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AMERICAN RIVER MESSENGER

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First Edition for May 2013

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California Can't Tax itself Into Prosperity



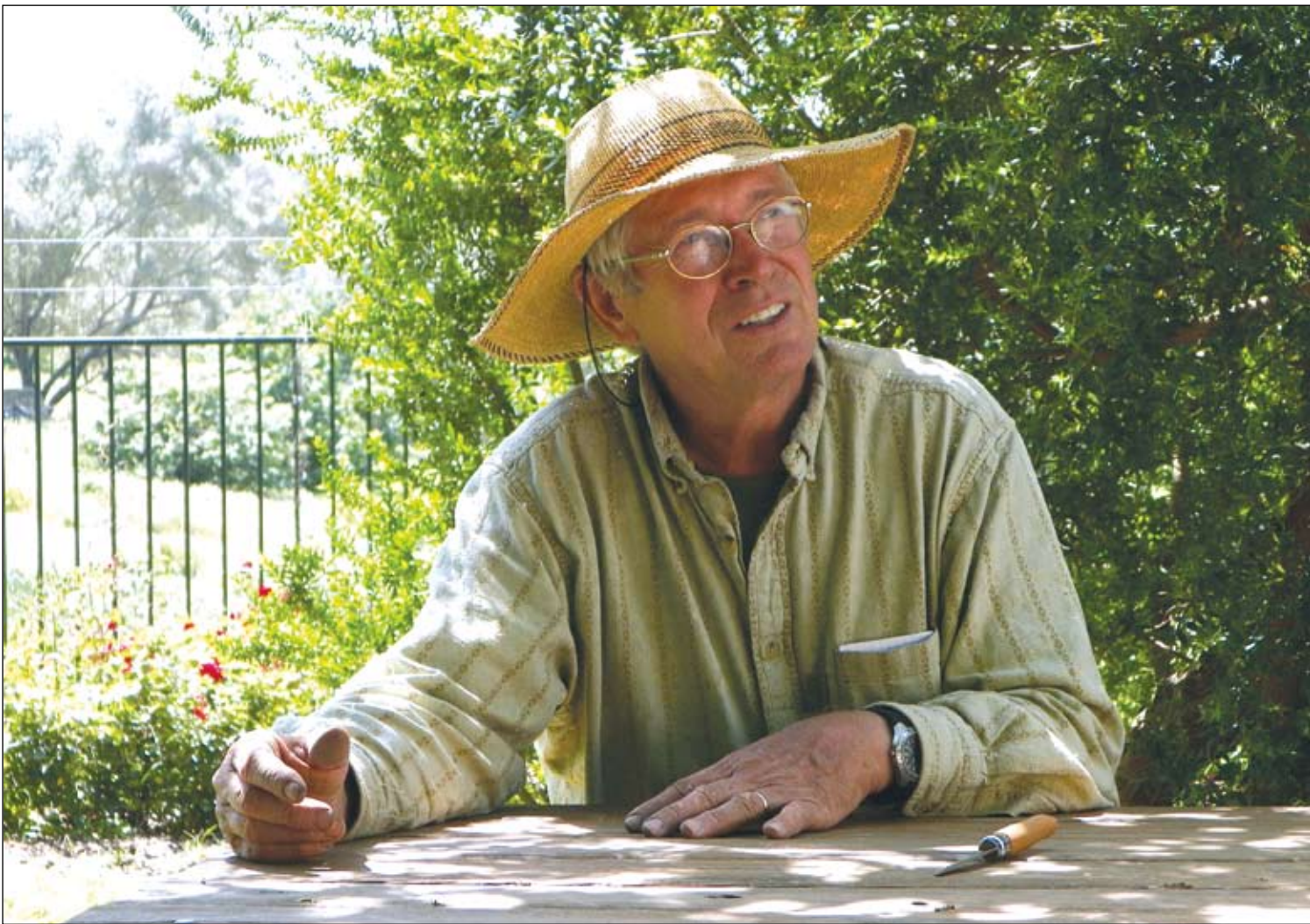
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A Mother's Love Raises One Big Happy Family



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A Garden of Eden in Fair Oaks



Harald Hoven, Director of Rudolph Steiner College's Biodynamic Gardening Program. Photo by Bruce Duncan

By Wendla McGovern-Duncan

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA- (MPG) Vehicles rush by Rudolf Steiner College on Fair Oaks Boulevard everyday, bypassing one of the most vibrant and serene gardens in our area, the Raphael Biodynamic Garden. "We want to be part of the community, so the public is welcomed here – just for the

joy of being here," says Harald Hoven, the garden's director. "We are an valuable community resource, but so few people know about us."

This vigorously productive garden is a must for garden lovers, locavores (people who eat food grown locally), and gardeners who want to learn more about biodynamic gardening through volunteering at the garden or taking workshops at the

college. The public can meander across the three acre garden and marvel at the thriving vegetables. Right now there are rows of leeks almost three feet tall, huge red and green lettuce heads, and deep green mustard and beet leaves. One acre is an orchard of pear, apple, and stone fruit trees. Visitors can relax near the cascading fountain and watch sheep graze on the hill across the way. The public

can contribute to the garden and their own health by signing up for boxes of produce on a weekly basis with a one year membership, to be picked up at the garden on Tuesdays and Fridays after 3 pm. Volunteers can help harvest and learn more about biodynamic gardening at the same time on Tuesdays from approximately 9 am-1 pm.

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Old Sacramento Underground Tour Guide Positions Open

Applications Also
Being Accepted for
Summer Volunteers

SACRAMENTO, CA – (MPG) Now in its fourth consecutive season, the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation (HOSF) is hiring a number of tour guides for its popular Old Sacramento Underground program. In addition to the paid tour guide job openings, a number of summertime volunteer opportunities are available as well.

HOSF is looking to fill between three to five paid tour guide positions to staff the coveted Old Sacramento Underground tours, which are already underway and will continue through 2013. The underground tour program takes visitors into the city's underground and hollow sidewalk areas created when the streets were raised in the 1860s and 1870s due to devastating floods.

In addition, applications are now being accepted for a number of volunteer positions for individuals interested in working as docents for underground tours, the fun and lively Time Travel Weekends street theatre activities (that resume in late June and continue through August), and for the signature Gold Rush Days community event (that happens over Labor Day weekend in Old Sacramento).

All available positions for the underground tours are part-time and include evening and weekend shifts.

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These Kids are not Throw-aways

By Julie Parker

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA- (MPG) Twenty-one years clean and sober, Greg Scott, Founder/CEO of Juveniles at Risk (JAR), tells kids, "If I can do it, so can you."

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Scott spent a few of his early years in Washington, D.C., where his father was involved in riots after Martin Luther King's assassination. "He came home with three pin-striped suits. It was my first experience of feeling ashamed of my father. It was looting because he was angry, but he still stole. As a child, I never felt right about that."

The family relocated to Oakland when he was ten. "I had my first experience with white people, not knowing how to integrate and process it. When I had my first joint at age 13, I thought, 'This is the solution to life.'"

In high school, he snorted cocaine, smoked weed, and took acid. "But, my grades were good, and I played sports."

He spent two years at Alameda Junior College in the era of social civil unrest. "How's an African-American make it in our society? A lot hasn't changed – it's about money.

"I got hold of rock cocaine, and for the next six years, I

was off and running, ending up homeless on the streets of Los Angeles, 5th and Main, which is as low as you can get. I was in 'cardboard city,' right next to the junkie who was shooting up cocaine, while I was smoking it.

The best I could do was panhandle on the streets."

Through support, he pulled himself up, and worked through the addictions. During the first ten years of sobriety, he worked various jobs, but felt something was

missing. "I didn't feel like I had any value. What really set me on the journey was listening to Deepak Chopra and Wayne Dyer."

While working as Director of Sales at the Sacramento Observer, he learned that 32%

of children were failing in the Sacramento area. "I did a little investigation, and discovered it was closer to 55%." He knew intuitively he could help, but wasn't sure how to go about it. When he learned that the percentage was actually 90%, he knew he had to act.

He approached the Sacramento Unified School District about creating a recovery program, who advised it would require a GED program inclusion. He presented his idea during a meeting at which he was the only African-American present. He suggested twenty kids to try the program.

"Their response was, 'I think we can find twenty of our throwaways.'"

JAR, a non-profit organization, began in 2002 at Lemon Hill. "The District put the kids program into an adult school."

The plan was for Scott to lecture the kids, motivate them to learn, and send them into the classroom. Unfortunately, the two union teachers assigned for the educational aspect of the program wanted no part of it, and immediately suspended six kids.

