

AMERICAN RIVER

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First Edition for January 2010

Transportation Deficit Costs Californians \$40 Billion a Year

Transportation California Says New and Reliable Funding Sources Could Provide Relief to Motorists

(BUSINESS WIRE)-- A report issued in December by a Washington-based transportation think tank demonstrates that California's decades of neglect of its transportation infrastructure amount to an annual burden of \$40 billion a year for the motoring public. TRIP, a national transportation research organization, estimates that roadways that lack desirable safety features, travel capacity and/or pavement in good condition cost the state's drivers approximately \$40 billion annually in traffic crashes, higher vehicle operating costs and congestion-related delays. "Even with the efforts of the governor and the legislature over the past several years, we still have a huge gap -- which this report clearly shows -- and it's hitting the public where it hurts," said Transportation California Executive Director Mark Watts. Despite the short-term boost from the federal stimulus program, California's funding to improve and rehabilitate bridges and major roadways stands at \$1.5 billion a year. Current needs average \$5.5 billion a year. Transit needs are now \$8.6 billion annually, but funding is \$1.7 billion a year. "We are short nearly \$11 billion annually to meet our transportation needs," Watts

said. "This report shows that our failure to close this transportation investment deficit is costing us nearly four times that much." Safety, congestion and road conditions are an issue in every part of the state. In "Future Mobility in California," TRIP documents that 68 percent of California's urban highways are congested, and vehicle travel is expected to increase by another 20 percent by 2025. The statewide cost of congestion, according to TRIP, is \$18.7 billion annually. TRIP also reports that California has the second highest share of roads in poor condition in the nation -- 35 percent. (New Jersey is No. 1.) The extra vehicle operating costs created by these poor roads total \$13.5 billion annually in California. In addition, 29 percent of the state's bridges and overpasses need significant repair or rehabilitation. The traffic fatality rate on the state's non-Interstate rural roads is more than three times higher than the fatality rate on all other roads and highways in the state. Roadway characteristics -- such as lane width, lighting, signage, guardrails, paved shoulders, rumble strips and other features -- can reduce the number of serious traffic crashes. According to TRIP, the cost of serious traffic crashes in which roadway characteristics

were a contributing factor was approximately \$7.6 billion in California in 2008. Watts pointed out that voters in counties up and down the state have voted to approve local sales tax measures to support transportation. "The evidence is there that voters want to see transportation improvements and are willing to pay for them. Those local expenditures, coupled with state programs and the federal stimulus program, are producing some positive results, but they amount to far less than we need to right the system," he said. The rising cost of construction materials has eroded the buying power of the gasoline tax, which is the primary source of funding for California's safety and rehabilitation programs. The price of key materials used in highway construction increased by 33 percent between October 2004 and October 2009. "A robust federal transportation package and a new and reliable state revenue source are essential to provide relief to the motoring public," Watts said. Transportation California is a collaboration of business, labor and government organizations interested in promoting sound transportation policies. For more information: www.transportationca.com. Report available at: www.tripnet.org

Source: Transportation California

Good Beginning to 2010?



Employers are seeking customer service, sales, manufacturing and shipping experience in early 2010.

By Rick Reed

Sacramento County - At this time last year employers were using attrition, hiring freezes and massive layoffs to cut workers while some businesses closed their doors forever. After one of the worst years in decades, the Sacramento regional employment market is regaining traction. Usually a slow period for hiring in the Sacramento area Pacific Staffing has learned that forty-six percent (46%) of 100 top area companies surveyed plan to hire in the first quarter, Q1 of 2010.

In Q1 of 2009 more than half of Sacramento regional employers surveyed weren't hiring anyone, another twenty percent (20%) planning staff cutbacks and three local companies closed and laid-off everyone. In contrast to those conditions, in Q1 2010, just seven percent (7%) of company's surveyed plan to reduce workforces

in January, February or March. This year lay-offs or reductions-in-force are attributed to seasonal change and a merger, not to a failing recessionary economy.

Twenty-five percent (25%) of companies reported hiring for growth needs in the last quarter, Q4 2009. Historically the slowest hiring period of the year across the area, another positive sign for Sacramento regional jobs recovery in the first quarter of 2010 is indicated as twenty percent (20%) of employers polled say they will be motivated to hire for growth and add staff in Q1.

