AMERICAN RIVER



Volume 6 Issue 15

Taking The Next Step In Reigning in **Government Spending**





Rescuing **More Lovable Dogs in Need**

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Serving Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks, Carmichael, Orangevale & Gold River

Rev Kev:

A Time

to Love

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First Edition for August 2011

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Airshow to Thrill and Inspire



"Tora!Tora!Tora! is making its first trip ever to Northern California and fans will not be disappointed.

California Capital Airshow, a non-profit organization dedicated opportunities for today's youth, and enhancing awareness for the service and sacrifice of our military men and women, today announced the current Airshow highlights, which will exhilarate, thrill and inspire fans of all ages. The Airshow, located at Mather Airport, thunders into Sacramento on September 10-11, 2011, and will honor important anniversaries. 2011 marks 100 years of Naval Aviation, an achievement the Airshow will note by featuring a demonstration by the US Navy F-18 Super Hornet.

Sacramento Region - The new and exciting performers, unique aircraft, and interactive displays to Sacramento, and this to promoting the importance of year will be an event that you will aviation for continued economic never forget!" said Darcy Brewer, growth, inspiration and educational executive director of the California Capital Airshow. "Tora!Tora!Tora! is making its first trip ever to Northern California and fans will not be disappointed. Tora is a choreographed, living history lesson with pyrotechnics and precision flying all set to music, but the show certainly doesn't stop there. We will have something for everyone and every age – from exhilarating military jet demonstrations and aerobatics soaring overhead to a Kids Zone with interactive, educational exhibits - it's going to be an incredible show that will leave "Each year we strive to bring you begging for more."

In addition to the F-18 Super Hornet, Airshow fans will experience the raw power and extreme capabilities of the F-15 Strike Eagle Demonstration Team, the electrifying Patriots Jet Team, aerobatic champion, Patty Wagstaff, and a USAF Heritage Flight. Rounding out the line-up will be the Shockwave Jet Truck, Otto the Helicopter, Dan Buchanan, local air show pilot, Tim Decker, fighter jet demonstrations and some of the largest transport jets on Earth, warbirds, vintage aircraft, and so much more!

The California Capital Airshow web site will be updated regularly with news, attraction information and more. Community members and attendees can also follow the Airshow on Facebook and Twitter

Rusch Community Park Basketball Court Wins \$20,000 Sprite Grant

An Assist from Sprite Helps Citrus Heights **Basketball Court Make a Huge Rebound**

Recreation and Park District scored a slam dunk for area basketball courts after many clicks of a mouse. Citrus Heights' Rusch Community Park basketball court was 1 of 26 national finalists in the Sprite Spark Parks Project, and it gained enough online support to be awarded \$20,000 in refurbishment grants, it was announced July 28th

The Sprite Spark Parks Project is a multi-year commitment to build and restore play environments where teens, families and neighbors can get outside and be active. The first phase of the program, which focuses on basketball courts, kicked off in February. Since then, people across the country have logged on to sprite. com and facebook.com/Sprite to nominate local courts they wish to receive improvement grants.

On May 9, the top nominees including Rusch Community Park - were selected as finalists. Until June 10, supporters could log on to sprite.com or facebook.com/Sprite to vote for their courts to win one of 21 grants to fund items such as new rims, backboards, resurfacing and art installations. Seven courts have been awarded \$35,000 in funding. An additional 14 locations will receive

Citrus Heights - The Sunrise Park exemplifies our vision of Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs, and the Sprite Spark Parks funding will go a long way toward maintaining our popular basketball court."

"As the local bottler, our goal is to improve the communities where we work and live in inspired ways. We're proud that the people of Citrus Heights voted online and made Rusch Community Park a winner," said Bob Brown, Executive Vice President-Finance & Administration, Sacramento Coca-Cola Bottling Company. "By generating support for these critically important play spaces among area residents, we're working as a team to ensure youth have safe, fun places where they can get together in a positive, active way."

Through the Sprite Spark Parks Project, Sprite will invest approximately \$2 million into building or revamping more than 150 basketball courts, community spaces, playgrounds and athletic fields in at least 36 American cities throughout 2011. As a result, an estimated one million young people will have greater access to recreational spaces where they can be inspired to be active and creative.

Tickets to the 2010 California Capital Airshow are now available online and can be easily purchased at the Airshow web site or at all SAFE Credit Union locations throughout the region.

(#calcapairshow).

Established in 2004, the California Capital Airshow has become one of the largest and highly-respected airshows in the nation. As part of its community relations, the non-profit organization has awarded over 70 scholarships to deserving students from our region with an interest in science, technology, engineering, math, aviation, aerospace, and aeronautics. For more information about the California Capital Airshow, please visit www.californiacapitalairshow. com or join us on Facebook.

\$20,000 each.

"Sunrise Recreation & Park District truly appreciates this \$20,000 grant from Sprite and Coca-Cola," said Lisa Rudloff, District Administrator. "Rusch Community

*Construction on each basketball renovation project will commence pending court operators' agreement to the program's terms and conditions and based on court operators' timeline.

Arden Playhouse's Shootin' Melodrama

A Melodrama by Dave Chapelle

Shady, evil and dishonest Filmore Filcher uses various disguises and treacherous tactics to get his greedy paws on the Lovely Ranch, owned by beautiful Amy Lovely and her stalwart Aunt Aggie. Filcher and his not so silent partner, Morganna Snit, want to build a luxury resort and health spa catering to the very rich on the Lovely's ranch. Will the ladies see through Filcher and Morganna's sneaky scheming or will they lose everything? Only true-blue Hoot Galoot can save the girl he loves and her ranch...but will he be in time? Lovely in Danger is family-friendly fun and a bargain at just \$10.00 a seat!

Lovely in Danger is directed by Candi Pickering who last directed Arden Playhouse's production of "The Murder Room" moved to Sacramento from San Francisco where she has acted and directed for over 40 years in many theater companies in the Bay Area. She has directed everything from a children's show "Babes in Toyland" to the powerful and moving Vietnam play "A Piece of My Heart". She is excited to try her hand at this Old Time Melodrama. Her hope is that families will turn out to boo and hiss the villain and cheer for the beautiful, feisty heroine and handsome, brave hero.

Lovely in Danger has its Arden Playhouse opened on August 5th and continues on Friday and Saturday nights at 8pm until August 27th. Sunday matinees are August



Our heroine, the lovely Amy Lovely (Amanda Dyba) obviously needs help in keeping the evil Filmore Filcher (Ron Baker) from taking her family homestead for his own nefarious purposes. Photos Courtesy of Arden Playhouse Photographer: Michael Messmer.

14th, & 21st, at 2pm.

All tickets are specially priced at \$10 general admission.

Tickets can be reserved by calling (916) 332-2582.

Arden Playhouse is located at 5640 Roseville Road, Suite D, Sacramento, and seats 150.

Check their website at www. ardenplayhouse.com.



