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AMERICAN RIVER MESSENGER

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Second Edition for December 2013

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RT Starts Season of Giving



Rick Sloan, retired RT Graphic Designer and currently a Board Member for the Cordova Recreation and Park District, guided participants in painting the toy soldiers, snowmen, reindeer and other fanciful holiday creations he designed.

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - RT employees and their families celebrated the start of the holiday season on November 23 by taking part in RT's 20th Annual Holiday Bus Painting Party. More than 120 RT artists used a 'paint-by-numbers' technique to bring the decorative 40-foot bus to life.

Rick Sloan, retired RT Graphic Designer and currently a

Board Member for the Cordova Recreation and Park District, guided participants in painting the toy soldiers, snowmen, reindeer and other fanciful holiday creations he designed. This is the 21st RT Holiday Bus to make an appearance during the holiday season. The first bus designed by an outside agency wasn't well received by RT as it was primarily painted dark

green and became invisible at night. Reflective decals had to be added to make it safer. From that point on, 20 years ago, RT gave the responsibility of designing the Holiday Bus and supervising the Bus Painting Party to Sloan.

"This party is really about celebrating with family and friends. Over the 20 years I've participated in the event, it's been wonderful to see my own

family, and the children of RT employees, grow up before my eyes. This has become a labor of love that I look forward to creating every year." Sloan said. "The kids and parents that take part in this special event really feel a great sense of pride when they finally see the bus driving down the road like a giant greeting card."

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SMUD Approves 2014 Budget

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) Board of Directors has approved a \$1.4 billion budget. The 2014 budget provides funding for all programs, projects and initiatives needed to meet the strategic targets set by the Board of Directors. The budget reflects a balanced approach that will keep SMUD on track to meet its long-term goals, while keeping a close eye on spending and continuing to improve operating efficiencies that provide value for customers. As the region starts to come out of the prolonged slow-growth economy, SMUD starts 2014 with a strong cash balance. When combined with cash generated from operations, SMUD expects to be able to cover the budget expenditures, including capital projects, without issuing new debt.

The 2014 budget anticipates electricity sales of \$1.3 billion, or an increase of about 3 percent over 2013. While the customer base is growing, total kilowatt-hour usage is expected to remain flat as energy efficiency measures and new solar installations reduce average electricity consumption per customer.

The commodities portion of the budget—the cost of natural gas to fuel power plants, wholesale power purchases and transmission—is \$506.8 million for next year, about half

of the total operations and maintenance budget and a slight decline from 2013.

The capital budget, which covers additions and improvements to buildings, property and equipment, is \$227.5 million, up from \$180 million in 2013. The portion of the 2014 budget earmarked for the low-income Energy Assistance Program Rate is \$46.7 million, an increase of 4 percent over 2013.

Major projects for 2014 will include preparations for renovating the SMUD headquarters building, geotechnical work to help evaluate a proposed 400-megawatt (MW) addition to the SMUD hydroelectric system and planning for the relocation of two major substations. SMUD will be working with the city of Sacramento and the owners of the downtown entertainment and sports center, a modern NBA venue that would seat 17,000 and is expected to stimulate associated development. To address reliability the budget includes funds for:

- Enhancing SMUD's ongoing underground cable replacement program.
- Developing transmission interconnection alternatives to increase load-serving capability, access renewable energy, provide voltage support, and support long-term

carbon emission reduction.

- Developing a new site for new flexible thermal generation and conducting feasibility studies for a compressed air energy storage project, both of which can help support more wind and solar generation.

- Starting environmental work for a Collinsville property wind farm development of approximately 50 MW.

- Transferring all remaining low-level nuclear waste from Rancho Seco to an approved site in Texas.

For customers, the budget includes a new energy efficiency program for small and medium business customers; driving customer transformation to LED lighting; constructing SMUD-owned fast-charging stations for electric vehicles; and presenting a more consistent online customer experience across all platforms and devices (e.g., smartphones and tablets).

Additionally, SMUD will implement the Customer Experience Excellence initiative, which will:

- Identify new business opportunities for SMUD's retail strategy.
- Proactively provide information customers want using the channels they prefer.

Continued on Page 9

Public Safety Realignment Has Led to Increase in Crime

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - State Senator Jim Nielsen (R-Gerber), former Chair of the California Board of Prison Terms, issued the following statement today regarding the Public Policy Institute of California's conclusion that crime has increased as a result of the Governor's public safety realignment program:

"The link between the increase in crime and the Governor's public safety realignment program is no surprise.

"This is consistent with the FBI's and the California Attorney General's yearly crime statistics when compared to last year's. The Governor and lawmakers can no longer deny the serious flaws in their prison reduction plan.

"I have said it before and I will say it again, the Governor needs to call lawmakers to action by declaring a special session to deal with public safety, where we can focus exclusively on correcting the deficiencies of prison realignment (AB 109) to protect Californians.

"We have to fix realignment before more citizens are harmed."

Enacted into law in October of 2011, the Governor's prison realignment plan (AB 109) sends certain convicted felons to county jails instead of state prisons. Local jurisdictions are struggling to meet the increasing demands of housing convicted felons. Realignment requires counties to incarcerate or find alternative programs for tens of thousands of drug dealers, burglars and other habitual felons who previously would have been sentenced to state prison.

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Senator Jim Nielsen represents the Fourth Senate District, which includes the counties of Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity and Yuba. To contact Senator Nielsen, please call him at 916-651-4004, or via email at senator.nielsen@senate.ca.gov.

Source: Office of Senator Nielsen



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San Juan Water District Wholesale Responds to BDCP Release

Full analysis of 34,000-page document will take time, but district knows what to look for.

GRANITE BAY, CA (MPG) - San Juan Water District Wholesale is preparing to review and respond to the state’s latest draft of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

“Reviewing the more than 34,000 page environmental document will take time, but important considering how large this project is,” says Shauna Lorance, general manager of the San Juan Water District Wholesale.

The district is looking for the state to release an operational plan showing how they will operate the project’s famous Twin Tunnels. They are concerned that without a plan on how the state’s water systems will be operated, the operation of Folsom Reservoir could cause a significant impact to their customers’ water supply reliability.

“It’s like building a house without a blueprint,” noted Lorance. “We need to see a plan that is good for the entire state and provides us with assurances that our future water supplies won’t be in jeopardy.”