Contacted directly by telephone between November 18 and December 18, 2009, six percent (6%) of hiring is motivated by seasonal demands in Q1.

Sacramento employers are looking for technical skills first of all. Demand for technical experience was double any other in first quarter with a focus on computer

networking and proprietary industry-specific software operations. Employers also seek customer service, sales, manufacturing and shipping experience in the first three months of 2010.

Among all companies the cost of benefits was noted as the greatest challenge in the New Year. Morale was a significant issue noted by contacts at companies currently not hiring. For the first time in nearly a year, two companies say finding qualified candidates for jobs is becoming an issue.

The top 100 Sacramento Regional Companies By Industry by percentage; 44% are Service, 31% are Manufacturers, 15% are Construction and 10% are Retail.

How does this Quarter compare to last quarter, or last year? Find out for yourself, for more information & surveys go to www.pacificstaffing.com.

New Beauty Pageant Winners Crowned



Citrus Heights - The annual Miss Citrus Heights Scholarship Pageant was held recently at the Rusch Park Auditorium in Citrus Heights. Crowned with their new titles were; Citrus Heights Princess Jenae Frechette, Ms. Citrus Heights Tanya Lowe, Miss Citrus Heights Candis Dastmalchi, Teen Citrus Heights Karolyn Parker, Citrus Heights Princess Kayley Marshall, Citrus Heights Ambassador Kat Ramirez, Pre-Teen Citrus Heights Vanessa Wilson, Citrus Heights Princess Stephanie Alvarez, Miss Greater Citrus Heights Jennifer Sunahara, Miss Metropolitan Tina Phong, Citrus Heights Princess Stephanie Cooper, Mrs. Greater Citrus Heights Debbie Frechette, and Mrs. Citrus Heights Sharon Deane.

The method of judging included a sportswear competition where contestants were judged on beauty of face, figure, personality and

charm; an oral presentation in which each contestant was judged for her ability to communicate with an audience personably and intelligently; and an evening gown competition based on the contestants ability to present herself with grace, poise and charm.

Gold Sponsors for the event and program were J & W Auto Wreckers, Kniesel's Collision Centers, Lyon & Associates, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5991, AT & T Mobility of Citrus Heights, All Star Printing, Elephant Bar Restaurant, Lowe's, Mesa Verde High School Boosters, Paraker-Mussman Real Estate Group, Terry M. Purvis Company and 24-Hour Fitness. Judges were Janice Jordan, Johnnie Wilhite, Jack and Jean Duncan.

Mary Purvis, Director, and all the contestants and their families wish to thank the community and the City of Citrus Heights for their support.

What’s Our Real Federal Income Tax Rate?



By Robert L. Hale

Americans who work for a living, pay their taxes, and keep their personal and family budgets in check must find the irresponsibility of Congress unbearable. If they do not, it could well be because they choose to ignore the gross mismanagement of their elected representatives and senators. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) tells us that average American taxpayers pay 22 percent of their income in federal income taxes. What the CBO data do not tell us is what rate would be needed if income taxes were set at a rate to ensure that collections fund federal spending each year. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB), however, provides the data to determine what our tax bill would be if the federal government’s budget were required -- as our family budgets are -- to be balanced. This chart shows the individual income tax rate required to maintain a balanced budget for each of the following years, as well as the Social Security and FICA amounts taken from our paycheck by the federal government (*see box below*). This rate is what would be required to stop increasing the federal debt, which is now almost \$13 trillion. The reality is that the federal government is playing games with our earning power and prosperity as well as those of our children and grandchildren. The OMB projects that, by 2019, the federal debt will reach more than \$23 trillion. Actually, this is not likely to happen because foreign countries have already begun to pull back and stop buying our debt. The

