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AMERICAN RIVER MESSENGER

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Second Edition for September 2014

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The Show Goes On

Best of Broadway Opens at Fair Oaks Village Amphitheater



Dozens of performers of all ages will star in Best of Broadway's 2014 production. Songs from Broadway shows like *Sweet Charity*, *42nd Street*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Hair* will be performed on the village's outdoor stage.

Story and Photo
by Susan Maxwell Skinner

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - The 2014 Best of Broadway season (running three September weekends at Fair Oaks Village amphitheater) marks the 41st year for the musical review. This year's theme is "Limited Time, Limited Love."

Songs from Broadway shows like *Sweet Charity*, *42nd Street*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Hair* will get an airing on the village's outdoor stage. Sacramento teacher David MacDonald launched the review in 1973.

Since then, annual productions have showcased pro-am talent for the benefit of charity. MacDonald this year handed the directorial role to singer/dancer Sam Williams.

If not exactly American Idol, the Best of Broadway series annually plucks talented artists from obscurity and drops them center-stage. The experience spring-boarded careers for numerous distinguished alumni: actress Molly Ringwald and Broadway lead Teal Wicks emerged from the show's amateur ranks. Kate Levering, who recently danced the female lead in the Sacramento Music Circus production of *A Chorus Line*, began

her career with the amateur chorus. More than 75 cast members have gone on to perform professionally.

The revue's opening night is September 12th. Shows run Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays until September 28th. The amphitheater is at 7991 California Ave, Fair Oaks. Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$18 for seniors and students, and \$15 for children. Group discounts are available, and tickets may be purchased at the amphitheater door. All shows begin at 7:30 p.m. For booking information, go to www.bestofbroadway.org or call (916) 296-6311. ★

EcoHousing: A New Trend

By Marty Maskall

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Local residents submitted their planning application to Sacramento County on Monday, July 21st, to approve their design for a new environmentally friendly neighborhood on New York Avenue and Fair Oaks Boulevard in Fair Oaks. A group of nine families have been working with architect and international cohousing expert, Charles Durrett, on the design of their community.

The 30 new homes will range in size from two-bedroom flats to four-bedroom town homes, along with extensive community facilities and garden areas. The new community is unique in that it is being initiated by a group of local families that seek to live in a more socially and environmentally sustainable neighborhood than what traditional developers have been building in the Sacramento Suburbs.

Fair Oaks EcoHousing was inspired by other cohousing neighborhoods that have built around the country over the last two decades, including Southside Park in downtown Sacramento; Nevada

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Cohousing neighborhoods are composed of privately-owned homes clustered around shared open space and extensive common facilities. The Club House typically includes a dining room, kitchen, workshop space, children's playroom, guest rooms, and lounge. It is the heart of the neighborhood for a variety of other activities. Cars are parked on the periphery of the site, making the neighborhood more pedestrian-friendly and kid-safe. Future residents are involved in the design and development so that it reflects their needs and priorities, creating a truly custom neighborhood. Photo courtesy of Fair Oaks Ecohousing

Sacramento County: Back in the Black

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County ended the 2013-14 Fiscal Year \$44 million in the black, recording its third consecutive year of financial improvement. The \$3.7 billion 2014-15 Adopted Budget will be presented to the Board of Supervisors September 9th.

In June during Budget Hearings, the Board prioritized key safety net services including emergency shelter operations, mental health services, homeless outreach and navigation, public health nursing, child abuse prevention, senior financial abuse investigation and prevention, and a myriad of other programs and services for the County's most vulnerable residents.

Also, with last year's numbers totaled, and projected revenues assessed, additional funds are being recommended for public safety services including the Sheriff's Department, Probation, District Attorney, Code Enforcement, Regional Parks, and Animal Care and Regulation.

"Improving economic conditions and additional revenues combined with our fiscal prudence and restraint will allow us to focus on priorities that serve and protect the public," said Bradley J. Hudson, County Executive Officer. "Having the funds to finance key programs, increase reserves, and retire debt allow us to plan for stability and continuous improvement in the coming years."

Critical County activities recommended for additional funds include \$5 million to the Sheriff's budget, \$650,000 to the Probation Department and \$850,000 to the District Attorney's Office will address shortfalls identified at June budget hearings; Repayment of \$12.9 million in internal borrowing; Additional Animal Care staff to improve call response and service; Additional staff and fire risk reduction programs in Regional Parks, including the American River Parkway; Community Development projects including enhanced road maintenance, street sweeping, and graffiti removal services, new Code Enforcement Officers and a Community Prosecutor to address problem properties, illegal dumping, and improve the quality of life in unincorporated neighborhoods; and Additional reserves and contingency funds.

While services are being augmented, the budget acknowledges the fiscal challenges of future years that include increased debt service cost, negotiated salary and benefit obligations, deferred maintenance of County facilities, and \$48.4 million in internal borrowing that remains to be paid Hudson added. The increase in available funds is attributable to controlling costs and an uptick in various revenue sources.

To view all of the budget documents, visit the Annual Budgets website: www.ofm.saccounty.net/Pages/AnnualBudgets.aspx.

The Board of Supervisors will begin the Budget Hearings at the Sacramento County Administration Building (700 H Street) on September 9th at 2 p.m. The public may attend the hearings and be heard regarding any item of the budget. For additional information, contact the County Executive's Office at (916) 874-5833. ★
Source: Sacramento County



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FAIR OAKS COMMUNITY UPDATE



By County Supervisor Susan Peters

- Through the generosity of *The American River Messenger* this column serves to provide an update about matters affecting the unincorporated community of Fair Oaks.