A Parent is A Child's First Teacher

Sacramento County - Preparing your children for kindergarten these days involves more than registering them for class and making sure they have school supplies. This includes preparing children physically, mentally and emotionally for school — and should begin long before their first day of kindergarten. That's why First 5 Sacramento offers parents and caregivers the following tips to help prepare your children to enter school learning:

RESEARCH AND REVIEW

Find out if your family is eligible for no- or low-cost health insurance. Without health insurance, children often do not get the treatment needed for common childhood ailments. It is well documented that healthy children perform better in school. Although rising health insurance costs make access to health care more difficult, programs such as "Healthy Families", "Medi-Cal", and "Healthy Kids" offer no- and low-cost plans for those who qualify. Contact Cover the Kids at 1-866-850-4321 to enroll your child for noor low-cost health insurance.

IMMUNIZE AND ENROLL

• Immunize your child. Protect children from preventable diseases that can cause school absences and/ or limit their ability to perform well



in class by making sure they are properly immunized. Parents should contact their child's healthcare provider to begin the immunization process. If the child doesn't have a regular health care provider, contact Sacramento County's Department of Health and Human Services at (916) 875-SHOT (7468).

 Research local preschool programs in your community and consider enrolling your child in preschool. Quality preschool introduces children to a classroom setting — they learn to share, identify colors and numbers, take turns, raise a hand and focus on tasks. To find a quality preschool call Child Action,

Inc. at 369-0191 or online at www. childaction.org. Children who have attended quality preschool already have a jump-start toward success, as group and individual activities provide children with early learning experiences. Also, preschool helps prepare children to adjust to a kindergarten environment since they are used to spending time in the classroom.

BE A TEACHER

• Teach your child healthy eating habits and encourage physical activity. Stressing the importance of a nutritious diet and regular exercise will boost your child's health, increase their level

of development and help them stay mentally alert in class.

• Make everyday activities learning opportunities. From laundry sorting to grocery shopping to car rides, you can make every moment a learning experience for your child. Take them to public places and encourage social interaction with other kids their age.

KEEP THEM LEARNING AT HOME

• Talk to your child. Begin a dialogue with children early on so they can learn how to express their thoughts and emotions appropriately.

• Read to your child. Reading to them on a regular basis helps develop key skills.

• Play with your child. Paint. Draw a picture book. Let them tell you a story. All of these activities support creativity and provide an opportunity for emotional expression.

The above tips are all great ways to make sure children are ready for school throughout the year. For more tips and resources on school readiness programs or how to make the most of your child's first five years visit First 5 Sacramento's at www.first5sacramento.net or call (916) 876-5865.

First Edition for August 2011

A Cheer and a Half SMUD Makes List of Best Places to Work in IT for the Tea Party

Commentary by Sheldon Richman, The Future of Freedom Foundation

Were it not for the Tea Party, the debt-ceiling controversy might never have taken place. Kudos on that count alone.

It comes as no surprise that the governing class and its boosters in the media portray the Tea Party folks as a collection of bumpkins and idiots who "don't know the difference between campaigning and governing" - indeed, who would rather destroy the world economy than compromise their dogmatic insistence on spending cuts and resistance to tax increases.

But the policy and media elites' attitude reveals more about them than about the Tea Party. The spenders and borrowers in Washington have had their way largely unimpeded for generations. What have they wrought? A formal debt about equal to the American economy's annual output (GDP), a 75-year "entitlement" unfunded liability of \$39 trillion, a budget deficit that far exceeds \$1 trillion a year (more than 40 cents per dollar spent, about 10 percent of GDP), and federal spending that consumes about 25 percent of GDP.

And that isn't enough for the governing class and its apologists in the intelligentsia!

All this happened before there was a Tea Party. Without it the debt ceiling would very likely have been raised with little fuss, as it has been so often before. It would not have been linked to a debate over cutting spending, reducing the deficit, and shrinking the government. Some Tea

Partiers opposed raising the ceiling under any circumstances. Contrary to the power elite, that is not a sign not of ignorance and inexperience but of good sense.

No one exemplified anti-Tea Party snobbery more clearly than MSNBC host Lawrence O'Donnell (though he had close competition from his colleagues Chris Matthews and Rachel Maddow). Stunned and outraged that the Tea Party was able to keep a new debt-ceiling bill from being passed without difficulty or even public notice, he furiously waved an old one-page debt-limit bill, fuming, "There is nothing easier for Congress to do than to raise the debt limit."

How pathetic to see O'Donnell being so clueless about two important things: first, that the ease with which the government has been able to borrow is a big part of the problem facing the country, and second, that this ease in abusing the American people is precisely why the Tea Party emerged.

For O'Donnell and his stateworshiping ilk, any resistance to the which, let us recall, is nothing but the forcible transfer of scarce resources from private owners to greedy, power-lusting politicians — is an impertinence, a sign of disrespect for one's betters. How dare anyone question those anointed to "run the country"? How dare mere citizens object to being committed to more debt, which will impose additional burdens on them, their children, and their grandchildren? How dare they thwart the grand schemes their benevolent rulers have in store for them?

Well, the Tea Party knows better than O'Donnell & Company that the

politicians are not our betters. And they know a political comeuppance is long overdue.

For all that, I give a cheer and a half for the Tea Party. But why not more than that?

Because the Tea Partiers need to be more radical. They have missed too many opportunities to advance their cause.

For one thing, they have been largely silent on the American empire. The government spends more than \$1 trillion a year on imperial activities misleadingly called "defense," far more than the nearly \$700 billion in the War Department's budget. Empires are bloody expensive, and the sooner the Tea Party understands that, the more effective it will be in fighting for smaller government. They also should understand that that trillion dollars is not just a misguided effort to protect American security. It is a scam largely designed to line the pockets of the military-industrial complex. They can start by reading President Eisenhower's farewell address.

Second, Tea Partiers need to learn that the middle-class welfare state is a snare and a delusion. Social Security and Medicare masquerade as benevolent mutual-aid programs, but they are devices to foster allegiance to power. If you depend on politicians for support in your later, vulnerable years, how can your freedom truly be secure? The welfare state robs working people while turning the elderly into wards of the cold state.

Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation (www.fff.org) and editor of The Freeman magazine.

the fourth consecutive year, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) has been selected as one of the nation's top 100 places to work for information technology (IT) professionals. SMUD ranked 26th in the nation among all

Sacramento Region – For companies and 5th among small companies (2,500 employees or less). The recognition comes from the bi-weekly IT publication's annual Best Places to Work in IT 2011 survey.

Rankings are based on a twopart comprehensive questionnaire regarding company offerings in categories such as career development, training, benefits, diversity and retention, as well as an employee satisfaction survey in line with these offerings. For information about careers at SMUD go to smud.org.

Citrus Heights PAL Offers Summertime Fun

Funding for the PAL program is

from various sources, including the

By Leslie Carrara

Citrus Heights - The weekend of Aug. 6th and 7th, volunteers took a full house to Beale's Point at Folsom Lake, according to Elena Calderon, school resource officer with the CHPD. The Residents' Empowerment Association of Citrus Heights and other neighborhood associations purchased all of the camping equipment.

City, local business donations from stores such as Wal Mart, Target and Best Buy, and the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs, Calderon explained. Additionally, kids are charged \$5 for the year, however, if they can't afford it, scholarships are available. The Citrus Heights Police

Department offers kids in the community a place for education and fun through their Police Source: www.citrusheightspal.com.

Activities League (PAL). It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization staffed with volunteer officers and other personnel from the department. The program was implemented to teach kids about gangs and drug awareness.

Events coming up include tennis classes, baseball and basketball. Wrestling and martial arts are among the ongoing activities.