amount of total federal income used to fund the federal debt annually is projected to be \$829 billion by 2019, almost the total individual income tax collections in 2009! The OMB projections also assume that debt growth, tax increases, and entitlements will not have a negative impact on productivity. Yet history tells us that this type of irresponsible fiscal management by government has only one outcome -- the demise and eventual collapse of an economy. A family budget may, from time to time, incur expenses beyond its income, but the family knows the deficit cannot be sustained. Accordingly, the family reduces spending and works harder. The federal government, which fails to acknowledge the inescapable consequences of indefinite borrowing and spending, refuses to cut spending. The consequences of this irresponsibility are beginning to be evident. The value of the dollar compared to other currencies is sagging and soon will break. Sooner rather than later there will be fewer lenders, and taxpayers will have little left that the government can take. Those of us who actually work and add to the prosperity of our economy are the only ones that government can tax to fund its irresponsibility. At some point, each of us will have to ask why we should continue. When too much is confiscated,

the incentive to produce ends. Producing is simply is not worth the effort. The “golden goose” is being butchered at the altar of government irresponsibility and greed. On October 30, 2009, U.S. Secretary of State Clinton blasted the Pakistani government for not imposing higher taxes on its citizens. She said, “The percentage of taxes on GDP in Pakistan is among the lowest in the world. We in the United States tax everything that moves and doesn’t move, and that’s not what we see in Pakistan.” This speaks volumes for what those we have elected to govern our nation think of those of us who have created our nation’s prosperity. An elite “governing class” -- which squanders our precious earnings and the future work effort of our children -- needs to be removed. The sooner the better. *Robert L. Hale received his J.D. in law from Gonzaga University Law School in Spokane, Washington. He is founder and director of a nonprofit public interest law firm. For more than three decades, he has been involved in drafting proposed laws and counseling elected officials in ways to remove burdensome and unnecessary rules and regulations. A Voice from Fly-Over Country is copyright by Robert L. Hale and the Fitzgerald Griffin Foundation (http://www.fgfbooks.com) P.O. Box 1383, Vienna, VA 22183. All rights reserved.*

| Year | Real Tax Rate (%) | Social Security and FICA (%) | Effective Annual Federal Taxes (%) |
|------|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2009 | 59.72 | + 15.2 | 74.92 |
| 2010 | 3.11 | + 15.2 | 68.31 |
| 2011 | 47.43 | + 15.2 | 62.63 |
| 2012 | 9.99 | + 15.2 | 55.19 |
| 2013 | 38.42 | + 15.2 | 53.62 |
| 2014 | 37.56 | + 15.2 | 52.76 |
| 2015 | 35.93 | + 15.2 | 51.13 |
| 2016 | 35.90 | + 15.2 | 51.10 |
| 2017 | 35.42 | + 15.2 | 50.62 |
| 2018 | 34.88 | + 15.2 | 50.08 |
| 2019 | 35.55 | + 15.2 | 50.75 |

The Theory of Moral Sentiments: Adam Smith’s Timely and Timeless Classic

By Dr. Mark W. Hendrickson

2009 marks the 250th anniversary of the publication of Adam Smith’s masterful treatise on ethics, *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*. Smith, primarily known today for his hugely influential 1776 work on political economy, *The Wealth of Nations*, was a professor of moral philosophy. *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* is stunningly relevant today. Whereas *The Wealth of Nations* featured the “invisible hand,” the metaphor that dominates Moral Sentiments is “the impartial spectator.” The “spectator” represents one’s conscience—one’s ability to perceive the divinely ordained objective standard of right and wrong. In Smith’s view, conscience is both a divine spark in mankind and also the product of reason. Indeed, *Moral Sentiments* (like western civilization itself) is a synthesis of Greek Stoic philosophy and Christian thought. The genius of *Moral Sentiments* lies in its clear, thorough explanation of the necessary preconditions for social harmony. Smith cites three cardinal social virtues: prudence, justice, and beneficence. Indeed, as we survey our discordant, divided society today, we can see that many of our problems stem from confusion about these three virtues. Smith, in spite of writing his book so long ago, provides the solutions to today’s most vexing social problems. By “prudence,” Smith means the practical steps that a person takes to provide for his own needs and wants. For able-bodied adults to shun this basic responsibility is self-destructive and antisocial. Smith’s second social virtue, justice, is “the main pillar that upholds the whole edifice” of society. As essential as it is, though, justice “is entitled to very little gratitude” because “it does no real positive good” and “is ... but a negative virtue” that “only hinders us from hurting our neighbour.” Smith is right. We don’t feel gratitude to others for not killing or