San Juan Water District Wholesale has been sharing their concerns over expected outcomes in the draft document, specifically impacts to Folsom Lake. The lake provides water to over half a million people in the greater Sacramento region, more than half of which are San Juan Water District Wholesale and retail customers.

“Customers in our retail areas like Granite Bay and portions of Folsom and Roseville rely entirely on water supplies from Folsom Lake,” says Lorance. “What we’ve seen so far are projections that climate change will cause Folsom Lake will drop to such lows that we’ll have serious difficulties providing water to our customers for months at a time every decade.”

Over the next few months, the district is prepared to review the draft document and provide comments. Along with the City of Roseville and other regional water providers, San Juan Water District will be calling upon customers to react to the BDCP and share any concerns, comments and feedback during the public comment period. ★

San Juan Water District Wholesale is a community services district that provides drinking water to more than 265,000 people in portions of Sacramento and Placer Counties. In addition to serving retail customers in Granite Bay, east Roseville and the northeast portion of Sacramento County, San Juan Water District Wholesale provides water to Citrus Heights and Fair Oaks water districts, Orange Vale Water Company, the City of Folsom (north of the American River) and periodically to Sacramento Suburban Water District.

Lyon Real Estate Hosts Annual Benefit for Salvation Army

Story and Photos by Bill Martin

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - The Fair Oaks office of Lyon Real Estate recently opened its hearts, doors, wallets and parking lot in late November to hundreds of avid chili fans. A lot of time and effort by many people went into the planning and set-up of the 16th Annual Chili Cook-Off and Silent Auction, scheduled for the parking lot of the Fair Oaks Lion Real Estate offices. Just minutes before the festivities were scheduled to start, it also started to rain! Although the rain came on fast, it wasn’t a match for fast-thinking Lyon Branch Manager, Carol Kellogg. All the guests and activities were quickly moved into a nearby bingo hall and the day was saved.

Undaunted by rain, nearly 500 chili lovers and deal seekers filled the bingo hall to join Lyon Real Estate Realtors for some tasty chili and silent auction fundraiser. The chili feed and silent auction proceeds went to the Sacramento Association of Realtors Charitable Foundation for the Can Tree event to benefit the Salvation Army. The Fair Oaks office of Lyon Real Estate, located at 8814 Madison Avenue, is one of largest contributors within the Real estate community for the annual Can Tree event. Lyon Real Estate has help raised over \$200,000 over the past 15 years, thanks to the generosity of chili lovers and those attendees that just couldn’t resist bidding on a few special treasures.

Realtors know a good deal when they see it and there was a lot to bid on. The special event featured prizes like holiday gift baskets, toys, and trips, along with games, live music and of course chili! A lot of piping hot chili was served up during the daylong event. It was quite a sight to see the parade of slow cookers and crock pots lining table after table.

Lyon Real Estate Branch Manager, Carol Kellogg, was all smiles when she announced that the Sacramento Association of Realtors raised \$90,000 this year for the Can Tree Fundraiser to benefit the Salvation Army. She was especially proud to announce that \$21,500 of that \$90,000 raised came from the Fair Oaks office of Lyon Real Estate. The proceeds from the 2013 Chili Feed and Silent Auction brought the total for the Fair Oaks branch to \$308,500 raised in the last 16 years for the Can Tree Fundraiser to benefit the Salvation Army.

Now that is real community involvement. ★



Miss Angela Gitt (left) and Lyon Real Estate Branch Manager Carol Kellogg (right).

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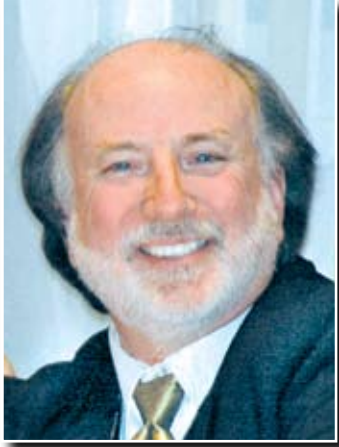
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The Power of the Mother’s Tea



By Kelly Davenport

Need a hug? Craving a friendly nurturing smile? Or do you simply need a loving friend to serve you a cup of tea? If so, you are not alone! Prepare for revitalization fueled by warmth and nurturing from your new special girl friends at a monthly mother’s tea.

There are moments in *the day in the life of fulfilling our family’s needs* when we as mothers feel alone in it all. A phenomenon known as, *other mom’s must do it better*, creeps in when we lack fellowship in our lives. In reality the highs and lows mixed with unforeseen challenges that bombard our daily motherly existence are commonly shared by most of us. By congregating over tea, coffee and yummy food with a willingness to share, cleanses the soul and recharges our batteries so we may continue giving joyously to our families.

Making new friends is more elusive these days as true friendships require time and energy to build the kind of relationships that support trust and vulnerability. A mother’s tea group committed to monthly meet-ups gives busy mothers the opportunity to congregate in an emotionally safe and relaxed environment. Over time my personal experience has seen an exponential expansion in my friendship circle that is deeply gratifying as well as broadened

my network of helpful families I can trust my children to in times of need.

So what is the recipe for a successful mother’s tea? I do wish I could take the credit on my group of loyal moms but I am by nature shy with a chronically cluttered house. I am not likely to host parties on a regular basis. In my case all the credit goes to two beautiful ladies who expanded on our grade school’s tradition of an annual mother’s tea introducing mothers to teachers for the upcoming year. It began simply. These two bubbly moms put together cute invites to meet-up for tea. They opened their homes, fed our tummies and our souls with love. We all seemed to be having such fun. It was easy to start conversing about the next tea before disbanding. And so it began.

The hugs and smiles, giggles

our monthly tea has strengthened their daily lives.

Of the many countless side effects a mother’s tea has to offer, is an opportunity to learn more about our child’s scholastic world from observing mom’s who work in the classroom. We share ideas, concerns etcetera about our child’s wellbeing. These insights are powerful parenting tools guaranteed to pay dividends in the long run.

