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an Option” for Pastors
and Churches

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AMERICAN RIVER MESSENGER

Volume 7 • Issue 16

Serving Fair Oaks, Gold River, Rancho Cordova & Sacramento County

Second Edition for August 2012

River City Chorale Announces Auditions for the 2012-2013 Concert Season



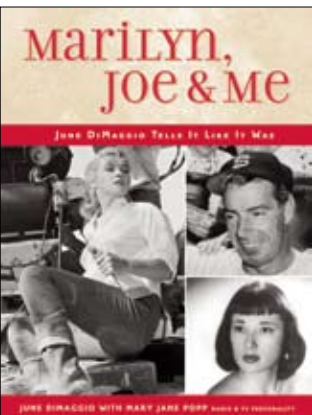
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Teens Need You to be a Mentor

SACRAMENTO REGION—The Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) is seeking adult mentors to serve as positive role models for one hour a week as part of the LINKS Mentoring Program for high school students for the 2012-13 school year.

Mentoring doesn’t require a unique skill. It just takes a willingness to listen, offer encouragement, and share knowledge of what you’ve learned about life.

The target start date for the LINKS Mentoring Program is the week of September 5, 2012. Qualifying mentors may commit to a semester or the school year. Group mentoring sessions and activities center on themes including: Planning for the Future, Interpersonal/Life Skills, Financial Savvy and Money Management, Career Exploration/Job Seeking Skills, Community Service/Service Learning Projects, Health and Wellness.

The format of mentoring sessions includes individual and team mentoring in a group setting. Weekly mentoring sessions



Mentoring requires a willingness to listen, offer encouragement, and share knowledge of what you’ve learned about life.

occur on a set meeting day and time determined by each participating school. SCOE staff members facilitate mentor sessions, organize activities, and provide materials and support.

Meeting days and times for each site will be determined before sessions begin.

Prospective mentors will be provided orientation and training before beginning group

mentoring sessions.

Several orientation and training events are available during the month of August, 2012.

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River Cats Playoff Tickets on Sale Now

SACRAMENTO REGION—Sacramento River Cats 2012 playoff tickets are on sale now, with four-game playoff packs available starting at just \$24. Individual tickets start at \$8 for advance purchases, and are available online.

The River Cats, who currently hold a five-and-a-half game lead over second-place Las Vegas, are seeking their PCL-record sixth-straight division championship and 11th in 13 seasons. If they hold on to win the Pacific Coast League South Division title, the Cats would open the first round of the playoffs at Raley Field on Wednesday, Sept. 5. Game two would be Thursday, Sept. 6, with games three, four and five to be played on the road at the home of the PCL North Division champions.

The two potential home dates for the River Cats in the second round of the playoffs are Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 11-12. Fans can purchase four-game “strips” of tickets to all four potential home playoff games or individual game tickets to select games.

To purchase 2012 Sacramento River Cats Season Tickets, Mini-Plans and group outings, call the River Cats Ticket Hotline at (916) 371-HITS (4487) or visit www.rivercats.com. In their first 12 seasons, the River Cats have won two Triple-A championships, four Pacific Coast League championships and 10 Pacific South Division championships.

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International Bridge is Project of the Year

RANCHO CORDOVA - The International Bridge in Rancho Cordova has been named the 2012 Transportation Project of the Year by the Sacramento Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA). Twenty-four counties belong to the Sacramento Chapter. Completed in 2011, the International Bridge crosses federally-owned Folsom South Canal and provides a bypass to Highway 50 between Sunrise Boulevard and Mather Field Road.

The bridge project also included bicycle and pedestrian passageways and improvements at the International Drive intersections with Kilgore Road and Sunrise Boulevard. “International Bridge provides a connector to unify our community,” said Kathy Garcia, Rancho Cordova’s senior engineer and project

manager. “It improves regional mobility and relieves congestion on Sunrise Boulevard by providing a bypass to Highway 50.”

Funding for the bridge project was supported by Congressman Dan Lungren, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, the Federal Highway Administration, and Caltrans, as well as Rancho Cordova’s local transportation funds. According to Richard Liptak, Sacramento Chapter’s APWA Award Chair, the Transportation Project of the Year program recognizes public works projects that demonstrate excellence in management, administration, design, construction and community relations, as well as the alliance among the managing agency and the consultant/engineer/contractor who worked together to complete the project.

“We are proud to be recognized



Bikers use the passageway through the International Bridge.

for this project as it is the largest infrastructure project that has been completed by Rancho Cordova since we incorporated in 2003,” said Rancho Cordova Mayor David Sander.

“The project supports the City’s mission to provide our residents, workers, and shoppers

with safe and efficient transportation systems, and even includes some great new connections for cyclists and pedestrians to the Folsom South Canal.” For more information, please contact Garcia at (916) 851-8700.

Source: PIO City of Rancho Cordova

Accessible Housing Out of Reach for People with Disabilities

**Commentary by Liz Pazdral,
Executive Director, State
Independent Living Council**

SACRAMENTO REGION—People living with disabilities face a significant problem - the lack of affordable, accessible housing. Approximately 54 million Americans have at least one disability, constituting the largest minority group in the nation. And people with disabilities often spend a disproportionate share of their income to secure housing that is both safe and suitably accessible.

Federal guidelines define housing as “affordable” if total costs, including rent/mortgage, utilities, insurance and taxes, don’t exceed 30 percent of a renter’s or homeowner’s household income. Individuals currently eligible for

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in California receive \$854.40 per month, while couples receive \$1,444.20. Under the 30 percent housing affordability guidelines, an individual living solely on SSI should pay no more than \$256.32 per month for housing and a couple no more than \$433.26. With this in mind, affordable housing is nearly impossible for people with disabilities to find and thousands and thousands of names are on waiting lists throughout the state.

“The reality is that most all of us will experience a disability within our lifetime, which may prompt the need for affordable, accessible housing,” said Bob Hand, Executive Director of Resources for Independence, Central Valley. “However, for people with permanent disabilities,

the need is “now” and affordable housing resources simply aren’t available.” Affordability is just one problem. Accessibility also is a challenge. Several California communities are trying to address the lack of accessibility by, among other things, adopting the state’s Universal Design Model Ordinance. The intent of the ordinance is to increase opportunities for persons with temporary, developing or permanent disabilities to “age in place.”

“Trying to decipher the maze of information and resources can be overwhelming,” said Hand, “and that’s where independent living centers (ILCs) come into play. ILCs provide a number of services to people living with disabilities, including educating them about housing options as well as assisting them

in negotiating rents and working with landlords. But more needs to be done.”

According to experts in the industry, education is the key to making a difference. Individuals need to be made aware of programs and agencies that are working with lenders, housing authorities and service providers in creating innovative housing options, such as “smart-home” technology, within their locale. Experts also believe it’s imperative for people with disabilities to talk to elected leaders about their real-life experiences and the need for policies that improve affordability and accessibility.

“We are committed to supporting people living with disabilities in getting their voices heard,” said Elsa Quezada, Chair of the California State Independent

Living Council. “By providing people with timely and pertinent information, training and education, we can arm them with the tools they need to live independently and not take “no” for an answer.”

The California State Independent Living Council is an independent state agency which, in cooperation with the California State Department of Rehabilitation, prepares and monitors the State Plan for Independent Living. SILC solicits continual public feedback on the effectiveness of independent living services and coordinates with similar agencies and councils at the state and federal levels to increase communication and help assure that services to people with disabilities are delivered effectively.

www.AmericanRiverMessenger.com

Fair Oaks Theatre Festival Continues

The Great American Trailer Park Musical



The cast of "The Great American Trailer Park Musical". Photo by Erin Carlson.

FAIR OAKS – Back by popular demand, the Fair Oaks Theatre Festival continues its season of musical theatre under the stars with a revival of last summer’s hilariously naughty The Great American Trailer Park Musical. This PG-13-rated musical has been described by The New Yorker as “More fun than a chair throwing episode of Jerry Springer set to music.”

“South Park” meets “Desperate Housewives” in this big-hearted new musical with a cheeky script and infectious music. It’s back by popular demand and dishing up the same great fun. There’s a new tenant at the Armadillo Acres — and she’s wreaking havoc all over Florida’s most exclusive trailer park! When Pippi, the stripper on

the run, comes between the Dr. Phil-loving, agoraphobic Jeannie and her tollbooth collector husband, Norbert, the storm begins to brew. (This show contains adult language and subject matter. Rated PG-13.)

Book by Betsy Kelso, Music and Lyrics by David Nehls, Directed by Bob Irvin, Choreography by Sunny Smith, Vocal Direction by Tracy Martin Shearer.

