

**GRIP Financial Helps
You Navigate the
World of Money**

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**PLUS:
Fair Oaks Celebrates
30th Annual Family Fun
Christmas in the Village**

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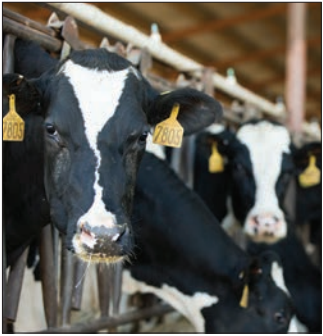
AMERICAN RIVER MESSENGER

Volume 8 • Issue 23

Serving Fair Oaks, Orangevale & Sacramento County

First Edition for December 2013

**Dairy Digesters
Convert Cow
Manure Into
Clean Electricity**



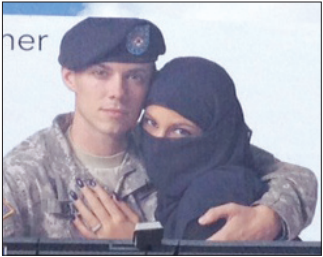
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**Third Garage Fire
in Orangevale**



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**SnoreStop
Billboard Coming
to Sacramento**



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Our Forgotten Warriors



Twenty-eight percent of Sacramento's homeless are Veterans. Thirty-two Veterans take their own life every day while many more are going to prison due to the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms that these wonderful ladies and gentleman carry with them every minute of every day.

By Bill Martin

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - You have seen it all over the newspapers and on television; you have heard it over and over again on radio. "Be smart hire a Veteran - they are highly trained and dedicated men and women who know how to get the job done!" Absolutely true... but then you read about how back logged the Department of Veterans Administration (VA) is in handling claims for these returning Vets. Then you hear about job fairs to help retrain Veterans and programs to help aid them in the transition back into civilian life. Well, how well do you think it is working?

Twenty-eight percent of Sacramento's homeless are Veterans. Thirty-two Veterans take their own life every day while many more are going to prison due to the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms that these wonderful ladies and gentleman carry with them every minute of every day. Depression,

anger, frustration, the loss of a limb, and loss of their faculties due to bio-chemical addiction caused by PTSD or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) alters any future plans the Veteran had for a happy and productive return to civilian life. These unseen wounds take their toll on the Veteran, as well as their families and all the people the Veteran needs to lean on for support. Yet, while the VA admits that it takes up to two years before they can even address their promise to award military benefits, it is obvious the VA benefit application process is tremendously overwhelmed. So, in appreciation of their sacrifice, it's up to us as a part of their community; you and me, to support them.

So – as a community, let's seize the opportunity to finally say "thank you." But these words must become a community action in order to bring about real changes for these returning hero's. With the political and economic pressures of today, we have lost our commitment to our Veterans. Whatever

happened to people helping people, or Veterans helping Veterans directly – and not relying on the big cumbersome, bureaucracy that is disappointing veterans today? Let's use the shortest, most direct route to helping our Veterans in need. This small seed of an idea; veteran feeding, clothing, and caring for another veteran, started to take shape in the garage of a North Sacramento home in 2006. Isn't it interesting how many good ideas start in the garage? In 2008, this seed, this idea of Veterans helping other Veterans incorporated as Forgotten Warrior, a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit. And, it has transformed the lives of veterans, one veteran at a time – by veteran helping veteran, friend helping friend, neighbor helping neighbor, and the greater community helping the veteran community.

Forgotten Warrior — founded by CEO Wind Walker, a U S Navy Veteran himself, says it best, the Forgotten Warrior organization, "...

Continued on page 4

**Debate Series
Announced On
The Proposed
Downtown Arena**

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - A series of town hall-style debates and discussions on Sacramento's proposed downtown arena have been slated for December and January, featuring R.E. Graswich and John Hyde, who have opposing views about the development.

Graswich, author, journalist and former Special Assistant to Mayor Kevin Johnson, favors the arena. He is a former sportswriter and columnist for the Sacramento Bee, and the author of a new book on the Sacramento NBA franchise, Vagrant Kings: David Stern, Kevin Johnson and the NBA's Orphan Team.

Hyde, is a spokesperson for Sacramento Taxpayers Opposed to Pork (STOP), which is seeking to place an initiative on the June 2014 ballot to require voter approval of the arena funding. He owns Bullet Marketing, a full-service, local marketing agency.

"We approach the arena discussion from opposite positions, but we share a passion for the Sacramento region," Hyde said. "This is a chance for people to get questions answered and to learn more about all sides of the arena issue."

Graswich added, "The community deserves an open dialogue with people who know the issues but aren't working at City Hall or for the Kings. Our goal is to help the public understand what the arena debate is really all about."

Each meeting will be moderated by a high-profile Sacramento citizen who is equally passionate about the arena. The format will feature brief introductions and position statements by Hyde and Graswich, followed by questions and dialogue with the audience.

Four Sacramento-area public libraries have been chosen as locations for the town hall meetings, which are free and open to the community. Each discussion will run from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Doors open for these events at 6:30. Seating capacity at the libraries will be limited and is first come, first served.

Continued on Page 4

Capitol Pops Concert Band Wraps Up 16th Season on December 12th

ORANGEVALE/FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG)

- The Capitol Pops Concert Band wraps its 16th season with a free, open to the public, holiday concert at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 12th at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 5811 Walnut Avenue in Orangevale.

Following a months-long search, Christ the King Lutheran Church became CPCB's permanent rehearsal and equipment-storage home in September this year.

Under the baton of Director Jerry Lopes, CPCB's one-hour performance will include traditional holiday favorites, seasonal musical hits and carols. Voice and instrumental soloists also will be featured in this family friendly holiday event.

Attendees are invited to donate a new or gently used coat as part of the national One-Warm-Coat effort

to provide coats to needy individuals throughout North America. The San Francisco-based organization has been organizing coat drives since 1992, donating 4 million coats since then. Financial contributions to the program also will be accepted.

Started in 1997, the Capitol Pops Concert Band has performed a diverse portfolio of high-quality, well-prepared music heard by thousands of concert-goers throughout Northern California. Musicians in the Capitol Pops Concert Band span a wide range of ages, from students to nonagenarians. Based in Fair Oaks, the self-supporting, nonprofit band of about 75 musicians represents a wide cross-section of the Sacramento area.