CHAR AAUW to Hold Membership Brunch

Citrus Heights – The CHAR Branch of AAUW (Citrus Heights American River Branch of the American Association of University Women) will hold its Membership Brunch on Saturday, September 10, 2011, at the Citrus Heights Community Center.

AAUW advances equity for women through advocacy, education and research. Membership is open

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to those holding an associate or equivalent (RN), baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university. Interest Groups of the Branch will be highlighted at the brunch. These groups include Opera, Birdwatching, Gadabouts, Bridge, Book

discussions, Travel, Great Decisions, Movie Mavens, and Dining groups. CHAR AAUW sponsors scholarships to CA Tech Trek and ARC students through fundraisers and donations. Date: Saturday, September 10, Time: 10 AM - 1 PM Location: 6300 Fountain Square, Citrus Heights Information Contact: 966-0814,

www.aauwcitrusheights.org **Cost:** Free and Open to the Public Activity: Includes Brunch and Interest Group presentations



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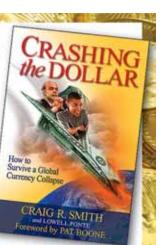


Crashing the Dollar: How to Survive a Global Currency Collapse by Craig R. Smith was written to help save American families from the economic death spiral of a falling U.S. dollar and rising inflation.

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By Tim Kovar, Realtor/Broker

There are few words that mean so much, but 'home' is one. How many feelings, memories, moments from our lives are grounded in the house we own? Most it seems.

When circumstances like the ongoing recession put our home, and our most precious moments in jeopardy, knowledge is often your best weapon in defense. Knowing where to go for the answers is half the battle.

Q: My brother says my only hope to save my home is to declare bankruptcy now that we've gone into default on the bank loan. Not knowing what might be best having never figured to fight this battle, does a short sale offer any hope of reducing the financial pain or offer any chance of saving this house?

A: To paraphrase Donald Trump, "everyone deserves a second chance." For homeowners in default, working with the bank to

find a buyer may make more sense than outright foreclosure and bankruptcy. A short sale provides hope that a buyer will come onboard to purchase the home, at a price lower than you likely paid or may owe. However, by working with the bank to create some recovery of funds loaned on the home, you get out from under without a foreclosure and bankruptcy on your credit. It's a 'second chance' that you lose by giving up or walking away.

Arm yourself with real <estate> knowledge! Real estate, mortgage and other property questions can be emailed to tim.kovar@gmail.com or get immediate assistance by calling 916-549-4340. Kovar Family Real Estate, DRE#01831154.

Lungren Supports Next Step In **Reigning in Government Spending**

Washington DC – On August 1st, Congressman Dan Lungren (R-Gold River-CA) voted in favor of the updated Budget Control Act of 2011. This updated version of the bill which passes 269-161 - has been agreed to by the President and congressional leadership for both the Democrats and Republicans. Following the vote Congressman Lungren provided the following statement:

'This is the first time we have voted to raise the debt ceiling so our country can pay its bills while incorporating immediate and long term spending cuts. Is this bill perfect? No. There are people who believe it goes too far and some who believe it doesn't go far enough. Whatever side of the ideological spectrum on which you fall, this is an



Congressman Dan Lungren

important incremental first step in getting our fiscal house in order.

"This bill also gives us the best chance in a very long time for a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution. A Balanced Budget Amendment would

set the kind of fiscal boundary Congress seriously needs. If American families have to make hard budget decisions - on a daily basis - there is no reason why the U.S. government shouldn't have to do the same.

'This is like a heavy weight championship fight of 12 rounds. We just completed the first round and the American people are ahead on points. We still have a long way to go."

Congressman Dan Lungren serves as Chairman on the House Administration Committee in addition to serving on the Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees.

Source: The Office of Dan Lungren

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For maximum energy efficiency in your home, take advantage of SMUD's Home Performance Program. Through a comprehensive assessment of your home's energy systems, you'll learn precisely where your home is leaking energy and how to save. You can qualify for up to \$9,000 in energy efficiency rebates, plus financing and tax incentive options are available. Get your energy assessment today for only \$99. Offer expires 3/31/12.

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American Red Cross Launches Education Campaign to Increase Disaster Readiness

PG&E Pledges \$1 Million to Support New Campaign

The American Red Cross today announced a new initiative designed to improve disaster readiness throughout eleven counties in Northern California. With the Capital Region Ready campaign, the Red Cross will host disaster preparedness events, or "Prep" Rallies to educate the community about how to be ready for disasters.

The first Prep Rally took place August 4 at the Janet Leigh Plaza in Stockton from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. A variety of disaster preparedness activities were available for adults and children, to help families prepare for different types of disaster.

Continuing its ongoing support of the American Red Cross, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has pledged one hundred and fifty thousand dollars to the Capital Region Chapter, as part of a \$1 million gift to the Red Cross, supporting northern and central California communities.

"It is not a matter of if, but when the next disaster strikes. More likely than not, this will come in the form of a catastrophic flood or wildfire. The Capital Region Ready campaign will help make sure that our residents have the tools they need to plan, lead and rebuild our diverse communities," said Dawn Lindblom, chief executive officer of the American Red Cross Capital Region Chapter.



Volunteers from PG&E and the American Red Cross join Stockton City Council Member Susan Eggman, Stockton Police Chief Todd Broddrick, Ed Bedwell, Vice President of Government Relations for PG&E, and Dawn Lindblom, CEO of American Red Cross Capital Region Chapter to launch Capital Region Ready, a new disaster readiness campaign.

"PG&E's generous support of this in the communities we serve and is readiness campaign allows us to reach even further into communities across northern California, teaching residents how to be ready when disasters occur."

"The Red Cross not only provides relief to those affected by disasters around the world, it also empowers individuals right here in our own community to prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies," said Ed Bedwell, vice president for government relations for PG&E. "PG&E's support of the Capital Region Ready program continues our longtime commitment to emergency readiness

an extension of our proud history of supporting the American Red Cross.'

The Red Cross will work closely with community leaders, local businesses, government agencies, schools and nonprofit organizations to (1) identify vulnerable neighborhoods, (2) assess readiness needs, (3) equip residents and community leaders with disaster preparedness and response skills, tools, supplies and plans, and (4) foster sustainable relationships to continue the ongoing disaster readiness efforts.



Life's a Journey..... Wear Comfortable Shoes



By Dianne Foster

Radio ads are being broadcast all over the state warning voters "not to sign petitions because it exposes the signer to Identify Theft." Wrong! The sponsor calls itself "Californians Against Identity Theft," having no legitimate website that can be found.

What a coincidence! Currently a petition is circulating, if passed by voters, prevents the unions (for nearly 4 decades now) from involuntarily removing a portion of the workers paycheck and using it for politics-calling it dues. Example, the state teachers union (CTA) takes nearly \$800 a year from teacher paychecks, and nearly half of that goes for politics. Over 90% is donated to the Democrat party. Therefore, Democrat candidates are always well funded (on the backs of hard working people) and have been the majority Party in California for four decades. And we know where that got us - a sinking economy.

Masking themselves behind a phony prop, three points can be made. The union leaders are extremely dishonest, desperate, and they cannot argue on the merits of why they should be allowed to use (without permission) a portion of their member's hard earned money to fund the liberal agenda.