"I was able to convince those teachers to supervise me, so I could be the teacher and the program."

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Wells Fargo's Arts Investment Honors Armed Forces Veterans



L-R: Scott James, SVP Wells Fargo Advisers, Donald Kendrick, SCSO Artistic Director, James McCormick, SCSO President, David Galasso, Wells Fargo President, Northern & Central California. photo by Rick Cwynar VP, Marketing Manager at Wells Fargo

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA – (MPG) On behalf of Veterans young and old from all branches of the Armed Forces, the Sacramento Choral Society & Orchestra is proud to once again partner with Wells Fargo by accepting Wells Fargo's \$35,000 arts investment supporting the

SCSO's Lest We Forget - An Armed Forces Salute concert at the Sacramento Community Center Theater on Armed Forces day, May 18th at 8 PM. Wells Fargo, whose commitment to the military and veterans is both highly respected and valued nationwide, plans to

offer complimentary tickets to more than 200 veterans from all branches of the Armed Forces in our region for this event. This large-scale choral orchestral performance, conducted by Donald Kendrick, will celebrate peace, reconciliation, hope and community. "We all value the healing power of music," explains Kendrick. "Our veterans are selfless human beings committed to our freedom and maintaining world peace. It is the SCSO's privilege to once again partner with Wells Fargo to present meaningful music honoring our dedicated men and women in the Armed Forces." A pre-concert talk at 7:00 PM by Conductor Donald Kendrick will provide helpful insights into the music presented at the 8:00 PM performance. For tickets to the SCSO's Lest We Forget concert, please call the Sacramento Community Center Box Office: (916) 808-5181. For SCSO information, visit sacramentochoral.com or call (916) 536-9065.



By County Supervisor Susan Peters

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

SHERIFF SCOTT JONES TO SPEAK

Please join me 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 15, at my Fair Oaks Community Coffee Meeting featuring Sheriff Scott Jones as the guest speaker. This meeting will be held at the Fair Oaks Water District's conference room, 10326 Fair Oaks Blvd. near Winding Way, which is a different location than our usual gathering spot at Dianda's Italian Bakery and Café. The meeting starts sharply at 7:30 a.m. and I will give a brief update on Sacramento County activities then introduce Sheriff Jones followed by questions and answers.

FAIR OAKS COMMUNITY UPDATE

FAMILY FUN AT THE COUNTY FAIR

The 2013 Sacramento County Fair will be held May 23 - 27 at Cal Expo. Activities include a carnival, food, barn animals, music, and shopping. General Admission is only \$5. Children age 12 and under are admitted free. Separate special entertainment includes a demolition derby on Friday night, May 24, and the Stars and Stripes Invitational Bull Riding Event on Saturday night, May 25. For more information, please visit sacfair.com.

KIDS DON'T FLOAT

The warm weather is here and the Department of Regional Parks is anticipating a great summer of recreation on the American River. To help insure

youngsters enjoy the water safely, the American River Parkway Foundation is generously supporting the Department again by funding the life vests which are available at 7 sites along the American River for the 2013 Kids Don't Float Program. County ordinance makes it unlawful for parents or guardians to allow a child under the age of thirteen to enter the river in the unincorporated area as well as other public waterways without wearing a life jacket. Visit regionalparks.saccounty.net or call 875-6961 for more information about this program and vest locations.

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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Vets Helping Vets

By Connie Hall

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA- (MPG)Anyone who had traveled up and down Hazel Blvd. in the last 60 some years has probably seen the little wood sign, “VFW Post #6158”. The sign sits at the corner of Hazel Blvd. and a little street named Kruitof Way. I admittedly was one of those drivers who had seen the sign countless times before, but didn’t give it much thought after that.

I recently had the opportunity to visit the Post, meet some of the dedicated Veterans and was sincerely taken aback by all the



The outdoor memorial area located at the 8990 Kruitof Way VFW Post #6158. Photo by Connie Hall

things these tireless folks at the Post do for all Veterans of Foreign Wars.

As you turn onto Kruitof Way, you’ll pass an incredibly large and well-maintained dog park, as well as other large park areas for visitors of the two-legged variety. The road dead ends at the Post, at 8990 Kruitof Way.

The Post itself consists of a number of buildings and lots of parking. There is a beautiful and touching outdoor memorial area that is worthy of a visit. During a time of so much upheaval and uncertainty in our country and around the world, it bares worth remembering those soldiers who served and died in

the line of duty to protect our freedoms. I know that I came away with a renewed respect and gratitude to all those who have served us, including those fine men and women I met at the Post.

Kept aloft by fundraisers, donations and subsidies from larger Posts, this is not the place if you’re planning a swanky night out. It’s down-to-earth, and run by a dedicated group of volunteers, all former military, who work tirelessly to serve the Post and all Veterans who come to them seeking membership, camaraderie, social services and much more.

jukebox, fully-staffed and stocked bar, light meals and free popcorn. The Canteen is open daily from 11:00am until 9:00pm.

The Post also serves an inexpensive full dinner every Tuesday and Thursday evening and recently added Breakfast every other Saturday morning. There is also a very active Women’s Auxiliary who leads the way with many of the fundraising efforts, including a gigantic parking lot sale with space rental available to the public, each October.

Post #1658 isn’t however all about fun, events and food. These people are extremely dedicated to helping their fellow Veterans. While on a recent visit there, Tina Rooker, a tireless worker and Veteran herself, was intent on finding placement for two currently homeless Vets. Her dedication, and that of everyone I met, was first and foremost, to serve and help their fellow Vets.

The VFW Post in Fair Oaks serves as a great resource for our young men and women returning from current conflicts abroad; to many of the older members I met confined to wheelchairs and the use of walkers. Whether you are a local Veteran or know of one, they would be well-served by a visit to this Post.

If you’re interested in finding out more about the Post, including membership, RV and rental options, upcoming events, meals open to the public, or are a Veteran in need of assistance and services, please take a look at their web site at www.vfw6158.org. You can also call them at 916-966-1663.

Connie Hall is the owner of Hall Market Media, Inc. a Fair Oaks-based advertising agency, and a frequent contributor to the Messenger Newspaper Group.

Kids are not Throw-aways



JAR assists kids in earning their GED/high school diploma/proficiency exams, and teaches them about finances, their taxes, and saving money. Photo by Julie Parker

Continued from Page 1

That meant he needed to refresh his knowledge on all basic subjects.

“Some of my kids couldn’t read, and some of my kids were gifted. Some of them were getting beaten, all of them were smoking weed, and some had mental health issues.”

He obtained county funding to hire professional counselors.

JAR now operates in the Pocket area, but will be relocating to Power Inn Road.

The program works with ages 11 to 26. The kids are usually referred from schools. “It’s scary, because some 12-year-olds look like perfect backpack kids, and they’re smoking more weed than some of my 19-year-olds.

“They are with us during suspension time, so they aren’t sitting at home, doing absolutely nothing. We perform some one-on-one counseling, and then help them with their homework. When suspension ends, we offer an after-school program to help get their grades back up, and off alcohol and drugs, if they’re using.

“It can be a challenge living in our community. You go down four or five different streets, and you’re looking at four or five

different gangs. Around the 22nd or 23rd of each month, they’re running out of food. Every Friday, I provide a breakfast. I hope one day to be able to provide breakfast and lunch every day of the week. How do you study if you’re hungry?

“I could have 60 kids in a classroom, all different gangs, and could do a lecture, and no problem.” When City Hall informed him security was required, “I had fights every day, because I was telling them now that they were bad.”

Scott pays United Christian Center to transport the kids from and to JAR. “With this ‘limousine service’ the kids realize we’ll give them the best, if they’re willing to do the work.”

JAR assists kids in earning their GED/high school diploma/proficiency exams, and teaches them about finances, their taxes, and saving money.

Once-a-month, his kids will participate in Mayor Kevin Johnson’s Indivisible Group, where they can meet with professionals in the community.

“I gone too far to stop now.”

Scott’s wish list:

- “I want to become a charter school. Nobody wants these

kids. The charter needs to be written by a professional.”

- Two 12-passenger vans which could be driven by one of the kids (after receiving a commercial B license), providing the kids gainful employment.

- A tutoring program staffed by volunteers, such as retired teachers.

- Twenty computers, printers, and an IT person.

- New furniture, instead of used, for the new location. “I want them to feel they’re worthy.”

- Instructors for art and music classes, and possibly a recording studio, which would be motivating. “You can’t go into the studio until you do your work.”

- Financial donations. Limited county funding only covers counselors and the facility The rest comes out of Scott’s pocket, such as the \$45 GED fee for each student.