Location:
Veterans Memorial Amphitheatre
7991 California Avenue,
Fair Oaks, 95628

Dates:
Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays
at 7:30pm: through September 3

Friday & Saturday Ticket Prices:
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For Further Information:
(916) 966-3683
FairOaksTheatreFestival.com

Mountain Lions Tickets on Sale Now

SACRAMENTO REGION - The Mountain Lions, ow in their fourth season, and third in Sacramento, announced that their home opener is set for Friday, Sept. 28, at 8 p.m. PT at Raley Field in West Sacramento. Tickets to the 14,014-seat stadium start at just \$8 for general admission berm seating.

The Mountain Lions are introducing a Fan Fest prior to every home game in the Raley Field BBQ area beyond the Home

Run Hill area. For just \$15, fans will get a pre-game all-you-can-eat meal of ribs, chicken and bratwurst. In addition, \$2 beers will be available, beginning two hours prior to kickoff at all four home games.

Season, group and single-game tickets for the 2012 Sacramento Mountain Lions season are on sale as of 10 a.m. Monday morning. Season and group tickets can be purchased by calling (916) 383-5466, while single-game

tickets to all four regular-season home games are available at ticketmaster.com and at Raley Field’s Round Table Pizza Ticket Office.

A complete seating map with pricing can be found at sacmountainlions.com. In addition, fans can go to Raley Field from 6-9 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 13 to pick their seats in person for the 2012 season.

Fans can also keep up with all the latest Mountain Lions news on Facebook and Twitter.

Welcome Home Housing Clothing Drive

From Lindsay DeFazio

SACRAMENTO REGION – Welcome Home Housing is a non-profit organization in Sacramento, California that provides affordable housing and services to individuals with mental illness. We have four houses conveniently located in the Rosemont area and we provide a variety of services to our residents to insure their success. As part of our fundraising

efforts, we have teamed up with California Clothing Recyclers, a leader of used clothing recycling serving the Sacramento region and Northern California since 1997.

We are looking for support from the community to donate used clothes and other items and we will recycle them for funds for Welcome Home Housing. We can accept the following: clothing including belts and scarves; shoes; hats; purses; sheets and

blankets; towels; table linens; and stuffed animals. We will be accepting donations in plastic bags August 25th through September 8th at one of the following locations (leave items on front porch):

Sacramento, near Folsom & Watt: 3401 Spartan Way
Carmichael: 6448 Stanley Way

Receipts are available at these locations upon request. Visit www.welcomehomehousing.org for more information.

National Orienteering Day At River Bend Park

SACRAMENTO REGION – A special newcomer event to introduce the outdoor sport of orienteering to the public will be held on Sunday, Sept. 9, at an American River park as part of National Orienteering Day.

The event, sponsored by Gold Country Orienteers (GCO), will be at River Bend Park in Rancho Cordova.

GCO is one of 55 clubs in Orienteering USA, which is offering multiple events across the country to get people active and involved with orienteering.

Orienteering is a race in wilderness navigation where a

person uses a map and a compass to complete a course. This is an easy sport to learn, a great team-building activity, and ideal for families who enjoy the outdoors. Call upon your ability, choose you own route, and be part of one of the most exciting and versatile sports available.

The River Bend Park orienteering meet will feature three beginner and intermediate courses and free beginner instruction. Registration will be from 9 a.m. to 12 noon; courses can be started from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 for members or \$7 for nonmembers for the

first individual, plus \$2 for each additional person in a team or group going out together.

Directions: Take Highway 50 east from downtown Sacramento to the Bradshaw exit. Go north to Folsom Boulevard. Turn right and go nearly 2 miles to Rod Beaudry Drive. Turn left and follow signs into the park. The park fee is \$5 per car.

For more information, contact Jennifer at 916.922.8671 or jkerrt1561@yahoo.com or go to www.goldcountryorienteers.org. To discover more about national orienteering, visit www.orienteeringusa.org

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River City Chorale Announces Auditions for the 2012-2013 Concert season

SACRAMENTO REGION – River City Chorale, a premier auditioned community adult chorus for the past 35 years looks forward to meeting sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses who can read music and love to sing with an accomplished group 65 singers. We will perform nine concerts during the season in three various exciting programs from Bach to Rock!

Please call (916) 489-7248 immediately to schedule an audition, beginning on September 10 at 6:00 pm. For more information, visit www.RiverCityChorale.org



Recycling Magnet Number Should Be 638-9000

RANCHO CORDOVA – Allied Waste, the contractor that provides garbage services for the City of Rancho Cordova, recently mailed magnets to all residents about what can be put in recycling bins. The magnet could be placed on the refrigerator, providing a handy reference tool.

Unfortunately, the wrong telephone number was printed on the magnet. Allied Waste has now mailed stickers with the correct phone number to all residents, asking them to place the sticker over the “wrong phone number”.

“Although we didn’t produce the magnet, we apologize for any inconvenience that this caused – especially to the person whose number was incorrectly listed on the magnet,” said Cyrus Abhar, Rancho Cordova’s Public Works Director.

The correct number is (916) 638-9000. Please call that number if you have not received the sticker.

Hometown Hero

Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class Peter Torres graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies,

Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Torres is the son of Yolanda Lane of Yawl Court, Citrus Heights.

He is a 2001 graduate of Capital City High School, Sacramento. He earned an associate degree in 2004 from ITT Technical Institute, Rancho Cordova.


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The September 2012 service changes are the first-year TransitRenewal service improvements based on community input. TransitRenewal – a comprehensive operational analysis of the RT bus and light rail system – resulted in recommendations on how to restore, restructure and "renew" transit service through 2017.

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Rancho Cordova Wins 2nd Public Works Award

RANCHO CORDOVA - The White Rock Community Pathway Project in Rancho Cordova has been named the winner of the Project of the Year Award in “The Less than \$100,000 Small Agency Division” by the Sacramento Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA).

The winning pathway connects White Rock and Cordova Towne neighborhoods to Folsom Boulevard, giving residents easy access to public transit and retail shops. “The previous pathway posed safety concerns for both residents and City law enforcement,” said Ben Chan, Assistant Engineer for Rancho Cordova.

“The project straightened the pathway alignment so there is now a clear line of sight and a better view of the entire pathway.”

In addition, the path was resurfaced and wrought iron fencing, landscaping, and a French drain were installed. “The wrought iron fence is very effective in preventing graffiti markings,” said Chan.

The pathway project was funded with Community Development



Ben Chan (left) and Britton Snipes, Engineers in the City's Public Works Department, inspect the White Rock Community Pathway that gives pedestrians easy access to public transportation and retail shops.

Block Grant program funds that are provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This is the second 2012 APWA award that the City of Rancho Cordova has received.

Last week, the City received notice that its International Bridge project was named the Sacramento Chapter's APWA Transportation Project of the Year. It will now be the Chapter's entry in the national APWA competition.

“We are honored and pleased that two of our projects have been recognized by our peers,” said Cyrus Abhar, Rancho Cordova's Public Works Director. City Council Members and City staff will accept the awards next week at an Awards Luncheon. Twenty-four California counties are members of the Sacramento Chapter APWA.

Source: PIO, City of Rancho Cordova

Hiring Center Opens for New Walmart Neighborhood Market

CARMICHAEL – Walmart is hiring approximately 80 permanent associates for the new Walmart Neighborhood Market slated to open this fall in Carmichael. To facilitate applications, the retailer has opened a temporary hiring center at 5777 Madison Ave., Suite 121, in Carmichael.

The hiring center will continue accepting applications from 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Friday and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Interested applicants can also apply online at www.careers.walmart.com.

According to store manager Carl Porter, the store will be hiring both full- and part-time associates. “We are excited to add this Walmart Neighborhood Market to Carmichael and bring good jobs with career opportunities to the area,” he said. Porter began his Walmart career nearly 20 years ago in Pittsburg, Calif., as temporary seasonal worker. Porter said associates are needed to work in all areas of the new store, including supervisory positions.

Walmart's benefit program is available to eligible full- and part-

time associates and provides a variety of affordable health and well-being benefits including medical insurance with no lifetime maximum. Walmart also offers matching 401(k) contributions of up to 6 percent of pay, discounts on general merchandise for store associates, an Associate Stock Purchase Program and company-paid life insurance. Additionally, eligible associates receive a quarterly incentive based on store performance. The majority of associates will begin work in October to help prepare the store for its grand opening this fall.