For more information on the Capitol Pops, visit www.capitolpops.org or its Facebook page. ★

Source: Capitol Pops Concert Band



Under the baton of Director Jerry Lopes, CPCB's one-hour performance will include traditional holiday favorites, seasonal musical hits and carols. Voice and instrumental soloists also will be featured in this family friendly holiday event. Photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The typical dairy cow produces six to seven gallons of milk each day. She also generates 120 pounds of manure and urine every day.

Now, with dairy digesters recently installed at two dairies in Galt, neither product goes to waste. In fact, cow waste produces electricity that keeps the milk in your refrigerator cold.

With assistance from the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), the New Hope and Van Warmerdam dairies recently installed anaerobic digesters that convert cow manure into clean, renewable electricity. SMUD received approximately \$5.5 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Energy and the California Energy Commission to help fund the construction of the digesters at the New Hope and Van Warmerdam dairies. Federal funding came from the Department of Energy's Community Renewable Energy Deployment (CRED) grant program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"I applaud the creative



partnership between SMUD and the dairies to turn waste products into energy,” said Congresswoman Doris Matsui. “This type of collaboration enables us to continue to meet our renewable energy goals and transition to cleaner, more efficient energy sources. It is also

At the New Hope dairy, the collected manure is pumped into a concrete and steel tank, where biogas (primarily methane) accumulates and is then

transferred to an engine-generator that produces clean electricity. New Hope also uses a scrape system rather than a flush system to collect the manure, greatly reducing the use of fresh water at the dairy. At the Van Warmerdam dairy, the waste decomposes in a covered

lagoon rather than in an above-ground tank.

Together, the two dairy digesters are capable of producing 4.3 gigawatt-hours of electricity — enough to power roughly 450 single-family homes.

There are now four dairy digesters operating in SMUD's service territory, representing about 31 percent of California's total. The benefits are numerous. Dairy digesters keep climate-changing greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere while creating a revenue source for the farmers and supplying renewable energy to SMUD. The digesters also reduce odors and flies compared to conventional open lagoon storage. The effluent is used as liquid fertilizer for crops.

"We believe that cows are a good thing, but we have to be mindful of our neighbors and the area we live," said Arlin Van Groningen, co-owner of the New Hope dairy. "Having a digester that destroys carbon that would have ended up in the air is a good thing."

MT Energie and ABEC New Hope LLC built the tank digester at New Hope. The Van Warmerdam digester was built

by Maas Energy. In both cases, third-party developers have leases with the farmers for the site and the manure supply. The farmers receive financial and environmental benefits from the projects. The clean power is sold to SMUD and delivered straight into the electric grid.

SMUD was the first large California utility to have 20 percent of its power supply come from resources classified as renewable by the state of California. SMUD is on track to reach the 33-percent mark by 2020.

When most people think of renewable power, they generally think of wind and solar. But biomass accounts for roughly 50 percent of SMUD's renewable portfolio. SMUD is leading the way to have more small-scale biomass projects built.

"With many biomass projects, you not only have to build the project, but you also have to go after the waste, or the fuel," said Marco Lemes, SMUD's project manager. "With dairies, the fuel is already here. It's being used on-site." ★

Source: SMUD

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Paul V. Scholl**

AMERICAN RIVER

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Publisher's Statement: It is the intent of the *American River Messenger* to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. We consider our Editorial and Opinion pages to be a public forum for our readers. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.

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


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Be sure to place in the subject field “Attention to Publisher”. If you do not have email access, please call us at 916-773-1111.

Fair Oaks Celebrates 30th Annual Christmas in the Village

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - On Saturday December 7th the Chamber of Commerce again hosts Christmas in the Village from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Local merchants and street vendors will have booths where they'll be offering holiday refreshments, arts and crafts, and special treats.

The schedule follows:

10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Children's crafts in Plaza Park

10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Visit Santa at American River Bank

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Live holiday music, featuring River City Yukes, local Children's Choirs and more!

Noon and 2:00 p.m. "Winnie the Pooh," a play in the Community Clubhouse.

Bring a can of food to donate for Free Admission.

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Live holiday music featuring renowned local singers

4:30 p.m. Holiday Parade

5:30 p.m. Tree Lighting and carol singing in Plaza Park

The event is sponsored by the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce and the Fair Oaks Village Merchants Association, who give special thanks to the Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District for its support.

For more information, call 916-967-2903 or visit www.fairoakschamber.com ★

Source: Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce

Tickets for Bella Vista Football Boosters Annual Crab Feed

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Crab feed dinner tickets have gone on sale for the annual Bella Vista High School fundraiser to be held February 1, 2014. Hosted by the Football Boosters, this is the club's 17th event, which occurs at Divine Savior Church, 9079 Greenback Lane, Orangethorpe.

The meal includes soup, salad, pasta, crab, and dessert. Additionally, there will be live and silent auctions, raffle drawings, a dessert auction, music and



dancing. Tickets are \$40 per person. Tables can be reserved for a party of eight or more if advance notice is provided however space is limited to a first come, first serve basis.

For more information or to order tickets use order forms available on www.bellavistafootball.org; or call (916) 717-3517. ★

Source: Christopher Lee

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GRIP Financial Helps You Navigate the World of Money

Story and Photo by Bill Martin

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - If you're like most people without a degree in mathematics or a natural aptitude for financial planning, everything involved in managing your taxes, investments, healthcare, and any kind of financial management at all, is more than a daunting task. When you add to this, the last few years of financial instability for middle class America, many people are just trying to make it month-to-month, save their homes from foreclosure, pay for health insurance, and many, have all but given up hope of still having anything for retirement. How do you know if your family is better off with your current insurance or if you're an ideal candidate for the new Affordable Healthcare Act? Let's say that you've managed to stay afloat financially through the recession and might even have something set aside for retirement, but don't know how to protect those funds from unknown taxes, or other hurdles that the future might bring to affect those funds?

You work with a professional Insurance Agent at GRIP Financial. None of us would think about doing our own dentistry, putting on a new roof, or doing surgery on our pets. We'd of course use a professional. The same should be said of working with a Insurance Agent. This could mean the difference between living with a shaky financial situation in your 'golden years' versus a decent quality of life after years of hard work.

The nice folks at GRIP Financial actually like to read Federal and State tax rules and regulations. They stay current in order to be of service to those individuals that have placed their trust, their funds and their future in their hands. They continually study the ever-changing tax laws to give you the most up-to-date information available. Wouldn't it be nice to relax, knowing that



The nice folks at GRIP Financial actually like to read Federal and State tax rules and regulations. They stay current in order to be of service to those individuals that have placed their trust, their funds and their future in their hands. From left to right above are Board Members/Managers Stanley Bough, Stacie Tanaka and Tom Meissner.

that part of your life is in good hands and well taken care of? Unless you are one of a very small minority of people who truly enjoy reading up on the latest changes in Medicare, the Affordable Healthcare Act, life insurance options, investing, estate planning, tax strategies or wealth retention, then you need to call the experts at GRIP Financial.

