**Donald Trump: "Mitt Romney is ready** 

# AMERICAN KIVER

Volume 7 • Issue 4

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

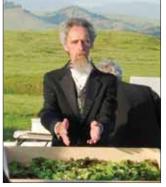
**Second Edition for February 2012** 

#### **Raising Money** for the Wounded



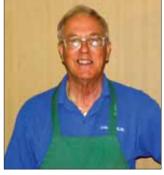
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#### A Leisurely History of Sacramento County: **65 Million Years Per Hour**



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#### **How to Build Your 2012 Herb Flower Veggie Garden**



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direct link to our online edition!

# Dedicated to Giving Back



Customer Service Specialist Evelyn Richardson holds a photo of granddaughter Bevin who was diagnosed with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis in November 2010. Photo Credit Rancho Cordova.

RANCHO CORDOVA-Behind the scenes at Rancho Cordova City Hall, City employees champion fundraising activities to support the community they live, work, and play in. In the last year, City employees participated in over 40 community events and fundraising activities.

The focus of the current fundraiser is a smiling 3-year old child named Bevin. Her photo nangs in the employee room. Bevin is the granddaughter of Customer Service Specialist Evelyn Richardson.

The child was diagnosed with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA) in November 2010. JRA affects her hips, knees, and left ankle causing her to walk with a limp and requiring daily medication and weekly injections. Since diagnosis, the family has been working with the Arthritis Foundation. They have formed a team called "Run Bubbas Run" to participate in this year's Arthritis Walk at the Capitol on Saturday, May 5, 2012.

"Bubbas" is Bevin's term of affection for her favorite stuffed animal. Throughout the day, City employees drop plastic bottles and soda cans into a collection bin beneath Bevin's photo. The family is collecting recyclables to raise money for Team Run Bubbas Run to support the Arthritis Foundation in finding a

"My family has been so honored and appreciative of the support we've received from the city and my co-workers for the recycling drive," Richardson said. "It's only recyclables, but every little bit has helped Bevin's team."

To date, Team Run Bubbas Run has raised a total of \$1,260 and \$255.42 of this amount is from recycling. To learn more about Bevin's journey, visit http://bevinsadventureswith-

jra.blogspot.com. Many of the employee fundraisers are made possible because of the City's Employee Advisory Team (EAT).

The EAT Committee was created in 2004 through the suggestion of a City employee. EAT's purpose is to increase communication among employees and provide a forum for as and suggestions to enhance the unique workplace culture. "One component of the EAT Committee is to coordinate community fundraising activities," said Lisa Brown, Human Resources Analyst and EAT member. "City employees are dedicated to giving back to the community year round through

donations and volunteering." The EAT Committee is now fundraising to support a \$500 employee-sponsored Community

Public Responsible Innovative and Dedicated Employees (PRIDE) Scholarship awarded each year to a graduating high school student in Rancho Cordova.

The Community PRIDE Scholarship was started in 2008 by the EAT Committee to recognize the value of education and honor exceptional youth by helping them achieve their higher education goals. "Employees are honored to recognize local students who exhibit pride in their community," said Brown. An employee Spaghetti Feed and Talent Show will be held March 2 to raise funds for the scholarship.

For more information about the scholarship or to apply, visit www.cityofranchocordova.org. Each time the City of Rancho Cordova receives feedback from the community, employees are driven to find additional ways to make a difference.

This week, a letter and Certificate of Appreciation were received from Maria Barrs, President and General Manager at News 10, thanking the City for participating in the news organization's Coats for Kids drive. "Thanks to your generosity, we were able to meet and surpass our goal of collecting 25,000 coats," Barrs wrote."Together with your help and the help of many schools and businesses throughout our region, we were able to make over 26,000 coats available to children and family in need this winter!"

Through a fundraising drive, the City collected 45 coats to support the winter coat drive.

The City has donated about 450 coats in the last six years.

For more information on the fundraising and charitable activities of City of Rancho Cordova employees, go to www.cityofranchocordova.org.

## **Grange Supports GMO Labeling for November Ballot**

Thousands of volunteers are now fanning out state-wide to launch a petition drive to get the California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act on the ballot in November. In the thick of the grass-roots initiative is the California State Grange, one of the leading partners in the effort.

The California State Grange has long supported the idea that GMOs (genetically modified organisms) in the food supply should be adequately tested and that consumers are entitled to know what's in food they eat. The American people agree. Yet despite overwhelming support for GMO labeling, for over a decade regulators and legislators at the national and state level have largely ignored public concerns.

That's why the Committee for the Right to Know is taking the issue directly to the voters of California. Now, with petitions in hand, over 1,500 volunteers will be gathering signatures at stores and farmers markets up and down the state.

"The bottom line is Californians have a right to know what's in the food we eat and feed our children. It's time to send a strong, direct message to those who govern us, whether they be agency or elected, that we want genetically engineered foods labeled," says Pamm Larry, founder of the Committee For the Right to Know.

Check the website, www.labelgmos.org for more information on this issue.





Capitol Pops Concert Band Director Jerry Lopes.

SACRAMENTO REGION -The Louise Hess Foundation of Sacramento Region Com-

munity Foundation has awarded a \$1,500 grant to the Capitol Pops Concert Band, the Fair Oaks-

## **Capitol Pops Concert Band Receives Grant** based community band celebrat-

ing its 15th year in 2012.

CPCB Director Jerry Lopes, who has served as the band's director since its first rehearsal on Feb. 6, 1997, announced the awarding of the grant.

The one-time grant will be used for the band's upcoming concert season, which will feature more than a dozen free-to-the-public performances throughout the greater Sacramento region. The band recently resumed rehearsals in preparation for this year's series of concerts.

The CPCB season will begin with

the band's 15th anniversary concert on April 21, 2012, in the gym at Rusch Park in Citrus Heights. Other performances include concerts in Roseville, Carmichael, Fair Oaks and other Sacramento-area locales.

Under the baton of Lopes, CPCB concerts feature Broadway show tunes, movie themes, marches and patriotic songs, as well as old/new popular standards. Through two decades, the band has performed at venues and events throughout the Sacramento area, including the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee and the annual Fourth of July celebration in Royer Park in Roseville.

About 75 musicians in the selfsupporting, nonprofit CPCB span a wide range of ages, from students to nonagenarians. Concerts also feature musician soloists and vocalists. The CPCB scholarship fund provides private music lessons for interested students.

For more information on the band, call (916) 967-1461, visit www.capitolpops.org or visit the band's Facebook page. Venues interested in booking the band should send e-mails to Lopes at glopes@macnexus.org.

**National Pancake Day Benefits Children's Miracle Network** 

SACRAMENTO REGION -For the seventh consecutive year, IHOP restaurants nationwide will offer each guest a free short stack of its famous buttermilk pancakes on National Pancake Day in an effort to raise awareness and funds for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

### Free Flapjacks Fundraiser at IHOP For every short stack of buttermilk pancakes served on National Pancake Day, IHOP

guests are invited to make a voluntary donation to Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Donations made at IHOPs in the area will benefit the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals' program at UC Davis Children's Hospital. IHOP hopes to raise \$2.7 million this year, with a goal to bring the total amount of funds raised to more than \$10

IHOP served four million free pancakes on National Pancake Day 2011 and pancake lovers donated more than \$2.5 million to children's charities, exceeding the fundraising goal of \$2.3 million.

All of the free pancakes served on National Pancake Day 2011 would create a stack nearly 16 miles high. National Pancake Day at IHOP is TUESDAY, February 28, 2012, 7 a.m. – 10 p.m. (15 full hours)

Since the inception of National Pancake Day in 2006, IHOP has raised nearly \$8 million and given away more than 14 million pancakes to support charities in the communities in which it operates.

National Pancake Day 2011 was IHOP's largest one-day event in the company's 53-year history.

Pancake Day is a tradition that dates back several centuries to when the English prepped for fasting during Lent. Strict rules prohibited the eating of all dairy products during Lent, so pancakes were made to use up the supply of eggs, milk, butter and other dairy products...hence the name Pancake Tuesday, or Shrove Tuesday. This year, IHOP's National Pancake Day will be celebrated a week later, as the popular annual campaign

has evolved into a month-long celebration that takes place during the month of February. It will culminate with the free flapjack giveaway on February 28.

To find a local IHOP or to donate online, visit www.ihoppancakeday.com.



## Birds of a Feather Breakfast Together



Scouting for breakfast near the American River, a black crested night heron is among species likely to be spotted at the March 10 avian safari. Photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

By Susan Maxwell Skinner

EFFIE YEAW NATURE CENTER – The egret has landed. The aquatic hen has also mated, nested and is coddling chicks by March. In this otherwise bleak month, nature observes its own schedule; early bird moms are already serving worms.

