

AMERICAN RIVER

M E S S E N G E R



**"Drive Fast,
Take Chances"
New Hot Rod
Museum Exhibit**

Page 3



**Roberta
MacGlashan:
Taxpayers'
Rights**

Page 7



**"Clash of
the Titans"
Remake of
the Mythical
Adventure**

Page 13

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First Edition for April 2010

New Report Finds California's Lawsuit Climate is Near Nation's Worst

CJAC says state needs more jobs, not more lawsuits.

A new national study found that California continues to be one of the least-balanced states in the nation when it comes to dealing with lawsuits – which the Civil Justice Association of California warned jeopardizes the state's economic recovery.

The report by the U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform found that California's lawsuit climate was ranked 46th in the nation, down from 44th in 2008, the last time the survey was taken.

CJAC President John H. Sullivan said the most troubling part of this ranking is the negative impact the state's legal climate has on job creation.

"California policy makers should take this study's message very seriously," Sullivan said. "When two-thirds of the top attorneys at large companies say that a state's litigation climate is likely to affect business decisions, it must be noted that these attorneys are among the company's leaders who make these decisions – decisions that affect location, expansion, and jobs.

"At a time when California continues to grapple with one of the highest unemployment rates in the country – and a chronic state budget deficit of some \$20 billion a year – job creation and economic growth has to be our top priority. It's high time that policy makers take a serious look at fixing the issues that make California such a magnet for lawsuit abuse."

The study found that 67 percent

of respondents said the litigation environment would make it less likely that their companies would locate or do business there, with 42 percent saying it would be "very unlikely" their firms would do so.



The report was based on a survey of 1,482 in-house general counsels, senior litigators or attorneys, and other senior executives knowledgeable about litigation matters at companies with at least \$100 million in annual revenues. The survey was conducted by Harris Interactive, one of the oldest and most prestigious polls in the world.

The survey was formally released in Huntington Park, a working-class suburb south of downtown Los Angeles, at a restaurant owned by an immigrant from Mexico who has been the victim of numerous shakedown lawsuits for alleged violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Sullivan noted that lawsuit abuse seriously affects large and small businesses alike.

"When it comes to excessive litigation's effects on jobs and economic health, there's no real

economic division between large and small business. If class action lawsuits drive a large company to reduce its exposure in California, the many small businesses that produced goods and services for that company and its employees are going to suffer. Likewise, a small business forced to devote time and money to fighting shakedown disability-access suits is going to see its costs go up – leading to price increases that affect large businesses and their employees," he said.

The study found that California received an overall score of 47.2 out of 100 on 10 issues affecting litigation. Delaware received the most favorable ranking with a score of 77.2, followed by North Dakota, Nebraska, Indiana, and Iowa.

The four states ranking lower than California were Alabama (45.5), Mississippi (40.0), Louisiana (39.6), and West Virginia (35.1).

In all, 43 states earned scores of 50 or higher, and 27 states earned scores of 60 or above.

The survey also asked respondents which jurisdictions have the least fair and reasonable litigation environments. Chicago was ranked the worst, followed closely by Los Angeles and the state of California generally. San Francisco was found to be the sixth-worst jurisdiction.

Read full report on the CJAC website www.cjac.org

Taxed Enough Already!



Sacramento - The Sacramento Tea Party Patriots are planning the largest West Coast Tax Day Rally in Sacramento on April 15th. "Reclaiming America Capitol to Capitol" is the rally cry of thousands who plan to attend the event at the California State Capitol.

On April 15th, 2009 the local group hosted one of the largest Tax Day parties in the entire United States. This year they hope to be the largest in our nation.

Friends of the Patriots who will be speaking at this year's rally include radio hosts Armstrong

and Getty and Eric Hogue. Mark Meckler, Co-Founder of the National Tea Party movement will be the primary speaker, along with many others who believe that the American People and those living in the State of California suffer under an already oppressive tax burden.

There will be a "Candidate's Alley" where the general public can meet and speak with many political candidates from across the State. The "Alley" will be on the North steps of the Capitol.

Entertainers performing and supporting the event include Jeremy

Hoop, singer and songwriter of "Ring the Bell", from the Tea Party movie. Also planned to perform is YouTube favorite Boo Reed, who will sing "Keep the Change."

The main rally starts at noon and ends approximately at 4:00 pm. If you can't make the event in person you can follow it online through a live feed at www.sacteaparty.com.

Come out and support your fellow Republican, Democrat, Independent and other citizens in letting your government know you have been taxed enough already.

Contractors State License Board Stings 161

Largest-ever statewide undercover operation criminal backgrounds underscore huge risk consumers take when hiring phony contractors

Sacramento - Investigators have wrapped up the largest undercover sting operation in the Contractors State License Board's (CSLB) 81-year history. On Tuesday and Wednesday, March 23 and 24, 2010, nearly three dozen CSLB investigators, including members of CSLB's Statewide Investigative Fraud Team (SWIFT), partnered with 15 statewide law enforcement agencies to conduct simultaneous sting operations in 11 cities around California.

The "California Blitz" targeted unlicensed contractors, with a particular emphasis on repeat offenders and those who don't carry workers' compensation insurance for their employees. Over the two-day period, 161 people were arrested. Most were issued a Notice to Appear (NTA) in court and will face misdemeanor charges of contracting without a license and, in many cases, illegal advertising. Four suspects were taken to jail

on felony charges; three of them had arrest warrants, including one suspect who had five different warrants for charges including obstruction of justice, possession of a controlled substance, and two DUIs. Another had a warrant for embezzlement and diversion of construction funds. One of the misdemeanor suspects had previously been convicted of burglary, child abuse and domestic violence. Another had his CSLB license revoked in 2005 and is a registered sex offender. A third was previously convicted of armed robbery and possession of a dangerous weapon.

A total of eight repeat offenders were caught, including one suspect who was convicted by a jury last month in Orange County for contracting without a license. There were more than three dozen no-shows at the various sting locations and, in other instances, suspects fled when they thought they were about to

be stung. This indicates that the true number of repeat offenders might have higher, had they been caught.

The sting operations were conducted in Sonoma, Santa Clara, Sacramento, El Dorado, Madera, Kern, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino Counties. Joining CSLB were local law enforcement agencies and district attorney offices, as well as the California Department of Insurance and the Department of Toxic Substances.

At all the undercover locations, CSLB investigators posed as homeowners and invited suspected unlicensed operators to bid on various construction jobs ranging from landscaping, tree trimming, and roofing to masonry, concrete, tile and painting. By law, all contractors who perform work that totals \$500 or more for labor and materials must be licensed by CSLB. Since 2005, those applying for a new license or to change

their license have been required to submit fingerprints for a criminal background check.

"Homeowners need to be aware of the risk they take when they hire someone who is not licensed to do work in their home," said CSLB Registrar Steve Sands. "What seems like a good deal almost always ends up costing a lot more. Many of these phony contractors are people you really don't want inside your house or around your children."

Because unlicensed operators don't carry workers' compensation insurance, they often submit lower bids. But, if one of their workers is injured on the job, the homeowner could be liable. Plus, if there is a disagreement or something goes wrong with the project, the homeowner may have few options for recovering their money from an unlicensed contractor.

The goal of the "California Blitz" is to draw attention to the dangers to consumers who hire

these phony contractors, to educate unlicensed workers about California laws, and to encourage those who qualify to get their contractor license. The misdemeanor charges carry a maximum of six months in jail and/or a fine up to \$5,000 for the first offense. A second violation carries a mandatory 90-day jail sentence as well as a possible fine up to \$5,000.

"Unlicensed activity is a threat to all Californians," said Department of Consumer Affairs Director Brian Stiger. "It threatens the safety of consumers, it robs our communities of resources, and it puts reputable, licensed professionals at a disadvantage. The efforts of the Contractors State License Board are crucial in helping to protect consumers from physical and financial peril and ensuring that our economy is not imperiled by unlicensed individuals."

"When consumers hire unlicensed contractors, the contractors'

work is unverified and is often times unsafe and unfinished. This leaves an even greater burden on their victims, who are already vulnerable and in need of help," stated Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas. "These types of cases protect consumers and put unlicensed contractors on notice that they will be prosecuted."

The Contractors State License Board operates under the umbrella of the California Department of Consumer Affairs. More information about hiring contractors is available on the CSLB Web site (www.cslb.ca.gov or www.CheckTheLicenseFirst.com) or by calling 800-321-CSLB(2752). CSLB licenses and regulates California's 310,000 contractors, and is regarded as one of the leading consumer protection agencies in the United States. In fiscal year 2008-09, CSLB helped recover nearly \$36 million in ordered restitution for consumers.



By Jon Coupal,
Howard Jarvis Taxpayers
Association

Taxpayers are sick and tired of being used, abused, and forced to pay for government programs and services they don't want at prices they can't afford. They are irate at having to bail out politicians, most of whom have no notion of what true public service is all about and who run for office only because they can't get real jobs and have egos that require constant maintenance. In the immortal words of Howard Jarvis, "We're mad as hell!" California taxpayers are carrying an unsustainable tax burden. They don't need to see the new report by the National Conference of State Legislatures to tell them that last year's tax increase was the highest percentage increase -- more than 10% -- of any of the twenty-four states that raised taxes in 2009. They feel it in their bones. They also don't need to hear that unemployment is at 12.5 percent -- without counting the marginally employed and those who have given up looking for work -- and home foreclosures are at record highs, to know that they are struggling just to get by. And taxpayers have no doubt who is to blame. They know their representatives have lost touch with

Let's Put an End to Tax Tyranny

the words of Thomas Jefferson, the father of the Democratic Party, who eloquently stated at his first inaugural:

"With all blessings, what more is necessary to make us a happy and a prosperous people? Still one thing more, fellow citizens--a wise and frugal Government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government, and this is necessary to close the circle of our felicities."

And twenty-three years later Jefferson wrote, "I think, myself, that we have more machinery of government than is necessary, too many parasites living on the labor of the industrious. I believe it might be much simplified to the relief of those who maintain it."

And, of course, by "those who maintain it" he means "taxpayers."

Inspired by the work of Jefferson, who was also the primary author the Declaration of Independence, we at the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association have sought to develop a statement that would be a simple distillation of these principles. We call it the Declaration of Taxpayer Rights and we hope it will provide hope and strength to beleaguered taxpayers as well as a reminder that we can fight back and win.

Declaration of Taxpayer Rights

We the people of the State of California declare that all taxpayers

are endowed with certain unalienable rights; that among these are the right to limited taxation, the right to vote on tax increases and the right of economical, equitable and efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

If you would like to sign the Declaration and send the politicians a message that we are not going to take it anymore, please go to www.hjta.org. The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association will deliver the signatures of thousands of patriotic taxpayers to the State Capitol, on Tax Day, April 15.

