average

winter precipitation — rain and

snow — would significantly ease statewide conditions, with the

major exception of groundwater

The State Water Project (SWP) delivery estimate (allocation) may

be increased further if storms continue to build rainfall and snowpack totals. The 29 public agencies that receive SWP water (State Water Project Contractors) requested 4,172,786 acre-feet of

water for 2016. With today's allocation increase, they will receive

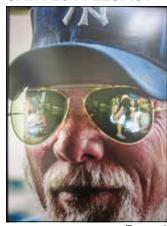
It is important to note that nearly

all areas served by the SWP also have other sources of water, among

631,115 acre-feet.

15 percent.

THOMAS DEWINTER CARVES A LEGACY



Page 8

DISTRICT ATTORNEY PUTS MORE BAD GUYS AWAY



Page 5

POPPOFF!



Page 7



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Fair Oaks Folks Talk Transients and Scammers

Sheriff's Deputies Discuss Neighborhood Security



Deputy Jason Gillock of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department advises the public on neighborhood safety.

Story and photo by Seraphim Winslow

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - On Jan. 26th, Sacramento County Sheriff officers from all three shifts-morning, swing and graveyard—were on hand at La Vista School in Fair Oaks to discuss neighborhood security at a community sheriff's meeting with local residents and participants in active neighborhood watch groups. Deputies talked

about projects they have been working on in the area, and members of the public expressed concerns and posed questions about suspicious activity in several Fair Oaks neighborhoods.

The main speaker of the evening was Deputy Jason Gillock, who is responsible for the Carmichael, Orangevale, Old Foothill Farms, and Fair Oaks areas. One issue that Gillock highlighted was the prevalence of a variety of ongoing scams,

both by telephone and door-todoor solicitation. There is, for example, a so-called "grandma scam" that occurs when an elderly resident receives a phone call from a speaker who starts the conservation with words like, 'Hi, Grandma (or Grandpa). It's your grandson/daughter." The scammer then proceeds to elicit as much personal information as possible before the resident realizes what is going on. Other scams include callers posing as

representatives of local electric and gas companies, banks, and even the I.R.S. Sheriff's deputies urged the public to be extremely cautious when answering the telephone.

Another pressing problem, which is mostly the concern of the County Sheriff's Transient Enforcement Team, is the acute rise of suspicious activity throughout Sacramento County arising from the Continued on page 5

them streams, groundwater, and local reservoirs. Key reservoirs are beginning to rise from early winter storms, but remain low. Though still critically low, many

reservoir levels have dramatically risen from recent storm runoff. Groundwater aguifers recharge more slowly, with many in the Central Valley sinking toward record levels.

Last year's (2015) 20 percent allocation was the second lowest since 1991, when agricultural customers of the SWP got a zero allocation and municipal customers received 30 percent of requests. In 2014, SWP deliveries were five percent of requested amounts for all customers.

The last 100 percent allocation difficult to achieve even in wet years largely because of Delta pumping restrictions to protect threatened and endangered fish species — was in 2006.

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. declared a drought state of emergency on Jan. 17th, 2014 and followed up with statewide water conservation mandates. Since then, the state has been swept by drought-fueled forest fires, vast tracts of farmland have been fallowed and some communities have scrambled for drinking water.

Long-range weather forecasts are uncertain, and there is no way to know if this winter will deeply dent the state's historic drought.

DWR's California Data Exchange Center (CDEC) Web sites show current water conditions at the state's reservoirs and weather stations.

To learn about all the actions the state has taken to manage our water system and cope with the impacts of the drought, visit Drought. CA.gov. Every Californian should take steps to conserve water; find out how at SaveOurWater.com.

Source: DWR Public Affairs Office

Local Bistro Charms in Fair Oaks Village By Jan Dalske



Chef Gerard and his wife welcome you to The Village Bistro, on California Avenue at the Fair Oaks Village. Photos courtesy The Village Bistro

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - The Village Bistro, located in the Fair Oaks Village, is surrounded by antique shops. They "dish up" a splash of sophistication while offering homey ambiance. This locally owned restaurant is a hotspot for locals and weekend bicyclists. They do caution visitors to their charming little restaurant to watch out for the roosters that roam around

To celebrate the New Year, they are offering a Thursday night special. The special dinner for two includes two glasses of specialty wines which are mostly French and California selections. The owners of the Bistro, Gerard and Tina Robert, have been married for 34 years