If you know where to look on the American River Parkway, you can see dazzling egrets guarding lofty nests; woodpecker babies hatching in sky scraper tree cavities. Above, migratory species

beat homeward passages in the winter sky. You hear unlovely squawks from elegant herons and the barely audible chip-chip of hummingbirds.

It helps to have a guide. And that is how a 21 year tradition at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center assists. The non-profit's annual "Bird and Breakfast" fundraiser on March 10 provides feasts for eyes, ears and (human) tummies.

As the sun rises, Sacramento Audubon Society guides will lead explorers to view dozens of bird species during their most

industrious season. Few eyes could spot a nickel-sized hummingbird nest, constructed from grass and cobwebs. To view it bulging with microscopic chicks is a further revelation. Audubon people research Effie Yeaw's 80 acres - and the adjacent riverside — in preparation for the pre-breakfast ramble. Small groups of guests are lead from habitat to habitat.

A spring tradition for many wildlife fans, the avian safari is followed by a sumptuous breakfast served by American River Natural History Association board members. \$35 admission assists the survival of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. "It's a rare opportunity to experience animal lifecycles and study things you often pass without seeing," promises center staffer Betty Cooper. "We sell out every year."

The event is not recommended for young children. Participants should wear comfortable shoes and bring binoculars. Attests Cooper: "Rain or shine, it will happen. Birders are an intrepid

Bird and Breakfast begins at 8 a.m. Bookings are essential; numbers limited. To learn more about the fundraiser, call (916) 489-

## Raising Money for the Wounded



John Schuessler: One Man, One Bike, 3,100 Miles,

SACRAMENTO REGION Orangevale resident John Schuessler departed San Diego February 20th on a solo, selfsupported bicycle trek across the United States. It is John's hope that the burden of pedaling such a heavy load will diminish on the knowledge that funds raised will benefit our wounded soldiers

returning from conflicts abroad.

The charities that John will be riding for are:

The Wounded Warrior Project Providing programs that are uniquely structured to nurture the mind and body, and encourage economic empowerment.

Paralyzed Veterans of America This organization champions for improvements in health care benefits, career placement, and provides the path to adventure through adaptive sports.

For 45 days, John will be traveling on an established cycling route known as "The Southern Tier." At approximately 3,100 miles, this route plays hosts to an exciting mix of landscapes, featuring extremes in both elevation and temperature. A seven-map set from the American Cycling Association will guide him through California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. Along the way, John is sure to encounter a wide variety of wildlife, many of which would be quite content with trying to eat

Follow John Schuessler's daily journal w/photos at www. johnridesforthewounded.com.

There will be blogs on John's web site where you can send a heartfelt "thank you" and other words of encouragement to our brave men and women returning from war.

Additionally, there will be direct links to the aforementioned charities where your donations (even small ones) can make a difference in the lives of our heroes and their families.

## Singles Nite in Hollywood Dance

is hosting a Nite in Hollywood Dance for single adults Saturday, March 3, from 7 PM to 11:30 PM. At Carmichael Presbyterian Church, 5645 Marconi Ave., Carmichael. The evening features DJ John Maricich playing dance music 8-11:30, and dance teacher Dancing Dave teaching the Merengue 7-8 PM. Dress like a movie, tv, music or sports star, or come as the star that you are! Costume contest with prizes. Usually about 1/2 of the attendees dress with the tme so either way is acceptable.

Christian Singles Network, Northern California's largest inter-church singles group, has

Christian Singles Network over 7,500 singles on its roster and hosts dances every 3 to 4 weeks. Call the number below for directions or more information. The price also includes appetizers (including dessert) and complimentary non alcohol beverages. The dance music is a mix of rock and roll, ballroom, Latin, and Christian music.

> Tickets are \$15 pre-sale or \$20 at the door. Membership is not necessary to attend, and all ages and all denominations are welcome. CSN will be celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, drawing singles from the Sacramento, the foothills, and beyond to Reno and the Bay Area. A special ticket price of

\$10 at the door is available when people join CSN for a year.

Pre-sale tickets are available at Berean Christian Bookstore, Sacramento; Jireh's Bookstore in Placerville, and on line at www.christiansinglesnet.com, or by mail through CSN, P.O. Box 909, Meadow Vista, CA 95722. Volunteers receive a discount or attend free for helping. Call the office to volunteer.

For more information call the 24 hour event line at (916) 658-0606 or the CSN office at (530) 878-8606. The website, www. christiansinglesnet.com, includes directions to the dance as well as information about upcoming events including seminars and parties.

## Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District Events Schedule

Ladies Night Out

Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> @ the Fair Oaks Community *Clubhouse 8 6 p.m.- 9 p.m.* 

Entertainment, shopping, pampering, raffle, and wine tasting (presented by the Active 20/30 Club of Greater Sacramento)

\$10 presale/ \$15 at the door (cash only)

Child care (ages 5-12) available from 6p.m.-9p.m. in the arts and crafts building. \$5 per child.

Easter Eggstravaganza

Saturday, April 7th, 2012

8am – 1pm 8 Fair Oaks Park

The Fair Oaks Recreation & Park District presents an "Eggciting" Easter adventure for the entire

family. Please join us for a FREE egg hunt for children 0-13 years old, or hop on over and purchase entry into the morning breakfast and a \*\$10 wristband for unlimited carnival games and inflatables, one (1) choo-choo ride, and one (1) face painting. Attention adults: Don't get left out of the fun, purchase your \$3 admission ticket for the Fair Oaks Youth Advisory Board's "Adult Egg Hunt" for a chance to hunt around for giftcards and prizes!

\*Carnival tickets are also available for purchase for 50¢ each. Cash only. No refunds, no exceptions! All ticket sales will end @ 12:00pm, one hour before the event ends.

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**More Local News!** 

AmericanRiverMessenger.com



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## A Tale of Two Tails





County Supervisor Susan Peters parades her new pooch, Ernie. The mini schnauzer succeeds Peters' deceased Welsh terrier Bryn (right) . Photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner.

By Susan Maxwell Skinner

SACRAMENTO COUNTY - Sacramento County's third supervisorial district has a new first dog. Filling paw-prints of Supervisor Susan Peters' beloved Welsh terrier Bryn, a rambunctious bundle of white fur now scampers in tow.

"Bryn and I had been partners since my husband (Sacramento businessman Peter McCuen) died," said Peters. We'd taken

many vacations together -Mexico, Wyoming, Oregon – she always flew with me. She attended my outdoor events and there was nothing better than her beautiful brown eyes meeting me at the end of a long day."

The wooly companion slowed down at 12 years old. "She had kidney disease," explained her mistress. "Medical interventions helped for a while. At last she couldn't get around and she hurt. One day she just looked at me with eyes that said: it's time. We went to the vet together. It was tough." At length, Peters decided to fill the space in home and heart. Relatives recommended eightyear-old mini schnauzer Ernie as a great dog from a broken home. "Bring him over," suggested

Rapport was immediate. "Though I'd never had a boy dog, we got along fine," said the adopter. "Ernie loves to go places. I put a high chair in the back of my car so he can look out. I catch myself calling Ernie 'Bryn.' And sometimes, his name comes out 'Bernie."

Two gregarious hounds have demonstrated their value in politics. "Everybody loves dogs," surmises Peters. "At park events, children run to Ernie. Parents usually follow. He's a great conversation starter. Three kids knocked on my door last week, collecting for a food drive. They got so busy petting Ernie, they forgot what they'd come for."

Approves his best friend: "When I come home, he's jumping with all four feet off the ground. Gosh, my husband never did that."

## SCC Music News "Gospel Mass"

SACRAMENTO – The Sacramento City College Choral Department will appear in concert, featuring Robert Ray's "Gospel Mass", along with other Gospel pieces and Spirituals.

As described by Ray, the Gospel Mass, presented entirely in English, "is my desire to

combine centuries of old traditions of Mass settings with sounds of the contemporary Black Church. "

The concert will be presented on the following two dates:

Friday, March 9th, at 8pm, at the Lutheran Church of the Master, 1900 Potrero Way,

Sacramento, 95822 Sunday, March 11th, at 8pm at St Luke's Lutheran Church, 7595 Center Parkway, Sacramento 95823 Admission for each concert is

For more information, contact Doreen Irwin at 558-2496.



