

AMERICAN RIVER MESSENGER

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Serving Fair Oaks, Orangevale & Sacramento County

Second Edition for October 2014

November's Elections
Won't Resolve Much
of Anything



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Freedom Is Not Free



By Paul V. Scholl, Publisher

On November 4th, Election Day across the United States, we will be deciding if we are heading in the right direction for our county, and especially our great state of California. Higher taxes and ever-growing burdensome laws are crushing small businesses, costing Americans millions of jobs. Out-of-control spending by the federal government means tightening everyone's belt - except theirs. It is not a question of higher taxes and fees. It is a question about whether or not they will tell us

what they are doing with all the new legislation "before they pass it." We cannot just let them continue pretending to be transparent. On a statewide and local level, we are voting on many ballot measures and propositions. We are also choosing our leadership on many levels of local and state government. Ask yourself this, "Am I tired of working harder and harder and keeping less and less of my own hard-earned money?" Leading Republicans, Independents, and Democrats

are hoping voters turn out in huge numbers at polling places to cast their votes on some of the most controversial propositions and candidate races that have been seen in, well, almost two years. It is time for some leadership and some real answers. Americans have faced another stress-filled two years of a failing economy and a horrible lack of leadership on a national and state level. The general public is being fed more than we need to know about areas we care little about, and very little of what we need to know. Guard the

borders, keep the country safe, and rebuild the infrastructure. As legal, voting Americans, we go to the voting booths in our own neighborhoods, vote alongside our neighbors, and try to make the best decisions we can that will affect our families for years to come. If it really is about "the children," why doesn't the government act that way? With what limited truthful information we have available to us, we try to do what is right. It is not only a right of most Americans to vote, it is a civic duty. Whatever your ideology, Get Out and Vote. ★

311 Celebrates One Year Anniversary

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - With nearly 100,000 calls taken since last October's launch, the County's 311 Connect system is ideal for the public to get answers and submit service requests. "Residents and businesses are finding it very easy to use and are contacting us about issues in their communities," said Bradley J. Hudson, County Executive. Calls are answered 24/7 and cover a wide range of County services. When the system went live, a few hundred calls and requests a day came in. Since then, the numbers have increased to more than 4,000 calls in service requests a week! The 311 Connect system allows residents and businesses to report an issue three ways: by phone, online on the web, or with the free 311 Connect phone app. Calls are the most frequent, but online and the app are used as well. The app is great when you're out on park trails; you can snap a photo of an issue such as illegal dumping, and report it on the spot. Find 311 information on the County's home page, at www.sacounty.net. 311 Connect helps you get answers and submit service requests for non-emergency issues, including:

- Abandoned vehicles**
- Animal issues - stray, deceased**
- Emergency housing conditions - no water, utilities, unstable building, surfacing sewage**
- Occupied out building**
- Abandoned shopping carts**
- Curb, gutter or sidewalk repair**
- Culvert/pipe repair or cleaning**
- Drainage problem**
- Missed garbage collection service**
- Graffiti**
- Illegal dumping - garbage, trash**
- Potholes**
- Tobacco - selling to minors**
- Ditch cleaning**
- Street light issues**
- Street sign down**
- Tree trimming in public right-of-way**

New Sign Ordinance Aims at Reducing Blight

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Ever been bothered by signs plastered on street corners or blocking your view of the road? With the approval of a new ordinance, County departments will have a new tool to end the visual blight of illegal signage. The Code Enforcement Division of the Department of Community Development will start issuing citations for unapproved signs on private and public property to ensure that community standards of health, safety, and property preservation are met. The

new regulation, effective September 23rd, stems from concerns raised by residents and businesses about the proliferation of unsightly signs being a public nuisance and potential traffic hazard. "Our goal is to stop the posting of these signs once and for all," said County Executive Bradley J. Hudson. "This will help deter blight, revitalize area and convey the message that unsightly signage is not welcome here." Because the State designated such signs as a public nuisance, Code Enforcement and the

Department of Transportation have historically removed these signs on publicly owned property with no penalty to the violator. Often times the violators are out-of-town businesses that drive through and post signs at night, often high up on poles that require extra equipment to remove, all at a cost to taxpayers. "With this new ordinance, we'll have the ability to pursue violators—businesses that post signs on street corners, utility poles,

Continued on page 5

Source: Sacramento County



Michael Alcalay
is Our Choice For San Juan Unified School Board

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alcalay4schoolboard.com

DA Jan Scully & Sheriff Scott Jones Request Board of Supervisors Oppose Proposition 47

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - District Attorney Jan Scully and Sheriff Scott Jones will publicly request that the Board of Supervisors adopt their joint resolution opposing Proposition (Prop) 47.

Called the “Safe Communities and Schools Act,” Prop 47 has qualified for the November 2014 ballot. The initiative claims to make neighborhoods safer, reduce prison and jail populations, make schools safer, reduce government waste, help find jobs and housing for offenders and protect public safety.

Scully and Jones will provide statements on why Prop 47’s claims are unfounded and will NOT protect public safety, including:

- It would re-classify a number of straight felony and wobbler offenses to straight misdemeanors, making up to 10,000 felons eligible for resentencing and/or subsequent release from county jails and state prisons.
- Many inmates that would be



District Attorney Jan Scully

eligible under this proposition were denied resentencing under three strikes reform because they were found to be a current danger to society.

- Prop 47 only prevents resentencing if the inmate is considered to be a current danger to commit murder or sex offenses; not assault or robbery or other violent offenses.
- The projected reduction to

California’s prison population and projected savings to fund other programs will likely not be realized; as those actually serving prison sentences for these non-violent offenses in many circumstances have violent prior offenses and should not be resentenced.

“Under Public Safety Realignment, many convicted non-violent, non-serious, non-sex offenders are already under county supervision,” said Sheriff Jones. “Prop 47 will add to the over-crowding of our jails and provide no reimbursement for the additional costs of housing misdemeanor inmates.”

Scully states, “I stand in solidarity with Sheriff Jones and all of our local police chiefs in opposing Prop 47. If passed, this dangerous initiative will only increase the burden on our local criminal justice system, further reduce sentences and increase the risk to public safety.”

Source: Sacramento County District Attorney’s Office ★

Playing it Forward Peace Concert is Coming to the Fair Oaks Community Center

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Mary Youngblood will appear at Loping Wolf’s Playing it Forward Peace Concert. Join Loping Wolf at the Fair Oaks Community Center on Saturday, November 1st. This fabulous dinner concert benefits the children of our community who receive support from violence, abuse, and trauma at A Community For Peace in Citrus Heights.

When: Saturday, Nov, 1st
Where: Fair Oaks Community Center
Time: Cocktails 6:30 p.m.
Dinner & Show: 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Loping Wolf is a Native American Drumming and Flute circle from Northern California. Influenced by the wooden flute of two-time Grammy winner Mary Youngblood, this group takes the improvisational elements to a new level.

Enjoy a wonderful Italian pasta dinner and scrumptious decadent deserts while enjoying the sounds of Loping Wolf. Silent raffle, auction, and much more will be enjoyed. Together we take a stand for peace and invite everyone to join us as we

recall our interconnectedness and the peace that each of us brings to the world.