So if you are shy like me but feel a mother’s tea is just the remedy you seek, befriend the extroverted mom and whisper the notion of starting a tea. Let her take the credit while you engage in hero support. Offer to create invitations or host the first tea. Smart phones, email and social networking apps make future meet-ups a breeze. A small effort at this project’s beginnings, will payback large



and laughter are plentiful. Tales of our children’s antics (or our husbands, for that matter) fill the air. The energy sizzles as the high octane environment is instantly uplifting no matter how my day started. Our group prays for one another and I am always moved by how bravely these women handle challenge in their life. I feel our group of twenty moms melt in this setting of sisterly love with sighs of relief. More than one of us has confessed that

over time. Get ready to spice up your life...body, mind and soul, with a mother’s tea! ★

Kelly Davenport lives in Sacramento with her husband and two children. She is a part time instructor at Sacramento State University and is the author of a children’s book “Do Hotdogs Grow on Trees.” Available at Amazon.com or <http://tinyurl.com/nmjnmsm>

ARC Volleyball Program Draws Inspiration from Historic Season

Despite a disappointing finish, players and staff are encouraged by their achievements in 2013



By Jorden P. Hales

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The American River College women’s volleyball team’s season came to an end with a loss to Grossmont College Sunday Dec. 8. The team lost 0-3 (25-18, 25-20, 25-21) in their final contest of the California Community College Athletic Association’s state championship tournament.

The Beavers achieved multiple historic feats in 2013, winning the first Big 8 Conference championship it the program’s history and making its first appearance in the state tournament in 20 years.

Though disappointed in its performance at the tournament, the team is proud of its season.

“We set season goals probably the first practice and I feel like we accomplished every single goal,” said freshman outside hitter Erika Jones.

Sophomore middle hitter Nicole Hareland, who will be visiting Humboldt State University later this month to explore the prospect of joining its program, has taken a great

deal from ARC’s historic season, despite its disappointing conclusion.

“We didn’t do that great at state, but no matter what, I still think we had a very productive season,” said Hareland. “I think I not only learned a lot about volleyball,

(but) I think I learned a lot about myself and...we had a good time together.”

Several members of the team reiterated a bit of disappointment in not fully comprehending its potential at an earlier stage, as the team did not consider the state tournament “attainable” until well into its 19-match win streak.

“I think if we did (consider) it a possibility then we would have worked harder for it and been more prepared for what is going to happen at state,” said Hareland

After losing in the Northern California playoff in 2012, several members of the team used the experience and disappointment to as inspiration going into the 2013 season. Sophomore libero Sophi Lozano – who

will play spring volleyball with ARC before pursuing a walk-on opportunity with Sacramento State University – sees an opportunity for her younger teammates to emulate this process in hopes for a better performance at the state level next season.

“The freshman now that are going to be sophomores, they have this idea of what it’s going to be (like), they know what the pressure’s going to be and they can prepare for that all season,” said Lozano.

Head coach Ashlie Frame has similar hopes for both her freshman and sophomore athletes.

“Hopefully it’s a good learning experience and the fact that they’re even here is a great experience for them going forward,” said Frame. “It’s (also) a good experience for the sophomores because a lot of them want to play at four-year colleges, so they’re going to have to play in games like this everyday. (This season) we pushed it to the max. We’re playing on the last possible day of play, so I guess that’s all you can ask for.” ★

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Sacramento Life Center Raises \$350k for Mobile Medical Clinic

Event raises funds for free medical services, counseling for pregnant women and teens

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Six hundred fifty local residents raised \$350,000 for the Sacramento Life Center's free medical care, counseling and education for pregnant women and teens at the organization's annual fundraising dinner last month. The Salute to Life Dinner and Auction at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom in Sacramento included a gourmet dinner, auction, raffle and stories of people who have received help from the Sacramento Life Center.

"The generosity of this community has made it possible for us to roll out our second Mobile Medical Clinic so more women in the Sacramento area can receive the free medical care they need," said Marie Leatherby, executive director. "We are so grateful to everyone in this community who supported this event, especially those who came out to our dinner and responded to the amazing stories that were shared."

The Sacramento Life Center's mission is to offer compassion, support, resources and free medical services to women facing an unplanned or unsupported pregnancy in the greater Sacramento area. The center's licensed Sac



Destiny Robbins is joined on stage by her counselor and son as she speaks about how the Sacramento Life Center helped her continue her pregnancy. She spoke at the Salute to Life Dinner, which raised \$350,000 for the nonprofit's free counseling and medical services.

Valley Pregnancy Clinic includes a primary clinic and two mobile clinics, all providing free services including well woman exams, pregnancy tests, STD tests, ultrasounds, counseling for men and women, education and resource referrals. The Sacramento Life Center also offers a school-based teen education program,

a 24-hour hotline and a program for women seeking support after having an abortion.

For more information about the Sacramento Life Center's Sac Valley Pregnancy Clinic, visit www.svpclinic.com. For more information about the Sacramento Life Center: www.saclife.org. ★

Holiday Bus Starts Season of Giving

Continued from Page 1

The Holiday Bus serves as a tool to thank passengers who use the RT system and to give back to the community as a whole. Free to passengers, the Holiday Bus operates on different routes in the Sacramento region from December 1, 2013 through January 3, 2014. The schedule can be found at www.sact.com/holidaybus13.stm.

Once inside, passengers listen to festive holiday music and view on display several holiday themed posters painted by some of the younger children.

In lieu of fare, monetary donations and non-perishable food items will be collected on the bus to benefit River City Food Bank, a non-profit organization that provides emergency food and housing assistance in Sacramento County. For more information about the food bank, visit rivercityfoodbank.org. ★



Let God Turn Your Disappointments Into His Appointments



By Pastor Ray Dare

When you look back at that first Christmas, it may surprise you that there were some disappointments. It was disappointing in a lot of ways, especially for Mary & Joseph. We tend to forget that these were real people with real feelings and problems, much like we have today. They had hardships and disappointments.

The Bible says that when Joseph found out that Mary was pregnant that he was so disappointed he was ready to call off the engagement, he was ready to break-up with Mary. But the Angel intervened.

Mary of course had some disappointments; she had to have her first baby in a cow-barn! Like out in the middle of Rio Linda somewhere. She was told that he would be the King of kings and Lord of lords, but she had to use a cow trough as a crib. I think that would be disappointing.

What disappointments have you faced this year? Over the past 2 to 3 years? Psalm 138:8

says, "The Lord will work out his plans for my life, for your loving kindness, Lord, continues forever." (LB). That's a promise for you to memorize and claim. Joy begins when you realize that your disappointments are often part of God's plan; because He has a better plan.