GRIP stands for: Growth, Replacement, Income and Protection. GRIP also means that you are getting a group of dedicated and knowledgeable professionals, whose sole purpose is to find solutions and recommendations for your individual financial needs. GRIP Financial helps small business owners, large corporate accounts, young single people just starting out in life, seniors, families, and even persons falling within low income status. GRIP services are available to anyone from all lifestyles and all levels of income. Financial planning is NOT just for the wealthy! GRIP Financial offers all clients customized, individual plans, to help each client reach their financial goals. No cookie cutter, one-plan-fits-all approach here. GRIP Financial prides itself on not selling products to their clients. In fact there is no charge at all for their services. The first step is to meet with a GRIP Financial representative to discuss all of your concerns and what your particular needs and desires are for your financial future. Your first visit is a free fact-finding mission. Then, based on the information gathered, your GRIP team goes to work gathering the data necessary to help formulate your customized plan to get you where you want to be for the future. This unique business model of utilizing the resources of different experts in different fields has resulted in the growth of GRIP Financial Services from their original main branch still located at 2222 Watt Avenue, in Sacramento, to over eight (8) locations throughout the west. In just the last five years alone, GRIP Financial has added five (5) new Regional Managers, bringing the total to over 14, in order to effectively service client need. This kind of growth only comes from success!

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Our Forgotten Warriors

Continued from Page 1

is envisioned as a place where able-bodied and disabled Veterans and civilians alike gather to share their own stories, and to cultivate a hopeful new narrative for the future. We show the Veterans how to overcome their discouragement with practical support, life-coaching and self-help, re-programming techniques, along with how to use valuable nutritional strategies.” Wind also stated, “Forgotten Warrior serves as a major point of inspiration and opportunity to engage the community in Veteran support. We strive to inspire and mobilize individuals and groups through meaningful volunteer experiences and donation opportunities that facilitate connections which change lives and strengthens our community.”

The numerous, much needed programs offered by Forgotten Warrior serve Veterans of past conflicts as well as newly returning Veterans, through Health and Dental care referrals, Life-coaching and counseling for PTSD for veteran and family, Jobs for Heroes, Food for Heroes, and Veteran Benefit Assistance coupled with an outreach program designed to help Veterans through full-service



The numerous, much needed programs offered by Forgotten Warrior serve Veterans of past conflicts as well as newly returning Veterans.

Advocacy. And importantly, knowing that for many veterans their pet is all the immediate family they have - there is Vets for Pets... which helps the disabled and homeless veterans’ pets get Veterinarian care.

How can Forgotten Warrior and it’s grass roots approach do all of this when the big organization (the VA, Cal-vet, and many other government agencies) can’t seem to get out of their own way? Through applying for grants, hosting Bingo games and fundraisers, and through the generosity of individuals and companies that want to have a positive effect on their community to show

their appreciation for what these remarkable Veterans have done for their country, community – and, ultimately for you and I.

Please take the time to put your words into action by offering to underwrite one of the Forgotten Warrior many outreach programs, become a Corporate VIP by donating your time and/or your donation to aid this worthwhile organization. Or just come join in the Bingo games held at: Sacramento Bingo Center at 3399 Arden Way, 95825.

For more information on how you can get involved call Forgotten Warrior at (916) 533-9811 or visit them online at Forgotten Warrior.org ★

Debate Series Announced On The Proposed Downtown Arena

Continued from Page 1

Serving as moderators are Sacramento County Sheriff John McGinness, former Sacramento City Councilmembers Lauren Hammond and Rob Fong, and current KFBK News Director Zack Stein.

McGinness hosts a popular afternoon radio program on AM 1530 KFBK and will moderate the Tuesday, December 10 meeting at the Carmichael Library, 5605 Marconi Ave, Carmichael

Stein has covered the arena and politics in Sacramento for KFBK

and will moderate the Wednesday, December 11 meeting at the Arden Library, 891 Watt Ave, Sacramento.

Hammond represented the Fifth Council District in Sacramento for 12 years and will moderate on Thursday, December 12 at the North Natomas Library, 4660 Via Ingolia, Sacramento.

Fong who represented Sacramento’s District Four for eight years will moderate the Thursday, January 9 at the Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

Featured speaker, Hyde said,

“We are honored to have elected community leaders of the stature of Sheriff McGinness and Councilmembers Hammond and Fong moderate these discussions. It’s also important to have the media perspective, which Mr. Stein provides.”

“Everyone in town knows John McGinness has strong, well-informed opinions on issues involving our community. And between Lauren Hammond and Rob Fong, they have studied more arenas than just about anybody in Sacramento,” said Graswich. ★

Source: Bullet Marketing

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December Adventures at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Saturday, December 7th is the Special Holiday Sale that helps support the Nature Center. Attendees are encouraged to pick up some bargains for nature lovers and children on gift lists from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All profits from this annual sale benefit the Nature Center's educational programs. Visitors will be able to choose from many beautiful and unique new items as well as from special guest vendors.

Winter Break Adventures!
The Under the Oaks Kids Camps gives children the opportunity to experience, discover and explore the great outdoors! Each camp is focused on different nature-related themes with hands-on explorations, hikes, games, with crafts and stories.

For more information call (916) 489-4918 or visit SacNatureCenter.net.

Free Weekend Activities
Sunday, Dec 5th at 1:30 p.m.
New Year's River Stroll: Many sights and sounds await you on this guided walk. You may hear the splash of a fish or the call of a circling hawk. Perhaps the flash of a dashing deer's black tail or the ruby red of an acorn woodpecker head will catch your eye.

Sunday, Dec 8th at 1:30 p.m.
Plants with a Purpose: Visitors can join a Naturalist for a walk and discover how the Native Californians used plants for food, fiber and medicine. Learn how the Native people "tended" the landscape so it would continue to provide a bountiful harvest. Also on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. is Critter Corner. At this program, attendees can meet some of the Center's critters and learn why these animals are unable to return to the wild.

Coming later in December
Saturday, Dec 11th at 10:30 a.m.
Tools and Tales: Get a chance to view replica Maidu artifacts made from the gifts of the earth and learn about their many uses. Also enjoy some tantalizing tales of creatures, people, and nature!