Honor the Chickens
When the Village of Fair Oaks was colonized around 1895, the area was home to orange and citrus groves as well as olive orchards and assorted farm animals including chickens. Today the local chickens are a very real part of everyday life in Fair Oaks which honors these noble birds every year.
This year's Chicken Festival will be held on Saturday, September 20, between the hours of 10 am to 6 pm. Plaza Park will be the center of activity. For more information visit the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District online at fairoakspark.org.

Visiting with Neighbors
Over the summer I continued the tradition of holding "Office Hours" by being available to chat with residents prior to the free concert in the park performed in Fair Oaks Village. On July 17 an hour before the show, I visited with folks about county matters as they arrived with their blankets, lawn chairs and picnic baskets to enjoy the music.
I started these informal "Office Hours" sessions in 2005 and now they are an annual tradition beginning in the spring and concluding in the fall. My next one will be at the Concert in the Park in Old Foothill Farms on Saturday, October 11. No appointment is necessary and visits will be handled on a "first come basis."

Later in August I participated in a number of neighborhood gatherings during "National Night Out" on August 5. I started the evening in Arden Arcade visiting with members of the Wright Street Neighborhood Watch Group as well as dropped by the event organized by the Sierra Oaks Neighborhood Association. Later I ended the night in Fair Oaks first with the Lake Natoma Neighborhood Watch Group and later at a gathering of the West Fair Oaks Neighborhood Watch Group.
I also held my Community Coffee during the morning of August 20 at the headquarters of the Fair Oaks Water District. Regional Parks Director Jeff Leatherman was the guest speaker

and provided an insightful look at the challenges of protecting and preserving natural treasures like the American River Parkway. I hold these community gatherings five times throughout the year and the next one will be in October. For a listing please visit my website at bos.saccounty.net.

Free Fall Concert in Old Foothill Farms
The Fall Concert series in Fair Oaks is over but there will be an encore "Concert in the Park" on Saturday, October 11, at Pioneer Park, 5100 Verner Avenue near Pioneer School, in nearby Old Foothill Farms. The fun begins at 1 p.m. with the concert featuring the John Skinner Band from 2 to 4 p.m.

The concert is being co-sponsored again by Sacramento County and the Sunrise Recreation and Park District with corporate support being provided by McClellan Park, Dignity Health's Mercy San Juan Medical Center, Recycling Industries, Walmart, and California American Water.
In addition to a great selection of family friendly contemporary and easy-listening music, there will be children's activities, and information booths. And remember the best way to enjoy the concert is to bring a picnic, blanket and lawn chairs. ★
Susan Peters represents the Third District on the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. She can be reached at susanpeters@saccounty.net.

POW, MIA Remembrance Day

FAIR OAKS, CA, (MPG) - The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 6158 and the American Legion Post 383, as well as the VFW Auxiliary Post 6158, will be hosting a joint ceremony on September 27, 2014, honoring our POW and MIA heroes. Admission and parking are free.
The POW/MIA Recognition Day will be held at the VFW hall, 8990 Kruitof Way, Fair Oaks. The celebration starts with a VFW breakfast at 8:00 a.m. (\$5 donation) BBQ lunch (\$5 donation) and dinner at 4:00 p.m. (\$8 donation). All proceeds are to help local veterans.
The formal POW/MIA ceremony starts at 2:00 pm.

Former POWs and family members of MIAs will be present. They will be transported by limousines to the celebration, escorted by the American Legion Riders motorcycle group and greeted with a flag line and the community. After the presentation of colors, the Five Hat Ceremony representing the five branches of the United States military will be performed.
The celebration will be in conjunction with an American Legion Riders Post 383 Hi/Lo Run. There will be prizes, live



L-R World War II Veteran Bob and Terry Colet, Dave Brown (prior to his passing) and VFW Post Commander Mike Moore. (above) American Legion Riders show their colors. (below) Photos courtesy Sheila LaPolla



music, dancing and special displays! Come join us for a special tribute to our POW and MIA heroes and a day of family fun.
For more information, call (916) 715-3046 or VFWPost6158.org. ★

EcoHousing: A New Trend



View of entry to Fair Oaks EcoHousing. Photo courtesy of Fair Oaks Ecohousing

Continued from Page 1
City Cohousing; and Wolf Creek Lodge, a recently completed community designed for active adults in Grass Valley.
Fair Oaks resident Marty Maskall has been looking to create such a community since she first saw Southside Park in downtown Sacramento. Maskall says, "I have lived in this area for 23 years, and I want to stay here, but I'm tired of the isolation and maintenance of my single-family home. I love the multigenerational nature of these communities." Carmichael resident Ivan Greene has been looking for a friendly neighborhood with substantial gardening space. Greene says, "As a single person, I want to connect with my neighbors. I'm excited about the large garden and orchard area." Sacramento residents Linda and Frank Tanforan are looking to downsize and move into a safe and convenient neighborhood.