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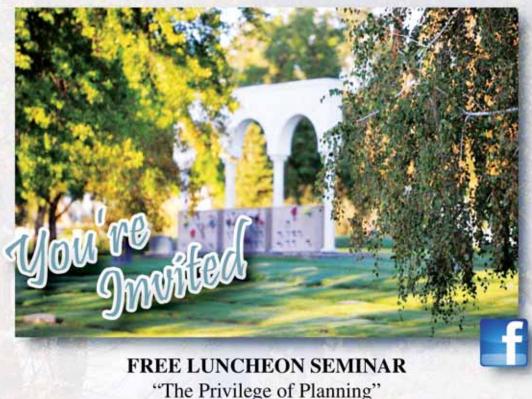
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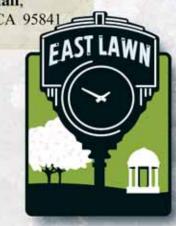
"The Privilege of Planning"

Choose One Of These Dates
Wednesday, February 29, 2012 – 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, March 29, 2012 - 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, April 26, 2012 - 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Seating is limited to 30 attendees per seminar

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## MAKE EVERY MAN WANT YOU

Valentine's Day has just passed, but how would you like to be sexy and irresistibly attractive to men all year long? Then forget about playing games. Those things don't work in the long run. That comes from Marie Forleo, Fox News online life coach and relationship expert. Marie gave advice to Rachel Ray, ABC's 20/20, even Kelly Ripa says she has the answers to unlock your inner magnet. Now Marie brings us "Make Every Man Want You."

According to Marie, most women have no idea that many of their normal and traditional ways of relating damage their ability to have satisfying relationships with men...and with themselves? She wants you to break free from old conditioning, dissolve habitual behaviors that wreak havoc on relationship bliss, and unleash your authentic irresistibility once and for all. When I interviewed Marie on

# POPPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

my POPPOFF Radio Show, she promised her advice will show you why and what you can do to turn things around right now. If you're stuck in bad relationship patterns and want to stop the insanity, she will set you straight. And, if you're already in a relationship, but can't seem to hold his interest, she will reveal your personal path to keep him wanting more, more!!! It's a one-stop shop for women who want to be truly irresistible... inside and out...and experience a life bursting with fun, self-confidence, and well-being.

Marie is quite frank in her advice like, "Trying to manipulate yourself, or someone you're with, into a long term relationship using 'rules' or 'techniques' quite frankly, sucks." And, "Eventually, any woman who's interested in having true love needs to learn how to relate to herself, and others, in an honest, straightforward and compassionate way." "Make Every Man Want You" encourages a spiritual solution that includes recognizing a relationship doesn't fix or complete your life. Here are a few succinct hints at what you need to do.

1) Believing that you need a man to feel complete, secure and fulfilled is a surefire way to remain unhappy and unhitched.

2) Whining, complaining, and

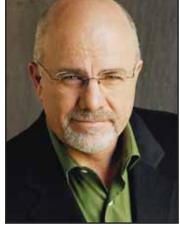
worrying are turnoffs, so drop the drama! A positive attitude is sexy

3) Men are "as is" merchandise. Don't try to "fix" or improve them. EVER!

4) Take charge of your life! Confidence will make you more sexy and appealing.

Marie goes on to say sexual mistakes women make turn men off, and this one might surprise you, why "knowing what you want " in a man can actually prevent you from finding one. She also talks about the deadly effect talking about the past...especially if you don't know the right way to talk about it. She also goes into how to upgrade your personal appearance without spending a ton of money to do it. Bottom line, Marie helps you to overcome the most self-defeating dating mindset. Ladies, she even gets into the biggest mistakes women make in bed that spark a man to stray. She is adamant that women must end the "war." She takes to the battleground in "Make Every Man Want You". You can also check out her website at www.marieforleo.com. Good luck at IRRESISTIBLE!!!

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



Dave Ramsey is a personal money management expert, popular national radio personality and the author of three New York Times bestsellers – The Total Money Makeover, Financial Peace Revisited and More Than Enough. In them, Ramsey exemplifies his life's work of teaching others how to be financially responsible, so they can acquire enough wealth to take care of loved ones, live prosperously into old age, and give generously to others.

### Take your time with this one ...

Dear Dave,

My boyfriend has a lot of debt. The other day a creditor called, and he wouldn't answer the phone. Then, he told me it would be easier for him to pay off his debts if we were married because I could act as his accountability partner. I don't want to be the money cop, and I wonder if he would truly be more motivated. What do you think?

- Janine

# Dave Says

Dear Janine,

Someone who isn't making any headway in getting out of debt while they're single probably isn't going to do a complete turnaround just because they get married. You can act as his accountability partner if you want, but you don't have to get married to help him. In fact, dating is probably a better way to do this, because you can determine whether he's really changing, or if he's just trying to get you on board to help pay the bills!

Don't misunderstand, Janine. Debt, in itself, doesn't keep someone from being marriage material. But you're definitely not marriage material if you don't work, you're irresponsible, you haven't taken control of your life, have no character or can't manage your own behaviors. These kinds of people are going to stay in debt and not be able to pay their bills for the rest of their lives.

I'd say date this guy a little longer, just to see if he's serious about changing. But don't get engaged yet, and don't pay one penny of his bills for him!

- Dav

#### What's in a Name?

Dear Dave,

My son is a sophomore at a local college, and he wants to transfer to a very prestigious

university. If he did this he would incur more than \$100,000 in student loan debt, and that's with us picking up half of the cost. What do you think I should tell him?

Dear Will,

I'd have a hard time telling anybody that one school is \$100,000 more valuable than another one. The fact is unless he has \$100,000 lying around somewhere, he shouldn't go to that other school for one very simple reason – he can't afford it!

We hire people every week at my company, and where they attended college is a very minor deal. There will always be a few corporate types out there who play games and try to turn the office into some kind of snooty country club, but the fact is most employers don't care where you went to college.

It's what you learn and being able to use that knowledge in the marketplace that's really valuable, Will. Knowledge is king, and we live in a knowledge-based economy. If you can't retain and apply what they're teaching, then the only thing more worthless than a college degree is a college pedigree!

Dave

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





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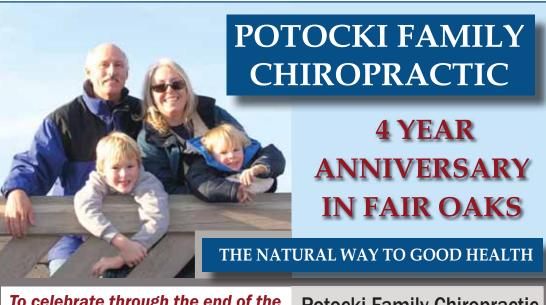
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The Messenger Page 5 **Second Edition for February 2012** 

## Applications Now Accepted for City Scholarship Fund

RANCHO CORDOVA -Employees of the City of Rancho Cordova have exhibited their pride in the community in many ways, by supporting many activities and organizations throughout the year. They have formed the Community Public Responsible Innovative and Dedicated Employees (PRIDE) Scholarship to present to a graduating high school senior who is a resident of Rancho Cordova. "Recognizing the value of education and honoring exceptional youth are the best ways to demonstrate support for our community," said Lisa Brown, a member of the City's Employee Advisory Team.

Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on March 30, 2012. Scholarship applicants must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average and have proof of acceptance at an accredited college, university, vocational, or technical college. Applicants must also write an essay about their student and community activities and academic plans. Essays should not exceed 700 words.

Applications for the 2012 Community PRIDE Scholarship are available at City Hall, 2729 Prospect Park Drive, Neighborhood Services, 2880 Gold Tailings Court, or online

at www.cityofranchocordova. org, click on Community PRIDE Scholarship under "Latest News & Updates." Application packets must be postmarked no later than March 30, 2012 or be delivered to City Hall by 5:00 p.m. on that date. Entries will be judged by a panel of City employees.

"We want to reward young people who have demonstrated attributes of good citizenship in our community by helping them achieve their higher education goals," Brown concluded.

Source: City of Rancho Cordova

# FIP of the by Gerry Scholl

## Of Rivalries and The Zone

Two of my favorite things in sports are rivalries and The Zone. With the limited number of hours in a day to tune into sports,

I always prefer to zero in on the classic matchups — the rivalries.

There have been a lot of rivalry games in college basketball lately. I really like the college game, and I don't care what anybody else says. Many on-air personalities make a habit of ripping college hoops and the quality of play. Sure, it's not up to professional standards, but I like following my favorite teams, St .Mary's and Cal, and the rivalry games still make it an attraction for me. And, I'm often rewarded with some clas-

St. Mary's, back in the days when they were rarely good, it was all about beating USF and Santa Clara. Now, under coach Randy Bennett, the Gaels have been good and that has spawned a great rivalry with Gonzaga. I never felt the Gaels (23-5) were quite as good as their national ranking this year (as high No. 13), but they are in position to break Gonzaga's string of eleven straight WCC titles, holding a one-game lead with two to play. The pair shared the crown last season. With two losses and two key injuries, though, St. Mary's has slipped to No. 23 in the ESPN/ USA TODAY Coaches Poll.