We are inspired to join hands with you as we respond to the call of our Hopi Elders:

“It is for times such as this that you have been prepared”, Hopi Elders

Tickets for the concert and dinner are \$45 for individuals, \$80 for couples, and \$300 per table (8-10 people). Tickets are available online at www.communityforpeace.org. ★

Boos and Brews Go Pop



In spooktacular attire, the Capitol Pops Concert band chilled at a recent Citrus Heights performance. Kurt Pearsall (reclining in front) directed the ensemble. Right: pageant winners Tamara Barbu-Brown (Snow White), Shadi Rezaie, Tonya Perry, and music fan Kaylynn Adams-Geri (8) enjoyed the Halloween theme.

Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Continuing a three year tradition at the Citrus Heights Community Center, the Capitol Pops Concert Band recently delivered a program part Oktoberfest and part Halloween; the event was aptly heralded as “Boos and Brews.”

Musicians and audience members came in Halloween costumes or German attire. Patrons supped heartily on sausages and sauerkraut, wine and

beer. Hosting the event, the 60-piece Pops ensemble performed macabre hits ranging from chilling James Bond scores to the Spiderman theme. German polkas and drinking music augmented seasonal motifs.

A highlight was a performance to Michael Jackson’s “Thriller,” starring scores of young zombies from the Creative Connection Academy (North Highlands) dance team. The program marked the bandstand debut of Pops’ director Kurt Pearsall, a music educator who lately took

the baton from retiring conductor Jerry Lopes.

Sharing the spotlight was the Sacramento Capitolaire Men’s Chorus. Volunteers included local beauty contest winners under the aegis of pageant director Tamara Barbu-Brown.

The free festival raised funds through food and beverage sales. Proceeds will assist the Citrus Heights Kiwanis and Capitol Pops Band programs.

Learn about future Capitol Pops performances at www.capitolpops.org. ★

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Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

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U.S Army High School Challenge

Students Collaborate, Create, And Compete In Physical And Academic Challenges



The U.S. Army High School Challenge presents students with a unique opportunity to put their leadership and collaboration skills to the test as they communicate and compete against other students to complete various physical and mental challenges.

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Students from Del Campo High School in Fair Oaks were tested both physically and mentally as they participated in the U.S. Army High School Challenge on Wednesday, October 1st. Since its inception in 2009, the High School Challenge presents students with a unique opportunity to put their leadership and collaboration skills to the test as they communicate and compete against other students to complete various physical and mental challenges. The event at Del Campo High School was one of more than 100 planned High School Challenge events across the country this year. Students had the opportunity to participate in three of the five timed challenges, encouraging students to identify themselves as leaders and showcase their

mental and physical abilities: Board Walk Missions Challenge – Students used two boards to continuously navigate their teams through an elevated course of raised pylons. Teamwork and execution were the keys to success. Physical Fitness Speed Challenge – Students got physical with fast-paced team relay races in addition to sit-ups, push-ups, burpees, and jumping jacks to test core strength. Strategy Tower Mental Challenge – This mind game tested the mental strength of students as they rushed to complete this Lucas Tower-like puzzle. Students could only move one piece at a time, testing their critical thinking and planning skills. Air Lift Coordination Challenge – Students used strings to navigate a ball to the

center of a target without letting it drop, testing focus and determination. Voice Command Leadership Challenge – Communication was the key as students led blind-folded team members through an obstacle course. Students’ awareness, leadership, and ability to trust their team were also tested. These challenges stimulated the mind and body in addition to emphasizing the importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); leadership; teamwork; problem solving; and communication. Each challenge allowed for strategic thinking and provided opportunities for students to step up and showcase their strong leadership skills.

Source: Weber Shandwick ★

NorCal Stuff Opens in Citrus Heights

By Linda Harper

CITRUS HEIGHTS CA (MPG) - The definition of stuff according to the Merriam Webster Dictionary, is Materials, supplies or equipment; a group or pile of things that are not specifically described. For consumers entering NorCal Stuff, located at 5469 Sunrise Blvd., Citrus Heights (next to Benihanna’s and JoAnn Fabrics), that definition transforms into a magical shopping experience; so much so, that everyone finds something they don’t even know they need or want. NorCal Stuff has been in business since 2007 as an Ebay and Craigslist online store and warehouse outlet in Rancho Cordova. In an effort to better serve their customers, NorCal Stuff moved to centrally located Citrus Heights while keeping their online exposure. The warehouse store in Rancho Cordova, located at 11351 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova (behind Technique Gymnastics) will close at the end of October. All items in that store are 50% off the already discounted prices. Dan Singleton, owner of NorCal stuff, and his right-hand helpers, Dawn Martin and Candice Lynn, work tirelessly negotiating overstocks and discontinued merchandise with companies who need to sell their items for one reason or another. NorCal Stuff advertises



Walking into NorCal Stuff’s new store in Citrus Heights is an exhilarating experience for the bargain hunter. Dan Singleton, owner of NorCal stuff, and his right-hand helpers, Dawn Martin and Candice Lynn, work tirelessly negotiating overstocks and discontinued merchandise with companies who need to sell their items for one reason or another.

they offer “hairclips to canoes.” It’s true! Walking into NorCal Stuff’s new store in Citrus Heights is an exhilarating experience for the bargain hunter. In one corner, there’s quality camping equipment marked at least 50% off of what it would normally sell for in other discount stores. A large, brand name BBQ sits in the opposite corner, also priced to sell. A few feet from that, designer shoes and purses are perched on a shelf with office supplies, baby food and other

infant items. Pet food, clothing, Halloween costumes, hair and beauty products, bedding, and a new lawnmower are just a sampling of the merchandise NorCal Stuff offers. There’s also a wide assortment of toys priced affordably for the holidays. Inventory changes often so there’s something different to view with every visit. For more information about NorCal Stuff and directions to the stores, go to www.norcal-stuff.com. ★