All indications point to SEIU funding this phony advertisement, pretending to be something they are not, in an effort to scare people from signing petitions. Don't be fooled by their dishonesty. The information required on initiatives is no more than what can be found in a phone book

If you want to sign the petition, contact your local Tea Party.



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This is a public service to all widows and widowers and there is no charge to attend the social other than the meal they chose.

Sunday Support

Any and all widows or widowers are invited

Every Sunday from 3:00 pm-5:00 pm

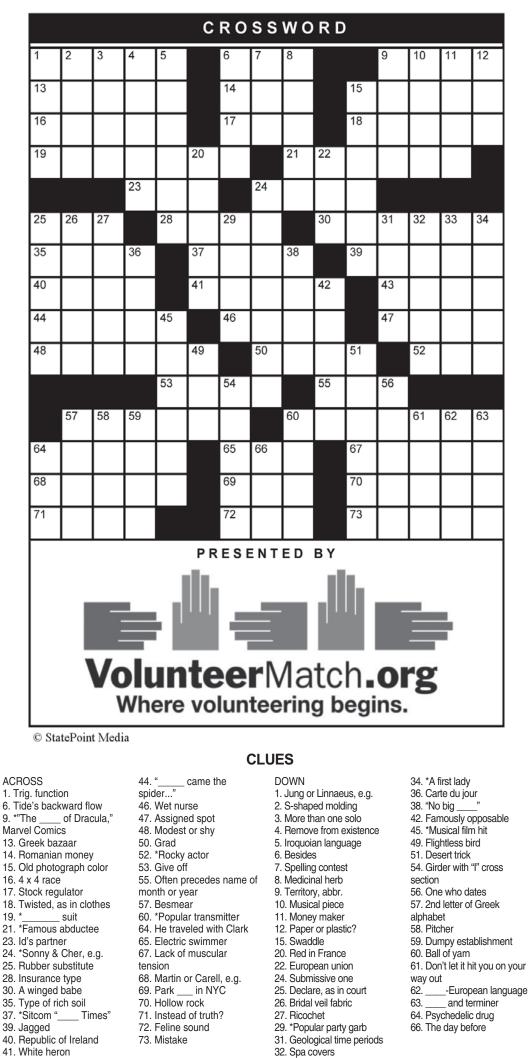
In the meeting room of the WPAC office. Enter from the back parking lot at 2628 El Camino Avenue, Suite D-18.

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VolunteerMatch.org Where volunteering begins.								
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C StatePoint Media

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9. Come back every week for Sudoku! For Solution See Page 11.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • THEME: THE 1970s



43. Adjoin

For Solution See Page 8

CUSTOMER SNAPS AT CLERK

BEXAR COUNTY - Finding that the grocery store was out of THERA-GESIC* Pain Cream, Tom W. snapped ("like a terrier") at the drug department clerk. After promises to have it back in stock the next day, Tom W. regained his composure and apologized for the incident. When asked to explain his dog-like behavior, he painlessly

Go Painlessly.



Urgent news for DIABETICS with The diabetes drug, ACTOS*, has been linked to an increased risk of bladder cancer. If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with bladder cancer after taking ACTOS_{*}, ACTOplus met_{*}, ACTOplus MET_{*} XR or duetact_{*}, call us now at 1-800-THE-EAGLE about monetary compensation. No fees or costs until your case settles. We practice law only in Arizona, but associate with lawyers throughout the U.S.



33. "Business as





"Keeping the Faith" **By Ronnie McBrayer**

Last week my son asked me a profound theological question: "Why did God make stinging bugs?" Stumped, I told him to talk directly to God about it. Pausing for just a moment to consider my inadequate answer, he countered, "You know I can't talk to God; I'm not even dead yet!"

In my son's literal but complex eight-year-old mind, prayer does not qualify as "talking to God." Thus, his many and variegated questions about the mysteries of the universe, the meaning of life, and the purpose of wasps and biting flies, will have to wait.

Truth be told, my son's conclusion about "talking to God," and more pertinent, God talking to us, is the conclusion most of us have. God doesn't really talk to people, does he? And those mystical types who routinely say things like, "God spoke to me" or "I heard God say," are we to take them seriously, or should they be scheduled for a mental health examination

I remember a bizarre story from two decades ago about a Texas pastor who crashed his car while attempting to elude police. It was a bizarre story, first, because all twenty of the pastor's parishioners were with him in his vehicle - fifteen adults and five children - in a single Pontiac.

Second, and stranger by the details, the congregants were all naked. It seems the devil had cursed their

Keep Your Shirt On; God Will Speak

clothing, God had told them, so the voodooed garments were cast off per divine instruction. And finally, the police were chasing the naked and mobile congregation because they had attempted to forcibly procure a parked RV, an RV that God said now belonged to them.

God gets blamed for a whole lot of the kookiness in this world, and stories like this one make me appreciate my son's conclusion. If this is how God speaks, I'll be happy to wait till I'm dead for such divine instruction. And let's be honest; sometimes the stories are more tragic than comical. Some of history's greatest atrocities have been committed because someone "heard God speak" to them.

Absurdity aside, I still believe God speaks. Now, I don't believe God's instructions ever include harming others, stealing their property, or committing violence. Such voices are patently inconsistent with the way and person of Christ. And no, I don't think God's voice arrives in our inboxes as an unalterable blueprint for life. Further, it's not likely that many of us will find God standing at the foot of our bed some early morning with a heavenly telegram in his hand.

Besides, if God did speak that clearly (and maybe he does), most of us would miss it anyway (maybe we have), for it seems God prefers communicating through quiet and stillness rather than through the pyrotechnics of signs, wonders, and naked-RV-stealing-hijinks. "God didn't speak through the whirlwind, the earthquake, or the fire," the prophet of old tells us. Instead, God spoke "in a still, small voice."

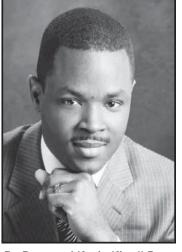
It's summed up by Dan Rather's magnificent interview of Mother Teresa more than twenty years ago. Paraphrasing, he famously asked her, "What do you say to God when you pray?" She offered him a simple answer, "I don't say anything. I just listen." Rather then asked the obvious follow-up question: "Well, what does God say?" Mother Teresa gave Rather that crooked little smile of hers, and said, "God doesn't say anything either. He just listens."

Does such a wordless "conversation" sound as bizarre as a Pontiac filled with naked Pentecostals? Hardly. In a relationship of love and trust, being together is enough, and more is understood in the silence than when using all the words in the world.

A great deal of religion, I fear, is built upon the desire for divine fireworks, megaphoned and crystal clear answers, God showing himself in flamboyant and undeniable style. Yet, God only requires the quiet and silent heart to quietly and silently speak. In other words, keep your shirt on. Getting quiet will do more to sharpen one's perception of God than all the religious gymnastics in the world.

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.ronniemcbrayer.net.

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By Reverend Kevin Kitrell Ross

"Most people work just hard enough not to get fired and get paid just enough not to quit." -George Carlin

TGIF! Thank God It's Friday has become a common expression among most Americans to describe the overall experience of their work week. The translation usually means, "I am so glad to be off from this stressful, unsatisfying job for the next two days!" Friday for most American companies, is also pay day. Rather than heading to the bank on Fridays, people are bolting to the bars, the clubs, or any place to escape a work week from hell.