The only thing that keeps the politicians from raising taxes again is fear of the taxpayers. Let's make sure they hear from us!

Jon Coupal is President of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association - California's largest taxpayer organization -- which is dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and promoting taxpayers' rights.

Rancho Cordova Offers Free Tax Preparation Assistance

Saturday, April 10th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. is the last day that eligible taxpayers can get free assistance for filing their income taxes at the Rancho Cordova City Hall Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site. City Hall is located at 2729 Prospect Park Drive. The IRS-certified site will be staffed by trained volunteers who will prepare and file taxes for individuals with 2009 household incomes of \$49,000 or less. Participants should bring photo ID's, their Social Security cards, W-2 forms, a copy of their 2008 tax returns, and 1099 forms, if applicable. Walk-in's are welcomed; no appointment is needed. However, a limited number of appointments can be made by calling (916) 498-1000 or 2-1-1 between 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. People can also get free help in determining their Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) eligibility and then claiming the credit, if applicable. EITC can mean up to \$5,600 in credits. IRS estimates one in four eligible taxpayers could miss out on this valuable tax credit because they don't check into it. Taxpayers who earned \$48,279 or less from wages or self-employment in 2009 are encouraged to see if they qualify. The Rancho Cordova City Hall VITA site is a partnership of the IRS Taxpayer Advocate Services, Heald Business College in Rancho Cordova, community leaders, and the City of Rancho Cordova. More than 60 people were assisted at the City's VITA site during the five sessions in January and February.

"The City is pleased to offer this valuable service one more time as the April 15th deadline rapidly approaches," said Rancho Cordova City Council Member Dan Skoglund. "Thanks to Rancho Cordova SMUD Director and City resident, Nancy Bui, who brought this idea to the City, we are able to participate and assist our local citizens who qualify to participate in this program." For more information, please contact City Hall at (916) 851-8700 or call "2-1-1".

Destroying the Traditions of the Senate



by Charles G. Mills

In 1787, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention wrote the United States Constitution and created a model for constitutional government that has never been surpassed. Two years later, the French Estates General created the model for modern tyranny. These represent polar opposites of modern government. The American model was designed to require concurrent majorities and institutions to make any change to a basic institution or abridge any established civil right. The French model was designed to allow popular majorities to kill former tax collectors, aristocrats, clergy members loyal to the Pope, and chemists. The American model protects the individual, while the French model empowers the majority even to the point of tyranny.

The keystone of the American Constitution is the United States Senate, which the Framers regarded as a bulwark against tyranny. They designed the Senate to protect the small states from the will of popular majorities in the House of Representatives and from overreaching by the federal government. The more deliberative Senate was able to give careful consideration to proposals passed hurriedly by the House of Representatives in response to popular enthusiasms, and the Senate established a tradition of taking sufficient time to do this.

The House of Representatives and the Senate quickly developed different approaches. In the House of Representatives, the leaders control the flow of business and the majority sets the legislative agenda. In the Senate, unanimous consent governs much of the legislative work, and traditional courtesies protect the rights of every senator.

Unlimited debate is a crucial part of the Senate's ability to give thorough consideration to proposed legislation. Sometimes this process

involves the filibuster. The classic filibuster required those who wanted to prevent a vote to talk continually, night after night. In recent years, however, the Senate has not insisted on actual debate but simply neglected any matter that was being filibustered until the votes were sufficient to close debate. Once Senators were no longer required to stand for hours talking during a filibuster, the filibuster became much easier and was used more often. In response, an unwise change was pushed through as part of the civil rights revolution that reduced the number of votes necessary to close debate from two thirds to 60.

Filibusters are also restricted by the rule limiting debate on bills that reconcile the amounts authorized in laws to the amounts in the budget. The proponents of the health care Intolerable Acts have used this rule in a way in which it was not designed and which will open the door to rushing legislation through the Senate without deliberation.

The Constitution originally provided that Senators be elected by the state legislatures. This requirement gave the states a valuable voice in Washington to protect them from excessive centralization of the government. In 1913, Progressives pushed through the 17th Amendment to the Constitution, which established direct popular election of Senators. This change deprived the several

states of their last voice in the federal government and made the Senate far too much like the House of Representatives. Senators elected by state legislatures were likely to block action to concentrate power in the federal government; they were unlikely to pass laws that would violate state sovereignty, and they were unlikely to advise and consent to appointees hostile to state sovereignty. The 17th Amendment deprived us of these prudent protections.

A government that is too efficient in taking away rights from individuals or state governments can be the gateway to tyranny. A Senate that is more or less a carbon copy of the House of Representatives may be more efficient, but it also may be hazardous to liberty.

The Constitution originally provided for a Senate that represented the states rather than the voters. A popularly elected Senate that can easily end debate is no check at all on the House of Representatives. The people need to be educated about the intent of the Framers when they established the system of delay and deliberation as a protection against the tyranny of popular passions. Perhaps then the Senate will be able once more to serve as a needed brake on reckless legislation. Perhaps then we could even return to the original way of selecting Senators. The Senate was once a far, far better place. It should return to its roots.

Charles G. Mills is the Judge Advocate or general counsel for the New York State American Legion. He has 40 years of experience in many trial and appellate courts and has published several articles about the law. The Confederate Lawyer is copyright (c) 2010 by Charles Mills and the Fitzgerald Griffin Foundation. fsgBooks.com. All rights reserved. Editors may print this column if they also print the copyright information.



AMERICAN RIVER MESSENGER

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Distribution Assistant	Gabriel Scholl
Advertising Sales	Paul V. Scholl • Perry Hartline • Marion Solo
Contributing Writers	
Tim Reilly	Mary Jane Popp
Marlys Johnson Norris	Kay Burton
Pastor Ray Dare	Susan Skinner
Accounting	Nicholson & Olsen CPA
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Photography	Amanda Morello • Susan Skinner

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FAIR OAKS CEMETERY MEMORIAL DAY AND AVENUE OF FLAGS CEREMONY HONORING WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS

The Twelfth Annual Memorial Day Ceremony will be held Saturday, May 29th at the Fair Oaks Cemetery, 7780 Olive Street, Fair Oaks, with formal ceremonies starting at 10 AM. Vice Chairman of the Fair Oaks Cemetery District, Thomas Askins will be the Master of Ceremonies. The musical program will be provided by the American Veterans Band, conducted by Warren "Bud" Turner.

The Fair Oaks Cemetery District and the Memorial Day Ceremony Committee are finalizing plans for one of the most popular and inspiring Memorial Day ceremonies in the area. This year's theme is to honor "The Women Airforce Service Pilots" (WASP).

The cemetery will be also decorated with hundreds of flags lining its roadways as "The Avenue of Flags." We will also be adding more names to the Veterans Memorial Wall. Honored Speaker, Brigadier General, Mary J. Kight, Assistant Adjutant General for the California National Guard. She will speak on what it was like to fly planes during WWII.

Congressman Dan Lundgren has provided a flag that has flown over the nation's capitol. This flag will fly over the Veterans Memorial for one year in honor of all Veterans of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). The flag honoring All Veterans of the Armed Services, which was flown over the memorial this past year, will be retired and formally presented to Bob Clouse, Board Chairman Fair Oaks Cemetery District.

A formal Color Guard and Rifle Salute Team from VFW District 17 will provide military honors and assist the Commanders of the local VFW, American Legion and the VFW Auxiliary to the laying of the wreath at the memorial in honor of over thirteen hundred veterans who are buried in the cemetery.

Covered seating will be available for veterans and visitors. Dedicated seating will be available for veterans of World War II and their wives. The Fair Oaks Historical Society and the Orangevale/Fair Oaks Grange will provide complimentary refreshments after the ceremony.

Brahms Celebration Thrills Mondavi Audience



Maya Lahyani, Stephen Janzen and Jessica Siena greet concert attendees after their performance at Mondavi Center

Special to the American River Messenger and Carmichael Times
By Jeff Hudson

Sacramento - It's not just "The Sacramento Choral Society" -- the proper title of the organization is "The Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra." And the significance of the full name was underlined at the group's well-attended March 28 performance of an all-Brahms program at the Mondavi Center on the UC Davis campus.

Naturally, choral works dominated the program -- specifically, two pieces completed by Brahms in the late 1860s, and complimentary in character. But the orchestra's solo outing was also a solid and valuable contribution to the concert.

"Ein Deutsches Requiem" ("A German Requiem") anchored the program -- coming last, featuring the full chorus. And the chorus itself was the star. Rather like a script in which a playwright gives most of the best lines to one memorable, pivotal character, Brahms designated the "big moments" in this majestic seven-movement work for the massed voices.

This is not to diminish the contributions of the two soloists -- they acquitted themselves well. Jessica Siena, a rising soprano, and Stephen Janzen, a veteran baritone who has

appeared with this group many times (and came up through the San Francisco Opera's Merola program in the late 1960s) presented an attractive contrast of youth and experience in a piece that takes a long view of life in this world and the hereafter.

But it's the big choir that does the heavy lifting in the Brahms Requiem -- from the grand, tolling statements in the second movement ("All flesh is grass") to the gentler consolation of the concluding movement ("Blessed are the dead . . . they may rest from their labors"). The Brahms Requiem is a keystone in the large-scale, late 19th Century/early 20th Century music that represents the core repertoire for this kind of regionally-based community choral group. It's the sort of music that you'd expect them to sing well -- and they did. Conductor Donald Kendrick asked for -- and got -- both powerful crescendos and moments of delicate expression from the big group, with the singers also performing smoothly while deployed by section in the fourth movement's fugue. (And of course these distinctions are more easily appreciated at the Mondavi Center, where the natural acoustic favors human voices to a much higher degree than the Sacramento

Community Center Theater.)

Opening the program was the Rhapsody (more commonly dubbed the Alto Rhapsody in English) -- a moody piece not often tapped as a curtain raiser, but nonetheless emotionally and musically appropriate as a set-up for the larger Requiem -- and entirely beautiful on its own merits. Israeli mezzo Maya Lahyani, who will make her debut with the San Francisco Opera next season, was luminous in this 13-minute gem, accompanied by the orchestra and a guest chorus of men drawn from Sacramento State University and Schola Cantorum of Sacramento.

The orchestra alone carried the Academic Festival Overture -- a secular piece recalling youthful enthusiasm, a good deal less cosmic than the rest of the program. The emotive, even nostalgic performance that Kendrick got from his instrumentalists was the program's unexpected bonus. While staffed by professional musicians from the region, this orchestra's rehearsal time is decidedly finite, and in this overture they sounded polished and assured, even though they'd surely had only a few sessions to prepare.