Meanwhile, Cal (22-6, 12-3) leads the undervalued Pac-12 along with Washington and is on the verge of breaking into the rankings for the first time all season. I most closely follow the former Pac-10 because there are so many long-standing relationships among the teams. For Cal there is Stanford, of course, and UCLA and Arizona (all despicable foes), but the one I like is with Oregon. It seems every time I watch the two face off it's a great game, including last Thursday's 86-83 thrilling Cal

I'll scour the weekly listings for the best matchups and, I have to admit, I get a good charge out of the North Carolina/Duke feud. Duke won the last meeting a couple weeks ago, 85-84, with a late comeback and a buzzerbeater shot.

As for our area pros, the Sacramento Kings and Golden State Warriors are two lousy teams lost in the ozone again, but when they play each other it is usually pretty good. Or, take either playing against the L.A. Lakers and it could be good because our loveable losers usually raise their level of play, though they usually lose.

Raising the level is all about that over-used word in sports, focus. Focus is all about trying to get into The Zone. The Zone is tunnel-vision, total focus on the task at hand. Everything is clicking. The basketball is part of your hand and the hoop is as big as the ocean. Teammates are like siblings, you are familiar with their every move. You block out all distractions, but absorb the positive influences and vibes of teammates and fans osmotically.

Jeremy Lin is in The Zone. The New York Knicks' young point guard phenom has it all going (except for a few too many turnovers). Lin has broken through from the fringes of the NBA to create Linsanity

throughout the basketball world. On the verge of being cut by a third team this season, he seized an opportunity for playing time and made a sensation out of it. His "game" has been compared to two-time league MVP Steve Nash. Don't get too carried away

All the well-known rage these days, Lin has led the Knicks back from oblivion and to a 8-1 record since taking over his position, setting a number of records for a beginner along the way. Sunday it was The Kid versus Kidd, Hall of Fame-bound point guard of defending champion Dallas, Jason Kidd. After Lin went for 28 points and 14 assists in a 104-97 comeback victory, Kidd quickly made it over to the new kid on the block to offer a hug of congratulations and encouragement.

Lin, the Palo Alto High and Harvard grad, has gone from sleeping on couches to the tip of everyone's tongue, Saturday Night Live and David Letterman's Top Ten in a couple weeks. In a TV interview he said spending most of last year at the end of the bench for Golden State "brought me to tears." That could do that to anybody. Now he's all smiles on T-shirts everywhere.

It will be most interesting to see if it all continues when injured superstar Carmelo Anthony returns to the Knicks' lineup and infiltrates The Zone — it can be a delicate thing. Regardless of what happens, it was terrific watching Lin light up Kobe Bryant and the Lakers for 38 points during his rise to fame. Linsational!!

## Free Tax Preparation Programs Offered

agencies are offering free assistance with income tax preparation to those qualified at the Rancho Cordova City Hall, 2729 Prospect Park Drive.

Volunteers in Tax Assistance (VITA) The VITA site will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 25th; Saturday, March 3rd, Saturday, April 7th; and Saturday, April 14th on the second floor of City Hall. Appointments are not necessary but can be made by calling (916) 498-1000 or 2-1-1.

Part of the Sacramento Coalition for Working Families, VITA offers the free service to those with incomes under \$50,000. People can also get free help in determining their Earned

gibility and then claiming the credit, if applicable. EITC can mean up to \$5,751 in credits.

#### American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

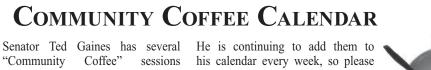
The AARP tax counseling and preparation service will be available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays through April 13th in the Community Board Room on the first floor of City Hall. The free service is for taxpayers with low- and moderate-incomes, with preference to those who are 60 years and older. Walk-in's are welcomed; no appointment is

Participants should bring photo ID's, their Social Security cards, income information and documentation, and a copy of

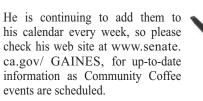
RANCHO CORDOVA - Two Income Tax Credit (EITC) eli- their 2010 tax returns. If itemizing, they should also bring their DMV registration notice, property tax bill, charitable donations, and mortgage and medical statements. Last year at the Rancho Cordova sites, VITA prepared 108 returns and AARP assisted 247 taxpayers.

> of this helpful program for qualified taxpavers," said Rancho Cordova Mayor David Sander. "Both AARP and VITA commended the City site for its easy parking and access and for its spaciousness and inviting atmosphere. This is an example of a great partnership, and evidence of this City's commitment to its residents to provide the best services and quality of life in our region."

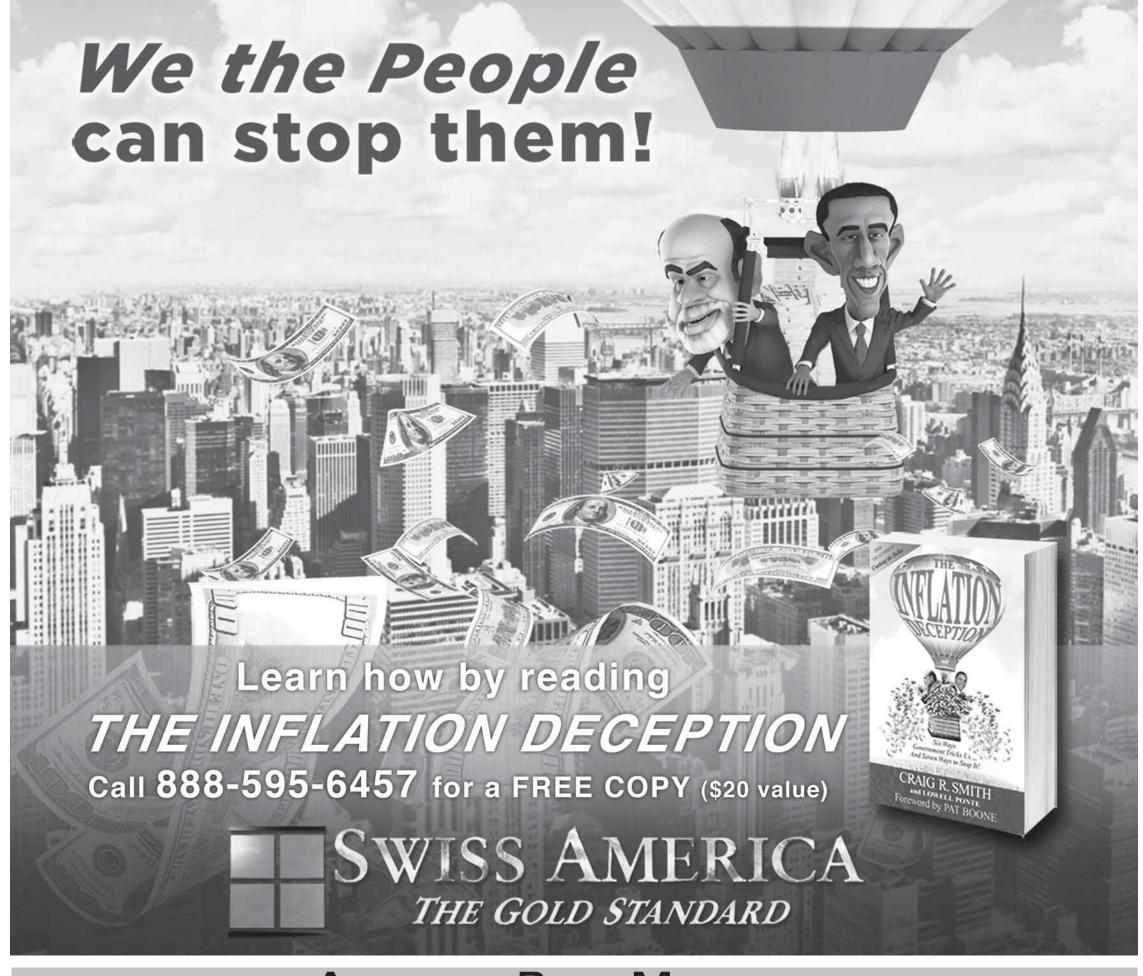
"The City is pleased to be part



"Community Coffee" sessions scheduled to give everyone an opportunity to meet with him and discuss individual and community









By Ronnie McBrayer

While traveling in Central America, I had the opportunity to worship at an international, interdenominational, Englishspeaking church. The congregation contained Africans, Italians, Spaniards, Latinos, Americans, and Asians. We sang old Irish hymns and modern, Australian worship choruses.