“These are amazing kids. I really saw the heart of my kids after Katrina. They asked, ‘Mr. Scott, how can we help?’”

If you are interested in donating or learning more about JAR, visit <http://www.jarissuccess.org/> or call (916) 541-3579.

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By Pastor Ray Dare

"We aren't saved from sin's grasp by knowing the commandments of God because we can't and don't keep them, but God put into effect a different plan to save us." Romans 8:3 (LB). The hardest person to reach with the gospel is the religious person. They try to work their way to Heaven and they're trusting their religion to save them. All throughout the New Testament, Paul points out that you can be religious and lost. You can be a church member and still not go to Heaven. What makes you a child of God? Who is a Christian? Who is saved? It's not necessarily somebody who has been confirmed, baptized, taken the Lord's Supper, joined the church, kept the Ten Commandments. It is faith in Christ. The Bible compares religion with a relationship. That's what Jesus offers; a personal relationship with God. We don't need any more religious people. Religion has never saved anybody. No matter what

Why Religion Can't Save You

religion it is: Catholic, Protestant, Jew, Hindu, Mormon. Religion has never saved anybody. Many times what religion does is stifle the humanity of people. It keeps them from being creative. It keeps them bound emotionally, spiritually, socially, relationally; in every area of life. They get so many rules, regulations, rituals placed on them that aren't even in the Bible. Charles Swindoll says, "Religion is a curse, not a cure."

As you study the life of Christ, you'll notice that Jesus has nothing to do with religion except that He's against it. Jesus taught that religion would never get people to Heaven. He taught it's a relationship with God that gets you to Heaven not any religion. The religious people of Jesus' day felt very secure. They thought, "We can't do anything wrong. We have this religion." But as you study the Scriptures you find that God often bypasses a religious establishment to get His message across. When God wanted to announce Jesus' birth did He go tell the priests? No. Who did He first appear to? Shepherds. The low life of society. He bypassed the high priests, the rabbis, the teachers, the denominational groups. When God wanted to get the message out, "The word of God came to John the Baptist." Who was John the Baptist?

A nobody. He wasn't part of the religious establishment. Religion is a turn off, but I have discovered that people are not offended by genuine, sincere witnessing. It's not people who really care and share their faith in an honest way that turns people off. It's the high powered phonies and hypocrites — religious people — that turn people off. What they don't want is some religious person to cram a religion down their throat. One of the things we try to do on Sunday morning is we try to have a worship service without all the religious trappings. One of my desires as a pastor is I want to teach people how to be Christians without being religious. That's one of the deep desires of my heart — how to be a believer, turned on, loving Christ, Spirit filled, without being a kook. If you're looking for a church that will teach you how to be "pious" you've got the wrong place. But if you want to live free and fully alive as Jesus taught we could live, then this is the place for you.

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California Can't Tax Itself to Prosperity



Commentary
By George Runner

Last year California voters approved two tax increases aimed at bringing billions more dollars into state coffers. But that hasn't stopped revenue-hungry lawmakers in the Legislature from seeking further tax hikes. It's almost as if they think we can tax ourselves into prosperity.

A recent example of this type of confused thinking is the oil severance tax. Like a bad penny, this tired old idea keeps turning up at the Capitol year after year, despite being rejected by voters in 2006.

A severance tax is simply a fancy name for taxing something when it comes out of the ground—in this case, oil. Proponents of the tax argue that California is giving oil companies a free ride. In her release announcing Senate Bill 241, Senator Noreen Evans claims—falsely—that “California is the largest—and only—oil producing state in the nation that does not tax its vast oil resources.”

The truth is California already has a statewide severance tax that funds state oil and gas regulators. We also tax oil companies

in many other ways. These taxes includes property taxes assessed on oil in the ground, local extraction taxes, plus California's sky-high sales and corporate taxes.

A 2008 study by José Luis Alberro and William Hamm found that “the tax burden California imposes on oil companies is average when compared to the tax burden imposed by other oil producing states.” According to the study's authors, a 9.9% severance tax would make California's tax burden far higher than these other states, reduce oil production, increase our reliance on foreign oil, raise gas prices and eliminate nearly 10,000 California jobs.

Clearly, taxing oil won't create prosperity for our state.

There is a path to greater prosperity that would create more jobs, lower gas prices and economic growth with no new taxes. But to take this path, we'll need more domestic oil production, not less.

A recent study by the University of Southern California explored the impact of using advanced oil-extraction technologies to access California's vast oil reserves.

The study's authors project that developing these oil reserves could add up to 2.8 million new jobs to California's economy, bolster the state's economic growth up to 14.3% and increase personal incomes by up to 10%. State and local government revenue could grow by as much as \$24.6 billion—without a tax increase.

California's oil reserves are located in the Monterey Shale Formation, much of which lies beneath California's Central Valley. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the

formation holds more than 15 billion barrels of oil—about two thirds of the nation's shale oil reserves.

Hydraulic fracturing for oil, a practice that has been widely used and carefully regulated by states since the 1940s, has been increasingly used by the industry. Through advances in ‘fracking’ technology, including the use of concrete barriers to ensure that the upward-moving oil remains contained within the well, California is well-positioned to safely and wisely access what is literally a new untapped resource.

California's unemployment rate of 9.6% is tied with Mississippi and Nevada as the highest in the nation. In contrast, oil-producing North Dakota boasts the nation's lowest unemployment rate of just 3.3%.

California's Central Valley, where double digit unemployment rates still linger, would benefit most from a California oil boom. Of course, any new oil production must be done safely and in an environmentally responsible manner.

But we won't ever reach economic prosperity if we block it from happening. The quickest way to do that is by enacting an oil severance tax. Let's keep energy jobs in our state by stopping the severance tax. It's the least we can do for our current energy industry workers and the many more who may soon join them.

George Runner represents more than nine million Californians as a taxpayer advocate and elected member of the State Board of Equalization. For more information, visit boe.ca.gov/Runner.

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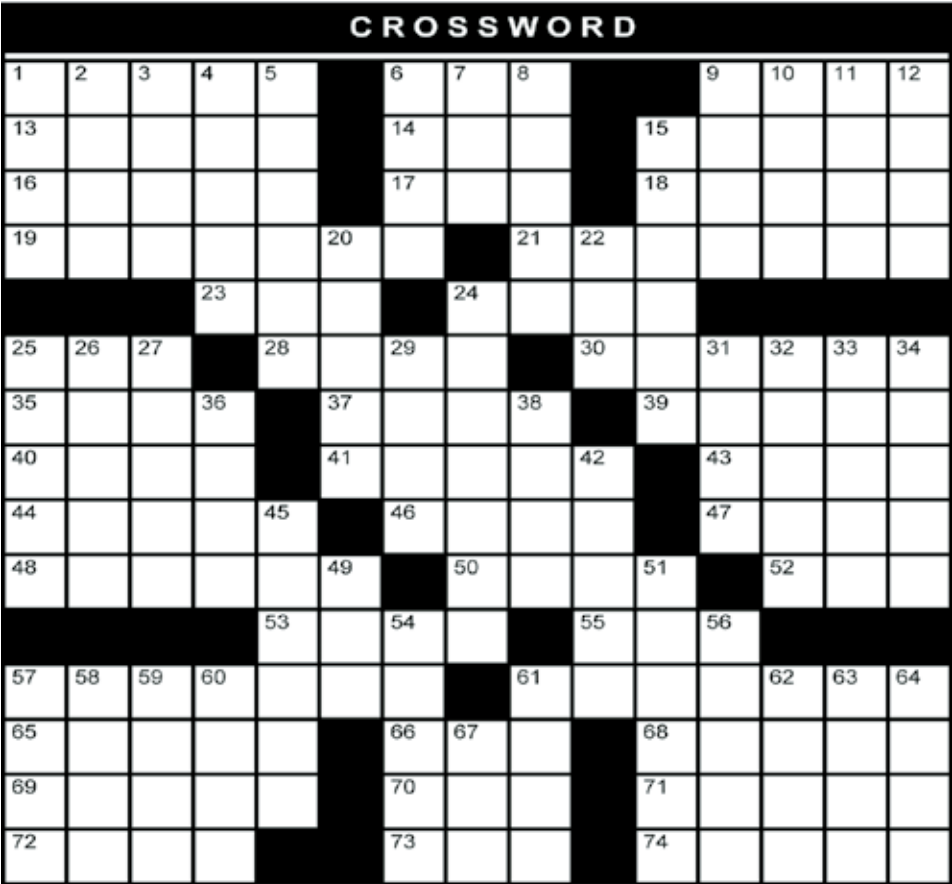
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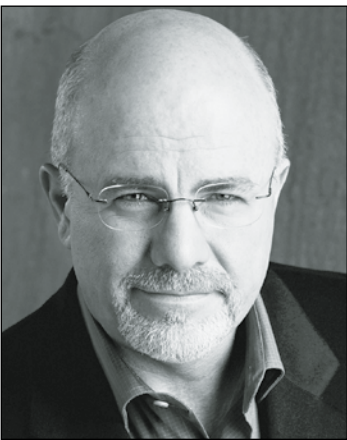
- ACROSS