robbing us, because they are simply refraining from what they ought never to do. Yet when people do not refrain from infringing our basic rights, society disintegrates. Thus, the irony that just behavior is at once the virtue that is least deserving of praise, but most indispensable for society’s wealth. Smith’s third social virtue, beneficence, deserves the highest approbation, for it represents the greatest good that one can do beyond the call of duty. Beneficence, though, is never a duty. More specifically, it may be one’s duty to God as a practicing Christian, but it can never be made a legally compulsory duty to one’s fellow man. Here Smith illuminates the essential difference between law and gospel that still confuses and divides Christians today. In Smith’s words, “Beneficence is always free, it cannot be extorted by force, the mere want of it exposes to no punishment; because the mere want of beneficence tends to do no real positive evil.” “Beneficence ... is less essential to the existence of society than justice. Society may subsist, though not in the most comfortable state, without beneficence; but the prevalence of injustice must utterly destroy it.” Beneficence “is the ornament which embellishes, not the foundation which supports [society].” Government force may only be used to enforce justice (i.e., to restrain or punish those who would infringe the rights of others) but not to enforce prudence or beneficence. A government that would presume to compel citizens to work (or threatens to lock up citizens who prefer not to purchase health insurance) violates the very rights it is supposed to protect. So does a government that compels the redistribution of property from some citizens to others, because such deeds would violate the necessary and fundamental principle of justice. Meddlesome do-gooding—the pseudo-charity whereby A and B use governmental force to bestow unearned

benefits upon C that are paid for by D—is unraveling the fabric of society today. When one looks to Washington, one sees that Smith has captured with uncanny accuracy the mentality and spirit of present-day social engineers, central planners, and redistributors of property: “The man of system ... is apt to be very wise in his own conceit, and is often so enamoured with the supposed beauty of his own ideal plan of government, that he cannot suffer the smallest deviation from any part of it. ... he seems to imagine that he can arrange the different members of a great society with as much ease as the hand arranges the different pieces upon a chess-board.” The political reformer manifests “the highest degree of arrogance.” He seeks “to erect his own judgment into the supreme standard of right and wrong.” He “fanc[ies] himself the only wise and worthy man in the commonwealth, and [believes] that his fellow-citizens should accommodate themselves to him.” This attitude leads to “the madness of fanaticism” among the political leaders of radical reform, while the mass of followers are “intoxicated with the imaginary beauty of the ideal system, of which they have no experience, but which has been represented to them in all the most dazzling colours in which the eloquence of their leaders could paint it. Those leaders themselves, though they originally may have meant nothing but their own aggrandizement, become, many of them, in time the dupes of their own sophistry.” Indeed, I don’t believe it is possible for any current book analyzing contemporary America to surpass Adam Smith’s classic *Theory of Moral Sentiments* in terms of lucid insight and timely (and timeless) wisdom. *Dr. Mark W. Hendrickson is an adjunct faculty member, economist, and contributing scholar with The Center for Vision & Values at Grove City College.*

The Sacramento Works Career Center Citrus Heights

Employer and Business Services presents an array of informative counseling, workshops, seminars and training for new and small business owners to grow in this ever-changing business environment.

The 2010 schedule:

Jan. 14, Counseling - SCORE
Jan. 19, Pre-business workshop - SCORE
Feb.. 11, Counseling - SCORE
Feb. 12, How to do business with SMUD
Feb. 17, Small Business Marketing - SCORE * fee of \$30.00
Feb. 18, Small Business Administration workshop.

*All programs are free except where noted**

Location:

Sacramento Works Career Center
7011 Sylvan Road, Suite A
Citrus Heights CA 95610

Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church Grief Recovery Workshop

Date: Tuesdays, January 26 - March 2, 2010 (Class closed after 1st session.)
Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Location: Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church 11427 Fair Oaks Blvd Fair Oaks, CA 95628
Fee: \$10 fee covers all materials
Contact: Mary Rigney (mrigney@fopc.org)
Phone: (916) 967-4784, ext. 876
Description: Whether the loss of a loved one was recent, or some time ago, this very special course may be for you or someone you know. This six-week class is strictly confidential and held in a caring, Christian environment. Classes are closed after the first week. Childcare Available. To register, contact Mary Rigney, mrigney@fopc.org or (916) 967-4784, ext. 876.