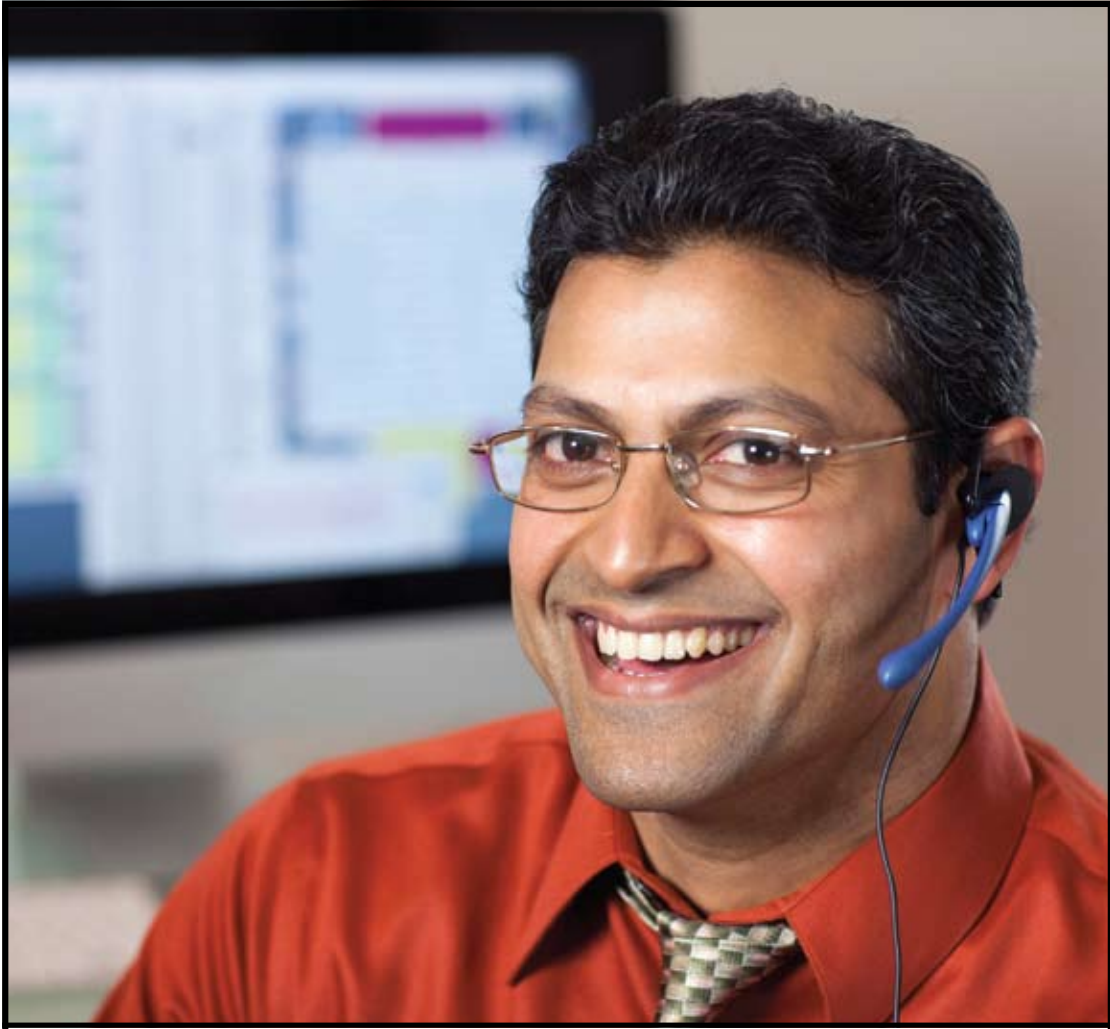
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Buon Appetito a Tutti! Columbus and Olive Oil Celebrated



Gold River based chef Susan Korec (third from right) prepared a pasta feast for Columbus Day celebrations in Carmichael. Volunteers at the Italian Cultural Center included Christina Henderson (left) Patrizia Cinquini Cerruti, Giovanna Biundo, Gabrielle De Sio and Patty Peter.

Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - An eight-year tradition, the Columbus Day Olive Oil Celebration recently sold out at the Italian Cultural Center in Carmichael.

Fragrant oils baptized bread, lunch was eaten al-fresco, and New World discoverer Christopher Columbus—the first Italian American—was recalled. To please paisano palates, Gold River-based Pasta Queen, Susan Korec, served a feast of hand-made ravioli, linguini, and meat

balls. Two authors presented a talk on olive growing in the California Gold Country.

“Olives are part of the Italian-American heritage,” explained Culture center Director Bill Cerruti. “Italian pioneers came with the gold rush and kept coming to the Gold Country and Northern California. The Rocca Bella olive farm in Calaveras County was planted 1888. Now, 95 percent of oil produced in the USA comes from Northern California.” He noted that olives featured in local history; groves flourished in Fair Oaks, Carmichael, Citrus Heights,

Roseville, and Orangevale until the middle of the 1900s.

“Like the wine industry, olive oil production is having a rebirth,” he said. “It’s now one fastest growing industries in California, and our oil is considered among the best in the world. Our celebration brings together producers and the public. It also celebrates Italian pride and the history of our families coming to America.”

The Italian Cultural Center is at 6821 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Carmichael. For more information, visit www.italiancenter.net ★

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By Pastor Ray Dare

Have you been under stress lately? What’s been weighing you down? A problem, a pressure, a conflict and you feel like you’re about to lose it because of the pressure in your life. Life has a way of wearing us down. Unexpected, uncontrollable things happen and we get stressed. How do we reduce the pressure in our life when we feel overwhelmed?

The secret to reducing the pressure in your life is found in a single statement by Jesus. He says, *“Come to Me all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you...you will find rest for your souls for my yoke is easy...” Matthew 11:28-30* The Bible says to de-stress, do these three things:

Turn to Christ. Not to a pill. Not to a drink. Not to a laxative. Not to food or TV or any other form of escape. Jesus says if you want to lower your stress you must first, “Come to Me.”

How to De-Stress

How do you do that? You get alone together with God. You find a quiet place without interruptions, read the Bible (I recommend Psalms), you pray about those things stressing you, listen to calming worship music, and all of a sudden your focus begins to shift from your problems to His power, from your circumstances to His control, from your situation to His sovereignty.

Give up Control. Next, He says, *“Take My yoke upon you.”* A yoke is a wooden frame that joins two farm animals together. The purpose of the yoke is to make your load lighter, because the load is shared in a partnership. A partner comes by your side and helps you carry your load. Jesus says, ‘I want to be your partner through life, I want to help you carry your burdens.’ See, the reason we get stressed-out is we try to carry things ourselves. Yet God didn’t make us to live that way. He didn’t wire us to handle the stresses of life by ourselves. That’s why we get head-aches and neck-aches and insomnia when we try to carry things ourselves.

Jesus says, *“My yoke is easy”*. Question: Have things been easy in your life? If you are feeling overloaded right now it means one thing. You’re not properly connected to

Christ. Oh sure, you may be on your way to heaven but you’re going there stressed out! Any time you get under stress it means this – you have come to Christ, but you have not given Him control. You are not properly yoked. You’re carrying the load by yourself. You must give up control, then you...

Learn to trust. Jesus said, *“find rest”*. Rest happens when you trust. You stop trying and you start trusting. Trust that He knows what’s best for you. Trust that He’s with you and promised never to leave you or forsake you. Trust that He knows what’s happening in your life and He knows how to bring good things out of bad things. Trust that He sees your future and promises that He has a good plan.

Come to Christ, give up control, learn to trust. Come to Christ, give up control, learn to trust. Come to Christ, give up control, learn to trust. If you have to say that fifty times a day for it to sink into your heart, do it! Because that is the secret to stress-free living. ★

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Michael Alcalay for San Juan Unified School Board



By Michael Alcalay

I am a dad, small business owner, homeowner, community volunteer and passionate about improving education for all of our children. My wife and I are parents to three children, two have graduated and one is in the 10th grade – all in the SJUSD. My wife is a SJUSD substitute teacher. I am passionate about making our community a better place to live. I have shown that

commitment as a director of the Mission Oaks Park District, as chair of Principal for a Day, as chair of SchoolSite Council, as chair of the Sacramento Housing/Redevelopment Agency, member of the School Strategic Planning Committee and as a father involved in countless athletic activities. I have raised tens of thousands of dollars for school equipment, student academic competitions, performing arts, health/welfare causes.

Whether you have kids attending school or not, the school board matters. It matters because we have to do a better job educating and graduating the next generation of students. To many kids today cannot read at grade level, curriculum is changing and the Governor instituted a new form of funding education called LCAP. On top of everything else, a \$350 million dollar bond was passed

by the voters to fix our failing infrastructure.

We need to be concerned! More importantly we need school board members with experience building collaborations, holding the district accountable for educating our children and who can provide strong fiscal oversight.