Linda says, "I want to spend my retirement years in a friendly community with people of all ages."
Cohousing neighborhoods are composed of privately-owned homes clustered around shared open space and extensive common facilities. The Club House typically includes a dining room, kitchen, workshop space, children's playroom, guest rooms, and lounge. It is the heart of the neighborhood for a variety of other activities. Cars are parked on the periphery of the site, making the neighborhood more pedestrian-friendly and kid-safe. Future residents are involved in the design and development so that it reflects their needs and priorities, creating a truly custom neighborhood.
Environmental sustainability is a core value in these neighborhoods with smaller homes, green building attributes, and renewable energy systems made possible

by combined efforts and shared resources. On-site activities and companionship enable residents to socialize close to home and reduce their need to drive as much for day-to-day activities. The Fair Oaks property offers close proximity to the American River Parkway and its miles of bike paths, as well as Fair Oaks Village, Banister Park, the Sacramento Waldorf School, and the Rudolph Steiner College. Cohousing provides social, environmental, and economic benefits for a more sustainable lifestyle.
Current members are looking forward to meeting people interested in cohousing and in sustainable living. Interested parties are invited to attend one of the regular site tours of the property. The next site tour is Saturday, September 13th.
For more information on the tour and to view floor plans, visit www.fairoaksecohousing.org. ★

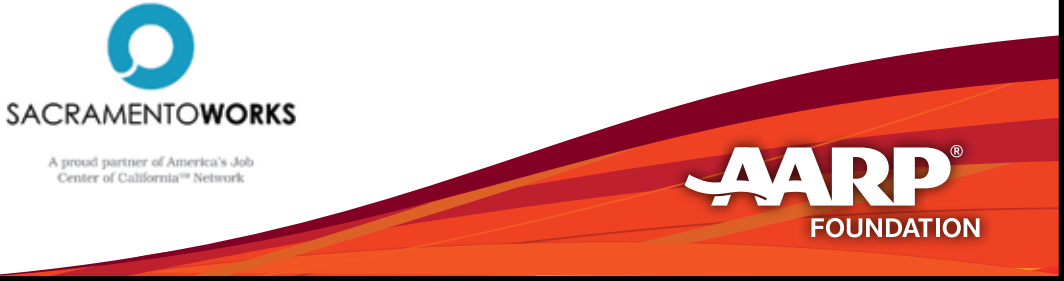


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Local Theater Deems Love a Novel Venture

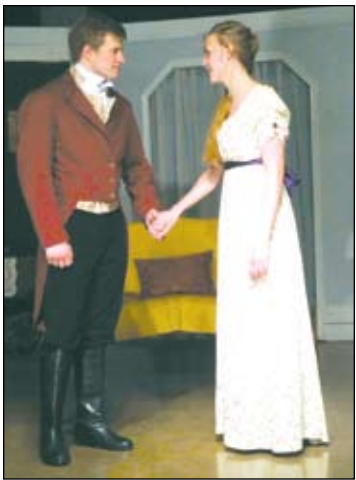


The Dashwood Sisters (Margaret/Marianne/Elinor) immersed in the works of Shakespeare (above. Colonel Brandon admires his future bride (below).

Story and photos by Richard Perez

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - Romance in the early 1800s was anything but a simple dalliance to be discarded and forgotten. It was a meaningful and unforsaken quest on the part of two people who shared a common love devoid of present day vanity. The Cherry on Top Theatre production of Sense and Sensibility is just that. Performed by a cast of seasoned actors, the presentation evokes a charged air of bygone, straight-laced intrigue worthy of the big stage.

Based on the book by Jane Austen, published in 1811, the theatrical drama is set in early 19th century England. Two young sisters from modest means embrace the premise that love conquers all despite the social and economic boundaries cast before them. Director Cynthia Flaherty captures the true essence of what romance meant all those years ago. She succeeds in transporting the audience to a time 200 years past, blending modern day romantic intrigue and



dilemma with Victorian protocol. Angie Hanson, co-starring as older sibling Elinor Dashwood, provides the audience with a compelling performance, exhibiting the greater practical sense of the two romance smitten sisters. Her stoic family allegiance is seemingly lacking in the younger more self-absorbed but sensible Marianne Dashwood played by Hannah Keller. Each young woman faces the unenviable task of overcoming the rigors

and social prejudices inherent in tenderhearted relationships. Miss Hanson notes that in the romance of yesteryear, keeping distance between couples was much more common, as chivalrous hand kissing and curtsies rather than hugs and intimate kissing were part of the unwritten rule. Nathanael Young, the youthful and dapper actor portraying Edward Ferras, the romantic interest, concurs, "Relationships were much more proper and orchestrated back then." Hannah Keller, co-starring as younger sister Marianne Dashwood, points out that meddling by interfering do-gooders is as much a part of today's romance as it was in the past, "Matchmaking has transcended the centuries as it were."

Production group Cherry on Top Theater is part of the Sacramento Area Regional Theatre Alliance. This is a non-profit group which helps foster excellence in community theatre by supporting theatre producers, artists and technicians. SARTA may be contacted at www.sarta.com.

Air Show Honors Triple Ace



Triple Ace pilot Clarence "Bud" Anderson (center) was saluted at the California Capital Airshow by an honor guard in vintage uniforms. WW II aircraft performed a fly- past after Congressman Ami Bera (second left) presented commendations to the 92-year- old.

Story and photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Arriving at Mather Field by airplane and vintage jeep, ace pilot Clarence "Bud" Anderson was guest of honor at the California Capital Airshow last weekend. The event saluted more than 100 WWII veteran attendees, whom Congressman Ami Bera called "the greatest nation's greatest generation." Among the hundreds of contemporary aircraft at Mather Field, prop-powered fighters from the European and Pacific theaters were soaring war birds. Over two

days, their fly-pasts and barrel rolls delighted 100,000 observers at Mather Airport. Just three months after the 70th anniversary of D-Day, Colonel Bud Anderson (92) was a timely guest. During missions against the Luftwaffe, the Oakland-born pilot scored 30 aircraft "kills" and was hailed a "Triple Ace." He remains one of the most highly-decorated officers in US Air Force history. Brigadier General Chuck Yeager once called Anderson "the best fighter pilot I ever saw." By contrast with WWII aircraft displayed at the show, this year's headliner was a 2005 US Air

Force F-22 Raptor. The aircraft's capabilities include supersonic flight, the ability to take off vertically, and to stop mid-air. Presented by Sacramento County, the show is among the largest of its kind in the United States. The ninth annual expo saluted 100 years of aviation history. The non-profit event donates proceeds to scholarships and educational programs for young people who aspire to careers in aviation, science, math and aerospace. Learn more about the California Capital Airshow at www.californiacapitalairshow.com.