Niello Makes Automotive News List for Best U.S. Car Dealerships to Work For

SACRAMENTO REGION – A survey conducted by Automotive News magazine this summer names four dealerships from The Niello Company among the top 100 new car dealerships to work for in the United States.

The Sacramento area dealerships—Niello Porsche, Jaguar-Land Rover Sacramento, Niello Volkswagen and Land Rover Rocklin—were among the 10 new car dealerships in California on the list. The Niello dealerships were the only Sacramento new car dealerships on the list.

The list was based on employee responses to anonymous surveys that measured workplace satisfaction, benefits, HR practices, and other facets of the work environment. The magazine honored “new-car dealerships in the United States that have excelled in creating a quality work environment.”

Niello's employee team includes more than 500 specialists, technicians and sales professionals throughout the Sacramento region, and in Concord.

This is the first survey of its kind by Automotive News, a 65,000-circulation trade magazine based in Detroit. A ranking of the top 100 will be revealed at an October gala. “We're thrilled by this honor. It acknowledges values we practice every day, at

every dealership. Respect talent and dedication, and that respect turns into exceptional customer service,” said Niello Company President Rick Niello.

Founded in Sacramento in 1921, Niello today is the largest privately held automotive group in the region, with 12 locations in Sacramento, Concord, Rocklin and Elk Grove. Its list of represented auto manufacturers span Acura, Audi, BMW, Infiniti, Jaguar, Land Rover, Maserati, MINI, Porsche, and Volkswagen, first introduced to Sacramento by Niello. For more information, visit Niello online at www.niello.com.

Source: RS&E

Become a Mentor

Continued from Page 1

Orientation and training include: an overview of the program's mission and goals; summary of program policies; a description of the screening process, suitability requirements; qualities of successful mentors; the stages of the mentoring relationship; the level of commitment desired; benefits and rewards of participation in the program; communication tips and tools; and an opportunity to hear from returning mentors about their experiences in the program.

In addition to recruiting individual volunteer mentors, SCOE is interested in forming partnerships with businesses and organizations that would support their employees or members in volunteering one hour per week to serve as mentors for deserving high school students.

LINKS Mentors may select from the following participating local school sites:

Elinor Hickey Jr/Sr High School (SCOE)
2040 Ethan Way
Sacramento, CA 95825
Kinney High School (Folsom Cordova Unified School District)
2710 Kilgore Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6104

The LINKS Mentoring Program is operated by SCOE's Prevention and Student Services (PASS) Department. The program is made possible through a grant from

the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

LINKS Mentoring is a part of the LINKS Program, a groundbreaking SCOE career technical education model aimed at helping underserved students succeed. LINKS services are tailored to individual students based on their specific needs instead of through traditional, scripted education. LINKS Mentoring is one more service aimed at helping young people develop leadership and life skills for personal success.

To learn more about the LINKS Mentoring Program and to apply to become a mentor, contact Cheryl Raney (916) 228-2201 or craney@scoe.net.

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Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for 11 Sep 2012. Meeting location is the North Highlands Park and Recreation District, 6040 Watt Ave, North Highlands 95660. Our meeting starts promptly at 1030 hrs. Our speaker is Suzi Vinci, Veterans Service Officer for the Disabled American Veterans organization. Come on out and enjoy a cup of coffee and some great fellowship. Questions can be referred to our volunteer staff at 916-923-4979, Mon thru Thurs, 9 to 3PM.



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THANK A VETERAN TODAY





By Ronnie McBrayer

Several years ago, on the courthouse steps of the town in which I lived, there was a rally. A homosexual couple in our community was seeking to become foster parents. You can imagine the kickback that erupted in a small Southern town.

But it wasn't just the members of our community who were most vocal in protest. Gathered on the courthouse steps of our fair city were representatives of a religious group from Washington D.C. and points beyond, to speak out in holy fury.

I strolled up the street to check it out, and what I found there was horrifying. Laced with scripture quotations and shaking the abysmally familiar "God Hates Fags" signs, speaker after speaker raged with some of the most vicious and hateful words I have ever heard. I could not believe how angry and poisonous it was.

One of the police officers watching over the proceedings walked up and asked me, "What do think about this, preacher?" I knew this officer. He was a good man but did not consider himself a Christian. So, I turned his question around and asked him what he thought about it. He answered, "This is why you all ought to keep your church and Bible to yourself."

Hating the Haters

Dorothy Sayers was fond of saying that Jesus endured three great humiliations: The Incarnation, the cross, and the church. Jesus has subjected himself to a spastic, debilitated, malfunctioning body; a body called the church. And rather than communicating clearly the love and grace of God, we obscure and twist the message so that it cannot be heard correctly.

That is what I felt most strongly as I stood near the court house steps on that afternoon. These people, exercising their freedom of speech for which I am so very thankful and for which I would go to the wall, were attaching hateful words and spiteful talk to the name of Christ. Somehow, in the convulsive twisting of the body of Jesus, the message was twisted. I felt ashamed.

The following Sunday I fumed from my own church pulpit about how we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves – even the people we just positively know that God condemns. Love your neighbor with a love that goes beyond feeding their dog or keeping an eye on their home while they are out of town. No, to love your neighbor as you love yourself, I rightfully said that Sunday, is to love whoever you come across, whoever is in need, no matter who they are.

If they live across the street or on another continent; if they are black or white; if they are straight or gay; if they are Latino or Anglo; if they are of my political persuasion or not; if they are Christian or Muslim; if they are my buddy on the bar stool beside

me or someone I would never shake hands with, they are my neighbor. As a follower of Christ my responsibility is to love them and not condemn.

Oh, it was a virtuous, unfettered, holy tirade; and I felt so very good after it was delivered. But over the course of the next few days all my good feelings ebbed away. These feelings were replaced by genuine conviction of heart.

I realized that what had made me feel so "good," and what eventually disturbed me about myself was this: I hated the people who were hateful. I did not love them – as my neighbors – instead, I loved condemning them. My actions were nothing more than a variation of the words and behavior I found so repugnant.

Street preachers railed against and hated homosexuals, abortionists, teenagers with tattoos and piercings, and the like. In my righteous indignation, I fumed against and condemned them. We were all wrong.

Opinions, conviction, beliefs: We all have them and we all have the freedom to express them. But the moment our beliefs are used as motivation and means to hate others, we have left the path of Christ who taught us that the greatest commandment is to love.

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.

A Midsummers Day Nightmare

By Rev. James L. Snyder

I am not sure who invented summer vacation but I think they deserve a Nobel Peace Prize. Every year is worth the intense strain when there is a summer vacation to look forward to.

Ah, summer vacation. The freedom of not having anything to do. No schedule in my face. No appointments frustrating me. Just an agenda of fun and more fun and don't forget the eating.

Both the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and me got up early to begin the drive to the airport to take us to our vacation location. I was so full of energy I could not sit still. It was then that I broke into singing, comfortably off key, a Carpenter's song much to the agitation of my wife.

"We've only just begun, White lace and promises, A kiss for luck and we're on our way."

All my wife could do was stare at me. Finally, she said, "You sure are excited. I've never seen you so excited. Are you sure you're all right?"

I could not have been more all right.

All I could think of was a week before me surrounded by grandchildren I have not seen for over a year.

"How old is...?" I went through all the grandchildren. It is easy to forget how old kids are because every year their age changes. When you get to be my age, it is hard to keep up with all of these changes.

A week of stuffing them with all the candy I could carry. Taking them out to a restaurant and showing them the proper use of the drinking straw and the fine art of a spitball battle. After all, it is a grandfather's solemn duty to teach his grandchildren the fine art of shenaniganism. Where else are they going to learn it? Their grandmother? I don't think so.

We finally arrived at the airport, parked our car, and proceeded

to the check-in counter. I am not sure my feet touched the ground, so excited was I to get on our way.

"Slow down," my wife pleaded. "I can't keep up with you."

We finally arrived at the check-in counter with our baggage and one of the attendants asked me a simple question. I hate it when people ask me a question when I am in one of my silly moods. Believe me; I was in one of my silliest silly moods at this time.

"Sir," the attendant asked me very seriously, "do you have anything perishable or flammable in your luggage?"

With silliness smeared all over my mug I said, "I sure do. I got a Bible in there and it is Dyn-O-Mite." And, I had the audacity to smile very broadly.

Then it happened.

Someone said, "Did he say dynamite? Where's the dynamite?"

The attendant said, "He said the dynamite was in his briefcase."

Suddenly, lights went on, buzzers began ringing, men in uniforms surrounded me, and two grabbed and subdued me. In a few moments, the hazmat men arrived asking where the dynamite was.