The program ended with an impromptu return to the opening movement of the Brahms Requiem, which had been momentarily disrupted the first time through by a loud feedback squawk (prompting gasps from the audience). The concert was being recorded, and the "retake" should clear the way for the audio engineers to provide a "clean" rendering of the performance.

Jeff Hudson is a regular contributor of arts coverage at Capital Public Radio, and also writes about the arts for the Sacramento News and Review and the Davis Enterprise. A resident of Davis, he is a "frequent flyer" at Mondavi Center performances.

Drive Fast, Take Chances

Hot Rod exhibit opens at California Automobile Museum



1928 A-V8 Ford Roadster owned by So-Cal Speed Shop, Sacramento. Mike Chase Photography

Sacramento - The California Automobile Museum's newest exhibit will feature cars that were created in California but have been celebrated in movies, songs and popular culture across the country and around the world for a half-century.

The exhibit, Drive Fast, Take Chances: Birth of the Hot Rod is sponsored by So-Cal Speed Shop, Sacramento and runs April 10 through July 5. It explores the hot rod culture that grew out of the dry lakebeds of California in the post-World War II years and ultimately spread to drag strips and back roads, as well as burger drive-ins and street cruises, such as the annual car cruise hosted by the California Automobile Museum which will commence on the streets of Downtown Sacramento on July 31st.

"By definition, every hot rod is a unique expression of style or the owner's desire for speed," said Karen McClafin, Executive Director of

the California Automobile Museum. "But collectively, hot rods represent a common language of individuality and adventure that brings out a bit of rebel or free spirit in each of us."

The idea of hot rods started in the early 1920s and '30s, as racers looking for more speed modified and hopped up Henry Ford's Model Ts and As to find extra horsepower. But the phenomenon exploded after World War II as servicemen returned home and applied what they had learned about mechanics and technology in the military to the cars they were driving.

The powerful V-8 engines of Ford, Chevrolet and Chrysler provided more horsepower than the more primitive four-banger engines of the past. The popularity of hot rods created a new, California-centered industry as manufacturers, many of which continue to thrive on world-wide sales today, made crankshafts, pistons, cylinder

heads and add-on parts to boost power and speed to record levels. The first stages on which to push these speed machines to their limit were the dry lakebeds of Southern California, where unofficial "timing contests" were as disorganized as an Oklahoma land rush and twice as dangerous. That same daring was carried out on back roads all over America as the hot rod culture spread from coast to coast.

The exhibit will include examples of the style known as "highboys," which mount narrower '28 and '29 bodies for streamlining on a wider '32 Ford frame, which provided more stability at high speed and more room for a V-8 engine, as well as for superchargers and other add-on high performance parts.

The exhibit will also include '32 Ford "Deuce Coupes," still the most popular model among hot rodders, each with a slightly different style illustrating the evolution of speed technology.

For enthusiasts interested in an up-close and detailed "how to" look at hot rod construction, the exhibit will also include a partially disassembled '34 Ford to show off the modifications that are more than skin deep.

This exhibit will be on display through July 5 and the Museum will host special events throughout the run of the exhibit. For more information visit www.CalAutoMuseum.org.

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A Day at the DMV The Man Who Wanted to Say Something

By Perry Hartline

Carmichael - Thursday, February 11, was chill and amber-gray. Leaning against a wiry tree in the Carmichael DMV parking lot flipping through paperwork. I looked up at a stocky, muscular, middle-aged man in a plaid shirt, Wranglers and work boots. In high school he was the guy on the offensive line you didn't want squinting at you.

He curved to a beaten bronze pickup, the bed piled with power tools and covered with a dingy canvas tarp. It was this cavalryman's horse, his HummVee, his BFV; not beautiful but proven and dependable. Reading a sheaf of papers, he stopped, stared, and slapped them with the back of his hand, annoyed. Pulling the door open he slipped in and sat half-turned, one leg on the pavement, reading. Lifting his head, he blinked at the rain spotted window, and slowly slipped out, still reading, heading to the concrete box that DMV buildings come in. He stopped on the roadway, facing the mob leaning towards the entrance. His mouth moved, but nothing came out. He stiffened, standing straight. "Listen to me a minute! You got nothing else to do anyway," he croaked. "I need to tell you something!" People strained to not see him. Pausing, he cleared his throat. "Folks, I need to say something to you!" The mob waiting, drinking coffee from the 7-11, smoking, talking, eating donuts, working crossword puzzles, and reading, shifted, preoccupied. "This ain't America anymore!" He waited for it to sink in. "And this ain't California anymore!" He aimed a thick palm at a bundled, bell-shaped lady and spoke directly. "Ma'am, you know what I mean. I know you do. These kids need to learn it!" Perplexed, she nodded. The mob turned, curious. A couple of tattooed teens, smoking, fixed on him. "You two young guys don't know what they're doing to you, what they've done to all of us. You're young!" Pointing at the concrete building, "You'll go in there and get a number, hoping you won't wait more than an

hour, or an hour-and-a-half, to talk to someone. You'll pay thirty bucks or a thousand bucks for something that used to cost a few bucks and ought to still cost a few bucks. How many of us are here? Fifty? Seventy? Maybe another hundred inside? It'll average out to \$200 or \$300 each - and this is just the first hour!" He had my attention. Watching his back, I checked the rear of his truck for the typical anti-tax, anti-government bumper stickers. There were none. He took in a deep breath and exhaled words. It was the low, heavy song of a bull. Opening his arms he lowed evenly, "Life wasn't always like this! Sure things were tough, they're always tough! That's life. But the people that ran things then weren't making it harder for us, not like now. The government was on our side, once!" The man-bull waved an arm at his pickup. "They want \$350 for my truck! My truck! Look, it ain't new!" Taking a step forward, tapping his chest, "I work on it myself. I need it to make a living, and I don't have the money to pay 'em!" Everybody was facing him. "I'm California born and raised. I went to the schools when they were good. I joined the army. I got married, and got a job when there were jobs to get. Pointing at the building, "It ain't the people workin' in there's fault, it's everything that put them there and tells 'em what to do and how much to charge and makes us stand in line to get it. It's the banks that took our money and wasted it, and drained the money out of our homes. And it's the government that gave the banks the money. It's spent now, but they want to keep spending it, so they're printing more." His confidence was up. "Listen to me! You got to say No! Slightly embarrassed, his eyes poked the mob as he searched for words. They flew out. "Hide your money! Work for cash! Trade your abilities! Do what you need to do to protect yourself and your family. It's up to us! I'm leaving. Me and my

wife are going to start planning a way out of California today!" "Where ya' goin'?" one of the tattooed teens asked in a curious voice. "I don't know. It don't matter. The weather here ain't that good!" The mob giggled. They were with him, then, bobbed like penguins moving a few more inches to the entrance. A young Mexican string bean under shining curly black hair, hands in pockets, laughed. "Yeah? But where to?" "You got to leave to find it." A voice rose from the mob, "Ain't no place you can go no more, it's over, pops!" "No it ain't! No it ain't! NO IT AIN'T! Sayin' that means you accept it! You're givin' up!" Standing mid-line a tall silver-haired lady, graceful as a heron in fur hat, dark jacket and slacks, cleared her throat. "Sir, in the end it's up to us. It's our responsibility. It always is." "Yes, Ma'am. You're correct." The crane-lady waited a moment. "My husband and I love Arizona. We can't sell our home..." she added. Folding her arms, looking down at the points of her shoes, "Not now. We're stuck." The man-bull nodded to the crane-lady. "I understand, Ma'am. I surely do." Quietly he continued, "I'm not a churchd man, but I believe in God, and I don't hate no one. I hope he looks after you and everyone you love." He turned dark-red, mortified at his foolishness and his poor words. "Good luck to all of you." He turned whispering, "Ineededtosaysomethin'. I had to say...somethin'. I-I'm sorry." His words floated on the air and he hurried to his truck. "You did good, pops!" a young male voice from the mob called. "Good luck!" The crowd muttered agreement. The Bull-man raised his hand without looking back. He slipped into his seat and rattled away in his battered pickup. The mob quietly turned, focusing on the concrete box they had yet to get into.

Slim Randle's HOME COUNTRY "Your Response is Required by Law"



The Half-Red Cabin on South Navajo Loop

U.S. Census Bureau
Capture Center
Phoenix, AZ

Dear Census Bureau:

You can't imagine my thrill as I drove up to the gate yesterday at my cabin in the middle of nowhere and found that you'd left me a census form to fill out for the place, addressed to S. Navajo Loop, Belen, NM. This was accurate, by the way, since my little cabin (designated "red cabin" on the envelope) is the only one on S. Navajo Loop. Your designation of red cabin is only half correct, though, because the other half of the cabin is painted yellow. And when I get more yellow paint, I'll finish the job. The cabin is called "The Birdhouse," as Bird is the nickname of my buddy who gave me the cabin. This doesn't mean that very many birds live there, however. In fact, the only resident birds I can think of nest under the house and hatch some babies every summer. I don't expect them back from winter quarters for maybe another month though. They are brown and nondescript and could probably be classified as dickie birds. They are only seasonal residents. As for permanent residents, there

is one very long-legged jackrabbit who is usually seen in the yard when I drive up, but runs off when I let the dogs out of the truck. I have no idea whether or not he got married and had pups recently. He doesn't stick around long enough to ask. Now for serious permanent residents, I'd have to include the prairie dogs. My acre and a half has three permanent prairie dog towns. Not too big ... more like prairie dog villages. As for race ... well, they're a sort of nice New Mexico tan, and for religion, I'd have to say vegetarian, as they worship my baby trees and hope I continue to plant more. There used to be frequent visits of diamondback rattlesnakes, whose existence was terminated by me as quickly as possible. That is why God made shovels. However, last summer I spent all season without seeing a single one. This is thanks to one of my dogs, a Treeing Walker coonhound named Rocky. On Rocky's frequent visits to The Birdhouse, he has taken on the task of making certain every rock, every fence post, every bush and every prairie dog hole gets at least a squirt and a half of his attention. The large water dish on the cabin's porch is so Rocky can reload

when necessary. Rattlesnakes being what they are, they don't care for the smell of ammonia, so they have steered clear of the place quite nicely. But of course there is never a clean victory in anything good because this also means the snakes steer clear of the prairie dog villages, so Mr. and Mrs. P. Dog are multiplying and replenishing the place at an astounding rate. This is fine for the population of prairie dogs, but plays hob with the population of Slim's baby trees. As for human residents, there are none. If there were, it would be me. I am 67, Protestant, Anglo, occupation newspaper columnist, don't make enough money, dislocated my shoulder this fall while goose hunting, and must wear corrective lenses. But while The Birdhouse (whose official address is actually 6 Gobernador Street) is a hideout for an aging writer and cowboy who sneaks off as often as possible from the burdens of electricity and running water, I'm not really a resident. I live in Albuquerque with my lovely wife, Catherine, and we're looking forward to filling out one of your forms when we get one here at the house. We have a mailbox. I noticed on the envelope you left for me it says "Your Response is Required by Law." Hey, I'm a law-abiding guy who loves his country. If you should have any more questions about the population down at The Birdhouse, you have only to leave me another note by the barbed-wire fence. And thank you, by the way, because in the eight years I've owned the place, this census form was the first mail I've ever received there. Yours for a happy count of happy Americans, Anthony V. "Slim" Randles 6 Gobernador Street Belen, NM 87002 The Half-Red Cabin