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Birthday Boost for Heartthrob

Local Musician Lays Down Tracks for Hollywood Horror Film

Story and photo
by Susan Maxwell Skinner

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - It might be a great leap—nobody ever heard of Steppenwolf before Easy Rider—or a small step toward fame for baby-faced heart throb Todd Morgan. One way or another, having original songs in a movie is a super 24th birthday gift for the young performer.

“It all came out of the blue,” says the Rio Americano graduate. “The movie producers needed original music in the 1950s style. Someone I met at an LA industry trade event told them about me.”

The upcoming movie is called *All American Horror*. It is independently produced and stars Julia Robert’s brother, Eric Roberts. YouTube has the official trailer. As credits roll, Sacramento rock fans will recognize Morgan hammering at keyboards and singing.

“I had to re-record the tracks; I worried that my voice might be different (he cut parts of the album at 16) but I think I sound better now.” Evidently in accord, the film makers selected six songs for the score. No one will become rich from the deal. “It’s not a big-budget movie,” Morgan admits. “I’m not banking on anything huge from this. I’m just happy it’s happening.”

He and his back up group, the Emblems, have more than 2000 regular followers who will be equally elated. Morgan has



Homegrown star Todd Morgan (above) poses for a 24th birthday portrait in Carmichael Park. Billed as a “Rock & Roll Earthquake,” Morgan (with 2005 poster, left) became a State Fair draw at 15. Parents Jerry and Barbara Morgan (right) are the rising star’s roadies and supporters.

been a star and a pro musician since he was 15. The teenage phenomenon paid dues at fairs, park concerts, street festivals and car shows. Although parishioners seldom see him on Sundays (he usually sleeps late after Saturday gigs), American River Community Church goes cheered his recent Carmichael concert. “I may not get to church

but I’m still a believer,” he asserts. “Even if I make it really big, I’ll still do things for people around here. I enjoy feeling I’m part of a community.”

From his childhood debut, the community has supported Morgan. Girls screamed when he danced at Garfield Elementary talent shows. Screams continued at Winston Churchill Middle

School. By then, the dancer augmented his act with boogie-woogie piano. “My parents got me a little keyboard when I was five,” he recalls. “I didn’t get serious about playing till I was 11.”

During his most formative musical years, Morgan was known at Rio Americano High as “that kid who plays piano.” No

one knew he could sing. When he wailed “St James Infirmary” at a Carmichael Kiwanis Jazz Festival, a multi-talent was born. “Some people think I have a girlish voice,” he admits. “It’s not insulting. Vocalists who’ve influenced me—like Michael Jackson, James Brown and some early Delta blues singers—sang like raw, soulful women.” For the record, Morgan is a regular guy. Girls who engage him on band breaks are not wasting their time. “I like pretty girls,” he says. “But my ideal relationship is where you can both be yourself. You like to put your best foot forward, but it’s good when that best foot is the real you.”

The Morgan home evokes Partridge Family memories. The wunderkind’s drums, guitar, and piano occupy the front room; his teenage “Rock & Roll Earthquake” posters complete the décor. A calendar, averaging 10 gigs or recording dates per month, is pinned to the wall. Parents Barbara and Jerry are managers/roadies/techies and devoted supporters.

“When your kid wants to be an entertainer, it’s like wanting to be in the NBA,” says Jerry Morgan. “The odds against success are tremendous. But we never discouraged Todd. Music’s always been his Plan A; he’s never had a Plan B. “Maybe he’ll get his own place one day. But we like having him here. Sometimes I hear him working on a song at 3 a.m. I get up and listen and think, wow, this is really good

stuff.”

The irony of an untarnished kid penning adult love songs before his teens was not lost on parents, nor on anyone privy to Morgan’s extreme youth. “I am romantic,” the singer considers. “With my music, you have to be. I’m naturally drawn to the mystique of things. When I hear songs like ‘West End Blues’ or ‘Chinatown’ by Louis Armstrong, I feel I’m in a different world.”

Though 50s and 60s covers are gig staples, Morgan’s biggest kick comes when fans request his original tunes. “If people have my CDs it’s no surprise,” he considers. “But I’m still honored if they put my music is the same class as some of their favorites.”

Another feather in his pompadour is the age mix that makes Morgan’s audiences resemble Paul McCartney crowds. “I love it when older people say my songs sound like ‘real music’, he smiles. If I reach a bigger stage, I don’t want my mom to wonder what my music’s about. People who supported me early in my career are always going to be important. My aim is to make people happy. To me, that’s a respectable goal.” ★

Todd Morgan and the Emblems will headline for the Chicken Festival in Fair Oaks Village on September 20. Learn more about the artist at www.toddmorganandtheemblems.com.



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By Pastor Ray Dare

God doesn't make anything without a purpose and God didn't make YOU without a purpose. God wants you to become somebody, to grow and mature and to do something significant in this world. How does that happen? How do you become the person God made you to be? To do what God intended you to do? It happens by growing spiritually, by becoming more like Christ. That's been God's goal from the very beginning. God's will for every person is that they grow spiritually.

God has a part and YOU have a part in your spiritual growth. Philippians 2:12, "... Continue to WORK OUT your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who WORKS IN you to will and to act according to his good purpose." It says, "...work out your salvation..." That's talking about an individual assignment. Accept personal responsibility for your growth. "...with fear and trembling..." Don't be afraid of God. Christians have no need to fear God in terms of being afraid of Him. You are a part of His family. You're afraid you might miss out on all that God has made for you. Take your salvation seriously; it has eternal implications.