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ity industry has contributed to their love of food and ability to please customers. White table cloths, attentive service, and wonderful food are all guaranteed when you enter their bistro. Their bistro is open seven days a week, six Continued on page 3

Chef Gerard's famous Monte Cristo sandwich.

and have three children. They relocated to the

Sacramento area in 2003 when they opened

Chef Gerard was raised in the small village

of Valence, France, and received his formal chef

training at the three-star Chez Pik. His wife,

Tina, is Filipino and has a B.S. in hotel and

restaurant management. Together they have cre-

ated a menu that appeals to most diners. Their

education and training in the food and hospital-

Gigi's restaurant in Folsom.

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California Department of Public Health Reminds Public to Guard Against Mosquito Bites

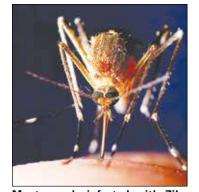
SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) -California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Director and State Public Health Officer Dr. Karen Smith recently advised that although there is no evidence of mosquitoes carrying Zika virus in California, people should always take steps to avoid mosquito bites, including removing standing water and wearing insect repellant when necessary. Californians should also be advised of international travel alerts for the countries where Zika virus is circulating.

"Although no one has contracted Zika virus in California, mosquito bites can still be harmful and the public should take steps to protect themselves," said Dr. Smith. "Help reduce the risk of mosquito bites by removing standing water from around your home and wearing mosquito repellant when appropriate."

As of Jan. 29th, 2016, there are six confirmed cases of Zika virus in California, all of which were contracted when traveling in other countries with Zika virus outbreaks in 2013 (1), 2014 (3) and 2015 (2). CDPH will continue monitoring for any confirmed cases in California and will provide weekly updates every Friday. To protect patient confidentiality, specific locations of infected patients cannot be disclosed.

Zika virus is primarily transmitted to people by Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus mosquitoes, the same mosquitoes that can transmit dengue and chikungunya viruses. These mosquitoes — which are not native to California — have been identified in 12 California counties, although there are no known cases where the mosquitoes were carrying the Zika virus in this state. The six confirmed cases of Zika virus in California were acquired in other countries.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have issued a travel alert



Most people infected with Zika virus will not develop symptoms. If symptoms do develop, they are usually mild and include fever, rash and eye redness.

(Level 2-Practice Enhanced Precautions) for people traveling to regions and certain countries where Zika virus transmission is ongoing: American Samoa, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Curacao, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Martinique, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Suriname, Venezuela and Puerto Rico.

People traveling to these and other countries with known Zika virus risk should take steps to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes, including:

Use insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or paramenthane-diol for long lasting protection. If you use both sunscreen and insect repellent, apply the sunscreen first and then the repellent. Pregnant women and women who are breastfeeding can and should choose an EPA-registered insect repellent and use it according to the product label

Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants

Use air conditioning or window/door screens to keep mosquitoes outside. If you are not able to protect yourself from mosquitoes inside your home or hotel, sleep under a mosquito bed not

Help reduce the number of mosquitoes outside by emptying standing water from containers such as flowerpots or buckets

The CDC and CDPH have also issued guidance for pregnant women recommending they avoid countries where Zika virus is circulating. Pregnant women who cannot avoid travel to these countries should talk to their health care provider and take steps to avoid mosquito bites. The CDC and CDPH have also provided guidance for physicians on the evaluation of pregnant women and infants who may have been exposed to Zika virus.

Most people infected with Zika virus will not develop symptoms. If symptoms do develop, they are usually mild and include fever, rash and eye redness. If you have returned from an affected country and have fever with joint pain, rash within two weeks, or any other symptoms following your return; please contact your medical provider and tell the doctor where you have traveled. While there is no specific treatment for Zika virus disease, the best recommendations are supportive care,

rest, fluids and fever relief. There is concern that Zika virus may be transferred from a pregnant woman to her baby during pregnancy or delivery. Preliminary reports suggest that Zika virus may cause microcephaly (abnormal fetal brain development). This possibility has not been confirmed and is being actively investigated. CDPH has requested that health care providers report suspected Zika virus disease or associated conditions of microcephaly to local health departments. Local health departments will report cases to CDPH, which is coordinating referral of any specimens to CDC for diagnostic testing.