Sacramento Introduces an Innovative Funding Program to Help Local Schools Raise Money

New Program Offers Schools, Merchants and Community Ability to Help Fund Programs

Sacramento - March 24, 2010- Sacramento welcomes Learning Point Rewards, a dynamic and innovative funding program recently registered with the State Attorney General's Office. The program not only provides schools with funding, but students with rewards and local business with loyal customers, while at the same time utilizing the talents and resources of real estate agents in the community. In light of California's current economic crisis and major cuts to education funding, the program could not have arrived at a better time. Learning Point Rewards provides a way for schools to receive a percentage of everyday expenditures made by students, their families and friends, while providing local participating merchants an increased interaction with a growing base of loyal customers. Schools also benefit from a partnership with real estate agents that are selected to be School Specialists, who as trusted leaders in their community, willingly contribute their time and resources for this positive cause. Long-time Sacramento resident and community volunteer, Pam Dahl, is spearheading the new program, a first of its kind in California. She has had the opportunity to be associated with many local schools through the attendance of her children and grandchildren. "Having seen how the education cuts have greatly affected the

Sacramento region, I saw a need for a program like Learning Point Rewards in our community," said Pam Dahl, Sacramento Learning Point Rewards Regional Executive Director. "Not only is the program designed to help with school funding needs, it also develops relationships with local merchants to help them promote their own business within their community." Schools from K-12 can sign up at no cost to receive free membership cards. Learning Point Rewards is unlike traditional fundraisers, such as sales of wrapping paper, cookie dough and magazines, which often have an initial cost of time and money to parents and their children. Students and their families do not have to sell anything but rather simply present their membership cards at participating merchants when purchasing goods or services, resulting in a portion of each transaction going back to the school. Students also benefit by earning points that can then be redeemed for personal prizes, and best of all, family and friends can also contribute by shopping with any of the registered merchants—a definite win-win for everyone! For participating merchants, the program provides a competitive advantage for their business. They are recognized in the community for supporting education and in turn have the ability to benefit from the Learning Point Rewards' marketing promotions

including the official Web site, program e-mails and exclusive events. The launch of Learning Point Rewards program in Sacramento brings this new and developing program to California, and it comes with proof of success in Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho and Utah. Five other states - Arizona, Virginia, Nevada, Michigan and Washington - are also in the process of launching the program. "It's too early to see how much money schools will take in," said Jay Taylor, President of Learning Point Rewards. "But it has the potential to change the way education gets additional funding in our country." For further information, please visit the Web site www.learningpointrewards.com or contact Pam Dahl at pdahl@learningpointrewards.com. If you are in the greater Sacramento area and are interested in registering your school, becoming a participating merchant, or to become a School Specialist, please contact Mike White, the Regional Executive Manager, at mwhite@learningpointrewards.com or (916) 616-5221. "Families spend millions of dollars every year on personal and household items," said Dahl. "Now with the Learning Point Rewards program, these same purchases will provide schools with funding, students with rewards, and local business with loyal customers."

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Rancho Cordova Adds Techno-Trash to Free E-Waste Recycling Event

Rancho Cordova - Cassette and VHS tapes, CD's, DVD's, floppy discs, and other techno trash items along with old computers, phones, and other electronic waste will be accepted at the 3rd annual e-waste recycling event on Saturday, April 17th, in the parking lot of Rancho Cordova's City Hall that is located at 2729 Prospect Park Drive, near the south Zinfandel exit on Highway 50. The free event will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and affords a way to safely and responsibly get rid of e-waste items. "We will have staff on hand to unload so you won't even have to get out of your vehicle," said Steve Harriman, Rancho Cordova's Integrated Waste Manager. "But we

do ask that you keep your techno trash separated from your e-waste items." E-waste that will be accepted includes desktop and notebook pc's, monitors, keyboards, mice, zip drives, and printers. Other items that can be dropped off are telephones and cell phones, televisions, VCR's, stereo equipment and speakers, copy machines, digital cameras, PDA's, scanners, and fax machines. Small kitchen appliances such as microwave ovens, toasters, blenders, and vacuum cleaners will also be taken. What will not be accepted are batteries, large household appliances, furniture, tires, and hazardous waste such as fluorescent light

bulbs, pesticides, batteries, paint, used oil, and cleaning supplies. Event sponsors include the City of Rancho Cordova, California Electronic Asset Recovery (CEAR), e-Stewards, and Allied Waste Services. CEAR is a California state approved electronic waste collector and recycler that physically destroys all computer hard drives for optimal security. "Last year, we collected 11,000 pounds of e-waste," said Harriman. "We hope to increase that amount this year, now that people are more aware of the need to safely dispose of their old and outdated consumer electronics - you should not put it in your garbage can."

Assemblymember Huber Appointed to Little Hoover Oversight Commission

Sacramento - Assemblymember Alyson Huber has been appointed to the Little Hoover Commission, the independent and bipartisan oversight commission charged with making recommendations to the governor and Legislature on ways to make state programs more efficient and effective. "I am honored to serve as a member of the Little Hoover Commission," said Assemblymember Alyson Huber. "The Commission plays an integral

oversight role in our state government and I have looked to the findings of the Commission many times in making the argument for reforming the way the state does business. I look forward to contributing to the Commission's important work." The Little Hoover Commission was created in 1962. The Commission's mission is to investigate state government operations and - through reports,

recommendations and legislative proposals - promote efficiency, economy and improved service. The Commission is a balanced bipartisan board composed of five citizen members appointed by the Governor, four citizen members appointed by the Legislature, two Senators and two Assembly members. For more information, please visit asm.ca.gov/huber or call (916) 319-2010.



"Pushkin"

By Kay Burton

Named after the Russian Poet Pushkin Alexander, this sweet German Schnauzer is a one-year old, 18 lb, Mini Schnauzer owned by Nadia and Valdi Gordeyeva, owners of The Alteration Station on Madison, off Sunrise. Pushkin was a gift to son Nik on his third birthday on Valentine birthday last year. Pushkin is crate-trained; he opens the door of his crate and

Pushkin: A Mini Schnauzer

lets himself in to sleep. He plays with large rocks; he pushes them around the yard with his nose. He enjoys destroying the family's veggie garden, most of all he loves being with his buddy, Nik.

Miniature Schnauzers are spirited yet obedient family dogs. They usually enjoy early socialization and obedience training. They enjoy the company of children and other animals, especially if raised with them from an early age. This breed is hardy, healthy, and intelligent. As a rule a Mini Schnauzer is not a fighter, although he will stand up for himself if necessary.

The Mini Schnauzer is viewed primarily as a charming and attractive companion. He is seldom addicted to wandering. He is devoted to his home and

family, and functions very well as a guard dog in that he can give an alarm as well as a larger dog. His good health, good temperament, and attractive appearance combine to fit him admirably for his role as family pet.

Senators Bob and Elizabeth Dole, actress Mary Tyler Moore, actor Bill Crosby, and actor/martial artist Bruce Lee have all owned Miniature Schnauzers.

The bushy-muzzled Schnauzer - named after the German word for nose or muzzle - was developed in the 19th century in Germany for its ridding ability.

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

Annual Fair Oaks Spring Fest Scheduled for May 1st & 2nd

Fair Oaks - Be sure to mark your calendars for the weekend of May 1 and 2, 2010, for the 61st Annual Fair Oaks Spring Fest (formerly Fiesta Days). This year's theme is "Go Green This Spring, and this year is shaping up to be the most exciting Spring Fest ever. You don't want to miss it! Soon you will be able to download the schedule of events from the Chamber website at www.fairoakschamber.com. The event is sponsored by the Chamber and Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District.

As always, this two full day family event draws more than 10,000 people from all over Northern California. Families come to enjoy the wonderful events and food.

A shuttle service is available from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday. The service goes between Scandinavian Designs on Winding and Sunrise and Fair Oaks Village, and there's plenty of parking at Scandinavian Designs.

Events begin on Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. with a Parade through Fair Oaks Village. Events going on all day include games and craft booths, food, and exhibits. Returning this year is the Children's Carnival with the admission one low price for the entire day! The wacky and popular Toilet Bowl Race will also be back. The Fair Oaks Theatre Festival will be putting on a play in the Veteran's Memorial Amphitheatre at 12:00 noon on Saturday.

Events on Sunday include a Pancake Breakfast at 7:00 a.m., the

annual Sun Run which begins at 8:10 a.m. and the Car Show which runs from 9:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m.

The Fair Oaks Spring Fest is a wonderful way to start the season of family summer events, so be sure to put this event on your calendar right away.

If you or your organization is interested in participating in the Spring Fest, applications are available at the Fair Oaks Chamber office. Soon you will be able to download parade and event applications from the Chamber website at www.fairoakschamber.com.

Craft, vendor and food booth forms are available at www.fairoakspark.org.

For further information and the opportunity to be an Event Sponsor, call the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce at (916) 967-2903.

real estate auctions

Sacramento Area Homes Sell Tuesday April 20th

Nominal Opening Bid: \$50,000
GOLD RIVER, CA
• **2038 Boulder Mine Way**
3BR 3BA 2,374 +/- sf. Beautiful home with large bedrooms, multi-level with separate living, family and dining room. Family room has fireplace. Built in 1993. Approx. .18ac lot.
Open House: 1-4pm Sun Apr 11th, 18th and 2 hours before sale.

Nominal Opening Bid: \$10,000
SACRAMENTO, CA
• **7565 PINON WAY**
4BR 2BA 1,389 +/- sf. Built in 1984. Approx. .14ac lot.
Open House: 1-4pm Sat Apr 17th and 2 hours before sale.

Both properties sell: 2:15pm, Tue Apr 20th at 2038 Boulder Mine Way, Gold River, CA

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Niello Introduces Legislation to Ensure Small Business Representation at California Air

Sacramento - Assemblyman Roger Niello (R-Fair Oaks) has introduced AB 2328 to require that one of the two public member appointees that currently sit on the California Air Resources Board (CARB) be an owner of a small business.