How You Grow Spiritually

Nothing is more important than your own spiritual growth. Take it seriously.

"...for it is God who works in you..." That's God's part. He will give you the will power and the ability. He'll give you the desire and the capability to change. There are three tools God uses to work in to your life and three choices you need to make to work them out. First, God uses the Bible. Second, God uses the Holy Spirit. And third, God uses Circumstances.

Growth is not automatic. It doesn't just come passively. Change is a matter of choice and your part is making the right choices. There is a parallel between God's resources and your choice. God provides the resource of His Word; you're supposed to read it. God gives the Holy Spirit; you choose to depend on Him. God uses circumstances; you choose your response to circumstances.

In regards to circumstances, you cannot choose what is going to happen to you next week, next month, next year. We don't have that choice. But you can choose how you're going to respond, how you're going to react -- whether it's going to make you or break you, whether you're going to be bitter or better, whether it's going to be a stepping stone to maturity or a stumbling block to failure. Your choice how you respond to the circumstances that come into your life.

God produces the fruit of the Spirit in your life -- love, joy,

peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, self-control -- by putting you in the exact opposite situation. You want to learn love? God is going to put you around some unlovely people. It's easy to love the lovely. You want to learn joy? He'll put you in some tragedies and you'll learn that joy is different than happiness. Peace? It's easy to be peaceful setting on the beach in Tahiti. Peace is learned in chaos. Goodness? He'll put you in situations where you're tempted. Self-control? He'll take you to a church pot luck or move you down the street from Baskin-Robbins. God allows you in the opposite situation in order to help you grow.

Spiritual growth takes an intentional commitment. You must want to grow, decide to grow, make an effort to grow, and persist in growing. It's called Discipleship - the process of becoming like Christ -- and that always begins with a decision. "Come, be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him." Matthew 9:9 Will you? Will you follow Jesus today and make an intentional decision to become His Disciple and grow spiritually? ★

Pastor Ray
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First-in-the-Nation Student Privacy Bill Approved by CA Assembly

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California's Assembly today approved a first-in-the-nation online privacy measure, authored by Senate Leader Darrell Steinberg, which prohibits uses of students personal information for profit. Senate Bill 1177, the Student Online Personal Information Protection Act (SOPIPA), passed unanimously on a 71-0 vote and heads back to the Senate for concurrence.

"My goal is to encourage technological innovation while protecting kids' privacy, and this bill doesn't trade one goal for another, it achieves both," said Steinberg (D - Sacramento). "The industry currently operates without restriction except for the ones that they unilaterally deem appropriate and that is unacceptable. Kids are in the classroom to learn."

Companies providing online

services to aide classroom teaching often require students to create accounts that capture contact data and personal academic information such as grades, disciplinary history, and chat-records. In some instances, companies are mining data from schoolchildren beyond the needs of the classroom, including how many rooms a student had in their home and how many parents they lived with. Some apps marketed to teachers and kids could track a child's physical location.

SOPIPA would end targeted advertising on K-12 websites, services, and applications. It also prohibits operators from using any information gained from the use of their K-12 site to target advertising on any other site, service, or application. The bill also prohibits creating a profile on a student, unless that profile is used for clear educational purposes. It also

prevents companies from selling student data and limits disclosure of student personal information in common sense ways.

The only current restrictions on the use of student data by online educational technology products are contained in the privacy policies that they themselves deem appropriate. Surveys of these privacy policies reveal provisions that remove a company's liability for misuse of data, tell users that policies are subject to change at any time, and that companies are allowed to disclose data however they want.

This bill encourages continued innovation in education-technology and is supported by parents, administrators, school employees, scholastic publishers, and teachers. ★

Source: From the office of Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg

California Catholic Universities Compromised

Commentary from
The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights

Bill Donohue comments on a decision by the administration of California Governor Jerry Brown forcing Catholic universities to pay for abortion in their health plans:

Governor Brown and his administration caved into requests from pro-abortion groups and reversed an earlier decision that allowed Santa Clara and Loyola Marymount universities to exclude coverage for "elective" abortions in their previously approved health insurance plans. Both schools are now being told to include coverage for all abortions.

"Abortion is a basic health care service" said the health department's director, Michelle Rouillard. She said the exemptions violated a 1975 state law that required health plans to cover all services that were "medically necessary." She did not say why electing to kill children in utero was "medically necessary."

As part of the exemption both schools had already agreed to cover abortions when they were needed to save the life of the mother, or prevent serious health damage. Loyola Marymount even allowed employees to pay extra if they wished to have "elective" abortions included in their health insurance plans as well. But this was not enough to

satisfy abortion-rights zealots.

Catholic universities have a right and a duty to uphold the tenets of their faith in everything they do. Paying for abortions is in direct conflict with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Not only is this decision morally obscene, it violates the religious liberties of Catholic institutions. The universities should now sue on First Amendment grounds. Perhaps a judge can educate the Brown administration on the need to keep church and state separate. ★

The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights
450 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10123
Phone: 212-371-3191
Fax: 212-371-3394
Email: pr@catholicleague

Sacramento Crop Hunger Walk

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Crop Hunger Walk will be held on October 12, 2014. Registration is at 2:00 p.m. and the Walk starts at 2:30. The walk has started at the State Capital in past years, but this year it will start at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1300 N Street. Admission to the Walk and Raffle is just a canned food donation.

Because of the change in location, the committee wants to

get the information to the public as soon as possible. Church World Service and Sacramento Congregations sponsor the walk. 25% of the money received is given back to the local food banks in Sacramento. Last year we raised over \$25,000.