 - 1. Between streets
 - 6. Acorn producer
 - 9. Dwelling choice
 - 13. Garlicky mayonnaise
 - 14. Club ____
 - 15. Henry, Mary or Elizabeth
 - 16. *Amsterdam's Anne Frank House is where she hid from them
 - 17. Pilot's announcement, acr.
 - 18. Do penance
 - 19. *Red Square attraction
 - 21. *Lady ____
 - 23. Always, in verse
 - 24. Greek personification of Earth
 - 25. Body, slang
 - 28. Medicine bottle
 - 30. Enter uninvited
 - 35. Augments or increases, often precedes "out"
 - 37. Pig trough contents
 - 39. 1/100 of a rial
 - 40. *Italy's Mount Vesuvius is scarred by it
 - 41. Equestrian's attire
- 43. Eye affliction
 - 44. ____ Wars between China and England
 - 46. Con
 - 47. Capital of Ukraine
 - 48. Gary Coleman: "What you talking 'bout ____?"
 - 50. Mary had a little one
 - 52. "Big Island" flower necklace
 - 53. Calcium oxide
 - 55. Napoleon of "Animal Farm"
 - 57. * ____ Chapel
 - 61. Trendy
 - 65. Accustom
 - 66. Female gametes
 - 68. All plant and animal life of a region
 - 69. Farewell remark in France
 - 70. *Fort Sumter, where the Civil one began
 - 71. To impede or bar
 - 72. Tiny piece of anything
 - 73. Home for #55 Across
 - 74. Kind of tides
- DOWN

 - 1. ____ shot in basketball
 - 2. Yarn spinner
 - 3. Exude
 - 4. Frigid, torrid or temperate one
 - 5. Hanukkah month
 - 6. Inviting sign
 - 7. *The Louvre in Paris has a lot of it
 - 8. Bear Down Under
 - 9. Mandolin's cousin
 - 10. Carbon monoxide lacks this
 - 11. Arial, e.g.
 - 12. 3-pointer in basketball
 - 15. Over-armor tunic
 - 20. *Like Blarney Stone at Blarney Castle
 - 22. Junior's junior
 - 24. A small round drop
 - 25. Under
 - 26. Giraffe-like African animal
 - 27. Prince of Darkness
 - 29. Winglike
 - 31. Classic board game
 - 32. Justin Timberlake's
- " ____ the End of Time"

 - 33. The one who the check is made out to
 - 34. **Three Coins in the Fountain" fountain
 - 36. First king of Israelites
 - 38. *Site of Leaning Tower
 - 42. Allegro or lento
 - 45. Environs
 - 49. Break a commandment
 - 51. *Big clock
 - 54. Cat sounds
 - 56. Sheep's clothing to wolf
 - 57. Thailand, once
 - 58. ____-European language
 - 59. Executive, slang
 - 60. Tire swing prop
 - 61. Deviate
 - 62. I, to a Greek
 - 63. Octagonal sign
 - 64. Chance occurrences
 - 67. Giant pot

For Solution See Page 7



Dave Ramsey is America's most trusted voice on money and business. He's authored four New York Times best-selling books: Financial Peace, More Than Enough, The Total Money Makeover and EntreLeadership. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 5,000,000 listeners each week on more than 500 radio stations. Follow Dave on Twitter at @DaveRamsey and on the web at daveramsey.com.

Essential Expenses

Dear Dave,
I'm following your plan, and currently I have \$14,000 in my emergency fund. What are essentials for three to six months of expenses?

- Brian
Dear Brian,
Basically, you should ask yourself this question: *What would it take to operate my household for a month?* There are several different things that could be classified as "essentials," but if you take those things and multiply the number by three, four, five or six, you'll see how much money you need to have a fully loaded emergency fund of three to six months of expenses. This is Baby Step 3 in my plan.

Some people get really technical about exactly how many months of expenses they need to save in this range. And that's okay. You can take a little time to evaluate things before moving on to Baby Step 4, which is investing 15 percent of your household income into Roth IRAs and other pre-tax retirement plans.
Believe me, it's a great feeling to have a big pile of cash sitting there just for a rainy day. You don't want to go nuts and make it so big that you sacrifice retirement or other important aspects of your life, but after a point

Dave Says

you shouldn't be too concerned whether you have three months or six months of expenses—or somewhere in between—saved just for emergencies.
Having a nice emergency fund, along with no debt, creates a wonderful sense of financial peace!
- Dave
She Stole His Identity
Dear Dave,
If a wife takes out a credit card in her husband's name without his knowledge, and they get divorced, can the husband claim identity theft?
- Nancy
Occasionally, the title company would require his wife's signature, and he would sign her name on the papers himself. Sometimes he signed her name after calling her up and explaining what was happening, and she was okay with the situation. Then, he signed some papers she didn't know about, and it came back to bite him. He was charged with criminal fraud!
You cannot legally sign your spouse's name without first having power of attorney privileges. If you do, it's called identity theft. It's a crime anytime you lie to get money.
- Dave

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

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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.

Come back every week for Sudoku!

For Solution See Page 7.

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 6

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

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By Ronnie McBrayer

Years ago my oldest son asked me a question: “What is a saint?” When you’re driving along with a numb mind at day’s end, as I was, that’s not the type of question you are prepared to answer. So I splattered out, “A saint is someone who does what God wants them to do.” My son answered, “If that’s a saint, then why did New Orleans choose that as their football mascot?” I didn’t have an answer for that question either.

What is a saint? Well, we often think of saints as being holy or remarkable people who did something extraordinary for God. We think of people we know personally who have influenced us: A grandmother, parent, or mentor whom we easily refer to as saints. Or we think of some poor lady with a worthless husband and an impossible life. She never loses her patience or resolve, so behind her back we talk about how great her reward in heaven will be, and we call her a saint.

Thomas Merton, a saintly person in his own right, said: “A saint is not someone who is good. It is someone who has experienced the goodness of God.” Going with Merton’s thought, saints are those have come to know deep, abiding grace. Saints understand that their failures and shortcomings do not disqualify them from receiving God’s love. Saints have learned that their

A Saint Goes Marching In

grotesque, self-inflicted wounds, rather than alienating God, bring the divine to bear in their lives in unique and powerful ways.

Extraordinary. Influential. Determined. Fallible and damaged. If these are the characteristics of sainthood, then a true saint left the world in recent days: The writer, priest, preacher, alcoholic, divorcee, and all-round self-proclaimed “ragamuffin” known as Brennan Manning.

As a young man Brennan entered the seminary and was ordained to the Franciscan priesthood. He would go on to become a theologian, a campus minister, a spiritual director, the author of nearly two dozen books (his “Ragamuffin Gospel” should be required religious reading), and a practitioner in the way of Jesus, living among the poor as a mason’s assistant, a dishwasher, a voluntary prisoner, and a shrimper.

Of course, if Manning’s story and life ended there, there would be little doubt about his sainthood. Teaching theology, working among the pitiable and overlooked, self-imprisonment (though innocent) in order to minister to convicts, living among the rough and tumble fisherman of the Gulf Coast – who could be more like Jesus?

But Manning’s ministry and life disintegrated into horrific alcoholism. He was homeless and busted, living on a quart of vodka a day, when he finally entered treatment. It took him months to get sober, but he did, only to relapse. When sober again he began writing in earnest, left the priesthood, married

Rosalyn, and moved to New Orleans (he was an avid Saints fan), where his marriage would end in divorce, and again he would land in rehab.

Manning says that the greatest regret of his life is not his relapses into alcoholism. His greatest regret is “The time I’ve wasted in shame, guilt, remorse, and self-condemnation...I’m not speaking about the appropriate guilt one ought to feel after committing a sin. I’m talking about wallowing in guilt, almost indulging in it, which is basically a kind of idolatry where I am the center of my focus and concern.”

He went on to say, “I can waste no more time being shocked or horrified that I have failed. There’s nothing else I can do now but help sinners journey from self-hatred to God’s love, and to help people see that if God ceased to love, God would cease to be God.”