"The current makeup of the board fails to include a small business representative who could provide valuable insight to drafting regulations in a way that ensures greater balance and compliance" said Assemblyman Niello. "I am pleased to be able to propose legislation that allows an employer perspective to be heard when decisions are being made."

The Air Resources Board (Board) currently consists of 11 members appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. All members

serve "at the pleasure" of the Governor. The Board members serve part time, except the Chairperson, who serves full time. Five members are chosen from the boards of local air quality management districts. Three other members must fill specific "expertise" categories, such as automotive engineering, science, agriculture, law, or health. One of the three remaining members must have expertise in air pollution control, or must meet the qualifications of one of the three categories mentioned above. The remaining two members are public members.

"For far too long, the California Air Resources Board has been missing an important voice on the board - the voice of small business," said John Kabatek, California Chief

Executive of the National Federation of Independent Business and sponsor of the legislation. "More often than not, the decisions that CARB makes disproportionately affect smaller companies and leave them scrambling to make sure they are in compliance. AB 2328 ensures that the impact of decisions made by CARB and their affect on small businesses is brought forward early in discussions."

AB 2328 requires that one of the public members be an owner of a small business. This policy change acknowledges the impact that CARB regulations have on the business community, and especially the small business community.

Email Roger at Assemblymember.Niello@assembly.ca.gov

Orienteering: A Fun & Challenging Sport for Individuals & Families

Sacramento - Spend a fun Sunday learning how to read a map and use a compass while running around the California State University, Sacramento, campus at an orienteering meet on April 11.

The meet is sponsored by Gold Country Orienteers (GCO).

Orienteering is a fun and challenging sport for individuals and families. Using a detailed map, compass and a set of clues, you navigate from point to point to find a series of designated places. The sport can be done as a competitive race or a leisurely hike and is great for

youth groups, outdoors enthusiasts, adventure racers and anyone seeking a physical and a mental challenge.

This meet will feature a Score-O format that is suitable for beginning to advanced orienteers. In Score-O, you attempt to find as many controls as possible, in any order, within a 60-minute time limit. Points are awarded for each control and are subtracted if a competitor comes back late. Beginner instruction will be available.

Registration will be from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The course can be started between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

The cost is \$5 for GCO members and \$6 for nonmembers, for each individual or team going out together.

To get to the campus, take Highway 50 to the Howe exit. Bear right at the CSUS turnout. Go to the light and turn left on College Town. At the next light, go straight or right and turn into parking lots 7 or 8. The parking fee is \$6. Registration will be at Guy West Plaza, north of the Student Union and near the bridge.

For more information, visit www.goldcountryorienteers.org or contact Jennifer at 916-922-8671 or email jkerrt1561@yahoo.com.

Thompson Seeks 5th District Seat

Dear Friend:

My name is Donald Thompson. It is my intention to run for the fifth district assembly seat of the State of California on the Republican ticket in 2010. I was a candidate for this office in 2008 but lost to a strong incumbent, Roger Niello.

I am seeking this position because I have a deep concern for the fifth district and the State of California.

As I look around me I have witnessed scores of individuals who have lost their jobs, their homes, their businesses, and even their vehicles because of the awful economy. As a result many have lost their self-worth

and their motivation to go on. This should not be happening in the greatest State in our nation, California, which by far out numbers the population of the other 49 States.

Some drastic changes need to be made in our system because it is severely broken and needs to be fixed quickly so that people can once again experience prosperity and feel good about themselves and their government.

I want to help bring about these necessary changes in our State. If you wish to get better acquainted with me you may contact me at my website: <http://www.donaldthompsonforassembly.org/>

or you may reach me at (916) 284-7309. I would greatly appreciate it if you could make a donation to my campaign as I wish to conduct a major advertising blitz. Your donation cannot exceed \$3,900.00. If you write a check it should be made out to Donald Thompson for Assembly, and it should be mailed to the above address. You may also make a donation through my website as there is a link for this purpose.

Thank you so much for your support.

Donald Thompson

Email - dthompst@comcast.net

Taxpayers have a Right to Expect a Basic Level of Services from their Local Government



By Roberta MacGlashan

The public pays taxes to Sacramento County with the expectation that those funds will be used to provide them with basic services. Unfortunately, a recent court ruling has greatly undermined the County's discretionary authority in providing law enforcement and other vital services to the community.

Responding to litigation, The Third District Court of Appeal of the State of California has ordered the Board of Supervisors to pay all County retirees a lifetime healthcare subsidy. At a time when the County is reducing Sheriff's patrol services and closing public health clinics, it is shocking that a court would force further cuts to vital services in favor of supplementing already-generous retirement benefits.

As background, for many years Sacramento County chose each year to provide a subsidy to help retirees pay their health insurance premiums. This annual, discretionary payment was not included in any labor contracts. I have voted against this costly and unnecessary subsidy every year since joining the Board of Supervisors.

This subsidy was not even established by the Board of Supervisors. Rather, in 1982 the

Sacramento County Employee Retirement System (SCERS) decided to begin paying this money out of "excess earnings" that resulted from investment returns exceeding projections.

This questionable practice continued without Board of Supervisors authorization until the early 1990s, when the Board was formally asked to approve the expenditure, which a majority did. Every year, the Board reauthorized making this payment out of the retirement fund's assets.

However, as those working in the private sector at the time know all too well - I was a small business owner myself - the stock market dropped precipitously following the "dotcom" crash in 2001 and 2002.

It comes as no surprise that, after this market decline, there were no longer "excess earnings" to pay for this extra benefit. But did the payments stop? Unbelievably, the Board of Supervisors voted to pay this benefit out of the County's General Fund. Rather than funding services for you, the taxpayer, the funds were used to pay a benefit to County retirees that were never promised to anyone.

I joined the Board of Supervisors in December, 2004. This issue first came before me in March of 2005. I voted No, arguing that the subsidy was not the proper use of these taxpayer resources. Unfortunately, my opposition did not receive support from a majority of the Board of Supervisors.

Every year, this subsidy has come to the Board for annual authorization, and every year I have voted no.

In 2007, a majority of the Board of Supervisors did eliminate the subsidy for those retiring after

May 31 of that year. However, several employee organizations filed a complaint against the County with the California State Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) disputing this decision.

PERB ruled that, because the subsidy had been paid for so long, the retirees had a right to expect the payments to continue.

What was never a contracted benefit is, according to PERB, now mandatory.

The Board of Supervisors appealed this ruling, only to have the Third District Court of Appeal rule against the best interests of the taxpayers. As of this writing, the County is evaluating its legal options, but I can tell you that I am greatly disappointed in the outcome to date.

From my point of view, taxpayers have a right to expect a basic level of services - especially law enforcement - from their local government. Local government exists first and foremost to protect public safety, not to fund generous health subsidies that most taxpayers themselves neither enjoy nor expect for themselves.

As always, I welcome your input on this and any other County matter at my monthly Community Cabinet Meetings. We meet in Orangevale on the first Friday of each month at Annie's on Greenback Lane, and in Fair Oaks on the third Wednesday at Dianda's in the Fair Oaks Village. In April I will be hosting the new Library Director, while in May we will be hearing from the Executive Director of the First Five Sacramento. I hope to see you there.

County Update from Supervisor Roberta MacGlashan.

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Tax Foundation Breaks Down Financing of \$938 Billion Health Care Bill

Net Cuts to Medicare, Increased Medicare Tax on High-Income Earners

Comprise Bulk of Funding

Washington, DC, March 26, 2010 - The \$938 billion health care reform legislation finalized by Congress yesterday is financed primarily through net cuts to Medicare and an increased Medicare tax on high-income taxpayers, according to the Tax Foundation. The Medicare spending cuts would save \$416.5 billion, or about 39 percent of the bill's 10-year cost. The increased Medicare taxes on high-income people - including an additional 0.9% Medicare Hospital Insurance Tax on earned income exceeding \$200,000 for single tax-payers (\$250,000 for married couples) and an "Unearned Income Medicare Contribution" of 3.8% on investment income for taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes

(AGI) in excess of \$200,000 for single filers (\$250,000 for married filers) - would raise \$210 billion, or about 19 percent of the legislation's cost. A graph depicting a breakdown of the financing is available online at <http://www.taxfoundation.org/publications/show/26066.html>. The cost of cover-age provisions from 2010-2019 is \$938 billion, but the total of all provisions is \$1.08 trillion due to deficit reduction. Other financing provisions of the bill include other revenue provisions (\$149 billion, or about 14 percent); fees on insurers and medical providers (\$107 billion, or about 10 percent of the bill's cost); penalty payments by employers who do not provide health insurance

and individuals who don't purchase it (\$69 billion, or about 6 percent); other net spending cuts, including education reform (\$52 billion, or about 5 percent); net cuts to Medicaid, excluding coverage provisions (\$45 billion, or about 4 percent); and an excise tax on so-called "Cadillac" health plans (\$32 billion, or about 3 percent). The excise tax on high-valued health plans does not go into effect until 2018, which is why it comprises the smallest portion of the legislation's funding.

The Tax Foundation is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that has monitored fiscal policy at the federal, state and local levels since 1937.

Record Number of Tax Filers Paid No Federal Income Taxes

About 51.6 Million Filers Were "Non-payers," Including Some Families Making Over \$50,000 in 2008

A record number of the 142 million tax returns filed in 2008 resulted in no tax payment, according to a Tax Foundation analysis of IRS data. That means the tax filers got back every dollar that had been withheld from their paychecks, and often more. Roughly 51.6 million tax returns, or 36.3 percent, were filed by such "non-payers," people whose exemptions, deductions and credits wiped out any federal income tax due.

A family of four earning more than \$50,000 can have no income tax liability after taking the standard deduction and the child tax credit.

"Two records were set in 2008: the most non-payers and the highest-earning non-payers," said Tax Foundation President Scott Hodge, who authored Tax Foundation Fiscal Fact, No. 214, "Record Numbers of People Paying No Income Tax; Over 50 Million 'Non-payers' Include

Families Making over \$50,000." The Fiscal Fact is available online at <http://www.taxfoundation.org/publications/show/25962.html>.

"Nonpaying status used to be a sure sign of poverty, but thanks to increased use of the tax code to deliver social benefits, incentivize behaviors and funnel money to targeted groups, middle-class families have now been pulled into the growing pool of non-payers," Hodge said. "We're now in a situation where a record number of tax filers are completely disconnected from the cost of government."

The number of non-payers has increased by 59 percent in less than a decade, growing from 32.6 million in 2000 to 51.6 million in 2008. In the same time period, the total number of tax filers grew by only 10 percent.

The last record for the number of non-payers was set in 2006, when 33 percent of tax filers paid

nothing. A record has been set every year since 2002 (30.1 percent), as tax cuts throughout the Bush years - especially the refundable child tax credit - pushed low- to middle-income people off the federal income tax rolls. The major tax change in 2008 was the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, included tax rebates that boosted the number of non-payers.