For more information on Zika virus disease and other mosquito-borne illnesses, please visit the CDPH Zika virus information webpage.

Source: CDPH

SCSO Singathon Gives You Something to Sing About

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Strains of great Broadway hits—and perhaps a preview of Carl Orff's riveting Carmina Burana—will put a smile on the faces of Sunrise Mall shoppers of all ages on Thursday evening, Feb. 18th, during the Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra's (SCSO) annual Singathon fundraiser in front of Macy's Women's store from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

SCSO members will come to sing...and sing they will! Under the able and entertaining direction of Conductor Donald Kendrick, both singers and shoppers will croon their way through such great Broadway memories as The Sound of Music, Westside Story, and Oklahoma, with an excerpt or two from the SCSO's March 5th Carmina Burana concert thrown in for good measure. The event may include some "spontaneous guest conductors" and wouldbe Fred Astaires and Ginger Rogers who will add heartwarming entertainment value to the event.

According to Singathon 2016 Coordinator Brent Wallace, "The purpose of this Chorus-generated fundraiser is to work off the pledges that our dedicated volunteer Choral Society members have



Conductor Donald Kendrick will lead the Chorus and Guest Singers (Surprised Shoppers) in well known and beloved Broadway tunes in the Mall. Proceeds will help the SCSO with their Spring 2016 education and outreach efforts. Photo courtesy SCSO

obtained over the past month. We are absolutely thrilled to say that we are spiraling our way towards our \$40,000 goal. With the help of our community we hope to surpass this year's goal of 40K. In fact, people wishing to support our efforts can make an online donation at www.sacramento-choral.com. We are pleased to continue to uphold our reputation as a fiscally accountable and well managed arts organization in our community."

Proceeds from the Singathon

will help offset professional orchestra expenses for the SCSO's upcoming March and May 2016 choral orchestral classical concerts at the Sacramento Community Center Theater. The fundraiser will also support the SCSO's important education and outreach to veterans, students, the underprivileged, and other area nonprofits. Come join in the fun and support the SCSO!

Source: SCSO

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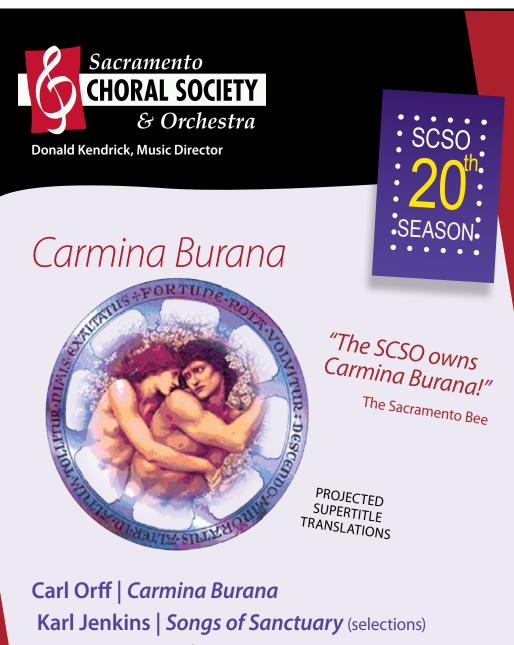
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in Northern California: Be a "Junk Opportunist"

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- California is excited to welcome Mike Wolfe, Frank Fritz, and Antique Archeology to the area. The team will film episodes of their hit series American Pickers throughout California. Filming is scheduled for early March.

American Pickers is a documentary series that explores the fascinating world of antique "picking" on History. This hit show follows two of the most skilled pickers in the business, Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz, as they embark on an epic road trip across the U.S. in search of America's most valuable antiques from motorcycles, classic cars, and bicycles to one-of-a-kind vintage memorabilia. Mike and Frank are on a mission to recycle America, restore forgotten relics to their former glory, and learn a thing or two about American history along the

American Pickers is looking for leads and would love to explore what you may have. They are on the hunt for interesting characters with interesting and unique



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items. Some of what they look for: vintage bicycles, toys, unusual radios, movie memorabilia, advertising, military items, folk art, vintage musical equipment, vintage automotive items, early firefighting equipment, vintage clothing, pre-50's western gear.

American Pickers is produced by Cineflix Productions for History. New episodes air Wednesdays at 9pm E.T. on

If you have a large collection or want to refer someone to Mike and Frank, email: your name, number, address and description of the collection and photos to: americanpickers@cineflix.com (855) OLD-RUST.