Initially, Joseph was disappointed when Mary broke the news to him, until he saw God's purpose in it all. When you choose to see God's purpose do you know what you discover? You discover that your disappointments are quite often His-appointments. You discover that God's plan for your life is bigger than your plan, because He's got a bigger perspective. When you begin to see life from His perspective, you begin to discover that He wants to do so much more in your life than you ever imagined.

The Bible is full of examples of God turning disappointments into His-appointments. In the Old Testament, Moses was leading Israel out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. Moses has his plan, he knows where he's going until he comes upon something called the Red Sea.

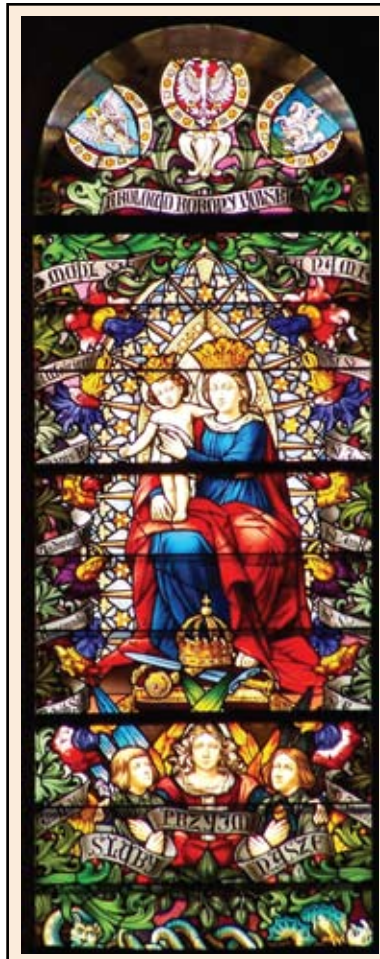
Big time disappointment!

But God split the Red Sea – His-appointment! In the New Testament we have Jesus and His disciples. The disciples had their own plan. They thought that Jesus was going to deliver them from Roman captivity. But they watched as the one they loved and followed for three years was crucified. Can you imagine their disappointment? But three days later Jesus rose from the dead! His-appointment! God had it all planned from the beginning. They just couldn't see it because they were only focused on their plan.

What plans of yours have turned into disappointments? You may be in that in-between time; in-between disappointment and His-appointment. You're facing a Red Sea but you're not sure how it's going to part. You feel like there's been a crucifixion but there's been no resurrection yet. I want to encourage you to hold on, hang in there, because God still has a plan. God always has a plan beyond your pain. Always.

Pastor Ray. ★

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Equations of Christmas: What Does “X” Really Mean?

Commentary by
Dr. Gary Welton

I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas, a White Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Season’s Greetings; but most of all, I wish you a Blessed Christmas.

Being at our season of life, in those years between teenage children and endearing excitable grandchildren, my wife and I recall our various memories of Christmas past. We remember our common extended family traditions, which involved cramming scores of beloved aunts, uncles, and cousins into small houses that comfortably held only a handful, in which we enjoyed a fantastic spread of holiday treats (though most of us ate primarily from the food that our own mother had prepared, as familiarity always trumped the risk of change).

Not every memory is positive, however, as there were moments of boredom, serious sledding accidents, cattle breaking through the fence, sibling-like spats between kissing cousins jammed into such close quarters, and the trip to the ER when grandma fell off her chair. Nevertheless, I always smile when I remember the moments we shared and our common Christian tradition. We celebrated our sacred faith in the mystery of Christ’s provision of redemption.

Our society, however, is moving away from the shared sacred holiday. As we become a more diverse society, we begin to replace the Christmas carols with the holiday music. We replace the infinite incarnation with the

maudlin focus on white snow and green trees. One particular holiday greeting, however, is more sacred than it first appears.

Some of my Christian friends and mentors have waxed eloquent about their rejection of the “Xmas” greeting. They argue that we have taken Christ out of Christmas and replaced Christ with “X,” an algebraic symbol for a variable unknown quantity. The history of the term Xmas, however, is not algebraic, but rather rooted in the Greek language and the letter chi (x).

Early Christians used the fish as a symbol of their faith. The Greek word for fish, *ichthys* (ichthys), was used as an acrostic reference to the incarnate Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior. It is said that during the life and death persecution of the early church, a Christian meeting someone new would begin to draw a fish in the sand. If the other person was a Christian, he or she would complete the drawing. If the second person was not a Christian, the ambiguity of the half-symbol would not reveal the first person as a Christian. The letter x quickly became a recognized abbreviation for Christ. Hence, it was natural to shorten the term Christmas to the term chi-mas, or Xmas.

Some in our society will argue that Christmas should become a secular holiday, separated from the Christian tradition, given the early historical celebration of the winter solstice. It is no accident, however, that Christmas is the most significant holiday in America, totally eclipsing any celebration of the summer solstice. Separating Christmas from

its sacred meanings is simultaneously robbing Christmas of its lasting impact in our society and our individual lives.

Although some will use the Xmas greeting in an attempt to separate the secular from the sacred, the historical roots show that the term Xmas is an indirect reference to Christ. The use of Xmas by some might be an attempt to suggest that the speaker is trying to replace Christ with the algebraic symbol for the unknown. Nevertheless, we can solve for the value of X in Xmas. The experienced hearer will solve for X and find the value of X is equal to the infinite focus of our Christmas season.

As a growing secular society attempts to remove Jesus Christ from the equations of Christmas, take joy in the fact that despite these efforts the ultimate truth remains: The reason for the season is a gift from God—a baby’s birth nearly 2,000 years ago—the world’s Savior.

Have yourself a blessed little Christmas this year. ★

Dr. Gary L. Welton is assistant dean for institutional assessment, professor of psychology at Grove City College, and a contributor to The Center for Vision & Values. He is a recipient of a major research grant from the Templeton Foundation to investigate positive youth development. © 2013 by The Center for Vision & Values at Grove City College. The views & opinions expressed herein may, but do not necessarily, reflect the views of Grove City College. See www.VisionandValues.org.

High Number of Thefts Reported

From Sherrie Carhart,
Crime Prevention Specialist
North Division, Sacramento
County Sheriff

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - I’m receiving a larger number of emails and phone calls about property theft/burglaries this month and last. This time of year is seemingly high theft season:

If you’re home or off at work or on vacation, make sure that everything is locked up securely. This includes backyard gates, all doors to your garage, doors from your rear yard to your house and doggy doors when not in use.