"The number of non-payers can be expected to top 35 percent again for tax years 2009 and 2010 due to programs such as President Obama's making-work-pay, first-time homebuyer and American Opportunity tax credits," Hodge said. "With no skin in the game, these non-payers have little reason to care how much government grows."

Source: The Tax Foundation. The Tax Foundation is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that has monitored fiscal policy at the federal, state and local levels since 1937.

California Legislative Attacks on Prop 8

By Yolanda Knaak

SB 906 Creates "Civil Marriage" by inserting the wording "civil marriage" in place of "marriage" in various places in the family code. This bill is sponsored by Equality California, a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender advocacy organization and the ultra liberal California Council of churches, IMPACT. The author, Senator Leno, previously authored a couple gay marriage bills which did not pass and he was recently reported by the Bay Area Reporter to have said, "religious entities have no business interfering with the fundamental right of everyone's access to marriage". Numerous organizations such as Concerned Women For America, Save California and ProtectMarriage.com are concerned that in changing marriage to civil marriage, it lays the groundwork for legalizing same sex marriage. Prop 8 is our current law protecting traditional marriage, 7 million people in California voted in favor of the law last year. Despite the people's vote for prop 8, SB 906 passed

the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 23, 2010 and now goes to the Senate Floor for a vote. If you desire to make an impact on our state, contact your State Senator with your views. One local State Senator for District 6 is Darryl Steinberg, his phone # is 916-651-4006, his fax # is 916-323-2263 and his address is Darryl Steinberg, State Capitol room 205, Sacramento, CA 95814. One can also write Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, at State Capitol Blvd., Sacramento, CA, 95814, to voice one's views.

AJR 19 is a 2009 measure that is still active. It is a non-binding resolution which requests Congress and the President of the United States to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). A repeal of DOMA would put state laws protecting traditional marriage at risk. Currently the majority of states have either a DOMA law or a constitutional amendment protecting traditional marriage. This resolution has already passed the Assembly and the author is planning to present it to the Senate

Judiciary Committee. If it passes, it will go to the Senate. If you want to impact our society, contact the Senate Judiciary Members, or your State Senate Representative. The California Senate Judiciary Members can be looked up on the internet, the State Senate 6 representative is listed above and if one lives outside of State Senate District 6, one can easily look up one's district on the internet or in the front of the phone book and obtain the contact numbers for their State Senator.

In spite of 7 million voting for Prop 8, marriage between a man and a woman, the legislature is not listening to the people of California. They are attacking Prop 8 with two pieces of legislation, SB 906 and AJR 19. When will the attacks on prop 8 end?

About the Author: Yolanda Knaak has a Masters Degree from UCLA and is a Registered Nurse who works as a Home Health Case Manager. She regularly offers her commentary to MPG. For questions, she can be contacted at YolandaKnaak@hotmail.com

Postal Regulatory Commission Considers Ending Saturday Mail Delivery

Washington, DC - On March 30, the Postal Regulatory Commission established Docket N2010-1 to thoroughly review whether the U.S. Postal Service plan to eliminate Saturday delivery should be implemented. The Postal Service is required to ask the Commission for an Advisory Opinion on any change in nationwide service it proposes. This is one of the most significant changes the Postal Service has ever presented to the Commission.

"The Commission is the watchdog agency that determines if the Postal Service meets its Universal Service Obligation to the nation. Our process will provide multiple opportunities for the public to be heard and for all the facts to be considered before the Commission issues its Advisory Opinion," said Chairman Ruth Y. Goldway. "The ball is in our court now. There will be no final decision until the record is complete."

The Postal Service has advised the Commission that due to falling mail volumes and revenues it is considering eliminating Saturday mail collection

and delivery except for Express Mail and existing post office box service. It submitted 11 pieces of testimony in support of its Request.

Commission procedures provide for public, on-the-record hearings to analyze and cross-examine the Postal Service's "five-day" proposal and supporting evidence. During the process, mail users and interested members of the public may offer supporting or opposing views, both informally and as part of more formal, technical presentations. The Commission will also conduct as many as six field hearings and solicit public comments through its website. Dallas, Sacramento and Chicago are among the cities the Commission is considering for possible field hearing locations.

Chairman Goldway identified four areas that will be scrutinized. "Will the savings the Postal Service anticipates be as significant as they estimate? Will mail volume decline more than the Postal Service anticipates? Will businesses and citizens have service that remains adequate to meet their

needs? And will the national economic impact of service reductions offset or add to the savings that are proposed?"

The elimination of one mail delivery day is not a new concept. It has been proposed many times and was the subject of extensive congressional review in 1977 and 1980. In 1983, the Congress adopted specific language requiring the Postal Service to maintain six-day delivery. The Commission's Advisory Opinion will be considered by Congress as it reviews the Postal Service's request to change the law.

The public is invited to share their views via the Commission web site, www.prc.gov, by clicking the "contact PRC" tab to access a convenient online customer service form. To participate more formally in the process and to file documents to be included in the online public record, interested parties should click the "Filing Online" tab and follow the appropriate instructions.

The Postal Service proposal was electronically filed with the Commission on March 30, 2010 at 3:34 p.m.

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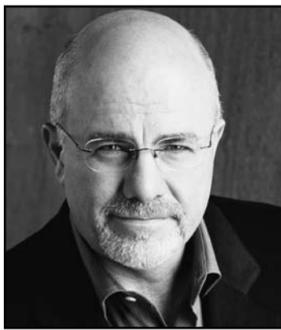
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Dave Says



Dear Jessie,

Putting money into something you don't understand is the easiest way in the world to lose it all. I'm glad you're asking questions, and want to do the smart thing with the money that's coming your way. I've always said personal finance is 80 percent behavior and only 20 percent head knowledge. So, you don't need to change your major to finance to make this happen. However, you will have a \$50,000 responsibility that you didn't have before.

For now, I think a simple savings account is fine. I'd park about \$40,000 in there, and just forget about it for a while. Then, take \$5,000 to set up an emergency fund. Put it in a good money market account with check writing privileges. After you've done these things, take the remaining \$5,000 and use it just for you. Have some fun! After all, spending and having a good time is one of the great things you can do with money.

But here's something to think about once you've educated yourself on investing. If you move the original \$40,000 you set aside into a good, growth stock mutual fund, you'll have millions sitting there waiting when you retire. Talk about being able to retire with dignity, and change your family tree!

- Dave

Creditors are Harassing Us!

Dear Dave,

My husband and I are trying to pay off our debts, but we're behind on a couple of credit card payments.

The credit card company is calling us all the time and being really rude. They call us repeatedly at work, even though we've both told them not to do this. We're trying to work with them, but it's causing us problems with our bosses and making things miserable at home. How can we get this to stop?

- Tanya

Dear Tanya,

If you owe the money, then you've got a moral and legal responsibility to pay the debt. Still, these clowns are breaking the law. It sounds to me like it's going to take a real slap in the face to bring them around.

Send a letter overnight delivery, return receipt requested, to the guy who has been calling and the company headquarters. In the letter, tell them your financial counselor has informed you that they are breaking federal law by harassing you this way. Once a creditor has been notified not to call a person's place of employment they are required by law never to do so again!

If you want to have some real fun, invite them to call back one more time, because you'd love to sue them for about \$10 million and win! Make sure you keep a copy of the letter, too. You'll need proof they've been notified in the event this thing goes to court. Also, contact the Federal Trade Commission and report these guys immediately.

Remember, Tanya. You owe what you owe, but that doesn't mean your creditors have a right to harass you and make your life miserable. Get these guys off your back and under control!

- Dave

**Please visit www.davesays.org for more financial advice.*

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.

Ramsey offers life-changing financial advice as host of a nationally syndicated radio program, "The Dave Ramsey Show," which is heard by nearly four million listeners each week on more than 350 radio stations throughout the United States. His syndicated column, "Dave Says," can be read in more than 270 print and online publications worldwide.

College Student with Inheritance

Dear Dave,

I'm currently a junior in college. I don't have any debt, and my school is paid for through scholarships. Next month, I'll receive an inheritance of almost \$50,000. I don't want to blow it, but I don't know much about stocks, mutual funds, or investing, either. Do you have any advice?

- Jessie

Sea Changes Bigger than Tsunamis

– pretty far from the ocean – he had the insight to see that the massive glaciers of the past must have changed global sea level drastically.

Here's the picture:

During times of bitter cold in the past 2 million years, extensive ice sheets and major glaciers have formed in North America and Scandinavia. While those glaciers have been draped on the land, they have "locked up" a great deal of Earth's waters. More and bigger glaciers meant lower and lower sea level in the Ice Age, a point Whittlesey deduced early. One of his estimates put sea level of the Ice Age as around 300 feet lower than today, a value that stands up well to current scientific data.

With sea level hundreds of feet lower than it is now, brown bears (and people) could walk from Siberia to Alaska – and they evidently did so, spreading down into North America.

But climate naturally evolves on Earth, and the Ice Age came to its end in due time. When global temperatures shot upward into the warmth we enjoy in this epoch, the massive glaciers and ice sheet started to melt. Water that had been on land (as ice), flowed down into the seas. Ocean levels rose, and rose, and rose some more, an increase totaling hundreds of feet.

But oddly enough, that's not the end of the story. In some places – like Sweden and Hudson Bay – the land is rising out of the sea. In other words, in those places, local sea level has been falling even while global sea level has been rising.

In Scandinavia and Hudson Bay, the evidence the sea is living and working in the Midwest

many old beaches that are high and dry on the land well above current sea level. These "raised beaches" show us the land is moving upward even faster than global sea level has been rising. But there are not raised beaches like these everywhere on Earth, only in places where (interestingly enough) major glaciers used to lie.

Our hero was one geologist who had some insight on this issue, too. The ice sheets of the Ice Age were literally a couple miles thick and covered whole regions. When the Ice Age glaciers melted, their staggering weight was removed. Gradually, the land under the ice has moved upward – and it's still doing so.

The land in Hudson Bay and Scandinavia is headed higher and higher at a faster rate than global sea level. So local sea level where my herring-eating ancestors live in southern Sweden is dropping relative to land.

Climate change on Earth guarantees that sea level can go up a whole lot in some places and down in others. Those are the realities with which people have adapted for a long time, and will doubtless have to do so again.

Like climate itself, the only constant we geologists can see when it comes to sea level is change.

Dr. E. Kirsten Peters, a native of the rural Northwest, was trained as a geologist at Princeton and Harvard. Follow her on the web at rockdoc.wsu.edu and on Twitter @RockDocWSU. This column is a service of the College of Sciences at Washington State University.