Sunday, Dec 12th at 1:30 p.m.
Salamander Story time: Enjoy some stories about these amazing amphibians, learn all about their double lives, and meet one of the most deadly kinds up close!

Saturday, Dec 18th at 10:30 a.m.
Birding for Families: Bring the family out to join our special guest guides from the Sacramento Audubon Society for a birding walk. Birdwatchers of all levels welcomed!

Sunday, Dec 19th at 1:30 p.m.
Nature's Art Box: Expert artists not required! Come find what

inspires you in nature and learn some simple skills to capture it on paper. Supplies provided, all ages welcome.

Saturday, Dec 14th at 10:30 a.m.
Return of the Salmon: Join us for returning guest speaker Chris Fitzer for a talk about Chinook salmon and steelhead that make annual spawning runs in the American River. Learn their life history and ecology of these two amazing fish species as well as a brief overview on the changes to their historical habitat in the American River. Be sure not to miss this amazing and informative speaker!

Sunday, Dec 15th at 1:30 p.m.
Birding for Families: Bring the family out to join our special guest guides from the Sacramento Audubon Society for a birding walk. Birdwatchers of all levels welcomed!

Donations gratefully accepted. There is a \$5 per car County entrance fee into Ancil Hoffman Park (free to members).

The Effie Yeaw Nature Center is located at California Avenue and Tarshes Drive in Carmichael. For more information, call (916) 489-4918 or visit www.sacnaturecenter.net. ★

Source: American River Natural History Association

Mission Oaks Computer Club to Meet in December

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Mission Oaks Computer Club will meet on Thursday, December 12th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive in Carmichael.

The topic will be "Android -- the Other Phone and Tablet" presented by Len Carniato of Sun City Lincoln Hills Computer Club. A problem-solving clinic, led by Adam Lacey of Applications, Etc., will follow the meeting.

First-time visitors are welcome. For additional information visit www.missionoakscomputerclub.org or email mocc@missionoakscomputerclub.org. ★

Source: Mission Oaks Computer Club

Santa Claus is Coming for Breakfast at the Orangevale Grange!

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - You are cordially invited to come have Breakfast with Santa Claus on Dec. 8th from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Bring your family and friends to the Orangevale Grange for their regular Breakfast featuring Ham and Sausage!

- Why stand in a long line at the mall or department store waiting to talk to Santa when you can relax at a table with your family, enjoying a hot breakfast, do a little shopping and more?
- The Grange Ladies (GWA) will have their annual Christmas Boutique selling "experienced" Christmas decorations, handmade items and baked goods. [Proceeds to benefit local causes]
- Holiday spirit will be maintained by the Old Time Fiddlers.
- The young'uns will have their own eatin' & craft table as well as selling the fruits & vegetables of their labor, fresh or preserved from our Certified Grange Garden. [Proceeds to benefit The Grange Garden Project]
- Bring a non-perishable food item to put in the Orangevale Food Bank barrel and you will receive a free drawing ticket for our Christmas bag
- AND BEST OF ALL...have your picture taken with Santa!

This is an annual event for many families – come join the fun!

The Grange Breakfast takes place every second Sunday of the month. Grange members volunteer to set up, cook, serve and clean up afterwards. The regular items served every month are Scrambled Eggs, Biscuits and Gravy, plain Pancakes (all you



can eat) and Grange French Toast. Ham, bacon, link sausage, blueberry pancakes are added for variety. All the food is prepared in the Hall kitchen and is served to the diners by 4-H kids from the local Clover group. Sometimes they make more in tips than the Grange does from Breakfast! They do a great job. ★

The Orangevale Grange was organized in 1910 and was the first such organization in town. The Grange Hall is located at 5807 Walnut Ave, Orangevale [between Greenback and Madison]. For additional info contact: Leslie S Parker (916) 207-6166.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce • Fair Oaks, CA*
The Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce promotes the business and community environment in Fair Oaks. It works with all other Fair Oaks organizations on community events, festivals, fundraisers and solutions to concerns. Together with the community and citizens it helps to make Fair Oaks a special place to live and do business.
Do you have a passion for Fair Oaks? Do you want to make a difference in your community? Are you great at working with others to achieve mutual goals? If so, the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce is looking for you!
The Executive Director's primary responsibility is to help carry out the Mission Statement of the Chamber. He or She is responsible for the overall operation of the Chamber based on bylaws, policies/procedures and the decisions of the board of directors. He or She acts as the head volunteer coordinator for all Chamber involved committees and promotes volunteerism throughout the community. He or She maintains the Chamber office attending to daily activities and responsibilities of running an office including budgeting and bill payment.
The qualified candidate must have excellent oral and written communication skills. He or She must be proficient at the Microsoft Office suite of programs and able to learn new programs unique to the Chamber. He or She must possess excellent time and people management skills with at least 5 years managerial and leadership experience. He or She must be able to work on a team as leader and/or member of the team when not leading. He or She must be able to multi-task and work well under pressure.
Salary consists of base plus bonus.
To apply please send your resume along with your cover letter: Attn: Executive Director position, Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 352, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. No Calls Please. Please see posting at <http://www.fairoakschamber.com/>

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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Bug hitting windshield, e.g.
6. Presidents' Day month
9. Party barrels
13. Moonshine
14. Grassland
15. Beyond normal limits
16. ____ Boo Boo
17. Opposite of nothing
18. It has front and rear seats
19. *Misfit elf dentist
21. **It's a Wonderful Life" star
23. Unopened tulip
24. Oliver Twist, e.g.
25. White wine and cassis
28. ____ good example
30. Sect follower
35. "National Velvet" author Bagnold
37. Earth's neighbor
39. Some are on a shorter one than others
40. Windmill blade
41. Top dog
43. Attached to a wheel
44. Magazine's special feature
46. **"A Christmas Story" leg ____
47. Capital on the Dnieper
48. Vital
50. Cleopatra's necklace
52. Chester White's home
53. Strip of wood
55. ** ____ Be Home For Christmas"
57. *It happened on 34th Street
61. Show off
64. Acid in proteins
65. Ides month
67. Holy See loyalist practicing different rites
69. Closely watched on Black Friday
70. Before prefix
71. ____ Domingo
72. Old World duck
73. *Astaire's character in "Holiday Inn"
74. Clear the blackboard