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.

AMERICAN RIVER MESSENGER

“Written by the people for the people”



Publisher - Paul V. Scholl

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Be sure to place in the subject field “Attention to Publisher”.

If you do not have email access, please call us at 773-1111.

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Lakeview Village Ladies Club Teddy Bear Luncheon A Huge Success!



Lakeview Village resident Mary Jo Rudrow and CHPD officer Benjamin Kema bagging teddy bears for the police department.

Citrus Heights - On December 10th the Ladies Club of Lakeview Village Mobile Home Park held their annual Teddy Bear Luncheon to donate hundreds of teddy bears to local agencies. The Ladies Club holds various events throughout the year to raise funds for three charities they actively support, and

finishes off the year with the Teddy Bear Luncheon where residents bring and donate new teddy bears. Lakeview residents donated several hundred teddy bears, which were distributed to representatives from the Citrus Heights Police Department and Sac Metro Fire Department. Following a

wonderful pot-luck luncheon courtesy of Lakeview residents, the police and fire representatives are given large bags and proceed to gather bears for their department. These agencies then carry the bears in their vehicles and give them out to children in crisis situations to help calm and comfort them. This year their three selected charities -- Mustard Seed School, Children’s Receiving Home, and the Domestic Violence Intervention Center -- received cash donations in support of their programs. Plus each of these charities received a bagful of teddy bears thanks to a special donation of 42 bears from Melvin Parr of Jarad Jewelers. Ladies Club President Rosemary Archersaid “We had about 500 bears donated this year, and our donations to our charities were 30% higher than last year. That’s fantastic, and shows the love and care of the residents of Lakeview Village for the children of our community”.
Report written by Wayne Archer.

Capitol Resource Institute Burglarized

Tim LeFever, Chairman of the Board

Sacramento - Most of us spent this past Christmas weekend with family and friends. We paused to celebrate what is good. Still others took the opportunity to do harm. Despite extensive security precautions, Capitol Resource Institute’s Sacramento office was broken into over the holiday weekend. While staff was away with family, some took the opportunity to vandalize and take things of value. Unfortunately, it does not appear that this was a random entry in search of electronics and cash. Those responsible for this act apparently spent time poring through files and other things with little street value. CRI is not too worried that our opponents may have gained a glimpse of our strategy; we are pretty up front about what we do and why we do it. But we take this as another sad reminder of the dynamics of the battle we are in. For each of the years that CRI has been active in California we have watched the gap widen between what is morally acceptable and what is being advocated in State and local governments. We have seen shameful behavior celebrated and we have witnessed those who oppose such behavior being shamed. Our motives are constantly questioned and the strength of our opposition has increased.

Over the years CRI has noticed something else. Opponents of our family friendly agenda have not limited their opposition to conventional education or activism. Our web site has been hacked, our signs and literature destroyed, and our staff has received threats of violence. It is a tribute to the determination of the staff and supporters of CRI, and the importance of this work, that CRI has not backed down. Each attack has been met with a renewed commitment to push on. And at times we have directly pushed back: see the YouTube video, Louder than Silence, we produced in response to the numerous threats we received over our opposition to The Day of Silence. And this incident will be the same. The authorities will pursue those who committed this crime. The computer equipment and other valuables will be replaced. And even more security measures will be put in place. Backing away from the battle because of this attack will not even be discussed as an option. Similar choices need to be made by everybody who is reading this. The days of merely observing the culture war are rapidly coming to an end. You may not be the victim of vandalism or threats but you will be asked to take a stand on important but emotionally charged issues. It may come when a neighbor

asks how you are going to vote on a ballot measure, or when you consider opting your child out of unacceptable curriculum at school. It may be when you wrestle with putting a sign in your yard or a bumper sticker on your car that clearly identifies your views. In 2010 and forward, CRI needs a small army of individuals who have decided that they will take a stand and will commit to a partnership with us. Yes, immediately we need partners who will understand the huge financial burden that comes from a break-in like we suffered last weekend. Please let us know if you can send a special donation to help us replace our losses and increase our security. But we also need the long term partners who will take the resources CRI provides and will become activists. Attend a Lobby Day. Send a student to City on the Hill. Join us at a school board meeting- come to speak or come to pray. Ask your church to financially support the work of CRI. And make 2010 the year that you will faithfully, monthly do the same. We will not be deterred from what needs to be done. We are grateful for those who will stand beside us. *“You have enemies? Good. That means you’ve stood up for something, sometime in your life”* Winston Churchill.