The man in charge pointed to my briefcase and said, "It's in the briefcase."

They begin moving people away while the hazmat men came in to remove the briefcase with the alleged dynamite. At this time, I was absolutely stunned. Every ounce of silliness had drained from my person and I knew I was about to go to jail.

Finally, the senior security guard came and looked at me. "Where did you say the dynamite was, sir?"

I stammered and stuttered but finally I said, "I said my Bible was dynamite."

He stared at me. Look me up and down, glared at me with eyes that burned into my very soul. Then he spoke.

"Would you by any chance be a

minister?" He said rather gruffly.

"Yes sir," I stammered as if my life depended upon what I was going to say, "I am a minister, a preacher of the gospel." I thought the last part might do something for me. At least it was a shot, excuse me, a try.

He glared at me and shouted, "False alarm. Just another crazy preacher."

As he walked away, I could hear him muttering under his breath, "Where do all these crazy preachers come from?"

The terminal finally quieted down, I went through the inspection, and I must say, I am not complaining mind you, but the pat down was a little longer and rougher than I remembered it being in the past. They stripped me down almost to my birthday suit. Thank God for wrinkles.

As I walked down the aisle on the plane, I could hear people whispering, "That's him. That's the crazy preacher with the dynamite."

I finally sat down next to my wife who was staring out the window. In a few minutes the plane took off and as we reached our altitude she, while still staring out the window, said to me, "Next time we'll take separate planes." She paused for a moment and then said, "In fact, will take separate airports."

I think I am going to stick to what the Bible says.

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12 KJV).

The 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 (352) 687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.



By Marlys Norris, Christian Author

Do You Believe You Can Be Healed?

You want the miracle from God? A touch of God's healing virtue to transform your mind, body and soul? A Miracle! Possibly your question is, "How can I remove my negative thinking and words to line up that I might receive? The answer is: BELIEVE, STOP AND PRAY washing them symbolically in the precious BLOOD of Jesus Christ and asking His virtuous power to pass through your body changing your thoughts and words INTO FAITH as you choose to TRUST HIM.

Faith and God will move mountains if you but have the faith of a tiny mustard seed. (Matthew 17:20) "Nothing is impossible for God". (Luke 1:37) "Without Faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him". (Hebrews 11:6) "Seek the Lord with all your heart and soul". "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful who also will do it." (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

Are you looking to God for

a "miracle?" You must believe and trust God before you ask! Then, pray this prayer believing – "Almighty God I come to you in faith believing. You are the God of creation and the One who can help me. In the Name of Jesus Christ and in His authority, power; love and righteousness. I ask you to remove my pain." Place your hand on that area and now believe and wait for your answer." If will come shortly! (Use this same prayer if you are praying for someone else. Now testify and bring honor and glory to God for what he has done.

Pray and remain quiet. Listen for a still-small-voice to speak to your heart. What God has told us, HE WILL DO! Every promise in the Word of God, HE WILL KEEP! God does not lie, HE KEEPS HIS WORD! Grow in your knowledge of Him and His intimate and personal love He has for you! Yes, dear friend, YOU!! In His Love.

Marlys Johnsen Norris "Intimacy Begins Going God's Way" "Recipes for a Happier Marriage" Recommended by Pat Boone Marlysjn@gmail.com



By Pastor Ray Dare

Human nature tends to look at all the bad things in life, all the negative things. Our society is this way: the focus is on all the bad things that are wrong. Bad news makes the headlines. But God says Christians are to be different. "Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe." *Philippians 2:14-15*

It is possible to short-circuit God's blessing in your life by complaining. Complaining was the sin that kept the Israelites out of the Promised Land. God destroyed them in the desert. Why? Because they griped and complained. That's how serious this sin is to God: It kept them from God's blessing. The Promised Land represents God's best for our lives today. It's

How To Conquer Complaining

possible to miss God's best for your life by allowing yourself to get caught up in the downward spiral of complaining. It's a negative mind-set that must be avoided. So, how do you do that? How do you conquer complaining? Here are three ways...

Recognize it as sin. Confess it and ask God to help you conquer it. How much time do you spend griping, grumping, complaining? You've got to admit it's not right. Complaining isn't just a bad habit. God says it is sin, it is serious and it needs to be confessed.

Replace gripping with gratitude. "No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." *1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NLT)* Many people want to know what God's will is... here it is. "Be known for your gratefulness not your griping". When you learn to be grateful in spite of circumstances, that is maturity.

Refocus your thoughts. "So we fix our attention, not on the things that are seen, but on the things that are unseen. What is seen lasts only for a time, but what cannot be seen lasts forever." *2 Corinthians 4:17-18*

Positive people realize that God is in control. God is fitting everything into a pattern and He has a plan beyond my problem.

Resolve to speak only in a positive way. "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." *Ephesians 4:29* The Bible says one day you are going to give an account of every idle word you say. Replace your criticisms with compliments.

When you become a positive person, you become a witness to the world. "Shine like stars in the universe." *Philippians 2:15* It's our dream to be a church with the reputation: "That's where positive people go!" Every time you show gratitude, see positive, speak positively, give a compliment, you are spreading love, and conquering complaining.

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I have LOST a yellow cocktail with orange cheeks. Lost on 7/5/12 in Grass Valley C.A. I also have FOUND a grey and yellow cocktail with orange cheeks. Found on 7/16/12 in Colfax C.A. Contact Brittany at 530-575-5445 or e-mail at mornmyng_star@yahoo.com (MPG 08-31-12)

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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Like a tasteless remark
6. Precedes Nov.
9. Wood file
13. Slow in music
14. _____ Beta Kappa
15. Historic 66
16. One with a healthy appetite is often called a good _____
17. Even, to a poet
18. Relating to sight
19. *Author of the "The Feminine Mystique"
21. *Woodstock site
23. Mammoth excavation site, e.g.
24. Youngster
25. * _____ and Dean
28. Opposite of talker?
30. Ultimate goal
35. _____ course, as in college
37. The Colosseum today, e.g.
39. Dispute
40. Canceled
41. Formed a curve

43. Bone in human forearm
44. Incompetent
46. Southern stew staple
47. Wild swine
48. Type of killer
50. Ness, e.g.
52. Like dry humor
53. *Suze Rotolo to Bob Dylan
55. Accidental happening
57. Light quality
61. *First man in space
65. " _____ dandy"
66. Parishoner's seat
68. Tenth to sophomore
69. City in Belgium
70. " _____ Which Way You Can"
71. It's often changed in a car, pl.
72. Lad's counterpart
73. Short for Leonard
74. _____ Park, CO

DOWN

1. Beginning of musical staff
2. Back seat
3. Against, prefix

4. Often found under a knight
5. Dirty or sleazy
6. Welcoming sign
7. *a.k.a. Ernesto Guevara
8. Metallic sounding, e.g.
9. Fibrous
10. On its own, prefix
11. Marley classic " _____ It Up"
12. Bird action
15. Given name sometimes shortened to Ro
20. Ancient Greeks' assembly spot
22. _____ out, as in a victory
24. Drop by drop
25. *She was a major attraction at Woodstock
26. Solitaire player, e.g.
27. *Newly independent West African republic
29. Eurozone money
31. Clobber
32. Like a neon sign at night
33. *Neil Armstrong's landing
34. *He famously said, "Turn

- on, tune in, drop out"
36. South African antelope
38. Infamous Roman tyrant
42. Medvedev's country house, e.g.
45. Hot red candy
49. Tote
51. Often done over price
54. Flower part
56. Paratroopers, for short
57. *German construction
58. "Si, mi chiamo Mimi" in La Boheme, e.g.
59. Golf pegs
60. Links to friends on Facebook, e.g.
61. Nell _____, mistress of King Charles II of England
62. Goes with rave
63. "Idea" to a Frenchman
64. Loch _____
67. Between NE and E

For Solution
See Page 7

"Silence is Not an Option" for Pastors and Churches

From www.LC.org

WASHINGTON, DC – Liberty Counsel is distributing over 100,000 copies of "Silence is Not an Option," a DVD and printed material set informing pastors and churches about what is permissible regarding political and advocacy activity.

"The church must be empowered to confront the assaults on our culture, our faith, and our freedom," said Mat Staver, Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel. "I don't want any pastor, church leader or lay person to say, 'What more could I have done to protect life and liberty?'"