For more information visit www.cropwalk.org. ★

Source: Charlotte & Eric Linden



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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Newton or Stern

6. **Here's looking at

9. Face-to-face exam

13. Bake, as in eggs

14. Even, to a poet

15. “Madama Butterfly,” e.g.

16. **Show me the

17. Sculptor Hans/Jean

18. “Nobody ____!”

19. Penalize

21. For peeping

23. It can be red or black

24. Lab culture

25. In the past

28. Emeralds and rubies

30. **Elementary, my dear

35. Ringo Starr's instrument

37. ____ Verde National Park

39. “Dancing with the Stars” number

40. Supposed giant Himalayan

41. Subculture language

43. **You sit on a throne of ____

44. Peer-conscious group

46. Apartheid opponent

47. Formerly

48. **Yo, ____!”

50. To represent in drawing or painting

52. **Are you the ____master? ...I am the gatekeeper”

53. “About ____ Night”

55. **Sheep be true! ____-ram-ewe!”

57. ** ____ handle the truth!”

61. Toy weapon

64. Unwelcome computer message

65. Reef dweller

67. Match play?

69. Spent

70. E in BCE

71. Plural of lepton

72. Cobbler's concern

73. Wine quality

74. Piglike

DOWN

1. Any doctrine

2. “ ____ till you drop”

3. Hokkaido native

4. Gladiators' battlefield

5. **There's no ____ in baseball”

6. Uh-huh

7. “ ____ the land of the free ...”

8. Remove pegs

9. Moonfish

10. First female Attorney General

11. Seed coat

12. Add booze

15. #15 Across, pl.

20. Flower holders

22. Swerve

24. Battery's partner?

25. Temples' innermost sanctuaries

26. ** ____, for lack of a better word, is good”

27. Kind of space

29. Patty ____

31. Tall one is a lie

32. To be wiped off a face?

33. Corpulent

34. Foul

36. Small British car

38. Opposed to

42. Louisiana dish

45. As opposed to hourly pay

49. Grandmother in Great Britain

51. **“I love the smell of ____ in the morning”

54. Knight's mount

56. Acquiesce

57. Evergreens

58. Three-ply snack

59. Eurasian mountain range

60. Apple leftover

61. ** ____ it, Sam”

62. Mail agency

63. Haves and have- ____

66. Make #64 Across

68. Aye's opposite

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

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

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

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By Ronnie McBrayer

This is the first year of the official September 11th Museum and Memorial. Located underground, on the foundation stones of the World Trade Center Towers, it contains more than 10,000 artifacts of the day, 23,000 pictures, and an archive of more than 500 hours of video.

Within the collection of artifacts and archives there is also an assembly of audio recordings; Final conversations of those in the towers as they called home, spouses, parents, partners, friends, and left voice mails. Rabbi Irwin Kula is responsible for collecting a good many of these conversations.

In the days after 9/11 he began seeking out the last words and sentences of anyone he could find who was killed that day. He took those words and adapted them into a chant for his synagogue. The tune and meter of the chant he chose was traditionally about the destruction of the Jewish temple. He thought it appropriate for the aftermath of the September 11th attacks.

What he discovered was not only that the words fit the traditional chant perfectly, but also this: All the final conversations he had in his collection were about love. Not a single person used his or her last breathe to say, “Kill those bastards for what

Love is the Final Word

they have done...Be sure to get revenge...I hate them for what they did to me...Avenge my memory.” Every last word was an “I love you” of some variety.

Here is what Rabbi Kula learned, “Then I recognized what the real Torah, the real wisdom...the real experience behind religion is...it is about love...and it’s no more complicated than that. As a rabbi, my community of rabbis, and I think priests, ministers, and monks – we’ve made it a lot more complicated than it is. When you make it more complicated than it is, you lose the experience.” Beautifully said.

As I understand the Bible, particularly as I read it through the lens of Jesus of Nazareth, God isn’t much into religion. He’s not interested in carving up the world along tribal or cultic lines. He’s not officiating a spiritual contest, declaring winners and losers in who can most strongly declare how right they are. That’s all much too complicated. Rather, he works to put the world on the right path, on the road to redemption, on the way of love.

Jesus came to reveal God’s love to us, to draw it out of us, to show us that love is the beginning, the means, the path, and the end; it’s the only road to travel. This is what Jesus meant, I believe, when he said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” The only way to know God is through the doorway of redeeming love. To choose a different path is to

more than “lose the experience,” it is to absolutely corrupt it.

I suppose this makes me an “exclusivist;” one who denies that all religious paths are equal and simply have their own unique twists and turns along the way. No, I do not believe such a thing, for the morbid irony is that religion brought down those iconic towers more than a decade ago. Hard. Inflexible. Dogmatic. Immovable religion (And such religion can be perpetuated as easily by we who are “Christian” as any other group).

God surely can’t be associated with anything of the sort, no matter what name it is called or however right and correct it purports to be. God must be - absolutely must be - in what is loving, absolving, and just, not destructive. For love is what saves us. It is what gives us life. It is the only thing that overcomes hate and injustice. It is the only way.

Memorials built to honor those who have suffered and died as the result of hate are appropriate, and we should “never forget.” But let us never forget that neither hate nor religion will have the last word. That word has already been spoken; in the words of Dorothy Day, “Love is the final word.” ★

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.

Cleaning up Messes Parsonage Style

Dr. James L. Snyder

Throughout the glorious years of our marriage, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and Yours Truly has had few disagreements. I suppose I could count them all on my one hand, but I am not sure if it is my right hand or my left hand so I will just leave it at that.