Suspicious people loitering, lingering, wandering around going door to door or up on properties in your neighborhood at night should be reported to dispatch as being suspicious. Describe their behavior to the dispatcher. If they have a vehicle, get a good description of everything and be a good witness. Call immediately, don’t wait. 874-5115. Don’t tell them you’re calling the cops or tip them off. DON’T FOLLOW OR CONFRONT.

If someone knocks or rings your doorbell, talk through the door. Teach your kids to talk through the door, but not to open it.

Leave lights on timers on inside your home. Have timers go off in different parts of your house at different times to mimic that you’re actually home.

If you have a work vehicle or trailer, and it contains tools it is a target if it is parked on your driveway or street.

Work vehicles/trailers containing tools must be parked in an enclosed yard or garage.

In the Arden area we are having multiple reports of trailer hasps being cut with saws and metal around the hasps being sawed to enter and steal high dollar items. Lots of \$150 to \$3,000 bikes being stolen. Also, many vehicle break-ins and gas thefts and numerous mail thefts in many areas of the county. Cars and motorcycles and dirt bikes and power tools and hand tools and coins, any and all electronic digital cameras and laptops, phones and presents in the car or wrapped under the tree, designer goods; eye glasses to shoes, cash, guns, jewelry, alcohol are being stolen. LOCK UP VALUABLES. Buy an engraver and put your driver’s license number on expensive tools and bikes.

Check your mailbox regularly if your mail is coming late in the day. Don’t leave mail overnight in your box. Report mail theft to the US Post office or to the Sheriff’s Department. Report ID theft/ fraud to the Sheriff’s Department.

NEVER mail outgoing mail from your mailbox. If you see someone taking mail, call emergency line 874-5111.

If you have a vacant house nearby please or know that your neighbor is gone, be alert to unusual lights/activity in the house/garage at night. Call 911 if you think that a burglar may be there. The early cover of darkness and, cold and rain will keep most people inside as soon as they get home. It’s perfect weather for burglars.

When you shop, go store to store or arrive home, take everything, out of your vehicle. Never leave anything including jackets or bags.

Finally, please go and visit the elderly neighbors down the street. See if they have their heat on, if they need to take a trip to the grocery store or might need someone to talk to.

For more information contact Sherrie Carhart at scarhart@sacsheriff.com. ★

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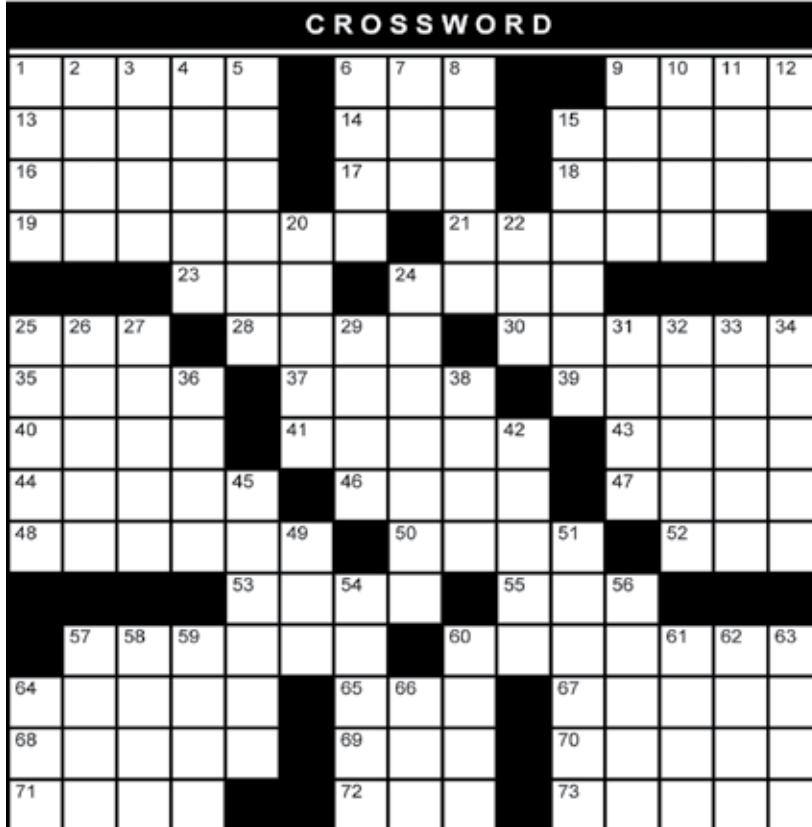
CLUES

ACROSS

- Fire or passion
- *Yule firewood
- Winston Churchill's "___
Country"
- France's longest river
- 401(k) alternative
- Squirrel's stash
- Wake Island, e.g.
- Official
- Indian restaurant
yogurt staple
- *Cratchit's boss
- *Typical holiday guests
- Duffer's goal
- *"Go ___ it on the
Mountain"
- Prime time ruler
- It can be crunched
- Pass on
- Caught outside?
- "Cheers" regular
- Ma Bell, e.g.
- Backward arrow
command
- Iraqi money
- Andean land
- Utopian
- Drawn in sand
- Petitions
- Sluggish
- Back talk
- "Comprende?"
- "Geel"
- Flightless and down
under
- Potpourri bag
- *Pan-African
celebration
- Sober Ness
- Tropical American
cuckoo
- Walk clumsily
- Mother ___, pl.
- Summer glow
- Vasily Alekseyev's weight
- ___ a cold
- Finish
- Investment

DOWN

- "Sad to say..."
- Campus military org.
- Last name in fashion
- Lowest deck
- Load again
- Italian money, 1861-2002
- Bauxite, e.g.
- Blooper
- Smoothie berry
- *Popular tinsel material in 20th
Century
- Bohemian
- Biochemistry abbr.
- Arm decoration
- \$1,000
- Matterhorn, e.g.
- Sully
- *Holiday cake filler
- "No ___"
- *Hot serving, archaic
- Hard work
- Sales force
- Intestinal obstruction
- Rocks at mountain base
- *Gingerbread sculpture
- Sold in bars
- Supernatural life force
- Stitch again
- *Hanukkah's eight
- *Rudolph's Clarice, e.g.
- Slaps
- HI, e.g.
- Without illumination
- ___ gin fizz
- Campaign worker
- College girl
- Warm-hearted
- *"J'accuse" author
- Run ___
- Cathedral area
- *Holiday shelf watcher
- A Bobbsey twin



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For Solutions See Page 7

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 6

A	R	D	O	R		L	O	G		A	F	A	R	
L	O	I	R	E		I	R	A		A	C	O	R	N
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By Ronnie McBrayer

“We three kings of Orient are.” So begins a favorite carol of the Advent season about the “Wise Men” who visit the newborn Jesus. And so begins a tale that takes inaccuracy and historical revisionism to a whole new level. Reverend John Henry Hopkins, Jr., who wrote the carol a century and a half ago, should have known better.