"Silencing people of faith in the public square has always been the goal of those who realize the influence that pastors, churches, and people of faith

have on elections. I want pastors to remove the muzzle and replace it with a megaphone," said Staver. "Pastors and churches have a lot of freedom to address Biblical and moral issues, to educate people about the candidates, and to encourage people to vote. Not one church has ever lost its tax-exemption for endorsing or opposing candidates or for supporting or opposing local, state or federal laws," said Staver.

Churches can educate about political, moral, and Biblical issues. These kinds of issues – whether abortion, marriage, feeding the poor, or any policy issue in the community – are never off limits for a pastor to address from his pulpit, even if politicians are also talking about those issues. "Silence is Not an Option" systematically addresses

the misrepresentations used to muzzle America's pastors and Christian leaders.

"As a former pastor and founder of a public-interest law firm, I can attest first hand to the importance of knowing what the law is regarding the political activities of pastors, churches and non-profit organizations. Liberty Counsel is meeting a critical need by sending out 100,000 action packs to pastors and church leaders across America," said Staver.

Liberty Counsel is an international non-profit, litigation, education, and policy organization dedicated to advancing religious freedom, the sanctity of life, and the family since 1989, by providing pro bono assistance and representation on these and related topics.

Governor Brown Announces Connolly Appointment

SACRAMENTO – Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. recently announced Elizabeth Connolly, 58, of Fair Oaks, has been appointed to the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. Connolly has been a

principal at the El Dorado County Office of Education since 2004 and a licensed educational psychologist in private practice since 1989. She was a program specialist and school psychologist at

the El Dorado County Office of Education from 1983 to 2004. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$100 per diem. Connolly is a Democrat.



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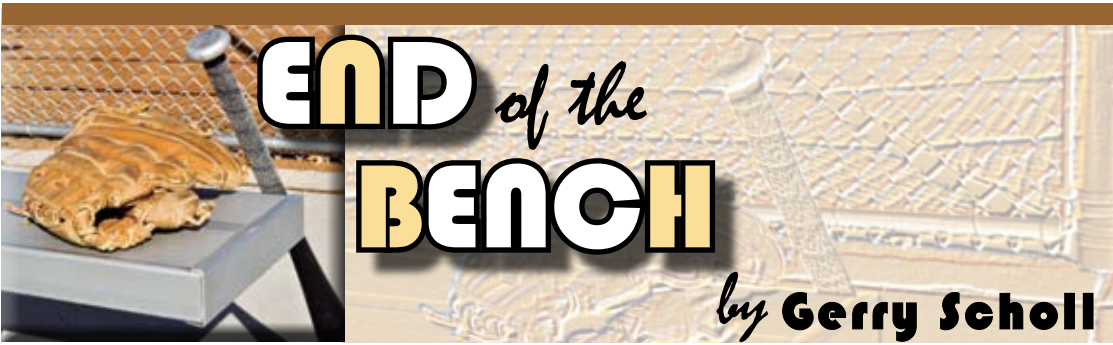
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If You Ain’t Cheatin’, You Ain’t Tryin’

Have all the good “milk” jokes been taken?

By now, all of you sports fans out there are well aware that the milk the Melkman was drinking was not organic.

Spare me the distasteful details. Another top star in sports has been busted for abusing performance-enhancing drugs for huge profits, to the disgust, though not necessarily to the surprise, of his peers and fans.

San Francisco Giants outfielder Melky Cabrera, the latest in a long, ever-lengthening line of cheaters in sports, was dealt a 50-game suspension for his misdeeds. He will lose almost a third of this year’s salary and, potentially, millions of dollars in free-agency. He will probably never wear a Giants uniform again and will slink out of town in disgrace.

Cabrera was second in the National League in hitting and, in some distorted way, may still be eligible to win the batting title. He was leading the league in runs scored and the majors in total hits, and was setting himself up for a huge payday at season’s end. And, he was the MVP of the All-Star Game.

He looked so cute standing there on the field after that game accepting his MVP trophy with his proud family members standing alongside.

Have we all been misinterpreting that wry little grin of his? Looks like it.

Now all of those milkman and milkmaid outfits and hats, along with thousands of “got melk?” T-shirts, will be overflowing donation bins everywhere on their ways to less fortunate populations around the world.

Sports fans, we’re caught in a trap.

We love our sports and we would really like to believe that the competition is on the up-and-up, that real sportsmanship survives. But we are well aware by now, that is all too often not the case. It is our dream that, somehow, someday, it will all turn around and everything will come clean. But the power of gold keeps getting in the way.

It has gotten to the point that we are suspicious of almost any spike in performance, any record-breaking effort, any unusual or outstanding occurrence. Now our appreciation of our world of sports always has a footnote attached, a footnote of perpetual doubt that kind of spoils the milk. We can’t build our dreams on suspicious minds (thank you, Elvis).

Melky’s just the latest addition to this sorry saga. The list of culprits, caught or suspected, includes many of the greatest stars in sports.

Barry Bonds, Alex Rodriquez, Mark McGwire, Roger Clemens and his pal Andy Pettitte, Jose Canseco, Ryan Braun, Manny Ramirez, Jason Giambi and his brother, Ken Caminiti (MVP, now deceased), Tiger Woods, Usain Bolt, Marion Jones, Ben Johnson, Mary Decker, Lance Armstrong and Floyd Landis, Rashard Lewis and O.J. Mayo, Shane Mosley, Shawne Merriman, Dana Stubblefield, Bill Romanowski and if you’re ever in an NFL locker room, you couldn’t write the names down fast enough.

Checking this stuff out on the internet you will find, if you add the international cases, the list may literally be a mile long. Get the idea? The cheating is so prevalent, the feeling is no one can be trusted.

I was listening to a discussion about the greatest all-time athletes. Was Michael Jordan clean? Or Wayne Gretzky, Bill Russell, Wilt Chamberlain, Pele, Bo Jackson, Michael Phelps or....??

What about now? What about this Andrew McCutchen of the Pirates; he’s really going off? Or the five-tool guy, Josh Hamilton of the Rangers? Or those two studs with the Angels, Mike Trout and Mark Trumbo; or even Albert Pujols? What about Hunter Pence; he’s kind of hyper and jerky? What about Ryan Vogelsong; kind of angry on game-day and suddenly making a splash the last two years as an older player? What about Aubrey Huff and Juan Uribe in 2010; and now they are broken down? Why did this Josh Reddick guy explode for the Oakland A’s; and that Yoenis Cespedes is really built and Bartolo Colon is quite a surprise? Almost no one is immune to the suspicions.

Went out to see the Sacramento River Cats the other day. Are those guys juicing, too? Watched some Little League World Series... Naw!

The cries can be heard about respecting your opponents and “the game.” The same voices chuckle and say, “If you ain’t cheatin’, you ain’t tryin’.”

Okay, sports. It’s time to drop the hammer. Busted...it costs you the rest of the season, all of the following season, and half your salary/winnings the third season, to be donated to the charity of your choice.

Lets don’t let a good thing die.

The Genealogical Association of Sacramento

will have its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 19th, at 12:30 PM in the Belle Coolidge Library located at 5600 South Land Park Drive.

We will have our annual Sharing and Show and Tell, “What I Did This Summer”.

It is open to the public. Any questions, please call Melanie Howard 916-383-1221.



THE TRUTH ABOUT MARILYN MONROE

Would you believe that Marilyn Monroe has been dead for 50 years this month? And the most fascinating part of the story is that the story of Marilyn never ends with more researchers claiming they know all about this sex goddess and all her shortcomings. Well, how would you like to hear the real story from someone who knew her very well for nearly eleven years? Her name is June DiMaggio, and she is the niece of Joe DiMaggio, the baseball icon. June is in her 90th year now, and I have known her since 1980 when I met her after my very first radio show in Sacramento. She called to tell me that a man I had on the air was full of baloney in what he was telling me about Marilyn. I quickly countered with “who the heck are you?” After she told me, I was intrigued and had her on my show. We became fast friends after that encounter, and I heard stories about Marilyn that completely changed my mind about this sex goddess/comedienne that I had only seen on the big screen. Some twenty years later and incredible stories, I began a seven year journey that culminated in my book called *“Marilyn, Joe and Me”* June DiMaggio tells it like it was.

June was a singer/actress in Hollywood. She worked with the likes of Carol Channing on stage and Hugh O’Brien on TV and Dean Martin in the movies. But her fondest memories are about Marilyn Monroe, her friend, and of course, her uncle, Joe DiMaggio. June’s father, Tom (Joe’s brother) and her

POPPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

mother Louise owned DiMaggio’s Restaurant in San Francisco on Fisherman’s wharf from its opening in 1937 (when the Golden Gate Bridge opened) until the mid 80’s and their passing. So June grew up with celebrities coming through all the time. June met Marilyn when Joe was dating her, and knew her till the day she died. In fact, June saw and spoke to Marilyn the day of her death.