Of course, I am speaking in sweeping generalities and could not possibly account for every working American. However, health statistics show that the average American suffers from heart attacks between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Monday mornings en route to stressful jobs that make them miserable.

So why all the stress at work?

There are several reasons people are stressed at work. They include low pay, poor management, untidy and disorganized facilities, poor employee morale, unreasonable performance expectations, and perhaps, most important of all, people simply don't want to be there.

When a person is unable to find for himself a compelling reason for investing his time and energy on a job, he automatically creates within himself an unconscious resentment toward it. This resentment leads him to becoming increasingly sensitive to his work environment and more easily irritated than usual. He views his work as an obligatory chore, the environment as a containment,



A Time to Love his co-workers as co-underdogs

and his management, slave-drivers.

Of course, this is in the worst case

scenario. Nineteen century writer

Maxim Gorky concurs: "When work

is a pleasure, life is a joy. When work

Many of my clients who seek out

my coaching services are those who

feel trapped in jobs that they can't

stand or for which they are simply not

compatible. Connie, one of my cli-

ents, is an attorney by profession, but

only because her father wanted her to

be one. She sought me out to help her

realize her true life's dream of being a

television producer for public TV. As

we worked toward helping her make

the transition, Connie described how

very draining it was for her to go to

work and said that she was really at

the firm for the money and for no

Everyday she came to work not

wanting to be there, with increas-

ing case loads, and with her part-

ners becoming increasingly more

impressed with her work and eager

to make her partner. She told me that

just coming to work each day was

On the other hand, Connie would

light up every time I would have her

share with me her heart's true vision.

She would come totally alive as if

she could actually see it. I had no

doubt that she belonged in television,

because of her incredible passion for

creating documentaries that tell the

stories of people who achieve great

success while overcoming tremen-

Connie didn't know how she

was going to face her partners and

announce she was leaving in two

weeks. She could stay there for the

money and suffer silently, or she

could tell the truth and tread out

into the deep, risky waters of public

The price Connie would pay for

not acknowledging her true dream

would far outweigh the money she

would make if she stayed put. But

like so many others, maybe even

you, Connie didn't have the courage

to make the choice without help.

"Facing the Music"

dous odds.

broadcasting.

making her sick and nauseous.

other reason.

is a duty, life is slavery."

"Truth or Consequences"

where you feel you are at a crossroads in your career or business and find yourself afraid, intimidated, or a bit weak in the knees to tell your boss or business partner(s) the truth?

It may not be a terminal decision, but it may be that you have to blow the whistle on someone, fire a subordinate or evaluate your superior. Whatever the case may be, it's going to take you mustering the inner strength to have that T.O.U.G.H. talk and do so without burning a bridge.

While it's important to tell the truth, it is also important to do so without the intent of harming another person. Therefore, standing up for yourself does not equate to standing on someone else's foot. It simply means standing on your own two big spiritual feet and truthfully communicating your truth with the intention of making things clear, and not "telling someone off".

The following steps will assist you in walking through the process with as little difficulty as possible: 1) Clearly identify what the challenge is you're having in the workplace and with whom.

2) Determine for yourself exactly what you want.

3) Write it down.

4) Visualize everything going better than you imagined it could.

5) Rehearse your lines with someone who loves you.

6) Schedule an appointment or select the best time to have your T.O.U.G.H. talk at work.

7) Have the T.O.U.G.H. talk.

8) Evaluate your performance and your results.

9) Reward yourself for your efforts and courage.

Kevin Kitrell Ross is the host of Design Your Life weekly radio program, online at www.unity.fm, every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. He is also the Senior Minister/ Spiritual Director of Christ Unity Church of Sacramento, online at www.christunity.com . Feel free to join them for one of their two services 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Christ Unity Church is located at 9249 Folsom Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95826.

Are you at a point in your life

By Marlys Norris, **Christian** Author

During his retirement years, grandpa sold Life Insurance and on his desk in the sunroom was a little gadget that intrigued my young mind. This gadget had three small sitting monkeys; one with its hands over its eyes, another with hands over its ears and another with hands over its mouth. Grandpa and Grandmother planted good "seeds"

Lessons We Learn

of God's love into my life. One day I asked grandmother what the monkeys meant and she exclaimed "See no evil, hear no evil, and speak no evil. You should never look at evil things, nor listen to evil, nor say evil words." Then, she said, "To become the person we expect you to be, you need to remember this and let those thoughts guide your life in the years to come".

Grandmother's words have stayed with me and from time to time those words ring in my ears. Those years I had no idea the extent or power evil can have on someone's life and I truly did not know how to discern or acknowledge it. My grandparents were prayer warriors for our family. However, today I am grateful for those words of warning, and my grandparents prayers that have sustained me and kept me to be who I am today.

prayer (folded or uplifted) and pray the words the Holy Spirit of God has taught me to pray honoring the Savior of my soul, Jesus Christ..

teaching you received from your grandparents and/or parents that have stayed with you and brought meaning and purpose to your life. Give honor to those lessons you have learned and keep them as a legacy to future generations as well. Share them with your family, don't just let them die!

Yes, in application of the monkey's teaching -- I have learned to close my eyes, hold my hands in

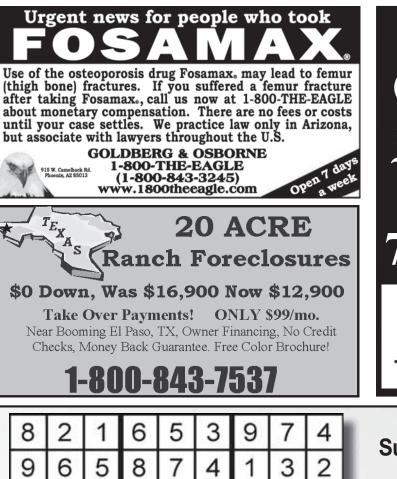
Possibly you can remember some



How to Make Life Easier perspective. Would you agree that solid years of television viewing.

God has a bigger perspective on You will give 9 1/2 solid years of

Marlys Johnsen Norris, Author Marlys5934@sbc global.net "Intimacy Begins Going God's Way" "God Moves Mountains, It was a Miracle"



	4	7	9	3	5	6	1	2	8
Sudoku Puzzle on Page 5	2	3	1	4	7	8	5	6	9
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By Pastor Ray Dare

Have you ever tried to do something that you thought would work out... but it didn't work out? The problem was your perspective. Have you ever become frustrated because you tried to operate something or put together something without the consulting the instruction manual? That's the way life is without God's perspective. If you don't get God's perspective in your life, I will be able to sum up your life in one word — frustration. You end up asking questions like: "Why is this happening to me?" "Why is this happening to other people?" "What is the purpose of this?" "What is the meaning to life?" The answers are all found in perspective.

Life gets easier and we're more successful when we have the right

your life than you do? He does. He's the one who created it all in the first place. The good news is He wants to share His perspective with you. Fortunately, He's given us an instruction manual called the Bible. B.I.B.L.E. stands for Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.