This blessed, bumbling drunk; this muddled mix of failure and faithfulness; this holy, blue-eyed and blue-jean-wearing champion of grace did exactly that for untold thousands – he helped them find the love of God in spite of personal shame. And while I only knew him through his words, he did the same for me. So from one ragamuffin to another, “Thank you, Brennan. A saint truly is marching in.”

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

Why Can’t We Just Have Fun?

By Rev. James L. Snyder, D. Litt

—The great pastime of America throughout the years has been sports. Americans have been ingenious in turning something simple into a sport for everyone to enjoy. I must say I have enjoyed my share of sports.

When younger, I was a baseball fan. I went to as many games as possible. The Stadium in Baltimore Maryland was just a few minutes from my house so I could visit it often, and I often did. I did not really care who won the game as long as it was a good game played, not to mention the hotdogs.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage accused me of going to ball games just to eat hotdogs. Whenever I would return from a ballgame the first question would be, not who won the game but, “How many hotdogs did you eat?”

If the truth was known, and you will not get it from me, many a hotdog sacrificed itself at a ballgame. After all, when you are watching a ballgame, who has time to keep track of how many hotdogs you are eating?

I did have a moment of anxiety once when my wife threatened to weigh me before the game and then weigh me after the game to see if I had eaten too many hotdogs. When she first mentioned it I laughed, but I noticed she was not laughing, which caused me some deep concern.

Fortunately, for me it never got to that but came perilously close.

Nothing is more relaxing on a Saturday afternoon than sitting in a ballpark watching a ballgame in progress. Somehow, all the cares of the world seem to flutter away while watching the game.

It all ended for me one summer.

I had come into the house from some chore and my wife greeted me by saying, “Do you know

your ball team is on strike?”

I looked at her, laughed and said, “I know. They get three strikes and then they’re out. That’s the way they play the game.” I winked at her and laughed good-naturedly. “Finally,” I said to her, “you’re coming to understand what the game is all about.”

“No, you don’t understand. Your team is on strike.”

“I get you, and this Saturday I’m going to go and watch them strike again.”

It took me a while but finally my wife got through the thickness of my skull and got me to understand the strike she was talking about was not the strike I was talking about. It is always nice when people are on the same page.

In a marriage situation, the biggest challenge a couple has is staying on the same page. Even though the husband and wife might be reading the same book, for some reason wives have the ability to read three or four chapters ahead. When a husband tries to correct her she impatiently says, “We were on that page last week. Try to keep up.”

Try as we might, it is a rare husband who can keep up. But we try.

When I got up to the same page as my wife about the baseball team on strike, I was feeling rather low. “What do you think about your baseball game now,” she taunted.

As it turned out, the baseball team was actually out on strike and if I remember correctly, we missed the whole season that year. They were on strike for, you will never guess, more money.

Up to that point, I thought the players played because they loved the game. Boy was I on the wrong page with that. I went to games because I love the game and it did not matter to me who won or lost as long as it was a good game.

Now, to find out that my heroes, if you can call them such, were primarily interested in money was disheartening. I have never been able to watch a game since with the same excitement I did before.

Why can’t we just have fun? Why does life have to be such a battle? Why can’t we have a baseball game just for the fun of it?

Recently, I attended a baseball game at the local high school. I thought I would just go and enjoy the game. I did not know any of the players; I just wanted to enjoy the game.

Then I met an unfamiliar phenomenon of high school baseball. Parents of baseball players!

The game started as normal but soon the air exploded with shouting and yelling in the stands. I did not quite understand what all the noise was about at the time. Two women, imagine that, got in a fistfight over the ballgame! They were mothers of two of the players on opposite teams.

That was just the beginning of the shouting and the yelling that afternoon. As I walked away, I sadly shook my head and said to myself, “Why can’t we just have fun?”

I believe the Preacher in the book of Ecclesiastes explains it well. “I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit” (Ecclesiastes 1:14 KJV).

Some are so caught up in the vanity and vexations of life that they never know what it is like to just enjoy life. Why can’t we just have a little bit of fun?

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. His web site is www.jamesnsnyderministries.com.



By Marlys Norris, Christian Author

Throughout our lifetime every one from time to time makes huge mistakes in relationships. Most often what has been done or said has been an impulsive reaction to something. Numerous causes such as illness and stress can cause someone to react unfavorably. When this happens, how do we once again reestablish and reconcile ourselves with others and especially our relationship with God?

We must remember that unless we forgive others (and ourselves, for an unkind act) God holds us accountable and He is not pleased with us, therefore He withholds His forgiveness of us. It certainly would be terrible to enter heaven’s door without God’s forgiveness. God’s Holy Word states, “For if we forgive

Accept and Give the Pardon Freely

men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you forgive not, men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Mat. 6:14-15) Those words should cause us all to take proper action to correct our impulsive reaction and be restored into God’s unconditional love, grace and mercy...

One may never forget the incident but if they have been carrying a grudge against someone, wanting or planning to get even — Don’t!—Instead, confess the sinfulness right now and let God take care of it. After all, a lack of forgiveness is dishonoring the God one claims to be following. Let’s not be a hypocrite and be reunited and reconciled to God’s family. God’s instruction *for such a happening is “Vengeance is Mine (Let it be and God will take care of it); I will repay, said the Lord.” (Romans 12: 19)* His words indicate, “if” one chooses to let-go of the grudge and forgive God will teach them and He will take care of it the right way! Gods Holy Spirit has a special way of helping all of His

children to find a deeper meaning to everything.

God does give second chances — but one will never hear Him ever say “I forgive but!” The “but” indicates to the other person, that there is not a sincere forgiving action involved in one’s efforts to make things right again. He expects the same “unconditional love” to be exemplified from us when we have developed the character of His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. .

Living in right relationship with God, our Heavenly Father means we forget about our self pride and any discomfort to do the right thing. If we claim to love and appreciate Him our relationship is much more important than anything that took place! The Holy Bible tells us to be reconciled to all men/women, therefore we cannot just ignore the incident, and with God’s direction we must take action.

Marlys Johnsen Norris Award Winning Christian Author/Speaker Contact: Marlysjn@gmail.com



By Karen Anderson

It is a wonder to me (and we all do this) how the plans are all made for the day. You have everything all mapped out, then at the end of the day you wonder why nothing worked out as you planned. Do you know why that is? You missed a very important element...God. It is more than just bringing God into your day. It’s that you made the plans without Him and asked Him to agree with you. When you think about this, it is really foolish because God knows so much more than you do. I sometimes wonder what God must think when plans are made without Him and then we just want His approval. How silly is that?

You’re God’s, Period

In my own life, I can just see Him smiling, knowing what is waiting for me around the bends of my day. It’s not what He wanted for me, but in my arrogant attitude that I know what is best for me, I blow it every time. He is always right, that unexpected bend in the road was hiding something totally unexpected that I didn’t see it coming and it swamps me. God knows best and if I had followed His lead and asked for His direction I probably would have avoided it. You know that the obstacles are what the enemy is throwing out there to trip me up and he does his job very well. I have the bumps and scrapes to prove it. Sometimes my problem is that I still don’t see it when I pick myself back up. I wonder why everything went wrong and start complaining to God that He wasn’t there when I needed Him.

I know deep down that God cares for me but this would sometimes make me question Him. Was I simply one of the masses and He just didn’t have time for me? What a silly thought! The problem was and

sometimes still is that I need to ask what He wants for me. Then, I need to be willing to follow His direction. The Word says, “*I’m single-minded in pursuit of you; don’t let me miss the road signs you’ve posted.*”

I can tell you from personal experience, if you will open your heart and mind to God, life will be better. It isn’t an easy road, but you have a brilliant spotlight showing you the path. Listen and follow Him and your day will go smoother and you won’t be tripped up by Satan himself. God’s light has illuminated the enemy himself so you will see him.

PASSAGE: Psalm 119:10 (The Message)

Karen Anderson is an accomplished speaker, author, and chaplain. Women’s Retreat planned for March 2014 at www.renewingyourspiritretreat.com. Receive a copy of her latest book, “Nikki’s Tail-Waggin’ Lessons” and “The Little Book of BIG Thoughts” series. Leave a message or questions for Karen through her website www.doablesteps.com/contact.