Source: American Pickers on History Channel

American Pickers to Film Governor Brown Appointments Ajax

Edmund G. Brown Jr. recently announced the following appointments:

Lori Ajax, 50, of Fair Oaks, has been appointed chief of the Bureau of Medical Marijuana Regulation at the California Department of Consumer Affairs.

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Governor Ajax has been chief deputy director at the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control since 2014, where she has served in several positions since 1995, including deputy division chief, supervising agent in charge and supervising agent. She is a member of the National Liquor Law

St. Sava Mission Foundation. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$150,636. Ajax is a Republican. Source: Governor Brown's Press

Local Bistro Opens in Fair Oaks Village

Continued from page 1

days a week at 8 a.m. for breakfast. Biscuits and gravy, eggs Benedict, frittatas, or a Monte Cristo sandwich are just a few of the breakfast entrees. Sandwiches of many varieties, including chicken, turkey, steak, or burgers, are all served with a mixed green salad. Dinner selections include pasta, steaks, chicken, scampi, sweetbread, beef stroganoff, and many delectable choices. The Village Bistro also offers take

OAKMONT

When you have finished your meal, desserts such as Apple Strudel, Chocolate Ecstasy, Crème Caramel, Key Lime Pie, and Pear Almond Tart are offered to satisfy your sweet tooth. If you are celebrating a special occasion such as a birthday, graduation, rehearsal dinner or anniversary, they can accommodate small private parties for up to thirty guests. Their charming bistro is an ideal place for small and intimate gatherings.

Chef Gerard and his wife welcome you to The Village Bistro, on California Avenue at the Fair Oaks Village. Their restaurant is where tradition meets invention most rewardingly and where the atmosphere is friendly and the service in warm and gracious. On a busy day, you may see one or more family members there, bussing tables or assisting in the kitchen. They wish you bon appétit!

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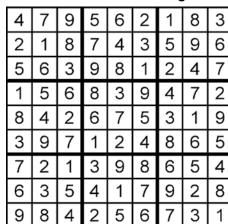
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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 5



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Sacramento County DA Reports

Recent cases of interest



CASE: Michael Williams

PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Matt Chisholm, Homicide Unit

The Honorable Geoffrey Goodman sentenced Michael Williams to 56 years to life in prison. On December 16, 2015, a jury convicted Williams of first-degree murder. The jury also found true a personal use of a deadly weapon allegation.

Michael Williams' wife, Tanganyika Williams, was planning on ending their marriage. On July 8, 2014, the two were in Michael Williams' van on 24th Street near Meadowview Road when Williams stabbed his wife twice in the neck and then fled the scene. Mrs. Williams was able to exit the van and identify Michael Williams as her killer to bystanders and police officers. She was pronounced dead 30 minutes later due to massive blood loss. Williams was captured three weeks later when a citizen spotted him and called 911. When Williams was captured, he was planning to take a bus to Oklahoma.

Williams has a prior conviction for shooting with intent to kill in 1992 in Oklahoma. He shot his previous wife's mother in the face when he tried to get back at his wife for leaving him.

CASE: Mark Charles Nielsen

PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney James Wax, Cyber Crimes Unit Sixty-year-old Mark Nielsen was convicted by jury of knowingly possessing child pornography.

On March 22, 2013, Nielsen's roommate called 911 to report she had located child pornography on his computer. Police responded to the apartment and seized two computers. Two days later, police again responded to the residence and were provided 33 discs, many of which were labeled "porn." A forensic exam of the computer and discs revealed tens of thousands of images and videos of pornography, classified by type. Among those, 422 were verified by the National Center for Missing & Exploited

Children as containing known child victims. Many others contained children well under the age of 18 posing nude or engaging in sexual conduct.

Nielsen faces a sentence of 3 years in prison. Sentencing is set for March 11, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in Department 36 before the Honorable Gerrit Wood.

CASE: Porche Wright

PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Nancy Cochrane, Special Assault & Child Abuse Unit

Porche Wright pled no contest to premeditated attempted murder and admitted the allegation that she personally inflicted great bodily injury.

On April 4, 2015, Wright was upset with her 7-year-old daughter for not listening to her. Wright doused her daughter with gasoline and lit her on fire. Once her daughter was aflame, Wright placed her in the bathtub and put out the fire. Her daughter was on fire long enough to leave scorch marks in the bathtub.