First, we don’t know exactly how many kings there were. There could have been as few as two and up to almost any number. Tradition says that there were three (though some traditions mention twelve), and over time they were even given names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. But these are apocryphal stories.

Second, they were not “kings” from the Orient. They were Wise Men, or put more accurately, Magi. The Magi were astronomers – primitive by today’s standards – who were on the cutting edge of scientific and philosophical knowledge in their day. So it may be best to view these Magi as the uncanny combination of scientists, philosophers, and theologians – but not kings. And such men called Persia home (modern day Iran), not the Far East.

Third, these men did not find the Christ child while “following yonder star.” They saw the

All means All (Second Week of Advent)

star “in the East” or “at the rising of the sun,” but then proceeded west to Palestine. The star did not reappear until they were already in Bethlehem.

And finally, the Magi, technically, do not belong in the Nativity scene at all. They were latecomers to the Christmas party, maybe as late as Jesus’ second birthday. The quaking shepherds, singing angels, and lowing cattle had returned to life as normal long ago. On and on I could go ripping the veracity of this Christmas Carol apart, but that is not my intent.

“We Three Kings” remains one of my favorite Holiday hymns to bellow out this time of year. My critique of it is to simply point out that apart from the accumulations of questionable tradition, we know little about these mysterious men from the East. And these traditions prevent us from embracing what we can learn from them – for the journey of the Magi is a fascinating exercise in unexpected faith.

They came seeking the child who had been born king of the Jews, based almost entirely on the appearance of an enigmatic star. While history is rampant with explanations for this phenomena, one conclusion is certain: The Magi interpreted this unusual sign in the heavens as a clear communication that something extraordinary had taken place in the world. And even more extraordinary, these Persian sages applied their interpretation to the emergence of Jesus, the Jewish Messiah.

Why so astonishing? Not many people would launch out on a

dangerous journey through the Middle East based solely on a spiritual hunch. Not many people would put their life on hold to prove their mystical intuitions to be true. And the most shocking of all, not many Persians (today’s Iranians) would worship at the feet (or manger) of a Jew. And not many Jews could abide by such a thing, either!

Yet, in God’s way, these all belonged together. Divisions of race, religion, nationality or ethnicity did not factor into the equation. This is a foreshadowing of what the Apostle Paul would say later. “In Christ,” he said, “there is no difference between Jew and Greek, slave and free person, male and female. You are all the same in Christ Jesus” (See Galatians 3). And “all” does mean “all.” All are welcome into the presence of the One who will “reconcile everything – all things in heaven and on earth to himself.”

So here is where the Magi teach us the wisest of their lessons: There are many barriers to overcome and great distances to cover in our journey of faith – “field and fountain, moor and mountain” to quote Reverend Hopkins – but when we get to where we are going, we will be welcomed in with open arms. There we will find the “King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.” And “all” surely means “all.” ★

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.

My Christmas Cheer Drama

Dr. James L. Snyder

I enjoy being cheerful and Christmas time is a special time to be cheerful and I try my best to live up to it. Occasionally, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will suggest I am going a little too far.

During the rest of the year I stay out of shopping malls as much as possible. During the Christmas season, I want to go to the shopping mall and walk around without any purchases to make. I like watching people spend their money on things they do not need and for people they may not like.

I like to give cheer more than anything else. Actually, it is the only thing I can afford. And so I will send my cheerfulness into cheer bankruptcy. Whatever that may be.

The Christmas season has never been a time for me to spend excessive amounts of money. I leave all that to my wife. She knows how to shop and she begins her Christmas shopping right around February. I could never figure that out. When I buy a gift for someone, I want to hand it to them right then. She has the discipline to buy Christmas gifts months ahead of time.

Something happened this past week that brought all of my cheerfulness to an abrupt halt.

I had just come from the mall where I was making fun of people scurrying around trying to find the latest bargain. It is a little strange to me that when people get a gift for somebody they look for a bargain.

When I got home, I sat down in my recliner reminiscing about the day and then I did something I do not normally do. I took out my wallet to clean it. This is something I do at least once a year.

Sometimes I get cards in my wallet that have expired or are no longer valid. No sense in having

things in your wallet that you do not need or cannot use. Several cards had expired and so into the trashcan they went.

You can tell a lot about a person by the things in his wallet. My wife, on the other hand, carries a purse. I will not be caught dead looking in that purse. In fact, I would be dead if caught looking. I am not sure what she has in her purse and I do not want to know what she has in there. I love living.

A man’s wallet is a little different. He has things in there that are rather practical. There will be a driver’s license, a Social Security card, insurance card, not to mention credit cards. Everything he needs to get through a week with plenty of cheerfulness on the side.

Going through my wallet this time I found something that shocked me to the core of my being. There in my wallet, folded up rather neatly and tucked in a corner, was a \$50 bill. I cannot tell you the last time I saw a \$50 bill. How it got there, I will never know.

My father always had a folded \$50 bill in his wallet for emergencies. I am not my father.

Ordinarily, you would think finding \$50 in your wallet would be a moment of rejoicing. Not so here.

It is towards the end of the year, all gifts are purchased for Christmas and all bills are paid. I like to pay ahead of time just to make sure the bills are being paid. And so there was nothing that needed to be paid at that time.

Life has taught me several lessons and one in particular. If you find extra money it means some disaster is about to befall. Usually the catastrophe that happens costs more than the money you find. I found \$50 and so it is reasonable to believe that the catastrophe facing me will cost \$100.

I did not know if I should

mention this to my wife. It is not that we are superstitious, we have just live life long enough to know what comes around goes around and what goes up usually comes down.