DOWN

1. "Be quiet!"
2. **Winnie the ____ and Christmas Too"
3. Like a famous Ranger
4. Tart
5. Immune system organ
6. Strip the skin off
7. Slippery reef dweller
8. Model-building wood
9. Acknowledged or recognized
10. Tropical tuberous root
11. Its seed yields gum used as thickener
12. Email folder
15. Utilitarian
20. Swelling from accumulation of fluid
22. Clinical twitching
24. "On the ____" or in a belligerent mood
25. *He was left home alone
26. Silly
27. Between shampoo and repeat
29. ____ tale
31. Pipe problem
32. Yellow rides
33. Speck in the ocean
34. *Famous lampooner on Christmas vacation
36. Owner's acquisition
38. Idiot, Yiddish
42. Patriots' Day month
45. Phone companies
49. Indian dish
51. *Agreement to assume Santa's identity
54. Dangle a carrot
56. Relating to the moon
57. Physics calculation
58. Mosque V.I.P.
59. Agitate
60. All over again
61. *Santa's bitter old brother
62. Columbus' vessel
63. Makes lace
66. Exist
68. Corn site

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

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

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

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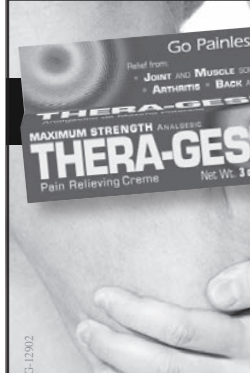
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Crossword Puzzle on Page 6

S	P	L	A	T		F	E	B		K	E	G	S
H	O	O	C	H		L	E	A		U	N	D	U
H	O	N	E	Y		A	L	L		S	E	D	A
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I	N	S	E	T		L	A	M					



By Ronnie McBrayer

There is a story told a hundred different ways but with the same punch line; it is about a man who falls off a cliff. He slips over the edge, careening and banging downward. Then, as if by miracle, his pants snag for just a millisecond on the skinniest of tree branches. He quickly grabs hold of it, and for the moment remains alive, though he is hanging thousands of feet above the ground.

He can't climb up, and he can't lower himself to the canyon floor below. Stuck as he is, with no one else to call upon, and powerless to save himself, he looks heavenward and prays: "Dear God! Please help me!" A thunderous but calming voice answers from heaven: "Do you trust Me, My beloved son?"

The man cries out in return, "Yes, God, I trust you! Please save me!" God answers, "Okay, just let go of the branch and I will catch you." The man thinks about this offer and his situation for a moment, and looking at the jagged rocks below him, calls out: "Well...is there anyone else up there who can help me?"

Sometimes we want God to intervene. To help us, save us; to show up. His voice and presence, more often than not, are slow in arriving. But sometimes

Never Left Hanging (First Week of Advent)

— on rare and unusual occasions — God does speak. He acts. He intervenes. He appears. And when he does, it often results in more trepidation than if he had held his tongue and remained elusive.

Think of Moses standing barefoot at the burning bush; Jacob in a surprise wrestling match with the Angel of the Lord; Saul, blind and blathering on the Damascus road. As Annie Dillard said of those of us who casually enter our church sanctuaries each week, "Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? We should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews...For the waking God may draw us out to where we can never return."

Advent, which begins this week, is no exception to this experience. It is the rule. God speaks — God arrives — and even though it is in the form of a helpless baby, the world is turned upside down. Shepherds quake. Angels sing. Mary trembles. Awe-inspired Magi bow in reverence. Joseph, a stunned carpenter, probably wonders if someone "else up there" could deliver him from the delivery of this child.

What was it all about? Faith, no doubt. All of these characters are asked to "leap" from their secure perches to land in God's arms. They are all asked to believe that the baby, "wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger," is indeed

the Promised One of God, a uniquely born gift to the world. Are we not all asked to believe the same?

And this Advent season is about listening to the voice of God. I am very much aware that when one speaks of "hearing God's voice," it might be time to call the paddy wagon. Great lunacies have been committed by individuals convinced that they were on a divine mission. Some of these insanities have crossed over into atrocity.

But to hear God speak, deep within our hearts, is not necessarily a sign of mental illness. It can be; just like finding Jesus's image in a bag of cheese puffs or an icon of the Virgin Mary on the back of a piece of raisin toast at the Waffle House. It can be a manipulative way to dupe the spiritually naïve (or sell a pile of books just before the holiday season).

Yet, on those rare and unusual occasions, Annie Dillard is right: "The waking God may draw us out to where we can never return." Yes, Advent means that God has spoken and will continue to speak. It means that God has and will continue to intervene. And in the process, God will demand ruthless trust. But, he is trustworthy, and will never leave you hanging. ★

Ronnie McBrayer is a syndicated columnist, pastor, and author of multiple books. You can read more and receive regular e-columns in your inbox at www.ronniemcbrayer.me.



By Karen Anderson

The time had come for me to leave those loving arms of God and proceed with my life. The first question is, "Am I really ready?" Have you guessed that my heart-break was the passing of my beautiful Golden Retriever, Nikki? She was so young, loving, fun, and the joy of my life. When she passed away in 2012, she took my heart with her.

We have all heard about the stages of *grief*. There are several stages but the ones that really come to mind are the denial, anger, and finally the acceptance and release of her death. Remember when In October, 2011, my girl was diagnosed with lymphoma and not expected to live more than a couple of months. I just couldn't believe it. I was shocked and stunned. I just knew, in my heart, that God would save *her*. I'm an Herbalist,

His Healing Arms

after all. I knew I could reverse the cancer with natural means and God on my side. I just knew she was supposed to live, she was too young. Nikki was so patient and let me push pills down her throat every day; but I still lost the battle in the end. What was wrong with God, why didn't He do something?

The next stage for me was the anger. How could God let her die in such a manner? Didn't He love her as He loves me? Then, I realized towards the end of her time that I was angry at her. How dare she leave me all alone? What would I ever do without her? During her illness and after her death, I became almost a recluse and didn't want to be around anyone. I wanted to just dwell in my sorrow. At that moment God reached down in the depth of my sadness and held me tight. When I was strong enough, He lead me back towards the light in my life.

He gave me this verse to encourage me and to show me it was time to get connected again. The Word says, "*If you'll hold on to me for dear life,*" says God, "*I'll get you out of any trouble. I'll give you the best of care if you'll only get to know and trust me. Call me and I'll answer, be at your side in bad*

times; I'll rescue you, then throw you a party."

I know that Nikki's passing devastated me emotionally for a long time; but not every death I have experienced was that intense. Does that mean I didn't love the person enough to grieve like that? I believe that grief can be different for every situation. It doesn't mean you love them less; it just is different. The thing, dear reader, is to never let guilt in. That is satan's tool to try and make you continually feel depressed and trapped. Don't forget that God will carry you until you are ready to go out on your own. If you ask Him, He will never leave your side and He is also planning a party for you and I. It's time to release the grief and let's go to His glorious party. See you there!