Wright's boyfriend, who had left the house the night before, returned that morning to find the little girl severely burned. He told Wright they needed to call for help, but she insisted they not contact anyone. The boyfriend left the house, claiming he was going to the store to get burn cream. He called 9-1-1 as soon as he left the house.

First responders entered the home, where there was an overwhelming smell of gasoline. They found the little girl standing in the hallway with severe and significant burns. She was transported to Shriners Hospital, where she underwent surgeries. Her daughter suffered second and third-degree burns to over a third of her body and will be scarred for life.

Wright will be sentenced to 10 years to life in prison. Sentencing is set for February 25, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. in Department 62 by the Honorable Geoffrey Goodman.

Fair Oaks Folks Talk **Transients and Scammers**

Sheriff's Deputies Discuss Neighborhood Security

Continued from page 1

homeless population. North Crime Prevention Specialist, Sherrie Carhart, said that, "One of the big complaints we get is people hanging out in front of businesses asking for money." Carhart also told the story of a local resident who did not realize that a transient had been camping out in her backyard for over two months. Sergeant Michael Haynes remarked that residents should report the presence of vacant houses in local neighborhoods, since unoccupied homes are a magnet for squatters and transients.

Since so much of this activity goes unreported by the public, law enforcement officers face attempt to monitor and control incidents of suspicious transient activity, as well as the confidence tricks and scams, which they mentioned at Tuesday evening's meeting. In this regard, Sergeant Haynes mentioned one instance of "an older Russian gentleman who goes from house to house telling people that he's down on his luck and needs help. We hear talk about him, but no one ever reports him." Unreported cases like these are more common than most people think, and if the sheriff is not informed about them, they continue to be a nuisance to the community.

In light of these difficulties,

a daunting challenge in their Officer Gillock encouraged the public to be diligent in reporting any and all suspicious activity. There are a number of ways this can be done. "We have on online reporting system," remarked Gillock, as well as the numerous telephone numbers through which the public can access the relevant branch of the sheriff's office. Apart from 911, a few of these numbers include the sheriff's non-emergency line at (916) 874-5115 and the sheriff's emergency number at (916) 974-5111. Nuisance complaints involving activities such as abandoned shopping carts, illegal dumping, street light problems, and vacant or dangerous buildings can be reported by dialing 311.

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CLUES

- ACROSS
- 1. Bit of parsley 6. Jodie Foster's "_
- 9. Hat-tipper's word
- 13. Baby grand, e.g _ mode
- 15. Baggins of the Shire
- 16. DNA and RNA 17. Any high mountain
- 18. Daisylike bloom
- 19. *Hailed as the "Father of
- the Constitution"
- 21. *First Republican President
- 23. Lungful 24. Darn a sock, e.g.
- 25. Bldg unit 28. *John Adams to John
- Quincy Adams 30. Soldier's knapsack
- 35. Inside scoop 37. 16 of these in Tennessee
- Ernie Ford sona 39. Masonic doorkeeper
- 40. Smoothie berry 41. *George to George W.
- 43. Hindu serpent deity 44. Most are now wireless
- 46. Glacier's deposit
- 47. Smiley face 48. Chole 50. Windshield option
- 52. "C'____ la vie!" 53. Number of judges on Supreme Court
- 55. Leave speechless 57. "On quard" to a fencer 61. *Under him, the White

House debuted its website

65. "Will comply" in radio

- communication 66. One of five W's
- 68. Smooth 69. Fill with high spirits
- 70. Tan maker 71. October 31 option
- 72. Scarlet and crimson
- 73. Indeed 74. Hollers

DOWN

1. Unwanted correspondence 2. Type of type

3. Policemen's surprise

- 4. Calcutta's home 5. Blake Lively's "
- 6. Indian flatbread
- at ease" 8. Breakfast svrup
- 9. Catchall abbr. _phobia, fear of heights 11. Cain's unfortunate brother
- 12. Between dawn and noon
- 15. Movie "Smokey and the 20. Talk like Demosthenes
- 22. Cartridge contents
- 24. Official command 25. *First to live in Executive
- Mansion
- 26. Lace loop 27. *Clinton signed North American __ Agreement

29. *First "Dark Horse" presidential

- - 40

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31. Sound of a small bell 32. Emanation from a loudspeaker