The service was a mixture of Lutheran, Reformed, and Pentecostal elements. The welcome was given by a Canadian, a German read the Scripture lesson, and an American did the preaching. It was a wonderful, diverse experience, and for a little while I thought the kingdom of God had

This, I thought, is what worship should be: People of various Christian traditions, streaming together from all tribes and nations, gathered in an idyllic setting, worshiping Christ together. Then the sermon began, and things changed.

The pastor's sermon could have been heard in many an evangelical congregation in North America. It was about who was "right" and who was "wrong," who was "in" and who was "out." He summed up his sermon, and his philosophy for life, with these words: "Real life is full assurance that you will go to heaven when you die. That is the gospel." At great risk of being misunderstood, I could not disagree more.

# The Gospel According to Jesus

As those words were spoken in that Latino church, the surrounding countryside had just endured its worst flooding in five decades. Gang graffiti clung to the walls and sidewalks just steps from the church's front door. Thousands of people were trying to survive grinding poverty.

To say to all these people and in all these of conditions, that "real life" is checking out of this life for the next one, is a mockery of reality and a refusal to heed the gospel that Jesus actually proclaimed. When Jesus began preaching his gospel in the Galilean hills, his message was clear and singular: "The Kingdom of God is at hand. It is here and now," he said. "It is today."

Jesus' intention, it seems, was not to rescue people from earth, per se, transporting them to a far removed heaven. His intention was to put heaven inside of people. A gospel that ignores this fact – and this current world – because our status in the next world has been properly secured, is a distortion of Jesus' redeeming message.

Thus, the gospel according to Jesus, is not just about a harp-playing, cloud-riding, hymn-singing, glory-praising, pie-in-the-sky heaven. It is holistic, all-encompassing deliverance, now. I'm not denying the existence of the afterlife; no, not at all. But I do not believe that we have to die to personally experience the life God has for us.

Jesus' first disciples did not have the benefit of two-thousand years of Christian tradition and theology. All those disciples had were Jesus' words: "Follow me, for the Kingdom of God is at hand." They had no promises of a big heavenly payoff. No fluttering angels' wings, no crossing over the River Jordan to the Hallelujah Shore, no promises of golden streets or pearly gates, no "full assurance that you will go to heaven when you die." All they had was the invitation of Jesus to "Follow me." For them, that was enough.

This may sound strange – it sounds a bit peculiar to my own ears – but even if there was not a heaven, I would still be a follower of Jesus. Why? Because I believe that how Jesus taught us to live and the life he has to give, is the greatest hope for our world today. He offers redemption, in all its magnificent and diverse manifestations, as more than the blessed hope of heaven. He offers it as the blessed hope for people today.

So the choice before us plain: We can give up on the present, pack our bags, and wait for the paradise rescue from above; or we can join Jesus in bringing some of that not-here-yet of God's heaven to the here-and-now earth. The choice, I think, is clear for the present — not the future — is the arena in which we follow Christ. Today — not tomorrow — is where we live out the gospel according to Jesus.

Ronnie McBrayer is a syndicated columnist, speaker, and author. His books include "Leaving Religion, Following Jesus" and "The Jesus Tribe." Visit his website at www.ronniemelearnest

# Where in My Schedule did January go?

By Rev. James L. Snyder

I take a certain amount of well deserved, if I say so myself, pride in keeping to a well organized schedule; my to-do-list. If it is on that list, I am going to do it, regardless of the difficulty attached. The trick is to get on that list which I guard with my very life.

Not that I worship my to-dolist, but I do reverence it with a great deal of deep personal appreciation. I think long and hard before anything appears on my to-do-list. Once something is on my to-do-list, there it is for all and sundry to gape upon it. It is a deep honor for anything to be put on my to-do-list.

Another reason I take my time in putting something on that list is that the only way it can come off is if I actually do it. After all, that list is not supposed to be stared at but rather to inspire activity on my part.

The other night I was busy with my to do list going over each and every item with the utmost care hoping that St. Nick would soon be there. Each item on that list needs to be carefully scrutinized and sometimes even underlined for emphasis. Often I have to recalculate and sort out the items and give them new priorities. I must have been busily engaged for I did not hear the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage address me.

Finally, it dawned on me that somebody, other than my inner conscience, was addressing me. I looked in her direction and said, "Unb?"

"I just said," she quipped, "what are you so intently engaged in?"

"I'm working on my December to-do-list," I said with a touch of irritation in my voice for being interrupted during such delicate

meditation.

"You're working on what?"
"My December to-do-list,"
I said trying to get back into
my sphere of supersensitive

concentration

There was silence for a bit and then my residential companion broke said silence by saying, "You do know what month it is, don't you?"

With an air of sarcasm in my voice I answered, "Of coarse I know what month it is. It's December and I'm trying to sort out my to-do-list for the month. I think I've got just about everything covered."

Again, there was that silence that you could cut with a butter knife if you had one on your person.

"So," she said rather thoughtfully. "You are completing your December's to-do-list. Is that right?"

I grunted my approval and continued with my ultra-concentration work at hand. I really have no time for nonsensical chitchat. My time is valuable; I have work that needs to be done. I cannot be side tracked by every little noise that comes up.

I take great pride in working through my to-do-list each month. It gives me a great sense of satisfaction knowing that I am actually accomplishing something and I have the records to prove it. If somebody would ever come up to me and ask me to prove that I have been busily engaged in profitable activity, all I would have to do is show them my well documented to-do-list.

"I hate to bust your bubble, but..."

I hate when people say they hate to do something and then they go right ahead and do it. I wanted to tell her to save herself a bucket of hate and refrain from busting my bubble, or whatever she was trying to bust at the time.

Then, being the gentleman that I am, I allowed her to say what was on her mind.

"I hate to bust your bubble, but it is February not December."

Now there was silence from my end of the room. Being the good-natured person that I am, I just burst out laughing.

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Savior of their soul—by accept-

ing His death as the sacrificial

Lamb of God for the forgive-

"Boy," I said heartily, "you almost got me with that one. I'll give that one to you." Then I went back to my work

went back to my work.

"But it is February," she said more sternly than I have heard her say anything for a long time. "It is now February, not

I had to pause. Normally she does not play tricks on me like this. Most of the time she is an upstanding person and always tells me the truth, even when there are times I do not want to

"You're sure it's February?"

hear the truth.

She smiled one of those smiles that really irritates me and simply shook her head in the affirmative. I know I am an easy turkey to pluck, but this was actually serious. With the rather stunned tone to my voice I ask, "Whatever happened to January?"

It was then the laughter started. I must say it has not subsided appreciably since. She has a way of rubbing things in when I am wrong. If the tables were turned, and they never are, I would not take advantage of such a situation.

I swallowed my pride, which I have had a lot of practice doing, and began to realize I had been working on a false premise. It was actually February, time had gone by so quick and I was so busy I did not realize how fast it was going.

In Ecclesiastes 3:1, the man of God says, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

If you are too busy to know what time it is, you are too busy.

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 jamessnyder2@ att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.



By Pastor Ray Dare

The Bible teaches that the way we please God is living by faith. Just like a diamond, faith has many facets. One of the facets of faith is risking failure. That means going after that goal or what you've always dreamed of doing, even if it means failing. A great missionary once said, "I'd rather attempt something great for God and fail than do nothing and succeed."

Faith is being willing to risk failure to go after the dream that God has put in your mind and in your heart. The Bible says in Acts 15, "They risked their lives for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ." That's why God blessed them. Have you ever taken any risks for the Lord? Have you ever risked anything for God? Remember the turtle—he only

## Take a Risk for God

makes progress when he sticks I won't set any goals." That's his neck out! dumb. Go after your dream. Set

Faith is trusting even when you don't get your own way; when things don't work out as planned. There's a great example in the Bible in the book of Daniel. Three Hebrew boys were about to be thrown into a fiery furnace because they refused to worship king Nebuchadnezzar. They said, "If we are thrown into the blazing furnace the God we serve is able to save us from it and **He** will rescue us... But even if He does not we want you to know, O king, we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." Daniel 3:17-18

Have you ever been burned in life? Has anyone ever burned you in your attempt to follow God? Faith is willing to be burned. "God, I trust You to do this, but if you don't, even if it doesn't work out, it's okay. I still trust You. You know I'm doing it in faith." God will honor that faith even if it didn't work out the way you intended it to work out.

Don't ever *not* do something because you're afraid. "I'm afraid, so I won't go after my dream. I'm afraid to fail, so

I won't set any goals." That's dumb. Go after your dream. Set those goals, even though you are afraid. Just because it's a dream from God doesn't mean there's not going to be any fear, there will be.