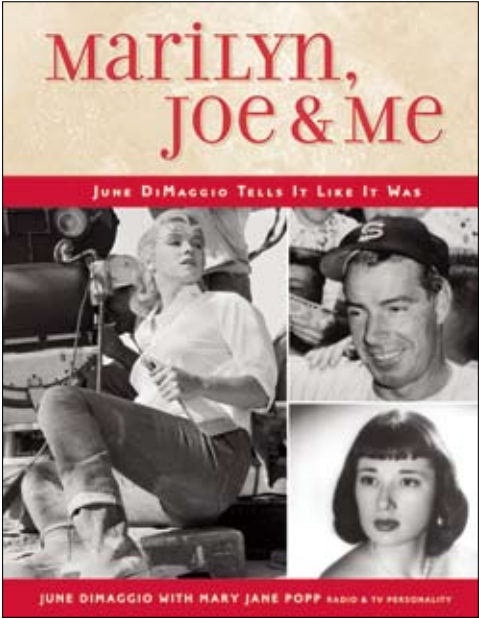
I was amazed at the Marilyn June told me about. She was sensitive and generous to a fault and a real intellect. I know. You probably

But they never fell out of love and were planning to remarry on the day she was buried! No one knew at the time but the family. June knew and June knew that she was murdered and did not commit suicide. The sad details are in the book along with the most wonderful stories about Marilyn and Joe and some of the other stories from June’s life with the stars and some fun stories about her own life in Hollywood. This book is June’s story, but it is the story of these beautiful people she knew and loved in a time that was the magic of Hollywood. It talks about the good, the bad and the ugly of a time gone by. And it is through the eyes of one, June DiMaggio, who lived it with these stars.

I do hope that June lives till 100, but had it not been for this book, the truth may have never been told. Now it is and it was worth seven years in the making. It also has some 80 photos, most of which have never been seen before including private moments with Marilyn and the DiMaggios to Marilyn in her last movie “The Misfits” to the funeral pictures and pictures of her home the morning after her death. I am proud to say we have gotten international interest and have done interviews from Canada to Latin America and everything in between. But I do feel close to my roots in Northern California. So, I want to make an offer you cannot get anywhere else. If you order the book from my website www.pop-poff.com, I will make sure you get an autographed copy by both June and me.

I have so much more to tell you, but I must end at this time. Suffice to say, the book is like a coffee table book, hard cover, and beautifully done. I wanted this to be a legacy to June and Marilyn...friends forever. It was an eye opener for me as I now have a new found respect for Marilyn Monroe...star forever!!!

Join Mary Jane for the KAHN Noon News Monday-Friday and then again for POPOFF 10 PM – Midnight.



thought she was this dumb blonde with a whispery voice and sexy wiggle. Sure, that was Marilyn on screen, but in fact, she did not have this tiny voice in real life and she had an amazingly curious mind. She could quote Emerson without a book and always wanted to learn new things.

Here are some facts that I go into detail for you in the book. Marilyn had both a fabulous and tragic life. She reached a pinnacle of stardom at such an early age. She will always remain that beautiful star because she died when she was only 36 years old. We never saw her with gray hair and wrinkles. She will remain forever Marilyn. She and Joe came together at the wrong time when Joe was retiring and she was just reaching stardom.

Murder is More Permanent Than Life Without Parole

SB 9 Bill Would Allow Prison Release For Juvenile Murderers

SACRAMENTO – Senator Doug LaMalfa (R – Richvale) derided the content of Senate Bill 9 (Yee), which passed from the Senate Floor August 20, 2012 despite bipartisan opposition. If signed by Governor Brown, the bill will allow individuals who have been convicted of special circumstance murder committed as a juvenile, and who have been sentenced to life with without parole (LWOP), to petition the court for a resentencing of “25 years to life,” potentially resulting in the release of convicted murders.

“Life without the possibility of parole for minors was implemented by the voters in 1990 by Proposition 115,” said LaMalfa. “Californians have been clear and decisive in their intent to implement justice of murderers. This measure not only subverts the electorate, but it undermines public safety.”

LaMalfa emphasized that current law does provide several

protections for any juvenile that is eligible for LWOP, including the requirement that an offender must be older than 16 at the time of the crime. Additionally, the prosecuting attorney would have to proactively choose to pursue the sentencing given the special circumstances. “Not only does a juvenile have to meet a variety of requirements to be eligible for LWOP, but the jury must unanimously agree that the defendant was guilty of a particularly heinous crime and the judge must concur that the severity of the crime warrants the absence of an opportunity for parole,” explained LaMalfa.

“Life without parole is a fitting punishment for some special circumstance crimes. In fact, just a few years ago, some of these offenders would have qualified for capital punishment. Life without parole was supposed to be the more humane option in lieu of the death penalty, and now we are seeing

the devolution of penalties. At this rate, I am concerned about where public safety—or should I say the lack of public safety—will be within a few short years.”

The Senator concluded: “We spent a lot of time talking about compassion for the person convicted and sentenced to life without parole, and how the permanency of their sentence will cause that person to lead a life of hopelessness. Think about it: the victim does not get to enjoy a life of hope. And the victim’s family does not have any reason to hope for the victim. We’re not talking about misbehavior; we’re talking about murder, and correct me if I am wrong, but murder is more permanent than life without parole.”

Senator Doug LaMalfa is a lifelong farmer representing the fourth Senate District including Shasta, Tehama, Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Siskiyou, Sutter, Del Norte, Placer, Trinity, Yuba and Nevada counties.

Sacramento County DA Report:

A recent case of interest

CASE: Marquise Smith (08/20/12)

PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Andrew Smith

District Attorney Jan Scully announced today that Marquise Smith was convicted by jury of second degree murder with the use of a handgun for the shooting death of Danielle Benefield.

Ms. Benefield was a passenger in a car that had gone to the Fastrip gas station after leaving a downtown club on September 4, 2010. Upon arriving at the Fastrip, her friend exited the car and entered into the crowd. Ms. Benefield got into the driver’s seat and moved the car to the slow lane on Florin Road where she and her other friend waited for their friend to return.

During this time, Smith was being chased in his car as he drove back to the Fastrip. He made a U-turn off of Florin Road back into the Fastrip parking lot. He exited his car and went into the crowd. When he saw the victim’s car now parked on Florin Road with the car running, he mistakenly believed it belonged to those that had chased him. Smith yelled out “Do you have a problem?” then fired four shots into the car. Ms. Benefield was killed by a bullet that traveled through the passenger car door and driver seat, hitting her in the back and heart.

Smith told detectives that he was across the street at the Shell station wearing different clothes and driving a different car than witnesses described as belonging to the shooter. While testifying, he admitted being at the Fastrip when the shots were fired and lying about his clothes and car.

Although there were more than 100 people at the Fastrip, no witnesses could identify the shooter. The jury was able to use inconsistent statements from Smith’s friends and Smith’s own statements and testimony to reach the conclusion that he was the shooter that night.

Smith faces a possible maximum sentence of 40 years to life in prison. Sentencing is set for September 14, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in Department 30 before the Honorable Judge DeAlba.

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A Case in Point

The Case of the Ringing Ears

By David Graulich, Esq.

Suppose that Aaron was seriously injured in a car accident due to the negligence of Gehrig. Aaron hires an attorney and the case goes to trial. In the first stage, a jury determines the degree of Gehrig’s liability – whether it was 100% or some lesser number. Once liability was decided, the damages that Gehrig (or his insurance company) would have to pay Aaron would be determined in a second stage. In legal terms, Aaron’s trial is “bifurcated” – split into two parts, so that liability is determined separately from the calculation of damages.

“Damages” is money paid to an injured person as compensation for loss or injury. The purpose of damages, at least in theory, is to place the victim in the same position he or she would have been in had the injury not occurred. While no amount of money can restore, say, a healthy person who was rendered paraplegic in a car accident, an award of money can “compensate” and help the victim deal with harsh realities. Compensatory damages usually are calculated in three categories: medical and related expenses, lost earnings and earnings capacity, and pain and suffering (to compensate the victim for physical and psychic pain, humiliation, and anguish caused by the injury).

As you might imagine, calculating the amount of damages can be considerably more complex than determining whether the defendant was at fault for causing the injuries in the first place. Damage awards are the proverbial blend of art and science. Professor Joseph Glannon, of Suffolk University Law School in Boston, has created hypothetical cases that teach the intricacies of damage awards.