33. Knight's breastplate

36. Wedding cake layer

38. 18-wheeler 42. Of the kidnevs

49. Jar cover

graced clown

56. Accustom

54. Full of news

57. Water carrier

60. Parts of play

61. Flipside of pros

62. Asian weight unit

64. Brooklyn players

63. *Like President's office

58. World's longest river

59. Alternative to Saran

him

34. *First to run against a woman

45. *Liberia's capital named after

51. "American Horror Story" dis-

candidate

For Solutions See Page 4

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





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By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

Many do it by exchanging truth for a lie which is totally irresponsible. It is "exactly' what Adam and Eve did in the Garden -- when Satan deceived them and they yielded to their fleshly nature allowing it to overrule the instructions of God not to eat of the tree of good and evil. Therefore their disobedience (sin) caused the wrath of God to fall on every future

Why Do People Deny God?

generation of souls born until this very day. Their sin of disobedience dishonored God who gave them life and the seriousness of such an act brought the wrath of God on every life born from the beginning.

Old Testament scriptures clearly foretell the story about the "One" who would come to deliver those who believed. Isaiah 53 The New Testament declares the time of His actual coming as the Son of God, the sacrificial Lamb of God shedding His Blood to save His people. There is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of Blood. When a person repents for their acts of sin, accepts Jesus death and commits and surrenders their life to follow His example and teaching, He promises to never leave

or forsake them also granting them the "gift" of eternal life in heaven with Him one day.

Denial of the existence of God and His laws (Bible) is a willful act leading to idolatry, sin and immorality that leads one into experiencing the very wrath of God. Hostility towards God is evil and sinful leading to death. Those who suppress the power and sovereignty of Creation that reveal His power and authority need to refer to the TRUTH OF GOD because they automatically bring the wrath of God into and on their lives. There is no one else to

Marlys Johnsen Norris is the Christian author of seven books. You may contact her at Marlysjn@gmail.com.

Now I Lay Me down to Count Sheep

Dr. James L. Snyder

All my life, sleep has been a most trusted companion. I never leave home without it. It does not matter where I am or what I am doing, I can sleep at the drop of

For years, I have heard of people who had problems sleeping at night. I have never been one of those people. I can sit down in a chair and in a few winks, the snoring machine begins.

I can never understand people who could not sleep. I always thought they were kind of joking about the whole scenario.

Then it happened to me this

Whatever led up to this occasion, I am not sure, but all of a sudden, I found myself in bed at night and my eyes would not close. Every time I closed my eyes, they snapped open almost violently.

I tossed. I turned. I did everything I could think of but nothing seemed to help me go to sleep. This is the first time something like this has ever happened to me. No matter what I did, I could not go to sleep.

I lay quietly staring up at the ceiling. Nothing seemed to work.

Thinking if I got up and walked around a little bit, maybe get a drink of water, it would help me relax and I could lie down and go to sleep. It did not help. I was just as wide-awake when I got back to my bed, as I was when I left it.

When I got into bed, a thought struck me. Out in the kitchen were some fresh chocolate chip cookies that the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage had baked that day. Of course, she gave me the usual warning that I was not allowed to touch them. This, however, was an emergency.

What if eating one of those chocolate chip cookies made me relax enough to fall asleep? I think the proof is in the eating.

Slowly I extricated myself nowhere to be found for me. from bed and my wife muttered, You're not getting up are you?"

"I forgot something out in the kitchen that I need to go get

"Remember," she said in somewhat of a stupor, "do not touch those cookies."

Thinking to myself as I shuffled off into the kitchen, "What if eating one of those chocolate chip cookies made me fall asleep?"

I must confess that I have a curiosity streak in me. I like to explore things and find out if something is true or not. Moreover, this cookie-sleeping solution was intriguing me so much that I really did not hear what she was mumbling.

Tiptoeing out into the kitchen, I turned on the light as carefully as possible and walked over to where the cookies were. They looked so delicious. They looked so inviting. In fact, I think one of them winked at me.

"She won't miss one cookie," I thought to myself. After all, there were dozens of cookies there on the cookie sheet.

Very carefully, I lifted one from the cookie sheet and took one luxurious sniff. Wow!

I have not smelled anything like this for a long time. Nothing quite compares to the smell of a freshly baked chocolate chip

Before I knew it, that cookie was in my mouth and quickly melted into a delicious sauce of warm delight and it was gone. It tasted so good. In fact, it tasted like another one.