I recently toured 65 SJUSD Schools in 2 days. I spoke to many of the principals and gained amazing knowledge.

I have the experience and I am ready to serve. I get an A+ for Alcalay as I have bipartisan support from Senate President Darrell Steinberg, County Supervisor Susan Peters, Citrus Heights Mayor Mel Turner and Former Sheriff John McGinness. I ask for your consideration when you vote on November 2. VoteALCALAY for School Board. ★

Involved Parents Make Great Schools, and Great Schools Make Better Communities

By Michael Miller

One of the first things families look at when buying a new home is the quality of local schools. That’s why my parents moved to here back in 1976, and why my wife, Ashley, and I chose to live and send our children to local schools.

We are products of San Juan Unified Schools (I graduated from Del Campo, Ashley from Rio Americano). Now my own children attend San Juan Unified schools. My wife teaches as a substitute in the district, as do almost a dozen family members. We’ve dedicated countless hours supporting art and music programs, sports teams, and school fundraisers. We teach, coach and volunteer for our schools and community.

I am proud of this district, and believe passionately in the power of education. But I am concerned about falling enrollment and test

scores, rising dropout rates, and the growing number of students and families who do not feel connected to our schools.

To meet the challenges our schools face today, we need more accountability and creativity; we need to upgrade and modernize campuses - and the District needs to a better job listening to parents.

We know at the household level that engaged parents boost student achievement. I’ve seen it at the school-level while serving as Chair of parent-run Deterding Resources for Education Arts & Music (DREAM), where parents led efforts to restore art and music programs eliminated by budget cuts.

We need engaged parents at the District level as well.

Engaging parents means more than asking them to help with another fundraiser. It means listening to them, and empowering them to make decisions about the

direction of our schools.

Parents understand their schools, they know what works, and often they offer amazing solutions.

Parents in Citrus Heights from Carriage Drive and Citrus Heights Elementary schools are engaged, working to save their schools. The condition of the Sylvan campus are not the result of a sudden disaster - the problems have been known for years. The district should have engaged parents and the Citrus Heights community a long time ago, and worked with them to explore options the would cause the least displacement of students and families as possible.

I’m a small business owner. I know how to hold people accountable and balance a budget. But more than that, I’m a parent with kids in San Juan Schools. I understand WHY we have to do better. And I think it starts by really listening to parents. ★

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New Sign Ordinance Aims at Reducing Blight

Continued from page 1

and fences—through fines and administrative penalties,” said Carl Simpson, Chief of Code Enforcement.

The County will be required to give the violator notice and a reasonable amount of time for correction. If the violator does not remove the signs within the designated period, monetary penalties could be assessed.

SMUD has positively weighed

in on the new ordinance while Chambers of Commerce and Property and Business Improvement Districts have stated that they intend to inform their members that any signs within the public right of way are not permitted.

Prohibited signs include:

- Portable A-Frame signs
- String pennants
- Flags other than the flag of the

United States, State of California, and approved government agency or registered non-profit organization

- Signs on fences or utility poles
- Feather flags

Visit the Code Enforcement website or contact the County Planning Section at (916) 874-6221 for more information about permissible signs.

Source: Sacramento County ★



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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Range

6. Group of exercise reps

9. A large number or bunch

13. "I am _____, hear me roar"

14. In the past

15. Bilbo Baggins' land

16. Eye opener

17. Negative conjunction

18. Dip a _____ the water

19. *Team with most World Series titles

21. On the shore

23. If you do this you shall receive?

24. Type of Asian food

25. On most pants and skirts

28. High fidelity

30. Elevated box

35. October birthstone

37. Winningest Super Bowl coach

39. Run off, as in couple

40. Have the blues

41. Russian prison

43. *Go to extra innings when the score is this

44. "Bravo! Bravo!" e.g.

46. Strong review

47. Spanish Surrealist

48. Kind of monkey

50. *1972 World Series MVP, _____ Tenace

52. Newsman Rather

53. Easy to pull and hard to push

55. Rub the wrong way

57. *First non-U.S. team to win World Series

61. *First World Series losers

65. Dodge

66. *1925 World Series hero and HOFer, _____ Traynor

68. Put up with

69. *A hard hit ball

70. Funerary vase

71. Fiji's neighbor

72. *2013 World Series ended with one for Cardinals

73. Teacher's _____

74. Atones, archaic

DOWN

1. Like a tree in the wind

2. RC, e.g.

3. Yemen's neighbor

4. Winter wear

5. Catch in a net

6. "Without" in French

7. Freudian topic

8. Pentateuch

9. Pest command

10. In _____ of

11. Sportscaster _____ Andrews

12. Direct one's way

15. *Reason for 1994 World Series cancellation

20. Increasing or adding to, often used with "out"

22. C02, e.g.

24. Farmland under cultivation

25. *Reggie Jackson's forte

26. Geologic period

27. Syrup flavor

29. *Minimum games played in modern World Series

31. Big Bang's original matter

32. Sheep or buffalo, e.g.

33. Met's offering

34. Xe

36. Grassy land tracts

38. Cleanse or wash

42. Genius, pl.

45. *_____ Field, where Braves hosted 1999 World Series

49. Chronic drinker

51. Misprints

54. *When it landed in 1996, Yanks were champs

56. Shish _____

57. Be a snitch

58. Hodgepodge

59. *You need more than opponent to win a game

60. Lyric poems

61. Closely confined

62. Like Tim of "A Christmas Carol"

63. U2 guitarist

64. Red one and Yellow one, e.g.

67. Anger or wrath

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
19						20			21	22				
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69							70				71			
72							73				74			

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							9	
7	9	4		2				
					7		5	2
1		3			5		4	
	4	6				1	2	
	8		3			6		5
4	3		8					
				9		5	1	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 9.

For Solutions See Page 7

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 6

2	1	5	4	3	8	7	9	6
7	9	4	5	2	6	3	8	1
3	6	8	9	1	7	4	5	2
1	7	3	2	6	5	8	4	9
5	4	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
9	8	2	3	4	1	6	7	5
4	3	1	8	5	2	9	6	7
8	2	7	6	9	3	5	1	4
6	5	9	1	7	4	2	3	8

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By Ronnie McBrayer

That faint noise you hear is the sound of pint-sized spooks, banshees, and vampires gathering on your lawn. They will soon be knocking at the door plastic pumpkins outstretched. Spare yourself the tricks and go ahead and give up the treats—the unhealthy, sweet, nougat-filled goodies in your cupboard.

Keep your stinking apples, raisins, toothbrushes, and granola bars. Cavity creating sugar; hyper-activism inducing chocolate; gut busting high fructose corn syrup: This is what the ghosts and ghouls want. In a few short years the tykes will have to turn in their costumes, so don't deprive them of this rite of childhood passage.

This doesn't mean adults don't get in on the fun. Americans spend nearly \$3 billion each Halloween, not on adorning their children for the festivities, but on themselves. Adults love to play dress-up, it would appear, and not just in October.

We all hide behind masks, masks we have worn for so long, we forget the real person who lurks beneath. We so over-identify with our dress-up characters, that is the roles we play in life, that when the roles change—and they will change—we experience miserable frustration.