What is going to happen now? What is going to go wrong? What in the house is going to fall apart?

Then my dilemma was solved.

My wife came into the room and said, “I was wondering,” and she was stammering a little bit as she said it. “I was wondering if perhaps we could take the grandchildren out for Christmas lunch tomorrow. I know it costs a lot, but I think they would enjoy it.”

I smiled and she looked at me a little quizzically and asked, “What are you smiling about?”

It was then I pulled out of my wallet the neatly folded \$50 bill and waved it in her direction and said, “I think Christmas lunch with the grandchildren tomorrow would be a fantastic idea.”

Some people worry about what they do not have. I worry about what I have to make sure I am using it in the best possible manner.

“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High” (Psalms 92:1).

I am thankful for what I have but I am also thankful for what I do not have. Nothing takes the place of a contented heart and my contentment rests in the Lord Jesus Christ. I need nothing more. ★

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 Karen Anderson

You may have heard the term a servant’s heart. What does that really mean? The Bible says, “Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” When you think about this, how do you measure up?

When I was growing up a very good friend of the family was a perfect example of one who lived with a servant’s heart. She was always criticized and told that she needed to learn to say no. She never thought of herself. All she knew was, if God was calling her, she would answer. You could always depend on her. To

A Servant’s Heart

her dying day she always thought of others with love and compassion and how she could serve them. Understand she could have said no, she had 6 kids of her own, but God used her in a quiet but mighty way.

I have always wondered if I would be considered a person with a servant’s heart. I am always concerned for the well-being of others but it is not always my first thought. I am embarrassed to say this, but I believe God has given me a different gift and I will follow His lead. I am good at what I do, but God knows that I am His willing servant. If He calls, at some time, to start living with the kind of heart we are talking about, He will show me and I will do it.

My soul-sister is another example of a woman with a servant’s heart. She stepped into a situation that was very difficult which could have caused many others to turn away. She knew God was calling her and she did it without question or doubt. This gift is given by God and the only thing you and I have to do is act, which is what she did. That is what serving is...see a need and take action. When we continue down life’s journey God will show you how you are to act. Your heart

needs to be connected to God. I love this part of the verse so I’m going to repeat it, “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

Next time you feel called; don’t hesitate like many of us do. Take the example of the two women I refer to and act with a servant’s heart. You are once again praising God when you step up. Not to be noticed, but to do the right thing. Every day I ask God to show me the opportunities He has waiting for me. As I continue to walk along His path, I know He will bless me and in turn use the situation to His glory. He is mighty and is worthy of my praise and worship. How about you?

PASSAGE: Romans 12:10-13 (NIV) ★

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.



By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

In the Garden of Eden the enemy (Satan) told Eve that if she did what he asked “She would be like god”. (An insignificant god - with a small “g”) And Eve believed it!

Then she enticed her husband Adam and he also, ate from the tree of good and evil and brought the curse of God on every human being born thereafter. We were born with the curse of sin of Adam on all our lives. We know something is wrong, but we don’t know how to “fix it”.

You Can Never Be Good Enough!

Some people will tell you how good they are, how they never do anything wrong or hurt others. They possibly live by the “golden rules” and they truly are good people.

However good in the eyes of men is not what is good in the eyes of God. He expects “perfection” because He is perfect himself. His eternal home is perfect and no imperfect person or thing shall ever enter it. There is only one way we can ever do it. That is why a part of himself, His Beloved Son had to come to earth, then die a horrible death, to purchase and wash away that sin of Adam that was cast on everyone and it can only be done one way – by faith and belief in the sacrifice of God’s Son. The Heavenly Father abhors sin, but He loves His creation, “us” and He wanted to provide a “Way” for us to be with Him forever.

So Jesus Christ became the Way, the Truth and the Life and those who believe and trust in Him are granted the gift of eternal life.

Whose voice are you hearing these days? Are you hearing Gods voice or are you listening to the voice of the enemy? If the enemy is in the business of making foolish promises to you, he is also about deceiving you any way he can to entice you to go his way. His way leads to bondage, not freedom and happiness. Everyone must come to a place in their lives where they make this crucial decision to either walk with God or suffer the horrible consequences one day and then it is too late. ★

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.

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.

Winter Pothole Sweeps

An intensified effort is underway by the Sacramento County Department of Transportation to identify the whereabouts of potholes in the unincorporated area and repair them in order to ready road surfaces for the

upcoming winter storm season.

Dubbed "Pothole Sweeps Week" this effort is performed twice each year -- first in the late spring to repair potholes caused by inclement weather and later in early winter.

While the department makes every effort to find potholes, residents can help by contacting SCDOT about potholes on their residential streets. Please call Customer Service at 875-5171 or go online to sacdot.com and click on "Report a Problem."

SACDOT is responsible for over 5,200 lane miles of paved roadway in the unincorporated area so it is inevitable that somewhere a pothole exists. Let's all help out to get those annoying potholes patched and repaired.

Community Coffee Meetings Begin

Please join me next month when my community coffee meeting series starts up again. These morning sessions are held five times throughout the year and include guest speakers.

The first meeting for 2014 will be at 7:30 am on Wednesday, January 15, at the Fair Oaks Water District's conference room, 10326 Fair Oaks Blvd. near Winding Way. That morning's topic will be the state of our local water supply presented by the San Juan Water District.

Coffee, naturally, will be provided. I hope you can attend.

Sheriff Community Meetings

The Sheriff's Department holds regular community meetings to share information about trends in crime and recent activities. Please consider starting 2014 by becoming involved in Neighborhood Watch as a way to help keep Fair Oaks safe by attending the next community meeting. It will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 6 pm, at La Vista High School, 4501 Bannister Road, north of Winding Way. ★

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

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Orangevale Rotary to Host Crab Feed Fundraiser

By Ann Hively

Orangevale Rotary is pleased to announce new, exciting plans for our major fundraiser. We are planning a crab feed fundraiser on January 25 from 5:30 – 10:30 pm at Divine Savior Church. Crab, shrimp, minestone soup, rigatoni with meat sauce, Caesar salad, and an ice cream bar for dessert! Don't forget a bib as this very generous meal promises to be both delicious and messy!