15 minutes daily in the Bible will change your life. I guarantee it. Find an easy reading, contemporary version and begin in the Gospel of John. When you get to know the Bible and when you apply what it says, life gets a whole lot easier and makes a lot more sense. "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do." 2 *Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)*

If you want to get God's perspective on life, then you have to get serious about your Bible. You need to get serious. If you are an average American, by the time you're 65, you will amass 9 1/2

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your life in front of the television. Is that really where you want to get your perspective?

If you cut out two 30-minute TV shows a week you could join a weekly 1 hour Bible study small group. Don't you think that might be a good trade off? Yes! Find a small group Bible study to join for 1 hour a week. Read your Bible daily for at least 15 minutes. Pray before you read and ask God to speak to your heart through His words. If this Book really does have the answers to making life easier (and it does), don't you think it makes sense to get into it?. I challenge you to do that.

Why would you want to do that? It's the secret to perspective, success in life.

Study this Book... Meditate on it day and night so you may be sure to obey all that is written in it. Only then will you succeed. "Joshua 1:8 (NLT)

See you soon, Pastor Ray

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On an autumn morning in 1945, three men went bird-hunting in a rural area outside Los Angeles. Their names were Charles Summers, Harold Tice and Ernest Simonson. Each man carried a 12-gauge shotgun loaded with shells containing identical 7.5 size birdshot.

What the three men didn't know was that they were about to enter a time warp. Their conduct on that November morning would be replayed, evaluated and analyzed for the next 70 years in every law school in America.

The fascination with the case known as *Summers v. Tice et. al.* stems from what attorneys call "the joint tortfeasor problem." A plaintiff has been injured due to the negligence of more than one party. However, the plaintiff cannot prove which of the multiple defendants caused the damage. It may have been only one defendant, all of them, or some combination among them.

Throughout most of Anglo-American legal history, the solution to the joint tortfeasor problem could be summarized as, "Tough luck, Mr. Plaintiff." Courts insisted that the plaintiff carried the burden of proving which among multiple defendants specifically caused his harm. The underlying principle was that it would be unjust to assign collective guilt and assign liability to a defendant who might be blameless.

Now let's rejoin our bird-hunting buddies.

Summers, the most experienced shooter, warned his friends to "keep in line" and to exercise care in shooting. When the men reached a hilly area, Summers headed up an incline,



The Case of the Bungled Birdshot By David Graulich, Esq.

placing the hunters at points of a decide

triangle. At that moment, a quail rose in

flight to a 10-foot elevation and darted between the hunters. Tice and Simonson raised their guns and fired at the quail.

They missed the bird, but a birdshot pellet struck Summers in the eye. Summers's verbal reaction was not recorded, but it is not difficult to imagine the general thrust and tone of his comments.

Summers sued Tice and Simonson, arguing that they were both negligent and should be held wholly responsible for his eye injury. Summers had warned the men to exercise care, and both men had been negligent by firing when he, Summers, was in an exposed position at the point of a triangle.

The two defendants argued that, under joint tortfeasor theory, the plaintiff had to prove which one of them shot the pellet that struck the plaintiff in the eye. Was it Tice or Simonson? Since Summers couldn't prove who fired the fateful pellet (remember, Tice and Simonson had guns loaded with identical ammunition) neither of them should be found liable.

The case ended up before a California appellate court. The 1948 decision in *Summers v. Tice* shocked the legal community.

The court ruled that *both* Tice and Simonson were equally liable for causing the eye injury. Each man was responsible for the whole damage, said the court.

The court acknowledged that its decision represented a change in how the joint tortfeasor problem was

decided. High time for such a change, the court said. It was blatantly unfair to deny an injured person redress simply because he could not prove how much damage each negligent party did. It was certain that, between them, they did it all.

The reasoning in Summers v. Tice re-emerged in 1980s in regard to product liability. A group of pharmaceutical companies made and sold a pill throughout the U.S. that had tragic and horrific side effects. The victims couldn't identify which particular company made the pill that they had swallowed. A California court, influenced by Summers v. Tice, decided that all of the drug companies who made and sold the pill were liable. The manufacturers' degree of liability was apportioned by "market share theory" - that is, how much of the national market for the pill each company commanded during the time period when the victims took the pill.

Getting back to Summers v. Tice, I wish I could relate what happened to the three men after the court's ruling. Did they renew their friendship? Did Tice and Simonson ever go bird hunting again? Did Summers spend part of his settlement award to take Tice and Simonson out for a hearty dinner of roasted quail? Unfortunately, the answers are lost in the mists of time.

David Graulich, Esq. is a resident of Fair Oaks and an attorney with The Law Firm of Tim O'Connor. David welcomes comments on "A Case in Point" columns and can be contacted at (916) 932-2312 or by email: David@timoconnorattorney.com.





By David Dickstein

Family Films

Glee Live! 3D! Opens Aug. 12, rated G gleetour.com

If you're a Gleek who missed the big concert during its California swing in May or went and want to relive the experience, the Slushee-soaked singers from Fox's hit series are heard and seen (in 3-D) in their bigscreen debut. Based on the North American leg of a tour that ended in Ireland last month, the concert film features performances by the entire New Directions choir from fictional McKinley High School in factual Lima, Ohio.



Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World *Opens Aug. 19, rated PG* spykids.com

Eight years after the third film of the family action-adventure series, the Spy Kids division of the CIA-modeled OSS has since been disbanded, giving the maniacal Timekeeper (Jeremy Piven) more opportunity to do his evil. So it's the stepchildren of a retired spy (Jessica Alba) who must save the world, gadgets compliments of a now grown-up Carmen and Juni (reprised by Alexa Vega and Daryl Sabara). Antonio Banderas also is back as their dad.

Conan the Barbarian *Opens Aug. 19, rated PG-13* conanthebarbarianin3d.com

The comic book character from the 1930s has had more reincarnations than Shirley McLaine, and the latest, a \$110 million 3-D action-adventure, is separate from the Arnold Schwarzenegger movies of the '80s. The latest has the fierce Cimmerian warrior battling the hulking and horrific to save the nations of Hyboria from an encroaching reign of supernatural evil. Not exactly kid stuff, but if you have a teenage boy,

Films and DVDs for the Whole Family

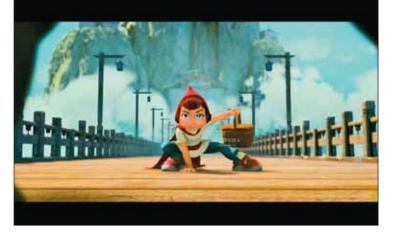


the movie's prime audience, good luck keeping him away if that's how you're leaning.