How many middle-aged men and women do you know

The Trick to the Treats

who are in wretched condition because they are no longer the young, athletic, studs and cheerleaders on campus? That used to be their identity, but now it is gone, and they don't know how to live without it. If you are an athlete, you are not going to be unable to compete forever; what then? If you are an accountant, one day you will lose your mental fortitude; who are you then? If you are a teacher, budget cuts could put you out of job; what is beneath your mask?

On and on it goes. Mother, husband, Methodist, physician, American, artist: We can play any of these roles, healthily and with fulfillment, so long as we remember that they are temporary. These are all just masks we wear. If we are shackled to these masks, mistaking them for the real person beneath, we will be shattered to pieces when the time comes to put them away; or when life inevitably takes them from us.

One year my son dressed as the cartoon spaceman Buzz Lightyear for Halloween. It was fun—"To infinity and beyond!"—and that's about how long I thought the boy would wear the costume. In his mind, this wasn't a temporary role he was playing. Buzz Lightyear was who he really was, his identity. That was okay for a while, but it reached unhealthy limits.

"No, you can't take a bath as Buzz Lightyear. Take the costume off," I would say. "I'm sorry, you can't be Buzz Lightyear at school. It will distract the other students," and he

would protest. "No, you can't wear the Buzz Lightyear costume to Aunt Inez's funeral!" You get the idea.

Every time he had to lay aside his costume and mask, it was the proverbial end of the world with weeping and gnashing of teeth. It was as if he was losing himself, as if he didn't know how to live apart from that imaginary facade. Of course the real him was beneath that rayon space-suit—everybody knew it—except him.

This is a common affliction. We build these dramatic images of ourselves, who we think we are, who we should be, what we should accomplish, and once constructed, they have to be maintained and protected. We have to live up to our own billing, never letting a tear or a crack show in our veneer, and the mask to which we cling slowly becomes a prison. We go through life kicking and screaming every time a perceived threat begins to pull at the hem of our make-believe cape.

Here's a better way: Fulfill the roles that God, fate, or life has assigned to you. Fulfill them with gusto. But never accept the masks you must wear as a substitute for the person you really are; that's the trick to a sweet life.

Ronnie McBrayer is a syndicated columnist, pastor, and author. His newest book is "The Gospel According to Waffle House." You can read more at www.ronniemcbrayer.me. ★

Nobody is as Good as Their Selfie

Dr. James L. Snyder

I must confess I am not up to date with the latest technical gizmos. So much technology is around today that I believe most people have really lost their identity. I do not think they will soon recover.

I am not against modern technology; I simply cannot keep up with it. I would vote for anybody who would call a moratorium on all updates for the next five years. As soon as I get a product, it is out of date and I need, desperately need, an update if I am going to benefit from this product.

This brings me to the subject of the Selfie. It took me a long time to understand what this was. My clock is not always ticking. My idea of a Selfie is someone who is self-centered. How was I to know it had something to do with taking your own picture? I am not sure what to call people who take their own picture, but the modern term today is Selfie.

People want to believe that they are as good as their Selfie. I do not believe that for one moment. If I am as good as my Selfie, I am in pretty bad shape. I know you can Photoshop a picture to make yourself look a lot better, but then I ask, is that really a Selfie?

I think there are other ways to evaluate yourself.

For me, my worth has to do with the pens I use. The Selfie that I took has no class and certainly lacks a lot of dignity.

Nothing is more personal than a person's pen. I never leave home without mine.

In fact, I carry on my person at all times a variety of pens. There is a pen for every activity. You can tell a lot about a person by the pen that they use. In my book, it is a fountain pen and I have a variety of them in my personal collection.

When it comes to pens, I have a collection that, well, let's say it exceeds a few. I have been collecting these pens since I have been able to write. After all, a writer without a pen is not really a writer.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has the opinion that I am a wee bit obsessive about my pen collection. I remember in exasperation at my growing pen collection, she once asked, "If you had to choose between me or your pens, which would you choose?"

As a man who has been a husband for more decades and I care to remember, certain questions that come from the other side of this marriage equation should never be answered and should be avoided at all costs. When such questions are put forth, the name of the game is switch the topic as quickly as possible.

I do not want it to be, an "either/or" kind of a situation. I choose to keep both, which has made me happy for so many years.

My idea is simply this, if something is worth writing it is worth writing with a fountain pen. You can tell a lot about a person by the pen they use and if it is a fountain pen, that tells me volumes about that person.

A fountain pen is the choice of the really serious writer. I know there are all kinds of pens these days, and I have my share of them, but when it comes to serious writing, it always has to be a fountain pen. There is something about a fountain pen that makes words flow almost effortlessly.

I take pride in my fountain pens and always have on my person the fountain pen for the day. Each day calls for a special fountain pen. Woe be unto the person who confuses one pen with the wrong day. After all, let us get serious about this fountain pen business.

I was at the post office jotting down some notes while I was waiting in line just using and enjoying my fountain pen. The person in front of me turned around and said, "Sir, could I borrow your pen for a moment?"

There are questions and then there are questions. I froze and simply stared at her. I like being a gentleman as much as I can but when it comes to a fountain pen I really draw the line. Fortunately, for me, I had another pen, which was not a fountain pen for such emergencies as this. Not everybody is worthy of using a fountain pen, especially my fountain pen.

I do not think it is appropriate for someone to ask to borrow one of my pens!

Also, on the other side of the counter, I do not borrow or use somebody else's pen. I know it may be a phobia on my part, but I am sticking to it. When I go to the counter to pay for lunch, for example, the cashier always offers one of her pens. I refuse to use a pen that has been used by a million other people. I am not a germ-a-phobic, just a pen-a-phobic.

David understood this when he wrote, "My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer" (Psalm 45:1).

A person's value is determined by what he or she values the most. ★

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of 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 jamesnsnyder2@att.net. His website is www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.



By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

God alone is the author of grace that provides true and everlasting love. God's standard for love was established by His Heavenly Father and proves as the example and standard of Christ's obedient love, when He willingly died to provide eternal life for those who accept his life, death and resurrection. And His words of teaching provided a new commandment:

The Law of True Love

"To love one another as He has loved us!"

The world's standard for love is much different than the one given to us by the Lord.

God's message of love is truth described in the Gospel and the other one exists to satisfy the flesh. Being a Jew, Jesus fully understood all the laws of God well and lived by them. He was obedient and considered the words spoken by His Father, He believed they meant something and mattered. A blessed legacy some parents give to their children. In His time there was no printed Bible, just the spoken word. (Bibles were not printed until the 1500's)

Today all prophetic Scriptures in the Old Testament have been fulfilled literally and it is urgent that those who believe and follow God's Holy Word "live-out"

the new commandment Jesus left us that others will see and experience His kind of love through us and hopefully accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord of their lives. Living a life of a Christian is believing faith, following and DOING the commandments of God in our daily life

Therefore, let us live in close intimacy with God by living by a higher standard that others will see us as His disciple "marked by love!" (John 13:35) When others "see and experience" God's agape (unconditional) love through us, they see that we are DIFFERENT (alive with the Spirit of Christ in us) and we are not considered counterfeit Christians.