I am not sure how many cookies I ate that night, but they were delicious. After this eating frenzy, I thought it was about time to slip back into the bedroom and go to sleep. I should be ready to sleep now.

I laid myself down and tucked myself in hoping that sleep would invade my body.

Unfortunately, sleep was

I once heard somebody say that if you cannot sleep at night, start counting sheep and within no time you would fall fast asleep. At this point in my sleepless night, I would try just about anything.

So, I started counting sheep. One, two, three, four and I kept counting until I hit 197. At this point, I could not fall asleep because all of the bleating of the sheep in my room kept me awake. They simply would not quiet down.

I laid there quietly waiting for the sheep to leave and for the dawn to arrive.

I heard my clock click on the hour every hour. Then a light began to glow through my window. It was the sun. The night was over and the day had begun.

About this time, I fell asleep.

"Wake up," someone was saying as they were violently shaking me. "You're not going to sleep all day are you?"

bathroom, then went out to the kitchen to sit down for my morning coffee.

I got up, drug myself to the

The night is over and another day has come.

I was reminded of a special verse in the Bible that says, "It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep" (Psalms 127:2).

As I meditated upon this verse, the thought came to me; the more I try to do something, like sleep, the less successful I am. What I need to learn to do is to give everything over to God and trust

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor oc the Family of God Fellowship, P.O. Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 866-552-2543 or e-mail jamessnyder2@att.net. His website is www. jamessnyderministries.com. 🛨



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February 12, **2016**



Only Once

Valentine's Day is a very popular time for marriage proposals. It's sooooo romantic, right? Then comes marriage and all the trials and tribulations that comes with a new put-together family. Expectations are high that it will last, but knowing full well your chances are about 50/50. Want to better your odds? I had the opportunity to speak with renowned educator and therapist Chana Levitan, on POPPOFF, and she gave me ten essential questions for getting it right the first time. Her book is full of hope that you will find your prince or princess charming called "I Only Want to Get Married Once."

1) Values, goals, and interests. Do you share the same basic goals and values? And which ones are most important to have aligned? No matter how great the initial chemistry is, if your values are on two different pages, the odds of your marriage working decrease significantly.

POPPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

- 2) Are you relating to the person you are dating or to an image? It's easy to get caught up on image. Infatuation thrives on image while love thrives on knowledge.
- 3) Can you admit that the person you are dating has faults? Are you realistic about your own faults? There are three typical reasons for this. You don't know the faults. You ignore the faults. You admit the faults, but infatuation takes over.
- 4) Does your relationship have healthy boundaries? A misconception is that two become one, by one person disappearing into the other person. Disappearing is not the same as merging.
- 5) What do people you are close to have to say about the person you are dating? What is the general feedback? If everyone or almost everyone you trust is telling you something is wrong, take it seriously.
- 6) Do you respect the person you are dating? Is there mutual respect? Remember you can have chemistry with people you don't even like. There is a difference between respect and what is called "puppy admiration."
- 7) Can you be open and honest with the person you are dating? Can you trust him or her? Keep

in mind, physical chemistry and emotional intimacy are not the same thing.

- 8) How well do you get along with the person you are dating? How is your communication? Some arguing does happen. The key to avoiding destructive, unhealthy arguing is---no matter what, you remember you are
- 9) Does the person you are dating bring out the best in you?
- 10) If the person you are dating never changes, would you still want to get married? Contrary to popular belief, women do not have a monopoly on trying to change a spouse. The joy of marriage can only be experienced when the couple is not trying to change or fix each other. The joy is experienced when you can love your spouse as is.

These are great questions, but I added one more since I have a little experience being married 45 years. Do you like this person? After what I call the bunny years when chemistry overpowers all logic, then will you like this person in sickness and health and for richer or poorer? Remember that commitment? It means everything! For more info on Chana, go to www.chanalevitan.com. Bells are ringing for me and my gal or guy! HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! ★



Lisa West Community Outreach Director

ED CB

What **Veterans Need** to Know



Memorial Parks Mortuaries & Crematory

By Lisa West

Are you a veteran or do you know one? First, let me say, I love veterans. They are truly our heroes and deserve our respect and undying gratitude for their service.