Family DVDs

Bob the Builder: Super Scrambler (ages 3-7, released Aug. 16, not rated): Little ones go on big jobs with Bob and his handy homies as they build Farmer Pickles' milk shed. Learning a life lesson this time is Scrambler, who finds out that following instructions is much better on construction jobs than showing off brute strength. Grade: A- of the biggest bombs in movie history -- \$6.9 opening domestic box office on a \$200-plus million investment – might recoup some losses in home entertainment, but smart shoppers should stay away. Motion capture animation makes the humans look embalmed and the story is pretty lifeless, too. *Grade: D*

Tom and Jerry & the Wizard of Oz (ages 4-7, released Aug. 23, not rated): If Dorothy's dog could follow the yellow brick road, then why not a cat and mouse? Two MGM institutions merge in this brand new animated film, which



Hoodwinked Too! Hood vs. Evil (ages 6-13, released Aug. 16, rated PG): What made the original so great was it was a rare film advertised for all ages that actually was fun for all ages. The sequel, another fractured fairy tale featuring Little Red Riding Hood (Hayden Panettiere's voice replaces Anne Hathaway's) is a sloppy snoozefest for anyone too old for toons heavy on sends Tom and Jerry up a tornado and landing in Oz, where the whiskered frienemies try to save Dorothy, who's locked up in the Wicked Witch's castle. *Grade: B*

The Wiggles: Ukulele Baby! (ages 2-5, released Aug. 9, not rated): A match made in hokey heaven, the Wiggles are joined by jovial "Today" weatherman Al Roker for one of the 21 new songs on this disc, all set to the sweet sound of ukuleles. "Thank You, Mr. Weatherman!" and the other tropical tunes are the makings of a Polynesian preschool party. Grade: B+

All offers require 2-year agreement. Programming/pricing may vary in certain markets. To the extent that there is a 2011 NFL season, customers will b automatically enrolled in 2011 NFL SUNDAY TICKET and NFL SUNDAY TICKET To-Do at no additional cest.* Offers end 10/5/11. Credit card required lexcept in MA & PAI. New approved customers only liease required. ADDITIONAL TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY, CALL FOR FULL OFFER DETAILS.



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4. Washing Machine Rebate Program – Call Customer Service for details.

5. Educational Programs – We offer Conservation Presentations for schools and organizations.

slapstick violence. Grade: C-

Mars Needs Moms (ages 5-13, released Aug. 9, rated PG): Mars might need moms, but kids sure didn't need this 3-D, animated sci-fi flick from Disney. One



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DITCHING MR WRONG !!!

Buh-Bye Mr. Wrong!!! Hello Mr. Right!!! Women search for years looking for the right guy, meanwhile wasting biological clock-ticking time on the worst possible mates. Nicholas Aretakis says give Mr. Wrong the boot, and you'll be free to find Mr. Right. Researcher and dater himself, Nicholas put together a definitive look at who Mr. Wrong is in his book "Ditching Mr. Wrong" How to end a bad relationship and find Mr. Right!

The book has lots of quizzes, exercises, and checklists to help the single woman get on the right track. One of the interesting sections profiles twenty common male personalities, and provides sage advice at the end of each profile whether a candidate is worth pursuing or should be ditched. Here's a sampling:

1)**The Mystery Man:** Does his behavior raise more questions than answers?

2)**Mr. Rush Job:** Is his interest in you solely physical?

3) **The Underachiever**: Is he always

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falling short of expectations?
4) The Debate Champion: Does everything for him have to be an argument?
5) The Man in Control: Does he

have you under his thumb?6)Mt. Inattentive: Is he a space cadet, or just a bad listener?7)Is he a mama's boy: Can you break the spell his mother has over him?

8) Mr. Noncommittal: Will he ever be ready for an exclusive relationship?
9) Mr. Wannabe: Is this man's importance genuine or trumped up?
10) The Mooch: Is he taking advantage of your generosity?

Did you know you have rights, ladies? Nicholas has put together "The First Date Bill of Rights" for you. Read and take heed.

Reliable: Did he call you when he stated he would?

Accessible: Did he provide you with his cell phone number and e-mail address in case you need to reach him about an unexpected change in plans?

Approachable: Did he welcome you to contact him at any time?

Conscientious: Is the planned activity both convenient and enjoyable?

Accommodating: Did he suggest and book a suitable place to meet? *Thorough:* Were you impressed

with the arrangements that were made?

Polite: Did he show good manners?

Connectable: Was it easy to talk, or did making conversation feel like "pulling teeth"?

Attentive: Did he listen to what you told him or hinted about your personal preferences?

Generous: Did he reserve a table at a restaurant suitable for intimate dialogue, and did he tip appropriately?

Comfortable: Did you leave with the feeling that you would enjoy spending time together in the future? *Chemistry:* Are you physically

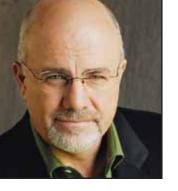
attracted to your date? *Integrity:* Did he seem honest?

Safety: Did you feel secure throughout the evening?

You will learn many tips in this book from the Dating Litmus Test and the Hot Prospect Background Check to the Top Twenty Relationship Deal Breakers. And not to worry, if it doesn't seem right, Nicholas has a specific section on Getting Rid of Mr. Wrong in Ten Easy Steps. If you'd like to check out more information, you can log on to www.ditchingmrwrong.com.

Happy Hunting!!!

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.

What is Unsecured Debt?

Dear Dave,

What is unsecured debt? - Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

This is a great question! You'd be surprised how many people don't know the difference between "secured" debt and "unsecured" debt.

Unsecured debt means that someone loaned you money, but they don't have a lien on anything. Credit cards and student loans are good examples of unsecured debt, because there's nothing they can directly repossess if the borrower doesn't pay. Now, if you don't pay, they can sue you and get a lien against something *after* they sue you. Lots of times this is done against your income by garnishing your wages.

Examples of secured debt would be a car loan or even a home mortgage. A home mortgage is secured by the home, meaning they take a lien against the home. If you don't pay, they can foreclose and take the house. It works the same way with a car loan. If you don't make your payments, they can come get the car.

Remember this, too. Unsecured debt typically will be the last debt you pay if you're in financial trouble. In other words, you'd make your car payment before paying on your student loan, and you'd make your house payment before paying on a credit card.

In a worst case scenario, like bankruptcy, unsecured debt is wiped off. The creditor gets nothing. But a car loan or house payment either gets made, or you give up your car or home. It's easy to see how a lender making a secured loan is in a much better position than one making an unsecured loan, isn't it?

- Dave

Do Car Titles Go to Teenagers? Dear Dave,

Our 15-year-old has saved his money, and he'll buy a car next year. When he buys it, should the title be put in our names or his?

- Laura

Dave Says

Dear Laura,

When my kids hit that age, I put the titles in my name. The insurance will be much less expensive if you do this. Plus, you don't want a 16-yearold under the illusion that they're in control of their lives.

As their parents, you should love them more than that, because they're just not ready to be in full control. You want them to be in control of some parts of their lives, so that when they leave they have a clue about life and don't boomerang on you.

But at that age, you should be guiding them, and you don't need an ownership document to a car confusing them about who's in charge. I turned the ownership over to my kids when they turned 18. In each case, I knew I could trust them, and they were ready for that level of control.

So, once they're ready—and you *know* they're ready—if it's going to be their car, all the accompanying responsibility should be theirs, too!

- Dave

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By Gary Sawyer

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While extremely rewarding, rescuing gets expensive. So if you love animals, I could use your

help. The economic downturn that's causing more pets to need "white knights" like you and I to come to their rescue...is also reducing donations that fuel my rescue efforts. So "I'm beggin' ya" on behalf of animals we can save together: If you're able to make a substantial or periodic donation, please consider doing so. But because most people cannot, I'm trying to raise just \$5 from each of 700 animal lovers. So please

consider making at least a \$5 donation—and share this article with animal lovers you know.

You can: mail donations to "Gary Sawyer / PO Box 1751 / N. Highlands, CA 95660-9998"; email me at "DogRescue@Live. com"; or call (916) 334-2841.