Marlys Johnsen Norris Christian Author of 7 books Marlysjn@gmail.com ★



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F-Rated Fiscal Records For Eight U.S. Governors, Including Brown

Commentary from Taxpayer Education Foundation

The Cato Institute released its 12th biennial fiscal report card earlier this month regarding the budget records of America’s governors from January 2012–August 2014. The governors of Minnesota, Oregon, Delaware, Washington, Illinois, Massachusetts, Colorado, and California received F ratings as America’s most egregious taxing-and-spending chief executives, with the records of Quinn (IL-D), Patrick (MA-D), Hickenlooper (CO-D), and Brown (CA-D) rounding out the bottom of the list of the forty-eight administrations.

Reviewing the records of short-term taxing and spending trends helps taxpayers gain insight into the anticipated direction of their state’s long-term fiscal solvency and how the state’s policies affect the economy.

Gov. Brown (CA-D) has the distinct dishonor of earning the lowest F rating among the eight failing governors. Gov. Brown has consistently pushed for numerous hefty tax increases during his tenure, including his 2012 plan to swindle California taxpayers out of an additional six billion dollars annually, which

included a hike in the individual income tax rate to 13.3 percent. Gov. Brown’s spending record is equally poor, proposing increases that average 6.8 percent annually in the last three years, more than twice the national average during that period. Like his peers, Gov. Brown has supported many questionable spending projects, including a corporate welfare scheme disguised as a viable high-speed rail system. All of this does not even include the skyrocketing of California’s general fund spending from an austere eighty-six billion in 2012 to an

unbelievable one-hundred and seven billion by next year.

Considering that these eight states still have massive debt problems and billions amassed in unpaid bills, it is not farfetched to presume that their legislatures will continue their ill-advised plans to expropriate more wealth from the taxpayers if they do not face fervent resistance. Short-term proposals by government officials are simply delusional political ploys whereby bureaucrats essentially set taxpayer dollars on fire to perpetuate the state’s game of smoke and mirrors, all in a desperate

attempt to reinvent basic economics by trying to tax and spend their way to prosperity.

Taxpayer Education Foundation is committed to pulling back the curtain on the Tax Villains hiding out in state houses across America, exposing these accounting illusionists for their fiscal recklessness. Readers are encouraged to learn more and look over the Cato Institute’s full Fiscal Policy Report Card on America’s Governors 2014, comparing the different approaches toward fiscal policy and identifying which are complete failures



Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

and those which can best lead to less government and more liberty for all individuals.

The Taxpayer Education Foundation (TEF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to educate taxpayers on the methods and effects of government taxes and spending. ★

Art Starkovich for San Juan Water District Board of Directors

By Art Starkovich

Did you know that if you pay Fair Oaks, Citrus Heights, or Orange Vale Water, most of your water comes from the San Juan Water District?

Most customers do not.

The Fair Oaks Water District, Citrus Heights Water District, and Orange Vale Water Company are *wholesale customer agencies* of the San Juan Water District. Each has its own Board of Directors. Each purchases most of its water from San Juan. But none of them has a seat on the San Juan Water District (SJWD) Board of Directors.

I am running to represent the wholesale water communities of Fair Oaks, Citrus Heights, and Orangevale (80% of SJWD’s population) fairly with the homes and businesses of Granite Bay and North Folsom – the *individual retail customers* who comprise 20% of SJWD’s population.

Did you know that Board Members from the current San Juan and Sacramento Suburban Water Districts have been discussing a

merger for nearly three years? Most customers do not. But like those few who do know, I am concerned.

When you elect me as your Board Member, I will apply my business education (UC Davis MBA) and years of water experience to the discussion. I will assess the merits of any proposed merger, and assure that any consolidations of services benefit all customers.

Those of you who know me personally may know I am a:

- Fair Oaks Resident – 42 yrs
- SMUD Employee – 24 yrs
- Citrus Heights Chamber Government Issues Committee Member – 12 yrs
- Orangevale Scout Leader – 10 yrs
- Regional Water Authority Representative – 4 yrs
- Citrus Heights Chamber Board Member – 2 yrs

I am running to serve my community. I’ve studied and worked on water issues for many

years. The under-representation of our Fair Oaks/Citrus Heights/Orangevale community on the SJWD Board, and the encouragement of water professionals and community leaders drove me to run.

I am running to serve our region. Water may be the most important issue to our future. California’s water rights system goes back more than 100 years. Today’s decisions will affect our next 100 years. I participate with the Regional Water Authority and the Water Forum which give structure and strength to Northern California’s collaborative water future.

I am running for my family and our future. Fair Oaks has been my home for over four decades. Our daughter is at a Bay Area college, our son is at a San Juan Unified high school, and my mom lives in Fair Oaks. We need a water supply that is secure, reliable, and well-priced to assure the well-being of our communities.

I would be honored to serve you on the San Juan Water District Board. ★

Why I’m the Best Candidate for San Juan School Board

By Greg Paulo

Why should you cast your vote for Greg Paulo to be reelected to the San Juan Unified School District Board of Education? I’m running to continue to ensure that students receive a quality education and teachers receive the support the need to make this happen. San Juan graduates must be prepared for their future whether it be college, career, the workplace and to be contributing citizens. Thirty-eight years in the classroom, coaching interscholastic athletes in both boys and girls sports and eight years in the boardroom has provided me with the insight necessary to continue to represent the children in our school district. I was endorsed by the Sacramento Bee in two previous elections,

and based on my contributions to the district have received The Bee’s endorsement again. According to the Bee “Retired teacher Paulo ...knows the district”. “...incumbent Greg Paulo bring(s) the strong educational background and continuity the district needs.” This is a non-partisan position and as such I’ve not sought the endorsement of local political figures. Consult the League of Women Voters Smart Voter site and my website www.gregpaulo.com to see the broad mix of former students, parents, business leaders and education experts who’ve endorsed my reelection candidacy. The San Juan Teachers Association, retired superintendents Ray Tolleson, Dr. General Davie, Jr., Dr. Patricia Jaurequi, Executive Director of San Juan

Professional Educators Coalition Charley Berger, Executive Director of Visions in Education Dr. Jody Graf and current board member Saul Hernandez all endorse and support my reelection bid. Former San Juan Teacher of the Year Teri Berke said “Greg instilled in students a desire to become active participants in society.” I also have the support of former district teacher of the year Ann Whitford and past California State Teacher of the Year Shannan Brown. Former Mira Loma student Mandy Buchanan Tanberg remarked “The fact that you have chosen to serve the San Juan district as a board member is a gift to all of us.” With your vote on November 4th, together, we can continue to move our excellent school district forward. ★

Make YOUR voice heard...

VOTE ART STARKOVICH

for San Juan WATER District

DID YOU KNOW? If you pay your water bill to Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks or Orangevale Water, most of your water comes from the San Juan Water District.