PASSAGE: Psalm 91:14-15 (The Message) ★

Karen Anderson is an accomplished speaker, author, and chaplain. Her latest books, Nikki's Tail-Waggin' Lessons and The Little Book of BIG Thoughts series can be found on Amazon.com. Leave a message for Karen at www.soaringtohope.com/ contact or connect with her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SoaringToHope.

'Tis the Season to Stuff Myself Like a Turkey and Get Away with It

By Rev. James L. Snyder

Now that summer is out of the way and the holiday season has begun, I can throw out the kitchen window all of those diet restrictions introduced by the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. After all, the whole purpose of the holiday season is to eat.

It begins in late October with the mass distribution of candy, which I have no objection. A little candy in somebody's life can go a long way to produce happiness. Why, a handful of jelly beans really makes the world go around, which may be why I am just a little bit dizzy.

From October all the way through to New Year's Day, it is nothing but one delicious delicacy after another. And, I love it.

Around the middle of October my wife announces, "This year you need to be a little careful about what you eat during this holiday season." Of which I smile back at her and nod my head in the affirmative, whatever that means. Far as I am concerned, a nod is not quite as committed as a word spoken.

In October when I am doling out candy to the kids knocking on my door, I always use this formula: one for them and one for me. After all, what's fair is fair. I have to make sure I have enough candy to go all the way around. As one who is very conscious about not wasting anything, I make sure all of the candy is properly consumed by midnight.

I get away with this because my wife usually has the grandchildren on the other side of the neighborhood going door to door getting candy. My duty is to distribute the candy however I see fit.

Thanksgiving really tickles my fancy. It is an opportunity to stuff myself like a turkey and get away with it. After all, with all the family around the Thanksgiving Day table there is little opportunity

for my wife to supervise what I eat or do not eat. As long as the dishes keep passing, I keep participating.

One thing that makes the Thanksgiving Day dinner so wonderful is that you can stuff your stuff without feeling guilty about it. "Don't you think you've had enough?" my wife will ask.

I have one response to this query I have used for years.

"Do not worry, my dear," I say as I pile more mashed potatoes on my plate, "I plan to go on a diet for my New Year's resolution." What a wonderful New Year's resolution scenario. Whoever invented that should receive the Nobel Peace Prize because it has come in quite handy in my situation.

Thanksgiving is so close to New Year's that it makes a very convenient excuse.

Take the Fourth of July picnic, for example. That is a long way from New Year's Day and the New Year's resolution scenario that I cannot use that excuse. At that picnic when my wife says, "Don't you think you have had enough?" I have to smile and agree that perhaps I did have enough, and lay down my fork in surrender.

What about the summer family picnic time when all of us are getting together? The same thing is happening there. New Year's Day and its resolution scenario are too far in the future to use as a ploy to get second or even third helpings. During any summer picnic, I am on my own and in some regards, I do not like it.

But the Thanksgiving-Christmas-New Year's holiday season is my kind of season.

The holiday season is a time for indulgence. After all, has anybody ever seen a skinny Santa Claus? It would be blasphemous to go to the mall during the holiday season and see a skinny Santa Claus. Personally, I would turn around and go home and sit

in the corner for a while to get over it.

The holiday season is for extravagance. Christmas gift giving is giving people presents they do not really need. I cannot recall how many ties I have received down through the years as though I have not enough ties, but every one was an absolute delight.

The season begins with the hearty Thanksgiving dinner, goes to the Christmas Day dinner and then ends with the New Year's Day dinner. What more could a person really ask for?

There is something about the family gathering around the table indulging in the delicacies of the season and just having a good time. It is not a time to count calories, but rather, a time to count your blessings. It is not a time to monitor what somebody else is eating, but a time to enjoy the family fellowship around a good table set by somebody who knows how to set a good table.

If someone in our family did not cook so well I would not have a problem in restraining my eating. So, I do not believe it is my fault.

After the festivities have subsided and all the food has all been consumed, we still are left with the rest of our life. In light of that I like what Paul said, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20 KJV).

For those who know the Lord Jesus Christ giving thanks for everything is a wonderful way of life all year long. ★

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

Have you ever wondered why Jesus, the Son of God was baptized? Or possibly you have been around people who had a rather self-righteous attitude because they were baptized and knew you were not. How did it make you feel? Maybe the thought of baptism has never entered our mind. Are you wondering what to do about it? Have you accepted Jesus as your personal Savior?

Although Jesus was the Son of God, he came down to earth and was born a human being.

Baptism

Therefore He was both God and man. His Heavenly Father and He for knew He was to come as the "Lamb of God" and what He was to accomplish to save souls. They knew how He was to make this journey to teach, save mankind, die and rise again..

At the right moment in time, when He and his cousin John both were young men, they "supernaturally" knew it was time for Jesus to be baptized as one of his most significant acts of obedience. As Jesus was coming up out of the tub of water, behold the heavens opened to Him and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon him. And suddenly (His Father's) voice came from heaven, saying "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased". (Matthew 3: 16-17) God is always pleased when we are obedient.

Jesus act of obedience for baptism should also be our desire to do likewise, after we have received Jesus as our Savior and

Lord of our lives. After receiving Christ our first act of obedience becomes the first proof of true repentance and walking in a different direction with God in our lives. God honors sincerity and every act of obedience as we walk in the ways of His instructions written in the Holy Bible. Because "Man should not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4)

And God promises an abundant life when we follow Him. "Now to Christ who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21) ★

Marlys Johnsen Norris – Christian Author of 7 Books including Award Winning "Recipes for a Happier Marriage" Marlysjn@gmail.com

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A Case in Point
Wronged at Work!
**DOES THE COMPANY’S
LAWYER REPRESENT
ME OR MY BOSS?**
By David Graulich, Esq.

Imagine that an injured co-worker asks you to testify at a deposition about a serious accident that occurred during your shift. The company’s in-house lawyer consults with you beforehand and accompanies you to the deposition. Does the company attorney represent the employer? You? Both the employer and you? Frequently, employees mistakenly assume that their best interests are represented by the company lawyer. That mistake can cost employees their jobs – as a machinist at Union Pacific’s Roseville facility found out.

That’s why a recent decision by the California 3rd District Appellate Court, based in Sacramento, is so significant. The unanimous decision, written by Justice Kathleen Butz, is a major victory for employees and could result in better protections for employees who are trapped in the conflicted interests of their employers’ lawyers.