I hear, of course, of many couples who do nothing but bicker and fight from morning till night. I have always wondered what the purpose of all that was and what it ever accomplished. I think there is a better way to live together.

There are several phrases I have memorized and used throughout the years of our marriage that has kept me in good standing.

“Yes, dear.” “You’re right, dear.” “I’ll do it right away, dear.”

I have found that if I include the word “dear,” with all of my responses it fares better for me.

Of course, I am the kind of person that does not have to be right all the time, which makes me the perfect husband. Admitting you are wrong, even if you do not think you are, is really not the end of the world. In fact, it may be the beginning of a bright new world.

I said “few disagreements,” and I need to explain what I meant by that.

The major disagreements that my wife and I have had throughout the years can be boiled down into one phrase, “It’s a mess.” Usually, actually all the time this phrase is being used, it is coming from the lips of my wife.

Our disagreement is in the definition of “mess.” She has one definition and I have another definition, and the twain shall never meet. Mark my words on that.

If you would come into our home, you will discover that

every room in the house is well organized and very neat. Well, not every room. The one room that does not come up to that criterion is the room in which I occupy. It is my space. My well-organized wife will walk by my room, pause, look in and say, “It’s a mess.”

It took me a long time to realize what she was talking about. Eventually, I got to the point where I understood that what she was referring to was “my space.” Unfortunately, we did not share the same vision of my space. I am of the mindset that if I am working I need to have organized messes all around me.

I have tried explaining to my wife that I am a messologist. I had to explain to her that a messologist is someone who specializes in organizing intentional messes. I am not sure I have convinced her yet of this.

I really think that one person’s mess is another person’s workspace. I cannot really work efficiently unless there are intentional messes around me, protecting me, giving me the incentive I need to pursue the job at hand. My basic philosophy is simply this, if I cannot find what I need when I need it, I probably do not really need it. It has worked for me most marvelously.

The real trick of a messologist is knowing where to find what you need when you need it.

My wife can walk into my space and look around and be utterly confused by what she calls “a mess.” Of course, it looks like a mess to her. It is not her mess! If it was her mess she would understand it and be comforted by it.

My wife is of the idea that organization has to do with numerical or alphabetical order. Now that works for some people, I suppose. But, as I keep telling her, that is not the only

circus in town! I cannot tell how many times something new has developed in my thinking while I was searching for something I could not really find. That is the genius of a messologist.

Some people, like my wife, like to go from 1 to 2 to 3 to 4; or, A to B to C to D all the way to Z. To a normal person, and I am guessing my wife is normal, that makes a lot of sense. But to a messologist, that kind of thinking is rather confusing.

What I want to know is, what do you do when you come to the end of the alphabet? Where do you go from there? Then, it is rather important that you have the alphabet in alphabetical order. If I would ever try to do that I would end up being so confused, they would have to admit me in some rehab facility to clean my mind out.

So, the thing that makes our marriage so blissful is that we have an agreement and that she does things her way and I do things my way. This has been the recipe for blissfulness in our marriage. I do not make her do it my way and she cannot make me do it her way. We both have brains, but they tick after a different tock.

I then thought of a verse of Scripture that rather fit my situation. “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12).

My way has to be in complete harmony with His way or my life will be completely destroyed. ★

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

The child who experiences pure love from their parent/s is a child that will learn and grow-up with a healthy outlook on life. Good guidance of the parent provides guidance and sincere motivation and commitment to become all they can in their lifetime. The love they experience becomes a powerful force that guides their direction and decisions in a supernatural way. And because of this sustaining love, when they experience the difficulties and adversities throughout life, they will survive.

The legacy of love passed from one generation to another

Power of Parental Love

is the closest thing to the divine and perfect love God provides for mankind. The natural result of having received this kind of love is for them to freely give it to others. Unconditional love God provides exists as He places supernatural love in those who believe and follow His teachings described in the Bible.. It continues to exist in spite-of actions of others. “For without love it profits a person absolutely nothing!”

The definition of Love is found in the Bible. These amazing words about love are not my words but Gods message to everyone. “Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. (I Corinthians

13:4-8a) In another version it states “it does not even notice when others do them wrong!”

Haven’t you ever wondered why your parents continue to love and care about you after you have disobeyed their instructions and done something wrong? And how about also having a faithful friend? So now you know— God loves you,— YES — even more than you have ever known before!! What are you going to do about it? Why not just sit down or kneel and ask Jesus to forgive you and invite Him into your heart and life? Begin a new! Have every sinful thing you have ever done washed in His sacrificial blood of forgiveness forever and ever. This will be the greatest decision of your entire life! Do not put it off one more second. . . just do it! ★

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



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Metro Fire Selects Mark Wells New Chief

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (Metro Fire) Board of Directors announced on September 6th their selection of Deputy Chief Mark Wells to be the next Fire Chief. The announcement was made during a special meeting of the Board.

“The Board of Directors is very excited to work with Chief Wells to lead Metro Fire into the future,” stated Board President Randy Orzalli. “We are confident that Chief Wells’ vision, experience and expertise will ensure Metro Fire remains amongst the most progressive and innovative in the state. Continued strong leadership from the Fire Chief is critical, as we seek to deliver the best possible public safety service within our limited resources.”

Last month, Fire Chief Kurt Henke announced his plans to retire in October after 33 years in the fire service. Subsequent to Henke’s announcement, the Metro Fire Board of Directors approved a recommendation from its Executive Committee to conduct an internal search process among the ranks of Deputy Chief to select the next Fire Chief.