- **Give a Voice, Now Missing, to Fair Oaks, Citrus Heights, and Orangevale residents**
 - 4 elected Directors live in Granite Bay / Folsom with 30,000 population
 - 1 elected Director lives in Fair Oaks / Citrus Heights / Orangevale with 120,000 population
- **Evaluate Proposed Merger with Sac Suburban Water District**
 - Thoroughly examine ALL costs and benefits of consolidation
- **Strengthen our Finances**
 - Be fiscally conservative, but invest in what’s needed
- **Keep our Water**

ART STARKOVICH

- Fair Oaks Resident – 42 yrs
- SMUD Employee – 24 yrs
- Orangevale Scout Leader – 10 yrs
- Citrus Heights Government Issues Committee Member – 12 yrs
- Regional Water Authority (RWA) Representative – 4 yrs
- Citrus Heights Chamber Board Member – 2 yrs

ENDORSED BY:

- Citrus Heights Chamber PAC
- **Robert Jones**, President, Los Rios Community College District
- **Mel Turner**, Mayor of Citrus Heights
- **Steve Miller**, Citrus Heights City Council Member
- **Renee Taylor**, Director, Ward 1, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)
- **Robert Dugan**, Director, District 4, Placer County Water Agency
- **Ralph Carhart**, Chair, Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District

Vote ART ONLY – Your Single Vote is Stronger than Casting 3!

f Art Starkovich for San Juan Water District

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Greg Paulo

San Juan School Board

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www.gregpaulo.com

Email Greg at greg.paulo@sanjuan.edu

As an experienced teacher with a passion for education, Greg understands the requirements for academic success. Retired, he possesses the time and energy to devote to the many challenges faced by our school district. Greg offers reasoned, thoughtful perspectives and ideas to address the serious issues that confront San Juan Unified School District. As a leader in his community, he focuses on solutions. Greg asks the tough questions and demands answers and accountability.

- ✓ **Taught (History & Government) and Coached in San Juan schools for 38 years**
- ✓ **District Master Teacher, Athletic Director, Department Chair**
- ✓ **Recognized in Who's Who of American High School Teachers**
- ✓ **Twice received the San Juan District Professional Excellence Award**
- ✓ **Received the Schools Financial Credit Union Excellence in Education Award**
- ✓ **Achieved BA in history, MA in school administration, life teaching credentials in elementary and secondary education**
- ✓ **Managerial positions with Del Monte Foods, Oroweat and MMG Technology Group**
- ✓ **Past President Gold River Community Association**
- ✓ **President Parke Place Homeowners Association**

ENDORSED BY:

SACRAMENTO BEE
SAN JUAN TEACHERS
RETIRED SUPERINTENDENTS
RAY TOLLESON,
GENERAL DAVIE, JR.,
PATRICIA JAUREQUI

People who know Greg say...

“Greg instilled in students a desire to become active participants in society. Democracy can only flourish when its electorate is well informed and active. Greg held to this ideal and instilled this in his students.”
- Teri Berke, San Juan Teacher of the Year

“Student success was always Mr. Paulo's top priority. As a result, students responded positively and worked with vigor.”
- Tom Irwin, Retired School Administrator

“Our three boys benefited from the lessons they learned from Greg Paulo in both the classroom and in athletics. His ethics & character will serve him well as a school board member.”
- Sharon Lukehart Parent

“Greg has a proven track record in both the public and private sector when it comes to leadership, team building and getting the job done.”
Karen and Larry Marietti, Owners MMG Technology

Greg and Wife Lonna have six children and eight grandchildren, one great grandchild

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Governor Brown Signs Legislation to Ban Single-Use Plastic Bags

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) – Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed the nation’s first statewide ban on single-use plastic bags, SB 270, aligning state law with ordinances passed by a growing number of local governments in California to reduce plastic waste.

“This bill is a step in the right direction – it reduces the torrent of plastic polluting our beaches, parks and even the vast ocean itself,” said Governor Brown. “We’re the first to ban these bags, and we won’t be the last.”

The legislation, authored by Senator Alex Padilla (D-Pacoima), prohibits grocery stores and

pharmacies from distributing single-use plastic bags after July 2015 and enacts the same ban for convenience stores and liquor stores the following year. It will also provide up to \$2 million in competitive loans – administered by CalRecycle – to businesses transitioning to the manufacture of reusable bags.

Thus far, over 120 local governments in California have passed ordinances banning single-use bags in some fashion, with widespread support from community and environmental groups. SB 270 is supported by many of these same groups, along with local governments, businesses and labor

organizations.

“The California coast is a national treasure and a calling card for the world, helping us attract visitors and business from around the globe. Removing the harmful blight of single-use plastic bags, especially along our coastline and waterways, helps ensure the kind of clean and healthy environment we need to have a stronger economy and a brighter future,” said Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins.

“SB 270 is a win-win for the environment and for California workers. We are doing away with the scourge of single-use plastic bags and closing the loop on the plastic waste stream, all while maintaining – and

growing – California jobs. As we further develop our green economy, SB 270 will be a model for balancing the health of the planet with the preservation of people’s livelihoods,” said Senate President pro Tem-elect Kevin de León, a joint author of the bill.

“For nearly 10 million Californians, life without plastic grocery bags is already a reality. Bag bans reduce plastic pollution and waste, lower bag costs at grocery stores, and now we’re seeing job growth in California at facilities that produce better alternatives,” said Californians Against Waste executive director Mark Murray.

“California is the first state in the U.S. to ban the most ubiquitous consumer item on the planet, in an effort to drive consumers towards sustainable behavior change. Data from the over 127 local plastic bag bans has proven that bans are effective at reducing litter and changing consumer attitudes, and have refuted industry’s claims of apocalyptic impacts on jobs and poor communities. A state plastic bag ban saves taxpayers the huge amount of money spent on litter cleanup, and protects the environment,” said Clean Seas Coalition and Seventh Generation Advisors director Leslie Tamminen.

“SB 270 is a great victory for all

of California. We’ve seen locally that plastic bag bans lead to cleaner water and healthier wildlife, keeping trash off our beaches and out of our creeks. The success of bag bans in our local communities has empowered state legislators to make the right decision for the health of California’s waterways. Governor Brown’s signature of this statewide bag ban is an important moment for our state, demonstrating that California is once again willing to take the lead on important environmental issues,” said Save the Bay executive director David Lewis.

Source: The Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. ★

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SATURDAY

Unity of Sacramento Farmers Market

9249 Folsom Blvd, Sacramento (in front of the Unity of Sacramento Church). Every Saturday 8 am – 1 pm. Seasonal, closes 11/29.

SATURDAY

Sunrise Mall Farmers Market

6190 Sunrise Blvd, Citrus Heights (behind Sears in the SE parking lot). Every Saturday 8 am – 1 pm. Open year round.

SATURDAY

Sacramento Midtown Farmers Market

20th St. between J and K, Sacramento. Every Saturday 8 am – 1 pm. Open year round.

SATURDAY

Historic Folsom Farmers Market

915 Sutter St, Folsom (Historic Folsom Public Plaza). Every Saturday 8 am – 1 pm. Open year round.

SUNDAY

Carmichael Park Farmers Market

5750 Grant Ave, Carmichael (corner of Grant and Fair Oaks Blvd). Every Sunday 9 am – 2 pm. Open year round.

WEDNESDAY

VA Mather Farmers Market

10535 Hospital Wy, Mather (VA Hospital). Every Wednesday 9 am – 1 pm. Seasonal, closes 11/26.

WEDNESDAY

Fair Oaks Sunset Farmers Market

8101 Sunset Ave, Fair Oaks (New Life Church parking lot). Every Wednesday 3 pm – 7 pm. Seasonal, closes 11/26.

THURSDAY

UC Davis Health System Farmers Market

45th and Y St, Sacramento (UC Davis Medical Center Campus). Every Thursday 3 pm – 7:30 pm. Seasonal, closes 11/13.