Veterans are entitled to many benefits. I can't possibly list them all here, and I wouldn't want to try. But I do want to give you some basic information regarding burial that I hope you find beneficial.

There are some misconceptions about veterans getting a "free burial;" first, depending upon your service, veterans are entitled to be buried in a VA cemetery. The closest one to Sacramento is called Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, although it's not in Sacramento, it's in Dixon (in Solano County).

Please note that although you are entitled to be buried in the VA cemetery, you still must be prepared for burial and taken to the VA cemetery by a funeral home. This is where people sometimes get confused.

Simply put, your burial plot at the VA cemetery is free of fees and

yours to use if you qualify. To find out if you qualify, call a licensed funeral home and they can tell you. If you do qualify, you still need to make your final arrangements through a mortuary or funeral home. It is always a good choice to do this in advance.

This means you need to be brought into the care of the funeral home after you pass away. Your body must be prepared through either cremation or casketing, and these fees are not free or paid for by the VA.

Other important facts to know are that a licensed funeral director is required to make the arrangements with the VA cemetery at the time of need (it cannot be made in advance like other arrangements can), and that funeral home must transfer your casket or cremation urn to the VA cemetery for the interment.

Lisa West is the community outreach director for East Lawn and her column appears monthly. You can reach her at lisaw@eastlawn.com or (916)732-2020. For previous articles, please visit www. EastLawn.com.

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Thomas DeWinter Carves a Legacy

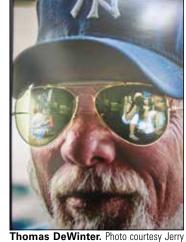
SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Thomas DeWinter is a "Jack of All Trades" kind of guy. His earliest memories are of drawing with his Italian grandmother. He spent 21 years in the U.S. Coast Guard traveling all over the world. When he got out, he created a successful business designing and remodeling kitchens and bathrooms. Somewhere in the midst of remodeling houses, Thomas began sculpting wood with a chain saw. This led to the creation of an array of life size wood sculptures, including figures of Pete



De Winter's wood comes primarily from tree trimming services in the surrounding area. Photo courtesy Jerry De

Townsend of the Who, a leprechaun, a Native American, Jerry Garcia, Buddha, The Lone Sailor and last but not least, Snow White and the Seven Dwarves. His wood comes primarily from tree trimming services in the surrounding area. He has





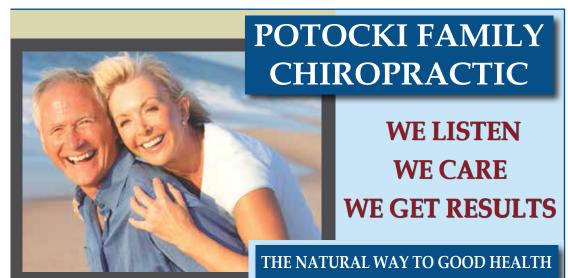
"The Lone Sailor" at the Coast Guard Air Station at McClellan. Thomas has won several awards in chainsaw carving competitions in California in addition to his woodwork he also works with oil and acrylic on canvas. He has a studio space at Artistic Edge Gallery, 1880 Fulton Avenue, Sacramento, Calif. 95825. He has so much work to show that a few months ago he expanded his single gallery space into a larger space.

Source: Artistic Edge Gallery and Framing









Consultation, Exam, X-Rays (if necessary), Repair, and Adjustment for

* Excludes Medicare and Worker's Compensation.

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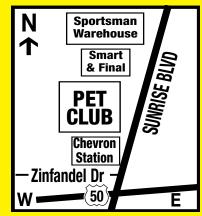
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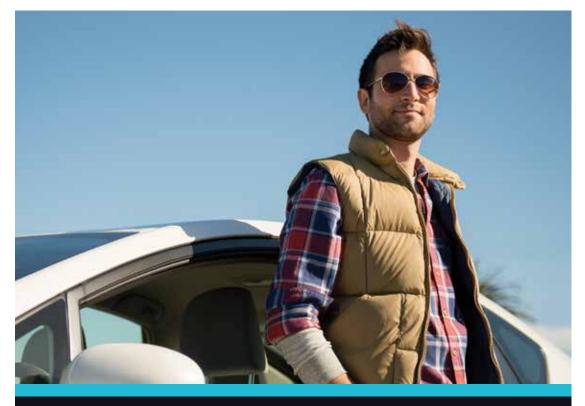
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