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POPPOFF! Public Safety Forum Held

with Mary Jane Popp

- 1) *Freeze edible flowers in ice cube trays.* Fill each cube half-way with water, place flowers and freeze. Then fill each to the top and freeze. It'll warm her heart.
- 2) *Plant your favorite bedding plant in a small basket.* Tie on a gift tag with a checkered ribbon.
- 3) *Bake bread in flower-shaped tubes.*
- 4) *Surprise Mom with a quiet retreat in her own bathroom.* Make sure it's clean first. Bring in scented candle, flowers, new magazine or book, a cold drink, and a portable stereo with soothing music. The most important part would be a sign on the door reading "JUST FOR MOM...PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB!"
- 2) **Super Moisturizing Massage Oil.**
You will need: ½ cup sweet almond oil
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3-5 drops essential oil of your choice (either one or a combination)
Mix all together. Store in cool dry place. Shelf Life: 3-6 months
- 3) **All-in-one Linen and Sweater Protector And Cedar Chest Revitalizer.**
You will need:
1 cup white rice
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Add essential oil to the rice and blend with spoon about 30 seconds. Shelf Life: Approximately 6-8 months (then can be re-fra-granced again).

MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL

How can you show **MOM** you really care on her special day? You can do the usual...flowers, candy, brunch etc. Wait a minute! What did Mom do for you when you were growing up? Remember the time she held your hand when you missed that home run pitch? And the time she kissed that boo-boo after you toppled off your bike? Or the time she stayed up all night to help mend that broken heart?

It's not how much you spend for Mom on any day. It's more like doing something from hand and heart that will leave an impression she'll long remember. Easier said than done? Not really. I checked out a couple of sources and jotted down a few ideas that will make you her kid hero all year 'round!

From **Susan Stone's** Book *"Memories In Moments"*...cherished ideas for every holiday and season including Mother's Day come:

Then I turned to Casey Kellar for some wonderful tips to complete the picture from one of her books "The Good Earth Bath, Beauty, And Health Book" with more than 75 easy-to-make formulas for self-pampering and gift-giving like:

- 1) **Luxurious Scented Bath Oil.**
You Will Need:
½ Cup apricot kernel oil
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one 400 unit Vitamin E capsule (pierce it with a needle and squeeze oil into mix)
3-6 drops essential oil (your choice)
Mix all together. Use 1 tablespoon per bath. Store in bottle in cool place. Shelf life:4-8 months.

Remember, the best gift you can give your Mother is love. Spend time with Mom. Let her know you care. There will come a day when she is gone, and you don't want to be saying...if only! I know. My mom is gone now, but her memories will always be in my heart. I know they will be in yours too. Happy mother's Day in the sweetest way...giving of yourself!

Join Mary Jane for the *KAHI Noon News Monday-Friday and then again for POPPOFF 10 PM – Midnight.*



Senator Jim Nielson (center) sponsored a public safety forum in Carmichael. Fellow speakers were County Supervisor Susan Peters (left), District Attorney Jan Scully, Sheriff Scott Jones, and Supervisor Roberta MacGlashan. Photo by Susan Skinner

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA – (MPG) Local residents gathered at Carmichael Park to hear state and local officials give them an update on the Governor's failed realignment program. State and local officials encouraged residents to report all criminal violations regardless the severity, and write letters to Governor Brown to express their thoughts on his prison realignment plan.

"Realignment is nothing more than a massive dump of state's problems onto the counties," said Senator Jim Nielsen (R-Gerber). "This plan shifts the state's financial problems onto the counties, and will bleed the counties dry when local officials will be forced to ask local voters to tax themselves."

Hosted by State Senator Jim Nielsen, the town hall with local elected officials informed residents of the impact of state programs on their county government.

District Attorney Jan Scully echoed the purpose of the forum, "It is not our intent to spread fear about the state's prison realignment plan. Our goal is to inform the public about the facts of realignment and address resulting issues that are impacting public safety."

"The state's transfer of its prison plan will negatively impact Sacramento County's budget and divert general fund money to care for convicted criminals. Some of these funds would otherwise be spent on deputy patrol, parks, roads and

providing services to the residents of Sacramento County," said Susan Peters, Third District Supervisor.

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. As if that were not enough, counties have also been given responsibly for many of California's most violent felons when they violate parole after their release from state prison. These parole violators include rapists, child molesters and armed robbers.

Making matters worse, effective July 1 responsibility for most parole revocation hearings will shift from the state parole authority to county superior courts. This change will replace an administrative process conducted by a single hearing officer at a jail or prison into a judicial proceeding requiring a superior court judge, a district attorney, defense counsel, a bailiff, a courtroom clerk and one or more deputy sheriffs to transport the parolee.

Under realignment, the maximum penalty for parole violation has been reduced from 365 days in prison to 90 days in jail. These

new mini trials will prove infinitely more expensive and less effective than the administrative process they replace. In addition, by creating 58 new county parole authorities, realignment will tax the limited resources of county sheriffs and district attorneys, and divert the capacity of already depleted county courts struggling to keep courtrooms open and provide access to justice.

Scott Jones quoted Hellen Keller in advocating for individual involvement, and asked those in attendance to talk to their legislators and even the governor about their concerns and ideas.

"By the way, the quote was 'I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something.'"

"Residents should report any and all crimes that they see to the Sheriff's Department. It is important that Sheriff Jones and his department know where crimes are happening in our county, so that they can better identify trends and suspects," said County Supervisor Roberta MacGlashan, Fourth District Supervisor.

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.

Old Sacramento Underground Tour Guide Positions Open

Applications Also Being Accepted for Summer Volunteers

Continued from Page 1

Applicants with public speaking or theatrical experience, a background in history or prior tour guide experience are strongly encouraged to apply. Interested applicants can review job requirements and/or download an online application at www.historicoldsac.org and resumes can be sent to kmcalpin@cityof-sacaremtno.org. The deadline to submit applications is May

17. No phone calls please.

Both the Old Sacramento Underground tours and Time Travel Weekends street theatre program are offered by the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation in partnership with the City of Sacramento, California State Parks, Old Sacramento Business Association and participating merchants and businesses.

The Historic Old Sacramento Foundation (HOSF) is a 501(c)3

public benefit corporation. Old Sacramento is a living historic district. The mission of HOSF is to convey the importance of historic Sacramento as a place that connects our past to our present and future through engaging and entertaining events, activities and programs. More information is available at www.historicoldsac.org

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Rudolph Steiner’s Raphael Garden in Fair Oaks

Continued from Page 1

There are monthly gardening workshops most of the year. The next one, the “Weeklong Advanced Biodynamic Intensive,” is from June 12 – June 16. Hoven, who is one of the instructors of this class, stresses that students who haven’t taken other biodynamic gardening workshops would need to read recommended books on the subject before getting his permission to take this particular workshop. All of these books can be gotten at the college bookstore. Finally, the college offers four apprenticeships in biodynamic gardening for one to two years. This apprenticeship qualifies for certification through the

Steiner started the first organized organic agriculture,” says Hoven. “He lectured on organizing a farm or garden to become a self-regulating organism.”

Compost, including manure from the garden’s sheep pen, is infused with fermented herbs and silica and wood ash, adding micro-nutrients before it is worked into the soil. Cover crops such as buckwheat and oats are grown and then tilled in before they go to seed, adding organic matter. A spray of fermented stinging nettle leaves (which are high in calcium and other minerals) “strengthens vegetable plants, kicks off aphids, and reduces the stress of summer heat and dryness.” Flowers attract beneficial

of his years of experience in the field. He was an apprentice of biodynamic gardening for four years in Germany, where he was born. Biodynamic gardening is a popular form of agriculture in Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands, and has spread to many other countries worldwide. Hoven met his wife, Cynthia Hoven, an American citizen, while both were studying in Germany, and then they came to this country to work at a local medical center. She is an instructor of eurythmy (harmonious movement to music) at the college. “When this garden was first started our produce was sold to natural food stores and restaurants. Next, we tried a farmer’s

Within the last century 94% of open-pollinated vegetables and fruits in the United States had vanished. By 2005, the United Nations reported that 75% of the world’s garden vegetable varieties had been lost. Consequently, the garden’s most imperative goal is to preserve open-pollinated vegetable varieties. Saving and replanting seeds from the healthiest plants for years results in a selection of viable seeds that are adapted to a particular soil type and climate. According to Hoven, hybrid seeds are dead ends because the genes of two similar plants are crossed to obtain the best traits of both, but when seeds from these plants are planted the next generation is an unpredictable mix of good or bad traits. Unlike hybrids, seed from open-pollinated plant varieties can be saved to plant another year’s crop, provided sufficient isolation is ensured so they are not pollinated by another variety.