Here are the facts: Union Pacific Corp. operates a railroad facility in Roseville. A machinist (whom I’ll refer to as “Alpha”) was working with another machinist (“Beta”) to replace locomotive motors. An elevator-like device known as a “drop table” is used to raise the motors from the “drop pit” over which the locomotive is situated. Alpha was operating the drop table when Beta went into the drop pit to retrieve a tool, fell, and was injured. Alpha was required by Union Pacific to describe what he witnessed in a pair of statements, which he wrote within about an hour of the accident.

Beta sued Union Pacific for maintaining unsafe conditions and asked Alpha to testify at a deposition. Alpha went to the deposition

accompanied by Union Pacific’s in-house attorney, who assured Alpha that all he had to do in his testimony was tell the truth.

In the deposition, Alpha changed a line from one of his witness statements. The written statement said Alpha “saw [Beta] fall down,” implying that Alpha was an eye-witness to Beta’s plunge. At the deposition, Alpha said he became aware that Beta “had fallen.” In other words, Alpha didn’t actually see his co-worker fall, but discovered him after the fall.

Alpha attributed the error to a grammatical slip made in the haste of writing soon after the accident. Union Pacific’s lawyer saw it differently. He argued that Alpha had been untruthful in the original written statement and that Alpha intentionally signed a false statement. Soon after, Union Pacific terminated Alpha on allegations of dishonesty. Alpha then sued the Union Pacific lawyer.

On the first round, Union Pacific won, as the trial court dismissed Alpha’s claims. Alpha filed an appeal.

Fortunately, the Appellate Court reversed the trial court and sided with the employee. The Court observed that the Union Pacific lawyer violated the State Bar’s Rules of Professional Conduct, because the attorney neither informed Alpha about conflicts with Union Pacific nor obtained Alpha’s written consent to be represented by the attorney. The result, concluded the Court, was “a conflict between the employer and the employee, [with] the employer’s lawyer representing both the employer and the employee (to the employee’s detriment).” The case was sent back

to the lower court for a new trial.

Does this episode sound familiar? A similar theme emerged in the 2009 movie, *The Informant*, based on a true story. Matt Damon played Mark Whitacre, an executive at Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), who was secretly cooperating with an FBI investigation into a price-fixing conspiracy at ADM. When the FBI went public with its charges, ADM’s senior managers ordered all executives, including Whitacre, to close ranks and be represented by ADM’s in-house attorney and outside counsel. To their shock and consternation, Whitacre announced that he was going to retain his own attorney and not be represented by ADM’s lawyers. ADM’s bosses angrily accused Whitacre of “being off the team” and betraying them by retaining his own lawyer.

Union Pacific will probably appeal this decision to the California Supreme Court, which means that the outcome of this fascinating case could shift again. However, as it now stands, the 3rd Appellate Court has given a milestone victory to California employees. ★

David Graulich, Esq. is an employment lawyer who represents people who have been wronged at work. He helps clients with problems such as discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. David welcomes questions and comments about Wronged at Work! Contact him at David@wrongedatwork.com or (916) 966-9600. Disclaimer: This column is not intended, and should not be construed, as an offer of legal advice. Consult a qualified licensed attorney for counsel on a specific legal problem.

Controversial Billboard Coming



According to a company representative, the billboard is on its way to Sacramento (to an undisclosed location) in early December as part of a larger national campaign.

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A billboard on a high-traffic section of Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles is drawing sharp social media remarks — and the ad just went live two weeks ago. Featuring an enlisted American soldier and Muslim woman in loving embrace, the ad is part of a larger marketing campaign for the product SnoreStop. Its headline reads: “If we can keep this couple together, we can keep anyone together.”

According to a company representative, the billboard is on its way to Sacramento (to an undisclosed location) in early December as part of a larger national campaign.

On one FOX TV affiliate, hundreds of people commented on the billboard with some pretty nasty remarks.

Another Huffington Post article generated more than 3,500 comments.

Dubbed the #betogether campaign, the billboard has generated some social media feedback from members of the military and the Muslim community in the first hours of the campaign.

Paul Evans, the soldier featured in the billboard, is now speaking up: “I am super proud to be a part of this campaign. I’m aware of the controversy and, in fact, I am in the military to fight for this very right to express oneself in this country.”

So, why is it raising eyebrows in some corners? And, what does it have to do with a natural snoring solution?

“As a snoring solution company, we’re in the business of keeping people together,” says Melody Devemark, spokesperson

and member of the family-owned Camarillo, California-based company. “We really wanted to find and showcase couples you don’t always see in mainstream advertising circles.”

The idea was inspired from a real couple. Veteran Jamie Sutton and his Muslim wife, Aleah, are the real couple behind the billboard portrait. “We realize that it’s likely to be controversial,” Devemark says. “But our family thinks it’s a beautiful story and we feel honored to be able to share it with others.”

The billboard is already going viral, with more than 1,000 notes on Tumblr in one week, and hasn’t even been unveiled yet. Bearing the slogan #betogether, people in the social media sphere have already begun to make their opinions known. Here are some selected comments and feedback:

“I’m not racist, but I feel like they’re trying to shove this ‘political correctness’ thing down our throats.”

“For some people it’s just too soon. The tragedy of 9/11 is still so fresh in people’s minds and now we’re being told we have to accept the enemy being a part of our lives and culture.”

“I wonder if she needed a green card.”

“I guess she’s supposed to be one of them peace-loving ones?”

“Ha! I’d have thought something like this would be for Obamacare.”

While others expressed open hostility to the image, the majority of comments were more accepting:

“It’s a wonderful message. It’s time we stopped labeling people

because of their nationality. As for stopping snoring, I’m all for that too.”

“Would it make me try their product? I would try it on the basis that it stops my husband’s snoring! But the ad is nice.”

“I can see where it would piss some folks off. Me? I think it’s okay.”

“Be together, it says. Would we have seen things like this during the Second World War with an American G.I. and a Japanese woman? Hell no. So maybe it shows how much we’ve progressed as a society. I don’t know.”

“All’s fair in love and war, right?”

“Gets me kind of hot, you know? She’s hot is all I’m saying.”

“I’m getting all teary-eyed. I think it’s great. Honestly, I like it.”

“I hope it wakes people up, sorry, I’m not talking about the snoring, to the plight of the people in the Middle East and that the majority of them don’t want to see violence and destruction.”