Chief Wells’ fire service career started with the Citrus Heights Fire District in 1987. His career has progressed through the ranks of Firefighter, Captain, Battalion Chief, Assistant Chief, and he served as the Deputy Chief of Administration since 2011. During the course of his career, Chief Wells served in the Emergency Planning, Special Operations Division as the coordinator for the Hazardous Materials Response Team and Technical Rescue Team. Chief Wells served with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), California Task Force 7, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team with deployments as a Taskforce Leader, Safety Officer and Rescue Specialist. Additionally, Chief Wells served as the Metro Fire Terrorism Liaison Officer/Coordinator. Chief Wells has a Master’s Degree in Security Affairs, Homeland Defense and Security from the Naval Postgraduate School, in addition to a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health and Safety Studies from California State University, Sacramento and an Associate’s Degree in Fire Technology from American River College. As the Deputy Chief of Administration, Chief Wells had oversight of the Human Resources Division, Finance Division and the Information Technology Division. ★

Source: Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District



Deputy Chief Mark Wells has been selected to be the next Metro Fire Chief.

Runner Tells DMV to Stop Overcharging Tax

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - George Runner has called upon California’s Department of Motor Vehicles to stop overcharging California consumers when they pay tax on their vehicle purchases.

Runner said, “It’s outrageous that the State of California expects private citizens to do things right that government is doing wrong.”

In a letter to DMV Director Jean Shiimoto, Runner writes: “I find it difficult to understand why your agency would knowingly continue to mischarge taxpayers when the Board of Equalization has developed an extremely accurate tool for determining tax rates at specific locations.”

The Board’s online tax rate lookup tool, launched in late 2013, enables taxpayers to find a sales tax rate for a specific address.

In his letter, Runner explains that DMV’s problem appears to stem from continued reliance on postal zip codes to determine tax rates. Since a single zip code can include areas with differing tax rates, zip codes are not a reliable way to determine tax.

Runner estimates that in his district alone more than 2.5 million Californians live in zip codes that have more than one tax rate.

Unlike most transactions, the tax rate for a vehicle sale is based on the location provided to DMV by the registered owner, not where the sale took place.

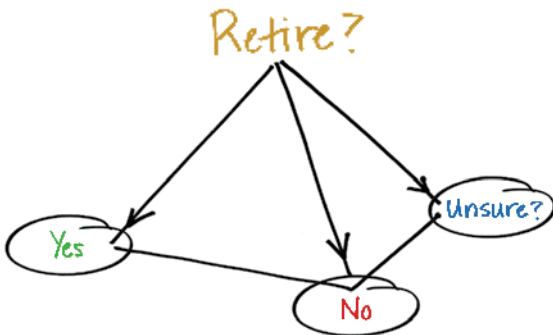
In response to Runner’s letter, DMV staff contacted Runner’s office indicating a desire to address Runner’s concerns but warning a solution could be years away.

Runner said, “I am happy to assist taxpayers overcharged by DMV in obtaining refunds, but they should not be overcharged in the first place. I don’t want to hear excuses. I want to see change.”

Runner says he will be pursuing additional outreach to taxpayers in his district to alert them to the possibility that they are paying too much tax.

Elected in November 2010, George Runner represents more than nine million Californians as a member of the State Board of Equalization. For more information, visit www.boe.ca.gov/Runner. ★

Source: The office of George Runner



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SATURDAY

SUNDAY

SATURDAY

SATURDAY

SATURDAY

THURSDAY

WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY

Sac Unity Farmers Market
9249 Folsom Blvd, Sacramento (at Unity of Sacramento Church) on Saturdays 8 am - 1 pm, year round.

Carmichael Park Farmers Market
5750 Grant Avenue, Carmichael (Corner of Grant & Fair Oaks Boulevard under the trees in the Park). Every Sunday from 9 am to 2 pm - all year round.

Sacramento Midtown Farmers Market
2020 J Street (Between the STANF Native American Health and Bioware buildings). Every Saturday from 8 am to 1 pm - all year round, rain or shine.

Sunrise Mall Farmers Market
6190 Sunrise Boulevard, Citrus Heights (behind Sears located in SE Parking Lot). Open every Saturday from 8 am to 1 pm - all year round.

Historic Folsom Farmers Market
915 Suffer Street, Historic Folsom Public Plaza, Folsom. Every Saturday from 8 am to 1 pm - all year round

UC Davis Health System Farmers Market
45th and Y Street (UC Davis Campus). Seasonal - Opens 4/24. 3 pm - 7:30 pm

Fair Oaks Farmers Market NEW LOCATION, LOTS OF PARKING!
8101 Sunset Ave. (New Life Church). Seasonal - Opens 4/16. 3 pm - 7:00 pm

VA Mather Farmers Market
10535 Hospital Way (VA Hospital). Seasonal - Open Now. 9 am - 1 pm

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Friday, October 10
11:30 am to 12:30 pm

EAST LAWN MEMORIAL PARK & CREMATORY
4300 Folsom Boulevard • Sacramento
RSVP Required: 916.732.2000

Wednesday, October 22
(Spanish & English)
11:30 am to 12:30 pm

ANDREWS & GREILICH FUNERAL HOME
3939 Fruitridge Road • Sacramento
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Thursday, September 18 Thursday, October 31
Dinner 6:30 pm 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

SIERRA HILLS MEMORIAL PARK & EAST LAWN MORTUARY
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RSVP Required: 916.732.2020

Friday, September 19 Thursday, November 13
11:30 am to 12:30 pm

ELK GROVE MEMORIAL PARK & MORTUARY
9189 E. Stockton Boulevard • Elk Grove
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Reservations Required, please RSVP to the location of your choice, or to Lisa West at LisaW@EastLawn.com

Seating is limited to 30 attendees per seminar



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