For example, Professor Glannon presents the imaginary case of Mendel, a 25-year-old construction worker who is injured in a traffic accident and suffers a concussion. He has

minimal medical expenses, but testifies that he developed tinnitus, or ringing in the ears, due to the accident. Although tinnitus is a recognized medical condition, it is nearly impossible to corroborate by independent medical tests. The diagnosis is totally dependent on the testimony of the person suffering with the condition.

Mendel testifies that he is constantly plagued by tinnitus, and that it has made him jumpy and nervous. He says he often feels that he is going insane due to the ringing in his ears. He continues to work in construction, but the condition interferes with his ability to read or concentrate and interrupts his sleep, so he is always tired.

Assume that the other driver is found liable and that medical costs and lost earnings are less than \$1,000. The defendant’s insurance company offers \$35,000 to settle Mendel’s case. If you represented Mendel, would you advise him to accept the offer?

Remember that if you refuse the settlement offer, you will have to go before a jury to seek an award of damages. The jury could award something less than \$35,000, or something a great deal more. There is simply no way to know in advance.

Professor Glannon asked his law school students what they would award Mendel if they served on the jury. The answers ranged from \$20,000 to over half a million dollars. Some students reached their awards by calculating a sum for each minute, hour or day that Mendel had to live with tinnitus. One student gave Mendel two cents per minute; another awarded \$10,000 per year; a third gave Mendel a dollar per hour. Given Mendel’s life expectancy, the time-based awards by these student-jurors were in the \$300,000 to \$500,000 range.

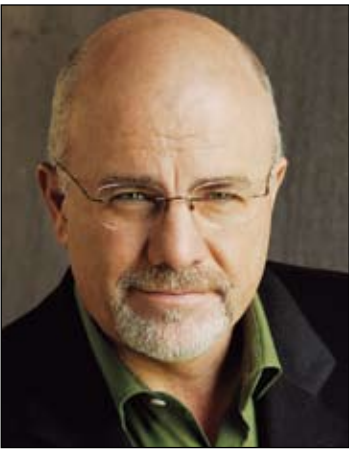
As Mendel’s lawyer, you have to decide whether the jury will

believe your client. Since the symptoms of tinnitus cannot be proven by objective measures – such as blood tests, X-rays or brain scans – Mendel’s testimony will be the crucial factor. If the jurors conclude that he is sincere, they will probably award more than \$35,000. If they think he is making up the injury, they may award him very little, despite the fact that the other driver has already been found negligent.

Veteran personal injury lawyers have a keen sense of what an injury is “worth.” It may sound cold-hearted, but a good Plaintiff’s attorney must make an educated guess about the economic valuation of a client’s injuries. The attorney’s estimate will be based on similar recent verdicts, the credibility and circumstances of the Plaintiff, and the juror pool from which the jury will be drawn. That said, even experienced attorneys are surprised from time to time by what a jury awards (or denies) an injured person.

Remember, if the jury’s damage award seems excessive, the defense still has the option of appealing the award and seeking a reduction. That’s what happened in the notorious “hot coffee” case, where a jury awarded a McDonald’s customer \$640,000 for being burned by coffee. McDonald’s appealed the award, and ultimately the parties settled out of court for a sum that was kept confidential, but was reported to be less than \$600,000.

David Graulich, Esq. is an attorney with the Law Office of Jeffrey D. Fulton in Sacramento. David can be contacted at (916) 558-6142 or dgraulich@jdfultonlaw.com. He is available to speak to community groups at no charge. This column is not intended as an offer of legal advice. Contact a qualified attorney to obtain advice with respect to any particular issue or problem.



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.

Are Coupons a Waste of Time?

Dear Dave,

Is it worth the time and effort to use coupons, or are they just a waste of time and a ploy to get you to buy things?

- Tammy

Dear Tammy,

Coupons are definitely a ploy to entice you to buy something you may not have purchased otherwise. But that doesn’t mean they’re bad things. The practical and sensible application of coupons can definitely help you save money.

The main things to watch out for when using coupons are overbuying and spending your money

Dave Says

on things you don’t really need. Seriously, you don’t need to hit Sam’s or Costco and walk out with nine gallons of mustard. I’ve even heard of people buying things they know they don’t like just because it was on sale or they had a coupon. I mean, how dumb is that?

I guess there is a time factor involved in collecting coupons, especially if you still like to clip them from the newspapers or flyers that come in the mail. Plenty of folks still do that every week. I think online coupons are a lot easier to search for and save though. There’s a company I love called eMeals that will work with you to plan recipes and also give you information on coupons and sales in your area to make the meals.

I’m definitely not anti-coupon, but at the same time couponing alone won’t change your family tree. It’s like any other tool. If used in a smart way, it can help you save money. And that’s not a bad thing!

- Dave

Birthday Money is a Last Resort

Dear Dave,

What’s the best way to save or use money given to a baby as a birthday present?

- Ron

Dear Ron,

I think it depends on your financial situation along with

your plans and goals. If you’re at a place where you can’t afford necessities, then there’s absolutely nothing wrong with using birthday money for food, diapers or clothes. That’s not a fun answer, but sometimes you have to do whatever it takes to properly care for your family.

If money isn’t a big issue though, you’re left with figuring out a plan. In our case, we invested lots of it toward their college funds. Then we taught them to save for other things themselves. For instance, we didn’t buy any of our kids their first cars. But we did agree to match whatever they saved when it came to this purchase.

There’s also nothing wrong with just setting up a simple savings account and watching it grow. As they get older, you can involve them in the process and begin to teach them about the three uses for money: spending, saving and giving. And if you start something like this when they’re really little, chances are they’ll already have a nice pile of money already stashed away when they become old enough for those teachable moments.

The point is to have a plan. Once you have a definite idea in mind, it’s a lot easier to achieve the goal!

- Dave

**For more financial help, please visit daveramsey.com.*

Man’s Best Friend

By Kay Burton

Gracie is a full breed Bloodhound, age 6; her parents were multiple “best in show” champs. Owner, Frank Roberson has had Gracie since she was 8 weeks of age. She is Franks shadow and is always there protecting him. She thinks she is a 140 lb lap dog. She has an awesome personality and one trainer said “she thinks she runs the house.” That trainer would not try to train her.

She loves riding in the car. She sits in the back like a human and I’m driving Ms. Gracie.

The Bloodhound is described as a “unique looking dog in a baggie suit,” it is one of the oldest breeds of dog that hunt by scent. The Bloodhound made it’s first appearance in Europe and was then established in America



Gracie

for over a century. This breed proved early on to be a tireless worker for law enforcement, being so accurate that evidence trailed by a Bloodhound has been accepted in a court of law.

Frank Roberson does a comic strip called “Maximus” for the Gold River newspaper and Gracie was the star of the one that ran in the Sac Bee last year.

She has a fun following because of the comic strip. She receives birthday cards and gifts. This year she received a valentine’s card from a dog in Maryland and his owner.

When visiting a local high school, doing promo events for the comic strip or at the Charles Schultz museum as a guest cartoonist, everyone asks about Gracie.

She is the poster dog for “man’s best friend”.

Kay Burton is a longtime columnist and supporter of the SSPCA and other rescue groups. To share your family pet story with our readers, e-mail: Kayburton1@comcast.net

Walking the American River Parkway, September 15 & 16, 2012

SACRAMENTO REGION – The Sacramento Walking Sticks Volkssport Club invites everyone, including the family dog, to join them on the American River Parkway next month on a new trail designed by the club’s president Heidi Foster. The start location is the William B. Pond Recreation Area and the walk will follow the American River Parkway alongside the American River. People will cross the Harold Richey Memorial Trail Bridge to the opposite side of the river; traveling through nature areas and shady parks, including River Bend Park and Rancho Cordova’s premier park, Hagan Community Park.

Volkswalks aren’t timed and are non-competitive so people will have the opportunity to stop along the way to take pictures, have a picnic lunch at any of the

parks mentioned, enjoy the play facilities for children and even let their dogs run free at the dog park at Hagan Community Park. Another option is to visit the adjacent Soil Born Farms on Saturday to see one of Sacramento’s urban all-natural farms.

The start location is William B. Pond Recreation Area, 5700 Arden Way, Carmichael 95608. There is a park fee of \$5.00. The walk is available on Saturday and Sunday, September 15 and 16, 2012. People can register anytime between 8:00 am to 12:00 Noon on both days. Everyone must be off the trail and return by 3:00 both days. The cost is FREE to everyone; however donations are always welcome. People wanting volkswalk credit will pay \$3.00 for the walk. The Sacramento Walking Sticks

will be providing dessert for everyone upon their return.