You think, "But what if I follow my dream and fail? What if I set a goal and fail?" What do you mean "if"? You will fail! Count on it! You will do far more things in life that you fail at than you succeed at. So what? Failure is no big deal. You just get up and do it again. That's how you learn. Besides, if you're motivated by love it can't be considered a failure because the Bible says love never fails. So if you're doing it in love you're not a failure no matter what the results are.

Goals are based on what you believe God can do, not what you believe you can do. We may not reach all of the goals we set in life. So what? At least you tried. God will honor that. The thing is, you died trying. You gave your life doing something good and great for God.

Pastor Ray



By Marlys Norris, Christian Author

Many years ago growing up in this world, the name of Jesus was "too sacred to speak" out loud — did nothing to help one understand the significance or power of His Holy Name. Only two times a year, Christmas and Easter, were the stories about His life and death freely discussed by most people. Possibly in some cultures today, it might also be true.

Obviously knowing "about" someone, is much different than actually "knowing" them.. Too many people are "religious" but fail to "know" the Savior. Religion alone will never "save" a person from the depths of hell. We should know that knowing "about" someone will never take us on a connection of the friendship and love journey.

Christians appeal to people in a million different ways to

## Read God's Love Letter Personally - Just For You

ness of all their sins. We tell them about Adam's sin of rebellion falling on everyone born and their need for a Savior. Sin and rebellion against God will cause those who refuse to choose God's truth actually choose their own destiny to go to hell. Jesus became the "Door" to eternal life through which everyone must go to be accepted by God. Telling them that Jesus paid the sacrificial price on a Cross, to be reconciled back to the Heavenly Father and go to heaven when they die, hopefully will bring conviction and surrender of their life to God. Unfortunately they may do this but it stops there! No one tells them there is more or about reading and understanding the Bible or being obedient to what they hear and learn. So, their lives remain the same with-

out changes. They may "visit or

even go to church" every Sunday

but that is all! They do not "come

alive" and grow in their knowl-

edge of a loving personal God

and truly "know" Him. Evidence

of this is observed by the lack of

"spiritual fruit" in their lives.

The Holy Bible is God's sov-

ereign love-letter to everyone in the world and it is the simple message of a dynamic, loving God who provided the "Way" for His creation to enjoy eternity in heaven with Him. It breaks His heart so many refuse to accept His loving messages of truth and hope recorded in Scripture. God who "always existed", loved you before the foundation of the earth and desires you to have faith and trust of a little child — believing His Holy Word is Truth so you will come to Him through the death of His only Beloved Son's death on a Cross for you. "For God so loved the world, He sent His Beloved Son into the world (to you and I), that through Him the world (you and I) might be saved" John 3:16. Come! Enjoy the New Life He Gives! Be "Born Again" Spiritually and Be Adopted in His Huge Family all over the world.

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

Sudoku Puzzle on Page 9

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employment resource, JobJournal.com. When you need the most comprehensive information on local employment opportunties, job-search strategies, career planning and workplace issues, this is the place to start nosing around.

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## Meals on Wheels Awarded \$1,500 "Share The Love" Grant

22, 2012) - Meals on Wheels by ACC is proud to announce it has been awarded a \$1,500 grant from Meals On Wheels Association of America (MOWAA) in recognition of its participation in MOWAA's "Share The Love" Most Meals Contest.

As part of Subaru of America, Inc.'s "Share The Love" Event, Meals on Wheels worked with Maita Subaru during the holiday season to highlight senior hunger and to learn what it takes to serve 2,000 meals a day. Senior hunger is growing throughout Sacramento County and Maita Subaru's community involvement to help bring awareness and support to our program is significant" stated Rithy Thong, Program Manager. Thong further stated "We also appreciate and thank Maita Subaru's choice of Meals on Wheels as their Charity of the Month for March."

As one of the five Subaru "Share The Love" Event charitable partners, MOWAA created the Most Meals Contest to foster

partnerships between local Meals On Wheels programs and Subaru dealerships. MOWAA is awarding \$150,000 in Most Meals grants to the 48 Meals On Wheels programs across the country that recruited dealership employees to volunteer, deliver meals in Subaru vehicles and engage community members in the fight to end senior hunger.

Most Meals grants awarded by MOWAA range from \$250 to \$35,000. The nation's economic downturn has made it more

difficult to raise money to provide meals to the community's homebound seniors. Meals on Wheels by ACC will use the monies to help sustain our services throughout Sacramento County to help offset these tough economic times.

The Subaru "Share The Love" Event ran from November 19, 2011 to January 3, 2012. Subaru is donating \$250 for every new Subaru vehicle sold or leased during "Share The Love" to the customer's choice of one of five charities, including MOWAA. Over the past three years, proceeds from the Subaru "Share The Love" Event have provided funds to MOWAA to support its vision to end senior hunger by 2020.

"We are honored to be part of Share The Love' again this year," said MOWAA President and CEO, Enid Borden. "Subaru is a corporation with a conscience. They understand that providing nutritious meals to hungry and homebound seniors in need is a moral imperative." About Meals

on Wheels by ACCMeals on Wheels by ACC is a non-profit organization that provides nutritious meals and nutritional services that allows seniors throughout Sacramento County to live independently and to Eat Well and Age Well. We do this by serving approximately 10,000 meals each week through home delivered meals and at 22 locations called All Seasons Café. We are Meals on Wheels so no senior goes hungry. For more information, visit our website at www.mowsac.org.



A Film Review by Tim Riley

#### **JOURNEY 2:** THE MYSTERIOUS ISLAND (Rated PG)

Only upon digesting the complete title of "Journey 2: The Mysterious Island" was my mind nudged ever so slightly by the thought of Jules Verne.

The problem, which remains for this film as well, is that the first film, titled "Journey to the Center of the Earth" and released in 2008, is entirely forgettable.

"Journey 1," starring Brendan Fraser, now nowhere to be found and not even lost on a mysterious island, was a Jules Verne-type adventure, one that may have pleased kids.

The sequel is equally designed to satisfy the adolescent filmgoers, such that the teen hero remains Josh Hutcherson's Sean, who's been given permission by his mother (Kristin Davis) for another globe-trotting quest.

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, who flexes his pectorals as if he were hanging out at Venice Beach, plays the role of Hank, stepdad to the peripatetic Sean.

In what is expected to be a bonding experience, Hank takes Sean on a journey to a mysterious island, following secret clues that Sean believes Jules Verne left behind.

Curiosity runs in the family because it is apparent that Sean's formulaic adventure story relying missing grandfather Alexander (Michael Caine) was so obsessed

## Riley Reviews

**FAMILY FUN IN** "JOURNEY 2" RELIES TOO MUCH ON EFFECTS

with the writings of Jules Verne that he invented the familial craving for wanderlust.

Once in the South Pacific, Hank, in what appears to be a dubious idea, hires goofy, excitable helicopter pilot Gabato (Luis Guzman) to locate the island.

On the upside, at least for Sean, is that Gabato's pretty daughter Kailani (Vanessa Hudgens) tags along for the ride. This, of course, sets up the film's only love interest subplot.

Meanwhile, a crash landing on an island immediately brings to mind that "Journey 2" could detour into a missing episode of "Lost."

Alas, that is not to be, for our intrepid travelers are exposed to the mystery of an upside-down world, where elephants are small and bees and lizards are giant prehistoric beasts.

Naturally, grandpa Alexander, who was busy sending out radio signals with his coordinates, is found on this exotic South Pacific island, which is notable for the fact that it is rapidly sinking into the sea like Atlantis.

The soon-to-be extinct tropical paradise is a wonder of special effects, none more thrilling than watching Sean riding bareback on a giant bee.

Since the story is familyfriendly, "Journey 2" lacks the inherent menace of prehistoric threats found in "Jurassic Park," though giant iguanas appear threatening.

To be sure, "Journey 2" is a heavily on special effects, which is as satisfying as a giant tub of popcorn and a big cone of cotton candy. It's fun in the moment for the adolescent crowd.

The pairing of Dwayne Johnson and Michael Caine is interesting for some of the back-and-forth dialogue. The film benefits from the presence of these two titans of natural charm.

One good reason not to be late to the screening of this film is that it should be preceded by a funny animated short called "Daffy's Rhapsody," an adventure with Daffy Duck and Elmer Fudd.

Oh, just one more thing, you should know that both the Warner Brothers cartoon and the feature film are in 3-D

#### DVD RELEASE UPDATE

This column has often extolled the virtues of British television programs that may find their way to BBC America and eventually to a DVD release.

"Northern Lights: The Complete Collection," featuring all 12 episodes and two movies of this comedy series, is being released on DVD by Acorn Media, to go-to outfit for British

The series followed lifelong friends and rivals Colin Armstrong (Robson Green) and Howard Scott (Mark Benton) on a hilarious series of misadventures – really classic British wackiness.