An American military figure and a Muslim woman holding each other is bound to raise eyebrows. But, Christian de Rivel, another member of the family-owned company, does not want to run from controversy: “Snoring is an equal opportunity offender, SnoreStop is the equal opportunity provider. There is no nudity or bigotry or hostility in our #betogether campaign. In fact, we are specifically and aggressively promoting diversity, equality and harmony. ★

Source: Pop Culture Public Relations



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SUNDAY

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

THURSDAY

UC Davis Health System Sacramento Farmers Market
45th & Y Streets (Behind Shriners Hospital)
Every Thursday from 3 to 7:30 pm (Seasonal, through November 14th)

SATURDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

Mather VA Hospital Farmers Market
10535 Hospital Way, Mather
Every Wednesday from 9 am to 1 pm (Seasonal, through December 18th)

SATURDAY

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

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Third Garage Fire in Orangevale in Two Weeks

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - Roughly 5:30 a.m. on December 2nd, Metro Fire crews responded to a house on Blythe Avenue in Orangevale and found a well-involved garage fire that quickly spread to the attic. Fire crews initiated an aggressive fire attack in an effort to keep the fire from spreading to the living area.

Twenty-two firefighters were engaged in firefighting, searching, ventilating, salvage and overhaul. The presence of two roofs on the house — a metal roof on top of a wood shake roof — made fighting the attic fire unusually challenging.

Crews worked hard to contain the fire to the garage and attic space, with only water and smoke damage in the living area. Firefighting efforts saved roughly \$150,000 in personal property.

One resident stated he woke up, "heard a pop," looked out the window, and saw the flames. He woke up the other two occupants



and they all ran out of the house. No firefighters or civilians were injured in the fire. Arson Investigators are on scene; the cause is still under investigation.

Orangevale has suffered two other garage fires recently:

the first on Bullion Way on November 22nd and another on Chestnut Avenue on the 30th. ★

Source: Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

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Neighbors Alert Fire Department of Mobile Home Fire

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Just after 9:30 p.m. on November 30th, crews from Metro Fire were dispatched to a mobile home fire at 7413 White River Lane near Citrus Heights in Sacramento County. Alert citizens noticed the fire and made an immediate call to 911 which allowed firefighters to contain it.

Within minutes, crews were on the scene and began a coordinated fire attack along with a primary search of the mobile home to assure it was unoccupied. An all clear was later called. Approximately \$100,000 in loss was prevented by rapid extinguishment and overhaul of this fire.

No citizens or firefighters were injured as a result of this incident. The Investigations Unit asks that anyone with information regarding this incident contact the Arson Tip Line at (916) 859-3775. ★

Source: Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

Pedestrian Struck and Killed in Fair Oaks

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - On November 27th at approximately 12:00 p.m., two pedestrians, a 78-year-old male and a female approximately 50 years old, were walking eastbound on the shoulder of westbound Winding Way near Montcurve Boulevard. A green 2004 Ford Taurus driven by a 53 year old male from Fair Oaks was traveling eastbound on Winding Way near Montcurve Boulevard at approximately 35 mph.

The Taurus began to veer to the left crossing over the westbound lane of Winding Way and onto the shoulder where the pedestrians were walking. The female pedestrian, who was walking closest to the street, was struck by the Taurus. The Taurus continued over a curb and down an embankment then struck a tree. The pedestrian was transported to Mercy San Juan Medical Hospital where she was pronounced dead upon her arrival. The male pedestrian was not struck. The driver of the Taurus was transported to Mercy San Juan Medical Center with minor injuries.

It was unknown at the time of the accident, if alcohol and/or drugs are a contributing factor in this collision. The identity of the female pedestrian has not been released pending notification of next of kin. This collision is still under investigation. If you have any information about this incident please call CHP North Sacramento Area (916) 338-6710, Monday through Friday 8:00 to 5:00 p.m. ★

Source: California Highway Patrol

Community Update for Orangevale



Commentary by County Supervisor Roberta MacGlashan for Orangevale

As your representative on the Board of Supervisors, I am proud to inform you that, following several very challenging years, Sacramento County has weathered a severe financial storm and that the state of Sacramento County is good and improving. We have reinvented the way we do business, finding ways to better serve our communities and improve the quality of life for all our residents. Just this summer, our credit rating was increased for the first time in almost 20 years. We are on stable outlook as well. That the credit rating agencies' views of the County are improving demonstrates that outside third parties with a vested interest in our financial operations are seeing that our hard work has truly paid off. We are adding deputy sheriffs, including Problem Oriented Policing deputies, to keep our communities safe. We are also adding probation officers and park rangers for the same purpose. Just a few years ago, we were in the horrific position of laying off many public safety officers, a situation I will work to prevent from ever happening again. We are also streamlining the permitting process for everything from home remodels to new restaurants and other businesses. Gone are the days in which such County users were forced to visit multiple buildings in myriad locations in order to move forward with building projects. Now, with the County's two Building Assistance Centers, the County offers one-stop-shopping for building permits, inspections, and related services. We also continue to operate two County service centers, one in Fair Oaks at Hazel and Madison, and another that has just reopened in North Highlands at 3331 Peacekeeper Way in the McClellan Business Park. These services centers offer many of the same services as the Building Assistance Centers, and make it much easier for community residents to access essential County services. We are also getting national recognition. Sacramento International Airport is one of the most modern and customer-friendly airports in the Country, and was recently named by USA Today as one of the nation's best airports with regard to its public art collection. We also have one of the best urban bike paths in the nation – the American River Parkway. And with the additional park rangers we are hiring, we hope to

continue improving public safety for those using the crown jewel of our regional parks system. As I previously mentioned, the last few years have been incredibly challenging. The County has reduced its workforce by over 4,000 employees. The downsizing of the workforce will likely not change anytime soon, as we have simply had to reinvent the manner in which we do business. And I owe a debt of gratitude to those local citizens who stepped up and worked with me on a Citizens' Advisory Board that I convened to assist me in working through the County's most challenging fiscal times. This committee, consisting of representatives of local chambers of commerce and other civic organizations, was indispensable in my efforts to keep deputies on the streets and prosecutors in the courtroom. As always, I look forward to hearing from the residents of my district. Please feel free to contact my office at (916)874-5491 and my staff will gladly assist you. You may also email me directly at macglashanr@saccounty.net. Finally, I hold regular community meetings in each community I represent. In Orangevale, we meet the first Friday of most months from 7:30am until 8:30am in Annie's Breakfasts and Steaks. While we take the months of December and January off for the holidays, we will be back in February with a presentation from the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District Engineer. I hope to see you there! ★



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