Rancho Cordova Installs New Mayor



California Assemblywoman Alyson Huber swears in the new mayor of Rancho Cordova, Ken Cooley, as his wife, Sydney, looks on.

Rancho Cordova - Ken Cooley, a member of the Rancho Cordova City Council since the City incorporated in 2003, was sworn in as Mayor at the Rancho Cordova City Council meeting on December 21st. Robert McGarvey, also a Council Member from the City’s beginning, was sworn in as Vice Mayor. California State Assembly Member Alyson Huber performed the swearing-in ceremony for the new Mayor and Pastor Mike Mitchum from the Rancho Cordova Neighborhood Church swore in the Vice Mayor. The new Mayor is the California State Senate’s top advisor on insurance matters as principal consultant to the Senate Banking, Finance, and Insurance Committee. Before that, Cooley was a long-time counsel to State Farm Insurance and a top advisor on banking and insurance for the California Assembly. He has

been very active in the League of California Cities and was appointed by the Governor to the California Seismic Safety Commission. During his tenure as Mayor, Cooley says his goals are to “keep the City operating in the black, to continue to extol Rancho Cordova’s strengths as the region’s premier Fortune 500 job center, and to support our community youth as they try to understand how to succeed in uncertain economic times.” His outlook on life and his usual correspondence sign-off is “Onward and Upward”. Cooley is serving his second term as Mayor. During his first term in 2005, the Rancho Cordova City Hall was under construction. “A major event was opening our unfinished Council Chambers to the community so all who wished could write messages to the future in indelible ink on the concrete floor of the Council Chambers,” he related.

Testing for Census Jobs Will be Held in Rancho Cordova

Rancho Cordova - The Census Bureau is looking for several hundred qualified applicants in the Rancho Cordova area to work with them in the spring of 2010. All potential Census employees are required to take and pass a half hour Census test. Testing for part-time temporary staff positions for the upcoming U.S. Census will be held at a number of locations within Rancho Cordova, including the Folsom Cordova Unified School District’s Adult Education Center on Gadsten Way, Rancho Cordova City Hall on Prospect Park Drive, and the Sacramento Works One Stop on Old Placerville Road.

Testing will be held throughout January and into early spring. Available staff positions will include Census takers and employees for Census offices and Questionnaire Assistance Centers. Field pay will start at \$15/hour. Benefits include flexible hours and paid training. Most positions require a valid driver’s license and use of a vehicle. It’s also a plus if candidates speak another language such as Spanish or Russian in addition to English. To sign up for a test, candidates should contact the Elk Grove Census Office by calling 1-866-861-2010 or (916) 509-3760. More information can also be found at the Census

job website: <http://2010censusjobs.gov>. A practice test is available online at http://2010census.gov/2010censusjobs/pdf/Practice_Test.pdf. Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts a count of the American population that determines representation in government and distribution of federal funds to communities for roads, parks, housing, schools, and public safety. The City of Rancho Cordova is playing a key part in the upcoming Census with Council Member Dan Skoglund chairing the local committee.

Home Care by Seniors for Seniors

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- ★ **Make a Plan:** Pick a place where family members can gather in a disaster and figure out in advance how you’ll get in touch if communication is disrupted.
- ★ **Be Informed:** Find out what types of disasters your area is high risk for and how local authorities will contact you if a storm is headed your way.