Orangevale Rotarians are busy soliciting sponsors and a variety of silent and live auction items and raffle prizes. The generously donated items and sponsorships provide funding for many important community projects and programs to benefit local schools. The recent garden/patio project at the Orangevale Food Bank, the ongoing financial support of the Orangevale Library, Christmas

baskets for needy local families – all are made possible by the community's support of this important fundraiser.

Did you know that over 2/3's of Orangevale Rotary's budget is spent on local schools? Classroom grants, dictionaries for all 3rd graders, sponsorship of the Interact Clubs at both Casa Roble and Louis Pasteur Middle School, the Rotary Youth Exchange program, Senior scholarships at both Casa Roble and Bella Vista High Schools, the Rotary H.S. Speech Contest, the RYLA summer leadership camp. Yes, supporting schools, teachers and students in our community is a top priority for Orangevale Rotary!

Besides enjoying a delicious dinner and socializing with friends and neighbors, there are auction and raffle items to tempt you and hopefully bid on! A highlight of the evening is the exciting

live auction! Fox 40 Live morning show TV host, Paul Robbins, is once again returning to serve as our very lively auctioneer. A 7-day cruise for two with Holland America, a weekend for two at Seascope at Monterey Bay, a round of golf for a foursome (including carts) at Northridge Country Club, a gourmet dinner for eight with wine pairing – are but a sampling of the many valuable prizes to be won.

We hope you will join us for this very entertaining evening that funds so many important projects and programs in the community. Tickets are available for \$40 from Orangevale Rotarians and at Orangevale Copy, 9267 Greenback Lane. Contact Michelle at Orangevale Copy if you wish to reserve a table and/or donate an auction item and sponsorship. (987-1090) ★

Local Dutch Bros. Coffee locations raise \$8,580 for the annual "Buck for Kids Day"

FAIR OAKS, CA (MPG) - Sacramento-area Dutch Bros. Coffee locations and community members banded together to raise \$8,580 on Friday, Dec. 6, for the annual Buck for Kids Day.

To raise funds, all eight locations donated \$1 from every drink sold to the cause.

Last year's Buck for Kids Day raised \$3,631 locally and \$139,000 for children's causes company-wide.

"We are so appreciative of our amazing customers and the Getty Owl Foundation," said Citrus Heights owner-operators Steve and Nikol Grubbs. "Thank

you for participating in Buck for Kids."

"We are blown away by the generosity of our customers," said Rocklin owner-operators Jeremy and Heather Mauel. "Because of them, they've helped make the holidays brighter for our local youth that are in need of the basic necessities we often take for granted."

Buck for Kids Day is an annual event in which all 213 Dutch Bros. Coffee locations in seven states donate drink proceeds to youth programs selected by local owner-operators.

Fair Oaks, Sacramento, and

Citrus Heights locations, owned by Steve and Nikol Grubbs, donated to the Getty Owl Foundation.

Auburn and Rocklin locations, owned by Jeremy and Heather Mauel, donated to the local Shop With a Cop program.

Woodland and Davis locations, owned by Sean and Lynsey Provost, donated to the Calvary Youth Project.

Company-wide, Dutch Bros. Coffee donates over \$1 million every year to nonprofit organizations and causes, in an effort to achieve its goal of, "Making a difference, one cup at a time." ★

SMUD Approves 2014 Budget

Continued from Page 1

SMUD customers continue to pay significantly less for electricity than most Californians and as of January 2014, about 35 percent less than residential customers who are supplied by neighboring PG&E. As the nation's sixth largest community-owned electric

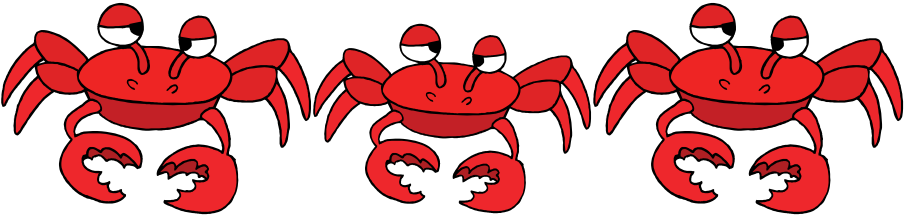
service provider, SMUD has been providing low-cost, reliable electricity for more than 67 years to Sacramento County (and a small portion of Placer County).

SMUD is a recognized industry leader and award winner for its innovative energy efficiency programs, renewable power technologies, and

for its sustainable solutions for a healthier environment. SMUD is the first large California utility to receive more than 20 percent of its energy from renewable resources. For more information, visit smud.org. ★

Source: SMUD Newsroom

All You Can Eat Crab Feed



February 1st
5 PM - No Host Bar • 6 PM - Dinner
Pre-Pay by Dec. 31st - \$40.00
After Dec. 31st - \$43.00

Open to the Public
VFW Center Township Post 6158
8990 Kruitof Way, Fair Oaks, CA 95628
Phone 916-966-1663

Winter 2013 - Pothole Sweeps Week

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Department of Transportation (SACDOT) has started up "Winter 2013 - Pothole Sweeps Week," which is an intensified effort to identify and repair potholes, and is part of continuous efforts to improve preventative maintenance activities for unincorporated area roadways. Pothole sweeps are performed twice each year: in late Spring to repair potholes caused by inclement weather; and, in early winter to ready road surfaces for the storm season.

Residents are encouraged to contact SACDOT concerning potholes on neighborhood streets. Pothole locations can be called into Customer Service at (916) 875-5171, or emailed to www.sacdot.com: Report a Problem. This County-wide effort began in the Arden Arcade community — which is the center of our service area — and will continue through the remainder of the unincorporated area.

There are over 5,200 lane miles of paved roadways in the County unincorporated area and

it's inevitable that somewhere in this large area of streets there will be potholes. SACDOT's policy is to: "Repair all potholes as soon as possible." The Pothole Sweeps Week program enhances ongoing pavement maintenance activities, which include SACDOT crews who are sent into the field Monday through Friday each week to specifically repair potholes. ★

Contact: Dan Regan Email: Regand@saccounty.net Phone: 916-874-7056

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Fair Oaks Plaza Park Farmers Market

7003 Park Drive, Fair Oaks (Old Fair Oaks Village)

Every Wednesday from 3 to 7 pm (Seasonal, through October 31st)

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

SATURDAY

Historic Folsom Farmers Market

915 Sutter Street, Historic Folsom Public Plaza, Folsom

Every Saturday from 8 am to 1 pm - all year round



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