ROCK DOC

By Dr. E. Kirsten Peters

In the mid-1800s there was a smart geologist with a face as sharp as flint who worked in the American Midwest. In those days, the "Midwest" was quite close to the frontier of the country. It took some guts and imagination to live out there, and maybe Charles Whittlesey had both in abundance – for he clearly saw evidence of dramatic climate change in riverbanks and hillsides around him. For Whittlesey, the Ice Age was evident in almost every field and ridge.

Many geologists of the time were still skeptical of the new theory that Earth's climate could change at all. It wasn't easy to think that Mother Nature had once put the whole globe into a deep freeze, but my hero got on-board with the program early. He argued (correctly) that much of the upper part of our country had once been buried under thick, glacial ice, and he did so by pointing to specific pieces of evidence he could describe and draw.

That alone would make Whittlesey commendable in my book. He looked at good evidence, published as widely as he could at the time, and argued for his views.

But this is what really impresses me. Despite the fact Whittlesey was living and working in the Midwest



THE HEALING RESPONSE

We try them all...pain killers, medical procedures...anything to heal ourselves. But what about using our own physical, emotional, and spiritual tools to heal ourselves and achieve optimum health? According to Dr. Michael Loes, author of "The Healing Response," there are ten principles and laws that can help you understand your body, mind, and spirit...the "energetic you." The good doctor says "every person's goal is salubrity, the state of enviable health." In his book he tackles just about every type of pain from wounds and fractures to chronic fatigue syndrome, headaches, even irritable bowel syndrome. The healing response or THR, is what your body does...its best effort...to get you better when you are threatened, in pain, or already ill. Your body assesses the resources you have and gives you as much healing response as you've got. There are principles and laws behind THR:

Principle I: Life (Vital Force) is God given, but not necessarily God maintained; free choice exists.

The Law: Build Vital Force and Health Ensues.

POPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

Principle II: Dynamic and Specific Directional Flow of Vital Force Results in Homeostasis.

The Law: Enhance Directional Flow and Life Springs.

Principle III: The body will make every effort to preserve homeodynamics and avoid stasis (stoppage).

The Law: Rid stasis (stoppage) and healing happens.

Principle IV: Diurnal, Lunar, and Specific Seasonal Patterns of Energy Flow exist.

The Law: Tune in and synchronize Your Healing Rhythms.

Principle V: Intelligence is in the Cell.

The Law: Feed the Cell what it needs for Health.

Principle VI: The brain provides one Level, but not the only level of support to the cell.

The Law: Open all lines of Communication to the Cell...Vital Exchange Occurs.

Principle VII: Our beliefs create a unique biology within us which creates behavior. It is equilibrium. Equally true is that behavior creates biology creates beliefs.

The Law: Optimize Healthy Beliefs and Behaviors. Expect speedy healing.

Principle VIII: Our beliefs create a unique biology within us which creates behavior. This relationship is a bidirectional cause and effect.

Hence, it is equally true that changes in behavior cause changes in biology. These behavioral changes will change our beliefs about ourselves and the world we live in.

The Law: Live in a Healthy Environment and Enhanced Healing Happens.

Principle IX: Toxins exist internally and externally which assault our structural integrity. Our physical and energetic body must constantly rebuild, shield, and actively defend itself.

The Law: Enhance, Build, and Defend the Fortress to Augment the Healing Response.

Principle X: Connectedness to God Positively influences Your Health and Rate of Aging.

The Law: Seek God and Pray without Ceasing

Dr. Loes claims these principles are offered as a potential new prism through which to view and treat any injury, sickness, or smoldering illness, especially chronic pain...whether it be physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual. His goal is to help all of us attain Salubrity... "a state of enviable health." I'm for all that. How about you?

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by Marlys Johnsen Norris

Why do some people fall into traps that will eventually make them a slave and affect their whole life? They get "hooked" on certain things that will cause problems with their health as well as place them in an unacceptable place in our society. Why are people always so anxious to be "accepted and become a part of a group" that causes them to automatically comply with their actions? This seems especially true of human nature when they are young teenagers. If the group they hang around with is smoking, drinking, experimenting with sex or on drugs they think one must comply and do the same thing. That is, unless they have developed their own self-worth through parental love and teaching or spiritual guidance in a church setting. Acceptance at any level is in itself a form of flattery that makes a person feel better about them selves because people appear to approve and like them. Most

Escape the Traps of Life

relationships all begin with a form of acceptance. Acceptance is acknowledging something for what it is; however when a person has to conform to the other person's ideas in order to be accepted, it is a relationship that is one based on the one who has the most power. It obviously lacks the quality of sincere caring that is required in true acceptance!

Example: A couple fall in love and get married. One partner soon realizes after the honeymoon, they have married a person with faults and issues they did not see beforehand and disapprove. Because they find this behavior objectionable to them they do everything possible to try to change that person. Of course it fails because we cannot change another person and it is too big a task. The acceptance they believed they had before they were married has disappeared completely.

There is only One - one needs to please and to be accepted on this earth, and that is God Almighty. Scripture puts it this way: "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the

fruit of the Spirit is all goodness, righteousness and truth) *finding out what is acceptable to the Lord*" (Ephesians 5:10) and "For this is good and *acceptable in the sight of God our Savior* who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is (only) one God and one Mediator between God and men/women; the Man Jesus Christ". (I Timothy 2:3-4).

So what does a person do to escape being trapped? They need to consult God and/or a Christian counselor to learn to trust the Holy Spirit to help that person. The Holy Spirit will reveal any changes each need to make. Each marriage partner needs to refresh their acceptance of each other and allow God to do the rest. When they do this, Godly blessings will be their lot. Acceptance of one another, just the way they are, is truly the beginning of a love that will last forever.

Marlys Johnsen Norris
 |Marlys5934@sbcglobal.net
"Intimacy Begins Going God's Way"
"Recipes for a Happier Marriage"
"God Moves Mountains, It was a Miracle"



by Pastor Ray Dare

Life has a way of wearing us down. We have a lot of things to worry about! The economy, politics, the direction of our country and unexpected things, uncontrollable things. As a result we get stressed and our minds get overloaded. What's been weighing you down lately? Has something beyond your control happened? A problem, a pressure or a conflict with one of your children, your marriage, with your job or with another person? Maybe you feel like you're about to go under because of the pressure in your life.

If you're carrying a heavy load and feeling overwhelmed by life's circumstances, I'm sorry. I'm sorry you're in those circumstances, but let me give you some good news. **"Come to Me all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you...you will find rest for your souls for My yoke is easy..."** Matthew 11:28-30. You have Someone who cares about you very much, His name is Jesus and He wants to help you through your circumstances. First Jesus says, "Come to

How to Put Your Mind at Rest

Me." How do you do that? You get alone by yourself and you just settle down, you read the Bible a little bit, you pray a little, you get quiet and your focus begins to shift. All of a sudden you're thinking less about your problem and you're thinking more about His power. You're thinking less about your circumstance and you're thinking more about His control. All of a sudden the stress starts to drain out of your life.

Next He says, "Take My yoke upon you." If you want to lower your stress level - give up control! That's why Jesus said, *"Take My yoke upon you."*

Let me give you a little tip. A yoke is not the yellow part of an egg that has all the cholesterol in it. A yoke is a wooden frame that joins two farm animals together. You say, "Wait a minute! That sounds like extra work to me!" The purpose of the yoke is actually to make your load lighter. The load is shared in a partnership. Jesus says, 'I want to help you carry your load.' A yoke is also used to guide, steer and direct. You're now in step with Him at His pace, His control. Jesus says, *"My yoke is EASY"*. Question: Is your yoke easy? If you are feeling overloaded right now; if you're feeling stressed out today, it means one simple thing.

You're not properly yoked to Christ. His yoke is not upon you. You may be on your way to heaven but you're on your way stressed out! Any time you get under stress it means this - you have come to Christ and **you have not given up control.** You are not properly yoked. Every time you get detached from God, you're going to get stressed out. You're going to be pulling the load by yourself.

The truth is you don't have one yoke on your life right now... you've got a dozen! You've got a financial yoke, a health yoke, a business or career yoke, relational yokes. You have all kinds of stresses. The answer is not Tahiti! The answer is Trust! You come to Christ. You give up control. You learn to trust Him.

Let me give you a little dose of reality. You were never really in control anyway. So you come to Christ, you give up control and you learn to trust. Come to Christ, give up control, learn to trust. You may have to say that fifty times a day to get it in your mind. That is the secret of stress management. Come to Christ and get time alone with God. Give up control and taking on His yoke. *Learn to trust*—You're God and I'm not, I trust You.

See you Sunday, Pastor Ray
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Capitol Pops Concert Band

Where:
Rusch Park Auditorium, 7801 Auburn Blvd., Citrus Heights

For Band Information:
Jerry Lopes, Director, CPCB (916) 967-1461 OR glopes@macnexus.org
Band Web Site: www.capitolpops.org
Germaine Lopes, CPCB
Publicity, g.lopes@sbglobal.net

The Capitol Pops Concert Band is a Non-Profit Community Band.

Fair Oaks Historical Society

SECOND SUNDAY
Open House Hours - April 2010

The Fair Oaks Historical Society invites you and your family to visit its History Center which will be open to visitors on April 11th, from 1pm to 4pm, during its monthly Open House. The History Center is located in the Fireside Room of the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse, 7997 California Street, Fair Oaks. Docents

will be available during this event to help with local lore and fact. Admission to the History Center is free. For directions to History Center, please visit our website: www.fairoakshistory.org. To schedule a student tour or request further information please call Lois Frazier, Chief of Docents, at 967-2967.



Dog Gone Yard Sale And Bake Sale

Citrus Heights - April 10 at C Bar C Small Dog Park area 9-2pm.

This is a fundraiser for POOCH Pet Owners Organization of Citrus Heights and several local rescue groups.

More info:
965-4684, Diane

Monthly Military Retiree/Spouses Meeting

Our next monthly military retiree spouses meeting will be held on April 13 2010 at the North Highlands Park and Recreation District, located at 6040 Watt Ave, North Highlands. Meeting time is 1030 hrs. Our speaker will be Mikel O'Riordan and he will address an Under-Used VA Benefit, called Aid and Attendance. You don't want to miss out on this informative meeting. Join us for a cup of coffee and excellent fellowship. Questions can be answered by contacting our volunteer staff at 561-7476.

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by David Dickstein

Family Films



Clash of the Titans
Opens April 2, rated PG-13
clash-of-the-titans.
warnerbros.com/

Getting a CGI-enhanced makeover is this remake of the same-named 1981 mythical adventure about Perseus, son of Zeus, and his quest to battle Medusa and the Kraken monster in order to save Princess Andromeda. "Avatar" hero Sam Worthington stars along with Ralph Fiennes and Liam Neeson.