One vegetable Raphael Garden grows is Canasta, a Batavian (French Crisp) lettuce. Hoven has grown Canasta for 15 years, saving seed each year, so this variety has adapted quite well to the local climate and the garden’s soil. It is a slow-bolting, sweet red-and-green lettuce that can be grown in the summer. Some tomato varieties that thrive in this area are Black Cherry, Black Krim and Black Prince, as well as some striped ones such as Green Zebra, Ananas Noir (Pineapple Rainbow), Tigerella, and Persimmon, an orange tomato. Other seed varieties grown here include an early ripening watermelon named Sugar Baby, Red Kuri squash and Long Fall leeks. Packages of seed from the garden are sold at the college bookstore and are distributed nationwide by Turtle Tree Seed in Copake, New York. On May 19th, Hoven is teaching a mini-workshop on seed saving, tentatively scheduled for 11:30 am or after, at the Soil Born Farm’s “A Day At The Farm”



inside Raphael Garden’s greenhouse showing seedling flats. Photo by Bruce Duncan



Raphael Garden 3 ft. tall Leeks in the foreground. Photo by Bruce Duncan

North American Biodynamic Apprentice Program.

Rudolf Steiner was a visionary writer and lecturer who initiated the Waldorf School movement in Germany in 1919. Rudolf Steiner College at 9200 Fair Oaks Blvd. is one of the country’s leading centers for Waldorf teacher training. He also gave lectures that inspired the biodynamic gardening movement. “In 1924 Rudolf

insects that eat insect pests. Ducks are allowed to wander through the garden at times, controlling slugs and snails.

The Raphael Garden sprouted in 1987 after Rudolf Steiner College bought 10 acres of land to connect two other pieces of acreage. The college decided to start a biodynamic gardening department, and Hoven was chosen to become director because

market on campus. All these efforts didn’t support the garden,” states Hoven. “In 1991 we started Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), where each person or family bought a share of the operation so we could devote more time to improving the garden and our seed saving program. We have 70 families who are supporting us in this way.”

festival, located at 2140 Chase Drive in Rancho Cordova.

So next time don’t bypass this Garden of Eden. Stop by and

revel in Raphael Garden’s lush beauty and tranquility. It could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

Contact Info:
Raphael Garden/CSA - produce boxes - inquire about fees
(916) 966-0938
email: raphael.garden@steinercollege.edu

Rudolf Steiner College
Biodynamic Gardening Workshops/Apprenticeships
Raphael Garden Director/ Faculty Member
Harald Hoven
College General Info: 864-4864
<http://www.steinercollege.edu/biodynamics>

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A Mother’s Love Raises One Big Happy Family

By Paul V. Scholl

Nick, Tom, David, Dennis, Gerry, Regina, Lorna, Mary, Paul, Maggie and Don. Eleven children. Forty-plus grandchildren, and more great grandchildren I am still trying to count. Yes, Catholic.

Margaret G. Scholl was born in 1923.

Her mother died when she was 11, and her father passed the following year, of a broken heart. She was adopted within the family around Vallejo. The home she grew up in is now seen by passers by on I-80. That home still stands and serves as a mini-museum and office, having been recently restored by the new owners.

She had plans on becoming a nun. Then she met my dad!

Her brother “Uncle Jimmy” and sister “Aunt Lorraine” were such a big part of our family lives. Every year we rotated hosting our holiday dinners together. One would host Thanksgiving, the next Christmas. The following year someone else would take their turn. We shared big tables, kid’s tables, “performances” and lots of jokes and laughs.

We were raised at 445 Jefferson Street on the corner of Delaware. Built somewhere in the early 1880’s, my dad and mom bought it for around \$10,000. We lived there for 47 years.

Everybody came to our house. My mom made it so inviting and enjoyable, other kids wanted to come and stay over. There were times my dad thought she had adopted four or five kids when he wasn’t looking.

Our yard was surrounded by nearly a dozen fruit trees. Plum, cherry, apricot, lemon, pomegranate, walnut, and almond. Our team challenge was picking, cleaning and canning that fruit each summer. Later, the realization came it was for our survival.

Peanut butter and jelly, meatloaf, powdered milk, kool-aid, tuna casserole, chicken and dumplings, fruit pies, stew in the crock pot. Nobody was starving.

All homework had to be done at the kitchen table right after school, before any games were played or TV watched.

Our back yard was about the size of a small baseball diamond, with the two-story house in left field serving as our “Monster”. Anything hit off the house was a fair ball; over the house was a homerun. A family of pull-hitters. We played until mom yelled “dinner’s ready”. The next words were always “game over!”

Praying before every meal, we learned to appreciate the food, but more so my mom and dad’s hard work to make it possible.

No meat on Fridays? Those were the days. “But mom, can we still have your meatloaf? There’s hardly any meat in it!”

And then, there was the fine art of sneaking cookies from the cookie jar.

Mom wrote our chores on the black board in the kitchen. It was a long list, shared by everyone taking up a bed. She didn’t send us a text hoping someone would notice.

Every week we said the rosary together, on our knees, around the living room floor. It taught us prayer, discipline, and the understanding of pain and patience. It also taught us that prayer matters.

We learned things the right way. Everybody worked. “You don’t work, you don’t eat”. Respect. You DO NOT talk back to your parents. Take care of what you have. “Fix what you have before buying something new”. And, of course the one I heard often, “Wait until your father gets home!”

Getting kicked out of kindergarten, (I still say I was innocent) meant the long walk home holding my mom’s hand,



In 1965 we all gathered for our first, and only for twenty-one years, family photograph. We were never able to gather again all at the same time, although we did on some occasions, gather on the same day. This photograph has hung in our parent’s home all those years as a great reminder of who’s team we are on.

not knowing the discipline coming my way. Homeschooling the rest of the year meant a lot more chores as well.

We had the same yellow kitchen clock for over 35 years, hanging in exactly the same spot. I think it was the last thing to come down when the final moving was done.

We had one rotary dial telephone on the wall in the kitchen, and only a three foot cord. Privacy? Yeah, right.

Hand-me-downs included not only clothes, but cars for the older siblings and toys for the younger ones. I often wondered why so many parts or pieces were missing. I blamed China.

Shower calls daily were yelled; “Who’s using all the hot water!” I used to love turning on

as good as the pancakes, scrambled eggs and hot chocolate.

My mom had a great strategy for our visit to Disneyland – plaid shirts, all the same color. She figured were there were four or five kids all wearing the exact same outfit it would be easier to keep an eye on them. I think I wore those plaid shirts to school for about five years!

Halloween was always safe back then. We could go out for hours, collecting enough candy for a three month stupor. I am sure now that it helped keep us pre-occupied while mom and dad tried to figure out just what they were going to do for Christmas. How and where did they hide all of those presents?

I remember this thing they were having on TV, something

home safely. I remember as children sitting out on our street corner late into the night looking up at the moon and really wanting them home safe. I remember my dad going out to the backyard to cry when the news came over that President Kennedy was shot and killed. I remember all of us watching man’s first step on the moon. I remember watching Hank Aaron’s 715th home run to pass Babe Ruth. One black and white TV, kids huddled together watching it for our limit of two hours a night.

As the years went by, my mom asked my dad for one thing, a color TV so she could watch the Rose Parade in color and not black and white. I still remember the day he brought it home to surprise her. She was in heaven

front half of the house, shoulder-high bushes surrounding the outside of our lot, the large lawn, many roses, lilies, gladiolas, and it brought a peacefulness when you could sit outside under a tree and enjoy it all.

I remember our long talks when I was a teenager on religion, spirit, and right and wrong. My selfish detours, being what they were; those long talks gave me the way and the desire to come back to a deep and abiding faith.

My mom had some great friends; Alice Lambro, Mary Young, Rose Wright, Lily Theissen to name a few. Long-time family friends included the O’Briens, Gaynors, Kazinecs, Donahues, Ramirez’s, Muscovichs and the Lockwoods

written some of the guidelines. They wrote back admitting she was correct.

Mom was chosen the Grand Marshall years ago for the hometown Fourth of July parade. Dozens of family members showed up and took up a good part of the stands, giving her a standing ovation. All she wanted was something cold to drink.

My mom went to church everyday. She took Holy Communion to the sick parishioners who could not attend mass. Now, others are bringing it to her in her final days of comfort.

Some of the lessons we learned from our parents were about holding it together and trusting the Lord in tough times. We learned about caring for others when they really need you. We learned what “You’ll find a way” really meant. I learned how lucky I am for having the parents and family I was blessed with in this life.

I remember what it was like to be in her arms as a very small child.

Years ago I revisited that two-story house. It was abandoned, the door was ajar. I went in and surveyed what was once home. It is amazing how small all the rooms had grown. It was even more amazing how all that fantastic energy had long since vanished.

As we all aged over the years, still gathering for holidays or when one of the siblings who had moved away came back for a visit, the best of times were the embellishing on old times – often at the expense of the absent – because you could no longer be sent to your room for past deeds. The “Statue of Limitations”, no religious pun intended, has expired.