Volkssporting (translation means sport of the people) originated in Germany in the 1970’s and is still going strong in Europe. The sport is also popular here in the USA with over 300+ clubs in every state; the Sacramento Walking Sticks are the largest club in the USA with over 500 members.

Volkswalking is a sport anyone can do and is especially good for families because it gets everyone out walking in the great outdoors. Routes are always designed to showcase the best of a town and it is a perfect way to make new friends and try out new restaurants. What do people need to participate? Comfortable shoes, a hat or visor, sunscreen and drinking water to keep them hydrated.

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What can NASA’s Curiosity Rover Tell Us About the Future of Health?



By Eric Nelson

My cousin Tracy is our family’s token rocket scientist. (Doesn’t everyone have at least one in his or her family?). She’s so smart that you can tell it’s an effort for her to explain, in terms the rest of us can understand, exactly what it is she does at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). When she does, my standard response – “Wow!” – can either mean, “Wow, I can’t believe you know so much” or “Wow, I have no idea what you just said.” Suffice it to say, Tracy is a happy camper these days. For the past two years she’s been working on the Curiosity Rover project and finally saw her efforts come to full fruition last Monday when this Mini Cooper-sized mobile laboratory touched down on the surface of Mars. (For a mind-blowing account of what the last 7-minutes of Curiosity’s 8 1/2-month, 352 million-mile journey looked like, check out this video from JPL).

Compare this achievement

to a project my dad worked on some sixty years ago: A space capsule that took monkeys into outer space – the precursor to the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo programs that eventually put men on the moon. Had you asked anyone back then if they thought there’d ever come a time when we’d be landing hi-tech dune buggies on Mars, their answer might have been anything from “You gotta be nuts” to “I don’t see why not.”

Knowing Dad, it probably would have been the latter.

I always admired Dad’s ability to think outside of the box, beyond present perceptions and more towards future possibilities. But what does it take to make the leap from, in this case, monkeys to Mars? Is it better technology? Or better thinking?

Obviously new technology doesn’t just magically appear on the scene. The thinking always precedes the thing. This applies, of course, to every human endeavor and not just space exploration. Take for instance health care.

Had someone told you 50 or even 10 years ago that the simple act of being honest might have an impact on your health, would you have believed them? Probably not, and yet that’s exactly what University of Notre Dame’s Dr. Anita Kelly asserts in a paper presented just last week to the American Psychological Association. Dr. Kelly found that those who participated in her study “could purposefully and dramatically reduce their everyday lies, and that in turn was associated with significantly improved health.”

The idea that the quality of one’s thought can have an impact on the quality of their health extends well beyond honesty to include other health-inducing attitudes such as gratitude, generosity, compassion, and love.

The interesting thing is, unlike our ability to land a sophisticated piece of machinery on Mars, the connection between consciousness and health has been around for a very long time, although perhaps not as widely understood or practiced as it is today. After all, wasn’t it Moses who first implored the Children of Israel to be honest; that is, to “not tell lies about others” (Exodus 20:6)? Who knew that what he was saying to those thousands of people wandering around in the desert some 3000 years ago was as much prescription as it was proscription?

Although no one can say for sure what the future holds – either for space exploration or health care – there does appear to be one constant: Better thinking always begets better things – better science, better technology, and better ways of caring for our health. With this in mind, the future looks very bright indeed.

Eric Nelson’s articles on the link between consciousness and health have appeared in a number of local, regional, and national publications, including The Washington Times. He also serves as the media and legislative spokesperson for Christian Science in California (www.norcalcs.org). This article shared with permission by Communities @WashingtonTimes.com.

Little known Veterans Administration Benefit is Lifesaver for Local Family Struggling with Long-term Care Costs

In early 2011, Marianne Thomas of Fair Oaks found herself in a difficult situation trying to manage her father’s care. A strong and independent war vet who took great pride in living alone, dad’s health was rapidly declining, making it hard for him to keep up around the house.

Recognizing her father was struggling to perform tasks of daily living such as self-care, medication management and food preparation, Thomas asked her dad about bringing in an agency for in-home care or moving to assisted living.

Thomas says dad refused out of fear he’d have to sell his home and start blowing through the savings that he worked so hard to leave behind for his kids and grand-kids.

Torn between getting her dad the help he needed and letting her father age with dignity, Thomas began cutting back her work schedule to provide much of the hands-on assistance herself.

“Dad didn’t realize the financial hit I was taking, but it was important to me that he felt comfortable and dignified in his last years,” she explains. “In my own time, I began to look for options to support our family as we worked through dad’s disability,” she said.

Discovering The Aid & Attendance Benefit

It was during this search that Thomas came across a flyer to attend a workshop hosted by local elder law attorney, Heather Chubb on VA benefits. The workshop focused on Aid & Attendance, a benefit for wartime veterans (or their surviving spouses) to cover the costs of long-term care.

“I had no idea such a benefit even existed,” recalled Thomas. “I always considered the VA and VA hospitals as a last resort for when we could no longer meet dad’s needs here at home,” she says.

What is Aid & Attendance?

This special VA pension awards up to \$24,238.00 per year in tax-free income for veterans and their spouses struggling to perform tasks of daily living such as bathing, toileting, dressing, meal preparation, shopping, feeding and managing medication.

No service-connected disability is necessary to qualify, but attorney Chubb notes that there are income and asset restrictions to collect the full benefit. She warns that families should “not disqualify themselves though,” because the VA takes into account medical expenses and additional planning that is approved by the VA.

Financial Relief for Dad

After attending Chubb’s workshop on VA benefits, Marianne Thomas felt relieved to finally have the information to get her father the help he needed without having to spend his entire life savings. She immediately started planning and within 6 months her father began receiving his benefit checks.

“The best part about these benefits is that the VA allows you to pay a family member if you don’t want to hire outside help. Dad asked me to continue handling his care, so this benefit allows me to leave work and do that,” says Thomas.

Getting Help

Older veterans interested in learning what benefits are available to them and how to qualify are encouraged to attend Heather Chubb’s monthly workshop called, “The VA’s Best Kept Secret”.

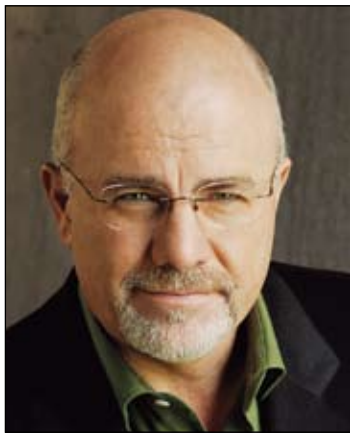


Heather Chubb

Registration is free and family members are welcome. Dates for August events are August 29th at 2pm and August 30th at 7pm.

For more information or to register for an upcoming event, please visit www.sacramentoveteranaid.com or call 916-241-9661.

Dave Ramsay Business Event



SACRAMENTO REGION – On Friday Sept 21st, Christian Business Roundtable presents EntreLeadership, NY Times bestseller and noted author Dave Ramsey’s business leadership training program based on his new book, where he personally teaches individuals, teams, and businesses how to grow.

This is NOT a personal finance seminar — it is a practical business-practices training by a business person who built a company from his desktop to over 300 employees. Find out how Dave runs his own company and how you can apply his experience to your company or non-profit organization.

Aric Resnicke, a Sacramento business consultant says, “This seminar is the best business-centered training I’ve ever attended. There’s in-depth teaching for all aspects of business operations, starting with how to be an excellent leader, making this a MUST ATTEND for all business owners, managers and non-profit leaders!”

Lessons taught on September 21st include; Leadership Development, Creating a Culture of Excellence, The Art

of the Selling Process, Thriving and Leading During Chaos, Decision-Making The Right Way.

Whether you’re an individual who wants to develop your leadership abilities, a business, or organizational leader who wants to develop your team, or an entrepreneur who wants to build a business on solid, proven principles, EntreLeadership is for you.

When: Friday Sept 21st, 8:30am - 4:00pm.

Where: Bayside Church Conference Center 8191 Sierra College Dr. in Roseville

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See the website for registration and more information: www.ChristianBusinessRoundtable.com.



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You pay only one low price for the entire 30 Day package!

How does it Work?

Go to MPG8.com.

Click on the banner for the newspaper in your area.

Click on the bright yellow Classified Marketplace banner.

Click on Place an Ad, and follow the instructions.

You are not charged until you create and approve your ad!

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