As schoolboys, Colin and Howard fought over girls, soccer teams and clothes. Now married men in their thirties, their competition has shifted to more important, if mundane, matters like jobs and cars.

The comedy comes from insane rivalry of one-upmanship, where they try to outdo each other, even with Christmas decorations. Meanwhile, their long-suffering wives endure the collateral

"Northern Lights" is the kind of classic comedy that Guardian" rightfully called "warm and witty comedy drama."

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#### ACROSS

- 1. Type of eclipse 6. \*1941's "How Green Mv Vallev"
- 9. Drink too much
- 13. Being of service 14. Gilligan's home
- 15. Chicago's ORD
- Smelling 17. In the past
- 18. Type of beam, also an acronym
- 19. \*Best Picture nominee set in Jackson, MS
- 21. "Ripley's Believe It or Not" showpiece, e.g. 23. Accused by some of
- breaking up The Beatles 24. Obama to Harvard Law
- School, e.g. 25. Bud or chum
- 28. Cough syrup balsam
- 30. To mark with spots \_ vera
- 37. \*Nominated for role in
- 39. Like sound of pinched
- "Monevball"

- 40. Chess piece that looks
- like castle
- 41. Barges 43. Circus venue
- 44. Reason by deduction
- 46. "The Iliad," e.g. 47. \*Mechanically-inclined
- film orphan 48. Seaman or sailor
- 50. Bus
- 52. Room in a house
- 53. Like acne-prone skin 55. Charlotte's creation
- 57. Hotel meeting place
- 60. \*"The Descendants" nominee
- 64. Wavelike patterned silk 65. Make imperfect
- 67. Home to BYU
- 68. Curving outward
- \_ to Joy" 70. Pivoted about a fulcrum
- 71. It usually contains the altar in a church
- 73. Rub out
- 72. Women's organization

- - 1. A deadly sin 2. Beehive State
  - 3. World's longest river
  - 4. Even though, arch.
  - Wish ill 6. Smack or sock
  - 7. Leo month 8. It has no back and no arms
  - 9. Bangkok inhabitant
  - 10. Kiln for drying hops The hunted
  - 12. "Ever" to a poet 15. \*He played Cold War spy
  - 20. Grommets, e.g. \_, popular at the 22. Milk
  - movies
  - 24. Coroner's performance 25. \*Place of Woody's midnight magic
  - 26. Unaccompanied 27. Used for washing
  - 29. Often spread in the classroom
  - 32. Imposter
  - 33. \*Best Actress winner in
  - 31. Beaten by walkers
- About Nothing"
  - **For Solution** See Page 7

34. "Crocodile Rock" performer

45. \*"The Girl with the Dragon

58. Great masters' medium, pl

60. \*It works with the cast on

61. Most luminous star

64. Earned at Sloan or

62. Day before, pl.

63. Yestervear

" in the

36. Augmented

49. Band event

56. Emerald Ash

59. Strong desire

57. "Wolf" in French

51. "We the

Constitution

Tattoo"

38. Foolish person

42. Frown with anger

54. "30 Rock" character



## Governor Brown Served with Summons in Second Amendment Lawsuit Motion for Preliminary Injunction to be heard in April



Governor Jerry Brown

From CaliforniaRightToCarry.org

SACRAMENTO - On Thursday, February 16th Governor Brown was formally served with a Federal Summons requiring him to explain to the Court why California's ban on openly carrying a loaded firearm in public places should not be overturned.

The Governor has 21 days to file his answer with the court, his deadline is March 9th.

The following week, a motion for a preliminary injunction will be filed by the Plaintiff in the lawsuit, Charles Nichols - President of California Right to Carry a Second Amendment Advocacy group.

The hearing on the motion for the preliminary injunction will take place in early April. If the injunction is granted, California's 1967 ban on openly carrying a loaded firearm can no longer be enforced until the Federal Court judge issues his final decision in the lawsuit.

California's recently enacted ban on openly carrying unloaded handguns would also be rendered unenforceable.

If the preliminary injunction is denied, Mr. Nichols will immediately appeal the denial of the injunction to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

## **Senator Gaines Announces New Committee Assignments**

Gaines Assigned to Two Additional Committees, Serves on Six Total



**Senator Ted Gaines** 

SACRAMENTO - Senator Ted Gaines (R-Rocklin) announced February 16th he has been appointed to serve as a member of both the Budget and Fiscal Review Committee and the Legislative Ethics Committee for the remainder of the 2011-12 legislative session.

"I am honored to have been given these additional committee assignments in critical areas that affect the lives of all Californians," said Gaines. "I will work hard to achieve bipartisan solutions to the

important issues facing our state and defend the interests of hardworking taxpayers."

The Budget and Fiscal Review Committee reviews legislation dealing with the state budget. The Committee breaks the budget into broad subject matters (such as Education, Resources, Health and Human Services, State Administration or Public Safety) and assigns committee members to these subcommittees. Senator Gaines will serve on the Education subcommittee.

"For years I have been calling for structural reform to California's budget process," said Gaines. "As a small business owner, I have to cut back when times are tight and find ways to save money while providing the same services more efficiently. Government should be taking that same approach. While on the Budget Committee, I will advocate for the needs and priorities of California taxpayers and bring discipline and responsibility to the budget process."

The Legislative Ethics Committee is responsible for governing members and employees of the Legislature with respect to all

ethics laws and works to maintain the public's trust by making sure the Legislature's business is done in a manner consistent with the standards laid out in the State Constitution.

"I take this responsibility very seriously and will work hard to make sure we are maintaining the people's trust in their government by holding the Legislature accountable," said Gaines. "Californians must be assured that their elected officials are conducting their business in a moral and ethical manner."

Senator Gaines will remain in his posts as vice chairman of the Senate Insurance Committee and the Transportation and Housing Committee. He is also a member of the Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee and the Public Employment and Retirement Committee.

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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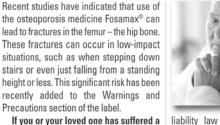
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#### TRUMP: NO ONE'S APPRENTICE

### Why Mitt Romney? He's ready to rebuild American success



By Donald J. Trump, The Washington Times

As Seen in the Washington Times on Wednesday, February 8th, 2012

The time has come for the Republican Party to close the deal. I believe Mitt Romney is the best choice for the presidency. Let me tell you why.

To begin with, like me, Mitt is a businessman, not a career politician. In other words, he's accomplished far more in his life than collecting campaign cash from special-interest groups and making promises at press conferences with the help of a teleprompter.

Mitt played an instrumental role in starting or managing such jobcreating giants as Domino's Pizza, the Sports Authority, Staples and many other firms. He singlehandedly saved the 2002 Winter Olympic Games from financial ruin and turned it into one of the best competitions in living memory. Amazingly, he governed bluestate Massachusetts as a conservative, balancing its out-of-whack budget while cutting taxes, feats carried out despite a Democraticcontrolled legislature.

Mitt has what it takes to turn the country around. And he has laid out a plan to do just that.

Right now, China is cleaning America's clock. The Chinese are building the world's largest airports, biggest ports, a powerful military and the best of everything. And we're paying for it all by purchasing their products. We're buying everything they make because they keep their currency artificially low, giving them an annual windfall of some \$250 billion. They are holding the yuan at a level at which it is impossible for us to compete.

Mitt Romney not only understands all this, he has thought through the policies we need to begin to set things right. Unless China changes direction, he has pledged to have the Treasury Department designate China as a currency manipulator on Day One of his administration. We can then impose duties on China's unfairly priced products. The Chinese will get the message faster than an ICBM. As Mitt has said, "We don't want a trade war, but neither can we accept our current trade surrender."

Fixing our trade relations with China is just one part of Mitt's comprehensive plan to get America back in gear. The Obama administration seems to have accepted record high unemployment as the new normal. But it is not acceptable to me, and it is not acceptable to Mitt that nearly 24 million Americans are unemployed, underemployed or no longer even looking for work. Mitt's jobs plan will create millions of jobs over four years, and I will be out there myself doing some of the hiring.

Some people call Mitt's jobs plan conservative. I happen to know something about creating jobs, and I call it common sense. Middle-income Americans deserve far better than the slowgrowth and no-growth policies President Obama has put in place. They need a president who will make it possible for all Americans to get a bigger slice of a growing pie rather than crumbs handed out by Washington. Mitt understands that government needs to get out of the way if American business is to do what it does best: innovate, make the products that people around the world want to buy, and hire American workers.