Thank you, for whatever donation you feel is appropriate to help me continue rescuing needy animals in the future.

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Whenever a fight breaks out during some sporting event I'm watching on TV and my better half catches a glimpse of the action she reacts with disdain and disgust.

"Oh, grow up!" is typically the first remark, followed by a few more derisive comments aimed at the ridiculously immature behavior of the combatants.

I have a hard time responding with any reasonable excuses or explanations.

"These games are so highly competitive," I might say. "Emotions run so high, it's easy to lose control."

There was no excuse for the brawl that followed the plunking of Shane Victorino by Ramon Ramirez in the Giants-Phillies game last week. It didn't appear as though the two players were going to fight. The trigger was when the Phillies' Placido Polanco charged into the picture and Giants' catcher Eli Whiteside turned and tackled him; then the benches cleared and things spiraled out of hand.

I'm mildly embarrassed to admit I felt the whole thing was undeniably exciting, and I feel a tad guilty that I hope the fracas will inspire the Giants to rally out of their current funk.

The old "It's part of the game" idea, however, has never done it for me. All the sports I've played or have been involved in for decades have never included fighting as part of the game. One would think that especially at the professional level the competitors should be able to control their emotions and behavior in a professional manner — but, no! — all too often such is not the case. Major League Baseball people argue that their livelihoods are on the line. If a player gets thrown at retaliation is in order, and expected. It's said that Cardinals manager Tony LaRussa's philosophy is, "You hit one of mine, I'll hit two of yours." Great.

Perhaps MLB should consider adopting some new rules regarding fighting, along the lines of those in the NBA and NHL. Of course hockey will probably never exclude fighting as part of its game, but it does apply major penalties and suspensions that may affect a team and repeat offenders are dealt with more severely. The NHL requires players not involved in a fight to retreat to their bench or clear the area. The NBA institutes an automatic one-game suspension and fine for anyone leaving the bench to join a fight.

Maybe baseball needs a thirdman-in rule. If a pitcher and hitter are going to go at it, let them do it without interference. I suspect Nolan Ryan would be in favor of that rule and Robin Ventura would not (look that video up on your computer).

I remember in high school when a couple of the boys would want a piece of each other the gym teachers would escort them off to put on boxing gloves and head gear. They let them punch it out for a short time and that was that. The method ran a short course and pretty much put an end to those issues, because who really wants any part of getting punched in the face?

It might be a thought to use those tactics at the pro level.

Maybe Victorino and Ramirez should've put on the gloves in the clubhouse after the game. Or maybe Ramirez would like a shot at radio talk show host Tony Bruno, after Bruno's unfortunate "illegal alien" comment last week. It might be a kick to see Tiger Woods and his excaddie Steve Williams go a couple of rounds.

This thing could work in so many ways. How about LaRussa vs. Dusty Baker; Joe Montana vs. Steve Young; Al Davis vs. Mike Shanahan, Tom Cable or Marcus Allen; Juan Marichal vs. John Roseboro — I've got a million of 'em.

Hey, I just remembered something. There was one fight I was a part of in a high school basketball game. I played at a small Catholic school and we were on the road against a team of the same ilk. It was in a cracker box gym before a tiny gathering and just one referee showed up. It was quickly clear that this guy was somebody's uncle.

We were getting butchered with no foul calls, while they went to the foul line every time we breathed on them. We lined up for yet another free throw for them and one of their guys was in the wrong spot along the lane. One of our guys nudged their guy out of the way — and it was on — a couple of punches; some pushing and shoving; one guy got tossed into some folding chairs and took a couple of hits; and it was broken up.

"Game Cancelled. Ref Missing," it read in the local paper the next day. The ironic thing about all that was

— it was the Saints versus the Saints! It'll never stop...

Protect the Ground Zero Cross

Commentary by Jay Sekulow, ACLJ Chief Counsel

From the ashes and rubble of the most horrific terrorist attack our nation has ever seen, rose a cross – two steel beams – what remained of one of the World Trade Center buildings after 9/11. It stands as a symbol of hope and a memorial to the thousands who lost their lives on that tragic day.

Now, an atheist group is suing to have the Ground Zero Cross removed from a new 9/11 museum at Ground Zero. The atheists want their day in court, but I don't think it's going to be a long day.

I am working with a senior team of attorneys to file our amicus brief defending this cross that was such an important source of inspiration to first responders in the days immediately after 9/11.

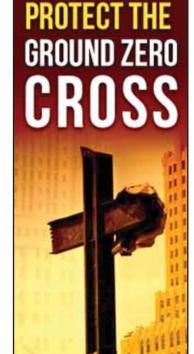
We must file our brief no later than August 14th – less than two weeks from now. We need your voice in this fight. Please sign on to the Committee to Protect the Ground Zero Cross today.

When we file our amicus brief, we need your name on our brief alongside thousands of other Americans standing up for this important monument at Ground Zero. Please share this important opportunity with your friends and family.

In their lawsuit, the atheists claim that the cross is a symbol of Christianity that is being "imposed upon them through the power of the state." What is more, they claim that the very sight of it has caused them "symptoms of depression, headaches, anxiety, and mental pain and anguish." How absurd!

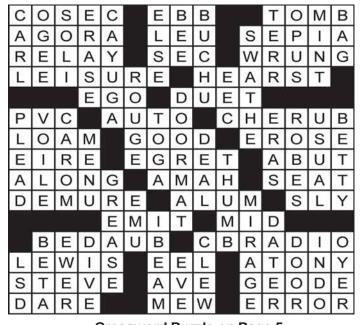
Their lawsuit is not only legally flawed in their understanding of the Establishment Clause, it also fails to acknowledge the fact that this was not a monument manufactured as a symbol of Christianity – it was formed by two steel beams that survived in the shape of a cross as the Twin Towers collapsed around it.

We have until August 14, 2011

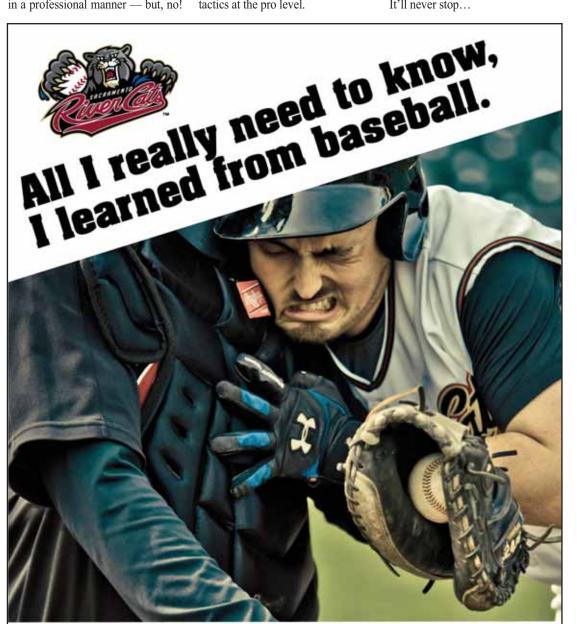


- less than two weeks – to file our amicus brief in support of this cross. Join the ACLJ in standing up for the memory of all those who lost their lives on 9/11 and their families by signing on to the Committee to Protect the Ground Zero Cross.

Take a stand with the ACLJ in



Crossword Puzzle on Page 5





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