Furry Vengeance
Opens April 30, rated G
furryvengeance-movie.com

Nature friends become the enemies of big, bad developers who want to build a shopping mall in the forest. Brendan Fraser is the not-so-innocent victim of an assault engaged by creatures big and small in this slapstick animal flick that also stars Brooke Shields and Ken Jeong of "The Hangover" and TV's "Community."

**Films and DVDs
for the Whole Family**

Oceans
Opens April 22, rated G
disney.go.com/
disneynature/oceans

The Mouse House's DisneyNature division, the same that brought us the magnificent documentary, "Earth," a year ago, explores what makes up nearly three-quarters of our world. The latest underwater technologies are used to explore and capture the wonder of the five oceans. Hopefully for the film's sake there's no sign of Nemo and the Little Mermaid.



**Family Home
Entertainment**

Bugs Bunny's Easter Funnies
(ages 3-6, now available, not rated): As seasonal TV specials go, this one doesn't rate "classic" status, but it's still a charmer for youngsters and a nostalgic treat for those of us who watched it in first-run in 1976. Legendary and late folk singer Burl Ives narrates the tuneful rabbit tale now remastered and looking and sounding better than ever. Grade: B+

The First Easter Rabbit (ages 3-6, now available, not rated): As seasonal TV specials go, this one doesn't rate "classic" status, but it's still a charmer for youngsters and a nostalgic treat for those of us who watched it in first-run in 1976. Legendary and late folk singer Burl Ives narrates the tuneful rabbit tale now remastered and looking and sounding better than ever. Grade: B+

Handy Manny (ages 3-6, April 20, not rated): The Playhouse Disney show borrows from "Grease" as Manny and his gang turn a jalopy into the coolest racecar ever, then Manny wins the race, but not until original driver him to take the wheel. The only thing missing is a rousing chorus of "Greased Lightning." NASCAR champion Dale Earnhardt Jr. and former *nsYNC singer Lance Bass lend their voices to the animated show. Grade: B+

My Friends Tigger & Pooh: Super Duper Super Sleuths (ages 3-6, April 6, not rated): Freaky things happen to Pooh and his friends when a magical glowing and pulsating shooting star lands in the Hundred Acre Wood and makes power plants out of Rabbit's garden. Pooh eats a carrot and gets super sight. Tigger downs spinach and becomes super strong, and so on. If only the story and animation were as strong. For less critical little ones only. Grade: C+

Tom and Jerry Tales: The Complete First Season (ages 3-8, April 13, not rated): Originally aired on Kids' WB in 2006, this is probably the worst reincarnation of the classic cat-and-mouse cartoon characters. The settings and situations are bad enough - undersea, battling monsters, giant mice from Mars capture the pair - let alone breaking the cardinal sin of showing humans in full-body form instead of just the legs as in the old days. The 2-disc set contains the series' first 13 episodes. Grade: D

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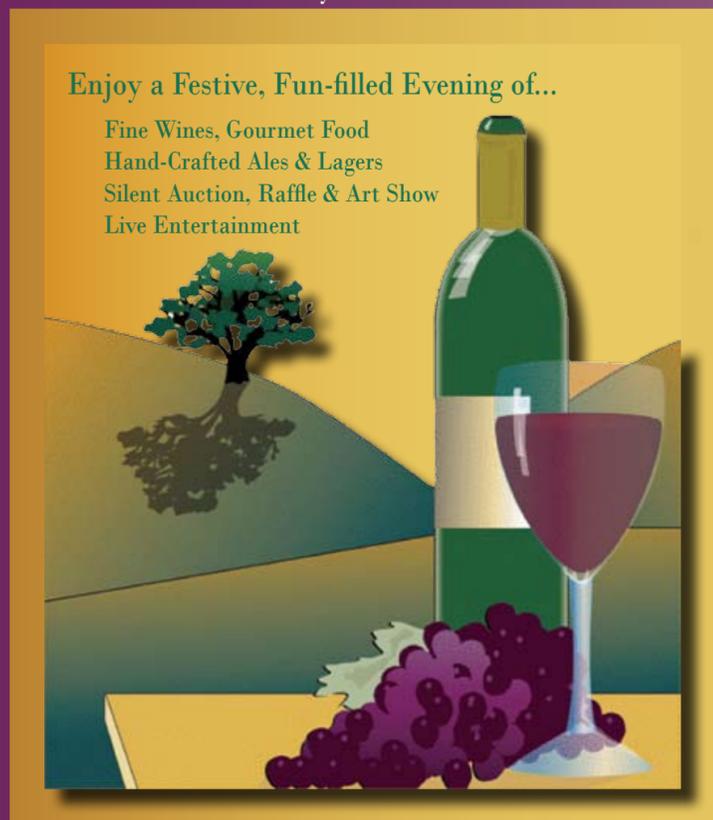
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Congressman Dan Lungren to Speak at Republican Women's Luncheon



Bonnie Williams, President of American River Republican Women Federated with Congressman Dan Lungren.

Folsom - Dan Lungren, Congressman for California's 3rd District will be guest speaker at the American River Republican Women Federated Luncheon, to be held on April 10, 2010. He represents parts of Sacramento and Solano, as well as Alpine, Amador and Calaveras Counties. The House and Senate are on break and back in their districts for the next two weeks. The Congressman will be discussing the Health Bill that was sent to the President for signing on March 24, 2010. Immigration, Cap and Trade, Jobs and the National Debt will be topics of interest to the members and guests attending the Luncheon. Luncheon will be held at Lake Natoma Inn, 702 Gold Lake Drive, Folsom, CA 95630. Republican Women and men are welcome. Membership is open to all Republican Women and Men. Sign-in at 11:30 A.M. Luncheon at 12 Noon. Cost is \$27.00. RSVP to 916-698-1288 by April 8, 2010. www.americanriverwrf.org

Hometown Hero

Airman 1st Class Matthew T. Holguin



Airman 1st Class Matthew T. Holguin

Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Matthew T. Holguin graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

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

He is the son of Chela Holguin of Phoenix Ave., Fair Oaks, Calif., and Matt Holguin of 1050 Road, Muldrow, Okla.

Holguin is a 2009 graduate of Casa Roble High School, Orangevale, Calif.

Adopt A Cat: SAKrescue Needs Your Help

To prepare for the upcoming kitten season, a special effort to place adult cats into loving homes will be in effect for the months of March, April and May. SAKrescue is offering an adoption special of \$60 per adult cat or 2 for \$100. The cats are all spayed or neutered, have all their shots up to date including rabies, have been FELV tested, and have been treated with Advantage™ for flea control.



Donations of food, litter, (scoop-able for adult, and regular clay litter for babies) and Kitten formula are always needed and can be left at Incredible Pets.

Cash donations can be made to Sacramento Area Kitten Rescue, P.O. Box 418233, Sacramento, CA 95841. Phone 916-491-1657.

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May 22, 2010

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11 Categories: Baby Darling to Mrs./Ms. Northern California Rep.

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Tickets at the door: Seniors and children 12 & under can bring at least 5 cans of food or school supplies in lieu of a ticket to pageant.

All contestants receive free training in ramp walking, public speaking, skin and hair care.

We will be collecting the food and school supplies for needy families in our area.

For more information or to become a pageant sponsor contact Pageant Director, Mary Purvis at 721-3824

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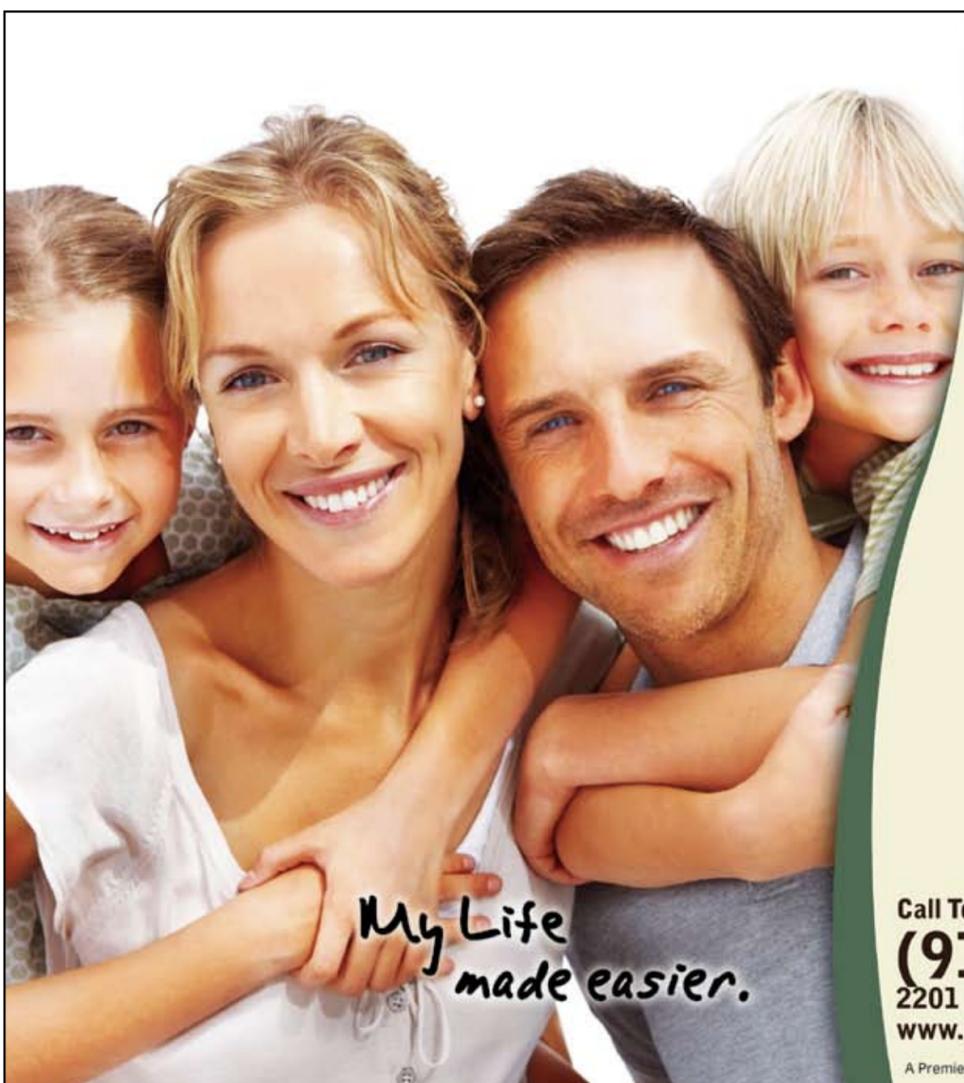
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