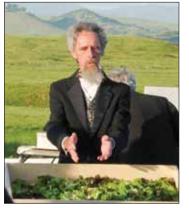
Right now, government regulations cost us annually \$1.75 trillion. They constitute a stealth tax that is larger than the amount the Internal Revenue Service collects every year from corporations and individuals combined. In just three years, Mr. Obama has added hugely to the annual regulatory bill. Mitt is going to pare that back and make sure every single regulation has benefits that outweigh costs and that they don't kill U.S.

Mitt also is going to rein in Mr. Obama's out-of-control spending and bring the federal budget back into balance. He's laid out the government programs that he's going to eliminate and cut. He's determined to trim the bloated federal workforce. That's going to take a lot of hard work and the negotiating skills of a successful businessman. It's precisely why we need someone with Mitt's financial background and business experience to run the country.

True, Mitt Romney does have his shortcomings: He's never built a Mitt Romney Tower in New York City or 12 Mitt Romney championship golf courses. Not everyone can be a Donald Trump. However, over the course of Mitt's distinguished career, he has built other kinds of enduring monuments of accomplishment that have earned my highest regard. Mitt Romney is no one's apprentice; he's fully ready to step into the nation's top job as the next president of the United States.

Donald J. Trump is president and CEO of the Trump Organization.

## A Leisurely Cenozoic History of Sacramento County: 65 Million Years per Hour



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SACRAMENTO COUNTY Join us for an entertaining evening of storytelling by plant ecologist and biogeographer, Bob "Dr. Bob" Holland. He will regale us about the fascinating interactions among vegetation, flora, geology, and soils throughout California that he has been studying for almost four decades.

Sacramento County's geologic history is much more complex than the county's subdued topography might suggest. "Understanding this unique geologic history is pivotal to comprehending the distribution of the county's vegetation and flora," says Dr. Bob.

He melds his unique combination of botanical and geological knowledge with wry humor into an easy-going speaking style that is accessible and entertaining for scientists and non-scientists

Working in surprising mixed media, Dr. Bob and his "botanartist" spouse, Ginny Dains, will walk us through the past 65 million years, exploring how geological history has shaped the plant communities we see around Sacramento County today. It will be quite unlike any geology talk you have experienced – especially when they serve up the conclusion. Don't miss this opportunity to be carried away by Dr. Bob's infectious enthusiasm and sense of humor!

The lecture will be held Wednesday, March 14th during the monthly meeting of the Sacramento Valley Chapter-California Native Plant Society and will take place at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center at McKinley Park, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento. It begins at 7:00pm and is free and open to the public. Books, wildflower seeds, and other merchandise are available for purchase. Refreshments are provided.

The Sacramento Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is a non-profit organization committed to the conservation of California native plants and their natural habitats and increasing understanding, appreciation, and the horticultural use of native plants.



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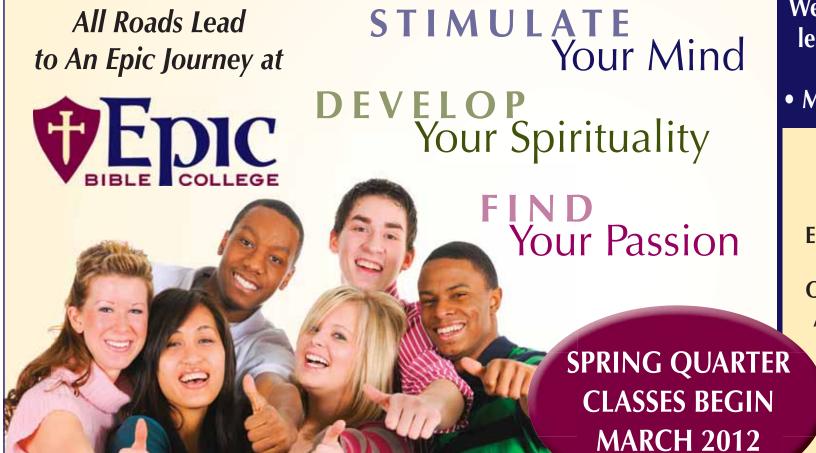
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Second Edition for February 2012 The Messenger Page 11

## Crossings Housing Development Opens



Mayor David Sander, Neighborhood Services Manager Kerry Simpson, and Code Enforcement Officer Michael Rodriguez are all smiles on the new playground at the Crossings. . Photo courtesy of City of Rancho Cordova.

RANCHO CORDOVA – A grand opening event was held at the Crossings at New Rancho on February 9 to introduce the first new-construction affordable community-driven housing since Cityhood. Rancho Cordova City officials participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Replacing a dilapidated motel that had been vacant for nearly a decade, the Crossings blends family housing with on-site supportive services to provide a safe, healthy and friendly environment.

The project is the result of collaboration among the City of Rancho Cordova and its Community Redevelopment Agency, developer Urban Housing Communities, and the California Department of Housing and Community Development and Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

## The Cat's Meow



BiColor Persians Dancer, Giuseppi, Flashy. Photo courtesy of Kay Burton.

By Kay Burton

Gentle, quiet and sweet-natured, the Persian cat is one of the most placid breeds. These also seem to be one of the least vocal breeds, although some owners describe their voices as melodious.

Terri Lynn Anderson is the owner of these beautiful cats.

They all live in Citrus Heights.

They are bathed, groomed and fussed over at the age of six weeks

old. They are accustomed to getting their nails clipped, bathed and faces washed daily.

They eat baby food and drink goat's milk until they are 4 months of age. They eat high protein food that has no grains. They all have great personalities, each one different even though they are raised and loved the same way.

The Persians are a high maintenance cat and an owner needs to

be willing to groom their cat daily if they decide to keep their pets in full coats. The only Persians that will retain the blue eyes are the Colored Painted Persians (also known as Himalayans) and the white Persian cats. All other Persians will have either copper eyes or green eyes In rare cases some Persians can have aqua eyes or contrasting eyes, meaning one blue and one green or copper eye.

The Persians are laid back, loving, very affectionate and want to be with their owner all the time. They get along well with dogs and even like water. Watch out when you take a shower, they will join you.

Never allow your cat to play with string, Christmas tree tinsel, or other linear objects, which are potentially fatal if swallowed.

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

## How to Build your 2012 Herb Flower Veggie Garden

By Wayne Turrell, Master Gardener, Certified California Grower and Owner of Wayne's Herbs Flowers and Veggies

SACRAMENTO REGION

– Let's talk about planning and preparing for a successful year of growing herbs and vegetables in your yard.

Step 1: What do you want to grow? Make a list. Keep a log. Any planting strategy requires a good basis garden plan and a simple record of each year's crops. Keeping track of the garden on paper enables the gardener to practice crop rotation more effectively, to determine the success of different varieties, to better control pest problems, to calculate the best planning schedules, and to anticipate harvest times. Keep the entries short, but personal.

Step 2: Where do you want to grow them. You need a southern exposure and need a minimum of six (6) hours of sunlight. The Sacramento area averages 300 days of growing season. Chart out the garden space. This may be a sunny porch/deck using containers. Use 8 1/2 inch by 11 inch paper or graph paper and make several copies of the master diagram to use in subsequent seasons. This visual representation will help you picture a reasonable spacing scheme. For each planting you make, note the date and fill in the diagram. Use a calendar to note times.

Step 3: Soil Preparation. Sacramento has a lot of clay soil. CLAY soil will prevent air and water movement so you need to add compost, peat moss, and perlite. SANDY soil will not retain



Pick your ripe vegetables early in the day and pick them often. Photo courtesy of Wayne Turrell

water so you need to add humus, aged manure, or peat moss. If you have LOAM you should be happy, just add a little compost now and then. Herbs and vegetables can be planted directly in the soil in rows, in raised beds, and in containers. Remember to amend your soil with good organic compost at least twice a year.

Step 4: How to plant your garden. Plant your garden in a north south orientation. Tallest plants like corn or trellised tomatoes at the edge of the north side and the lowest plants at the south end of the garden. The next question is whether you are starting your plants from seed or buying transplants. Seeds can be started in a green house months before going into the ground. Wait to plant your transplants until after the

Step 5: Water. Too much is just as bad as too little and erratic watering is even worse. A soaker hose or low spray is the best

watering method. Some vegetables need to be watered every day, some every other day. I recommend keeping the whole garden lightly moist.

Step 6: Weeds choke the life out of plants. Practice weeding early in the morning and weed often. Use landscape fabric or mulch.

Step 7: Insect/fungus control. Disperse Marigolds throughout the garden. They are pretty and beneficial. Organic Neem Oil is an insecticide, fungicide, and a miticide can be used. You can spray on an edible product, wash it off and eat it.

Step 8: Harvest. Pick your ripe vegetables early in the day and pick them often. Most vegetables reach peak flavor before they're fully ripe. It is better to pick early in the day rather than late in the day

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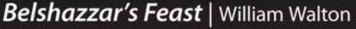
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