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Celebrating 30 Years of Adult Literacy Services

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Thirty years ago this month, the California State Library launched California Library Literacy Services to provide tutoring to adults who need help improving their reading skills. Today, these programs enable 10,000 tutors to help 22,000 students at more than 800 libraries and other locations across the state.

At the same time, Sacramento Public Library became one of the first libraries in the state to offer Adult Literacy Services.

Sacramento Public Library is proud that one of our Adult Literacy students, Steve Tafoya, has become one of the faces of a statewide campaign to publicize this important work. California

Library Literacy Services has produced a video about Tafoya's story. "People who can read, they just take that for granted," Tafoya says in the video. "It just comes natural. But for me, it's different. I always wanted that."

A 13-year Army veteran who achieved the rank of sergeant, Tafoya first walked through the doors of the Southgate Library in February 2012. He met Library supervisor Christy Aguirre, who referred him to Adult Literacy Services. After many hours of dedicated work with tutor Anna Ramirez, he now reads so well that he's in his fourth semester of classes at Sacramento City College.

Tafoya, Aguirre and Sacramento Public Library director Rivkah

K. Sass also appear in a second video promoting statewide literacy services. "We're a nation of second chances," said Sass. "The library is the place to provide that second chance."

Some important statistics about literacy needs:

- 36 million American adults need literacy help, including more than 4 million Californians, according to the nonprofit ProLiteracy.

- The most recent National Assessment of Adult Literacy found that 13 percent of adults in Sacramento County—more than 140,000 people—lack basic literacy skills. ★

Source: Sacramento Public Library PIC

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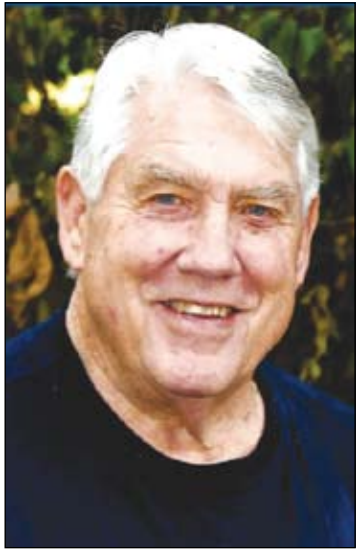
Seating is limited to 30 attendees per seminar

Bob Walters for San Juan Water District Board of Directors

By Bob Walters

It is not only a challenging time for local water districts, but also for all of us who rely on those districts for our water needs. We all know that this area is in the midst of an unprecedented drought, and, If it continues, we could see our water use restricted to the barest minimum.

Water is our most precious resource and many experts tell us that what we have is “over committed”, that is, more water has been promised than can be delivered. They also tell us that the entire state must work very hard to provide a “reliable water supply” for all of us, including, businesses, farmers, manufacturers, you and me as homeowners, etc. Right now, that appears to mean that those of us who live North of the Delta must give up some of our water so that those



South of the Delta can have a “reliable water supply”. I believe that the goal should be a reliable water supply for the entire state, and to achieve that goal, those of us who live in the greater Sacramento area will have to fight to make sure our water

supply remains reliable, healthy and safe.

When I took office as a Director of the San Juan Water District 8 years ago, I made my first priority the continued delivery of reliable, safe and healthy water to our wholesale and retail constituents/rate payers at an affordable price. That commitment governs me as a steward of your water.

When you vote in this election, please take the time to read the ballot statements of those who want to be stewards of your water. Look closely at the breadth of their experience, leadership skills, depth of knowledge on water issues and commitment to service before you vote; and vote for those you feel best qualified to meet the challenge ahead. I believe I have these qualities and that is why I am seeking reelection on November 4, 2014. ★

November’s Elections Won’t Resolve Much of Anything



Commentary By
Lee H. Hamilton

Members of Congress are home now, campaigning for the upcoming elections. Their messages are all over the map, and for a good reason: they have very little to brag about.

The Congress that just recessed until after the elections makes the 80th — the one that Harry Truman blasted as “do-nothing” — look like a paragon of productivity. This year’s members did manage to avoid a shutdown, but that’s about all. Congressional leaders spent the better part of the year avoiding tough votes.

They didn’t pass an annual budget. They made no pretense of weighing U.S. policy against ISIS or, really, any other foreign or defense policy issue. They didn’t tackle immigration reform, climate change, tax reform, the minimum wage, or domestic surveillance. They passed fewer bills than any other Congress in 60 years. In the 3½ months between the beginning of August and mid-November, they’ll have been in session all of 10 days.

Small wonder that voters are in a sour mood when it comes to Washington. They want to see our elected leaders tackling issues that confront the country. They want less partisanship. They don’t understand government’s frequent failures, and crave more

competence. On every front, the people they’ve elected have disappointed them.

This may be why there is no dominant theme in this year’s elections: voters seem more focused on a variety of issues than on one dominant issue. Apathy is high and we are headed for low voter turnout, even by the standards of mid-term elections. Voter outrage at Congress is not translating into a message of rejecting incumbents.

This has made the tone of the election rather interesting. Candidates appear to have picked up on voters’ dislike of mean-spirited campaigning, and for the most part are showing restraint. The deeply partisan politics we saw in 2010 and 2012 has abated. Where a couple of years ago there was heated talk of storming the gates in Washington and potentially shutting the government down, that kind of campaigning is just a memory this year. Candidates may not be embracing Washington, but they’re not attacking it as they once did. There’s even talk of bipartisanship and building bridges, sentiments that were nearly invisible in recent years.

Given President Obama’s lack of popularity, there’s a general sense among members of the political class that Republicans have an edge in the election and may well take over the Senate. A battle to control the Senate can have significant consequences, yet it’s unlikely that much will change on Capitol Hill in the near term. Mid-term elections are usually about the President, and Republicans are largely content in this election to attack him, while Democrats are content talking about anything but the President.

Even if the Senate majority

changes hands, it will do so only narrowly. Given that a party needs 60 votes there to accomplish much of anything, whoever controls the Senate will be able to maneuver only on the margins; resolving tough issues head-on will be difficult, maybe impossible. Unless the recent election talk of bipartisanship and finding common ground becomes a reality, in other words, the dysfunction and lack of productivity that have become defining characteristics of Congress in recent years are likely to continue.

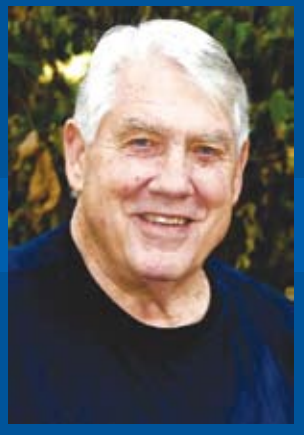
This is ironic, because large amounts of money are being poured into the fall elections, especially in races for the Senate. You’d almost think transformational policies were at stake. In truth, though, these elections are more of a run-up to the presidential race in 2016. And even then, the attention on the Senate is probably misplaced. Polls are showing that a number of gubernatorial seats are likely to switch hands in both directions, and if anything this year’s 36 gubernatorial contests will have more of an impact on politics two years from now than what happens in the Senate.

In short, whatever happens on Election Day this year, it’s unlikely that much will change in its wake. This may hardly be the most important election of our lifetimes, but the business that Congress left unfinished is still waiting. The nation needs an elected leadership capable of rolling up its sleeves and meeting our challenges head-on right now, not a few years hence. ★

Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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