As Mom’s care needs became greater over these last few years, my brothers all stepped up to do whatever needed to be done. It has been an honor to watch how our family has come together for her.

She asked me recently during a visit to her bedside what it would be like when she dies. She hasn’t long to go on this life’s journey.

“All I can say Mom, is when the light gets really, really bright run as fast as you can to it, like a little girl runs to her Daddy’s open arms, with out fear, but full of love and joy. That’s when you leap into the arms of the Lord.”

Rest, Our Mother Dear. May your last days be full of love. God is smiling.



Twenty-plus years later, in 1986, we all gathered again for my youngest brother’s wedding, just a short time before my father passed away. As we all stood in position, we commented on how weird, but good it felt to all come together again.

the hot water in the kitchen sink whenever a sister was taking a shower. Payback.

The annual Fourth of July parade used to come right down our street. We would all sit out on the second story balcony and enjoy the best seats on the whole street.

We would take camping trips as a family when my dad had his annual two-week vacation. We played games at the campsite, mostly cards, and nobody ever “let you win” just to make you feel better. The competition was good for us, but not nearly

new called a “Super Bowl”.

We didn’t have ESPN. We had the Saturday baseball “Game of the Week” with Joe Garigiola and Tony Kubek.

As a family we shared my mom’s favourite show, The Lawrence Welk Show. We enjoyed The Ed Sullivan show, but the best was getting to stay up as you got older to watch the Johnny Carson show until one parent or the other yelled to us downstairs “turn that down”. Must be bedtime.

I remember as a family praying for the astronauts to come

that New Year’s morning.

Some years we had flooding in our neighborhood. One year the plumbing broke under the house during a bad rain storm. But what are you going to do, go under the house and fix it or let the water come back up into the house? I think that was my first “hero” experience. My mom really appreciated it. I appreciated being able to take a much longer hot shower afterward.

My main job as a teenager and as the oldest male still living at home was the yard. The ivy that grew to cover the entire

and Ramirez’s. We always seemed to have such great family friends.

We even had a neighborhood grandma, Annie Erickson, who lived directly behind us. I didn’t know for years that she wasn’t one of our real grandma’s. She traded watching out for us for the joy of having lots of kids around.

My mom was in the Legion of Mary at Holy Spirit church for so long we often thought she had started it. One time she actually wrote the Vatican to let them know they had incorrectly

Senator Dave Cox Memorial Interchange Named



Senator Gaines & the Cox Family unveiling the new memorial interchange signage.

SACRAMENTO County, CA – (MPG) – Senator Ted Gaines (R-Rocklin) today along with other dignitaries, community leaders, family and friends held a dedication ceremony honoring Senator Dave Cox and naming in his memory the Highway 50 Interchange at Hazel Avenue in Sacramento County as the “Senator Dave Cox Memorial Interchange.”

“Beyond his achievements and contributions, Senator Dave Cox was a friend and beloved colleague,” said Senator Gaines. “Senator Cox was held in very high regard amongst those he represented and was respected as a dedicated and fair lawmaker who worked tirelessly for his constituents. It is only appropriate to honor Senator Cox by naming this portion of the First Senate District on Highway 50 in his memory.”

During the last legislative session, Senator Gaines received unanimous support from both houses of the legislature for his bill (Senate Concurrent Resolution 97) honoring Senator Dave Cox and naming the “Senator Dave Cox Memorial Interchange.”

Senator Cox represented the First Senate District for six years prior to his untimely death in July of 2010. Senator Cox was an instrumental member of the California State Legislature who served as Assembly Republican Leader from 2001-2004. A pillar of the Sacramento community, he also previously was a member of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and was an elected Board Member of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

“We are thrilled that Senator Gaines and the legislature have

chosen to remember Dave by naming the interchange at Highway 50 and Hazel Avenue in his honor,” said Maggie Cox, wife of the late Senator Dave Cox. “The sign’s location will serve as a daily reminder to me and my family of our beloved husband and father and his immense dedication to service.”

There were no state funds used in creating and erecting the signs marking this special designation. All funding was generated through private donations and other non-state sources.

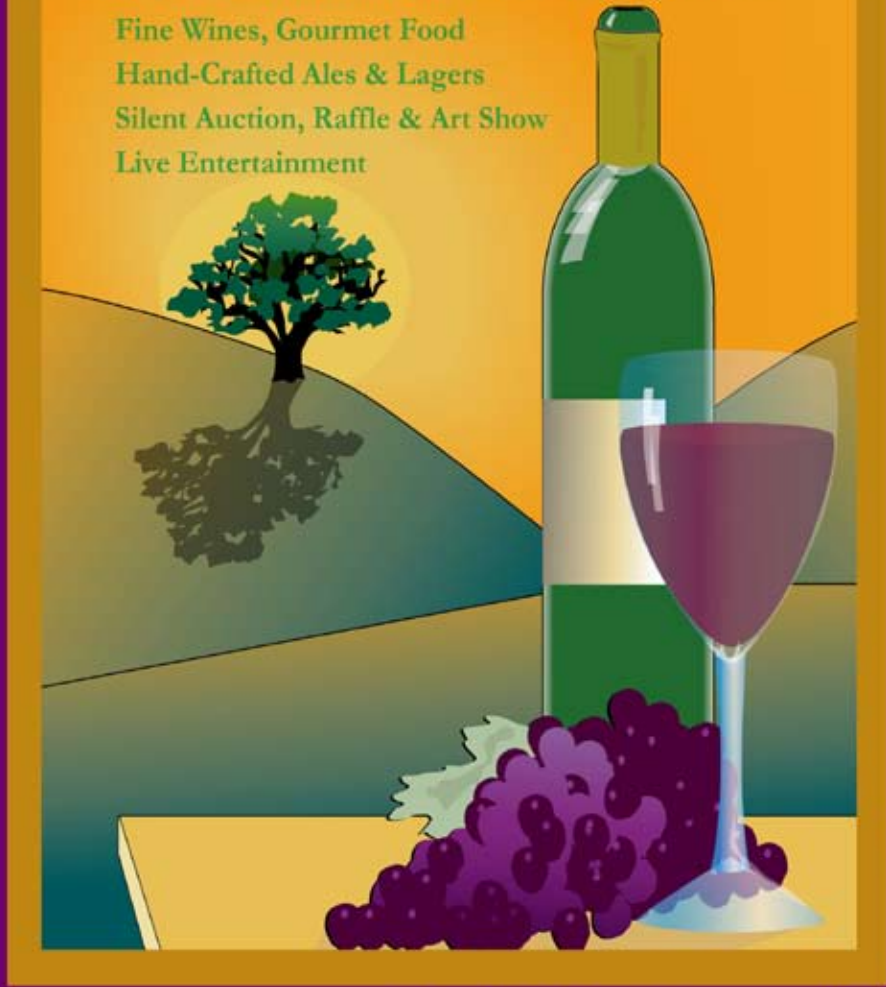
Senator Ted Gaines represents the 1st Senate District, which includes all or parts of Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento and Sierra counties.

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FAIR OAKS CEMETERY MEMORIAL DAY AND AVENUE OF FLAGS CEREMONY

The Fair Oaks Cemetery District and the Memorial Day Ceremony Committee are finalizing plans for one of the most popular and inspiring Memorial Day ceremonies in the area.

The Fifteenth Annual Memorial Day and Avenue of Flags Ceremony will be held Saturday, May 25, at the Fair Oaks Cemetery, located at 7780 Olive Street, Fair Oaks. The formal ceremonies start at 10 AM.

This year's theme is to honor “Our National Cemeteries”, with the emphasis on Hawaii's Punch Bowl. The Punch Bowl is a cemetery located in Honolulu, Hawaii that serves as a memorial to those men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Dedicated on Sept 2, 1949, approximately 53,000 WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam veterans and their dependents have been interred. It is administered by the National Cemetery Administration of the U.S. Department of the Veteran Affairs and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Fair Oaks Cemetery will be decorated with hundreds of flags lining its roadways as “The Avenue of Flags.” They will be adding more names to the Veterans Memorial Wall. The Honored Main speaker will be Allen Hearl, Retired Navy Chaplain.

A formal Color Guard and Rifle Salute Team will provide military honors and assist with the laying of the wreath at the memorial in honor of over seventeen hundred veterans who are buried in the cemetery.

Chairman of the Fair Oaks Cemetery District Memorial Day Committee, Tom Askins will be the Master of Ceremonies. The musical program will be provided by the American Veterans Band, conducted by Warren “Bud” Turner.