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American Red Cross

Sara Evans, country superstar and Red Cross Celebrity Cabinet member

HIS 20438

RT Implements Park-Pay-and-Ride Program Beginning January 2010

Sacramento – Effective Friday, January 1, 2010, the Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT) implemented a parking fee at three light rail station park-and-ride lots. RT will charge a \$1 daily parking fee at the following “park-pay-and-ride” lots on the Blue Line: Watt/I-80 (243 spaces), Watt/I-80 West (248 spaces) and Roseville Road (1,087 spaces). Passengers can pay the daily parking fee by cash (exact change is required), credit card or debit card at the parking payment kiosk located at the station platform. Passengers can also pay the daily parking fee by mobile phone by calling 1-888-450-PARK (7275). There is a 35-cent service charge to pay by phone. For convenience and added value, monthly parking passes are available for \$15. Monthly parking passes can be purchased online at www.sacrt.com; RT’s Customer Service and Sales Center at 1225 R Street (adjacent to the 13th Street light rail station); Bel Air markets at 1039 Sunrise Avenue (Roseville) and 7901 Walerga Road (Antelope); or by calling RT at 916-321-2849. Monthly parking passes purchased online and by phone will be sent by first-class mail.

Shipping and handling charges apply to online purchases. On Monday, January 4 through Thursday, January 7, RT staff will be available at the three park-pay-and-ride lots from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. to assist passengers with the new parking payment kiosk, answer questions and sell monthly parking passes. For more information about the Park-Pay-and-Ride program and the citation process, visit www.sacrt.com. For route, schedule and fare information, call 916-321-BUSS (2877) or visit www.sacrt.com.

Consumer Electronics Association Reacts to California Energy Commission TV Energy Use Mandates

Unnecessary regulations bad for economy, harmful for consumers, says CEA

Arlington – (BUSINESS WIRE) The Consumer Electronics Association (CEA)® issued the following statement regarding a decision by the California Energy Commission (CEC) to impose unprecedented and unnecessary energy efficiency standards on television sets sold in California. The following statement may be attributed to Jason Oxman, CEA’s senior vice president of Industry Affairs. “CEA is extremely disappointed in the CEC’s decision to regulate TV energy use. Simply put, this is bad policy—dangerous for the California economy, dangerous for technology innovation and dangerous for consumer freedom. Instead of allowing customers to choose the products they want, the Commission has decided to impose arbitrary standards that will hamper innovation and limit consumer choice. It will result in higher prices for consumers, job losses for Californians, and lost tax revenue for the state. “The CEC’s actions over the past year demonstrate that this regulatory process is broken.

The commissioners repeatedly rebuffed attempts from the CE industry to provide input or correct the litany of errors and flawed assumptions upon which these misguided regulations are based. With tax revenues and jobs at risk, the citizens of California deserve a more reasoned and fact-based approach to regulation. The Commission has ignored the concerns of small business owners and consumers who will be adversely impacted by these regulations and the detrimental effect they will have on California’s job market and economy. “Energy efficiency is a shared concern for all parties. In fact, the consumer electronics industry has led the effort to reduce energy usage by with innovative, energy-efficient products, and consumers have responded with increased demand for these products. The industry has been so successful, that in the last two years alone energy efficiency of televisions has improved by 41 percent. But rather than build on these efforts, the CEC chose to create a new regulatory regime and micromanage the design and development of future televisions.” “We will continue to pursue legislative and legal solutions to ensure that California citizens will not suffer the consequences of this misguided policy.” The Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) is the preeminent trade association promoting growth in the \$172 billion U.S. consumer electronics industry. More than 2,000 companies enjoy the benefits of CEA membership, including legislative advocacy, market research, technical training and education, industry promotion, standards development and the fostering of business and strategic relationships. CEA also sponsors and manages the International CES – Where Entertainment, Technology and Business Converge. All profits from CES are reinvested into CEA’s industry services. Find CEA online at www.CE.org. *Source: Consumer Electronics Association*

Independent-thinking Residents Needed to Help Draw Political Boundaries

Sacramento – The State Auditor is looking for volunteers to serve on a voter-approved commission to redraw the lines for California legislative and Board of Equalization districts. The 60-day online application period begins on December 15, 2009 and ends on February 12, 2010. “Redrawing district boundaries is an important job,” said State Senator Dave Cox. “Those serving on the Citizens Redistricting Commission are responsible for the geographic boundaries of 80 Assembly districts, 40 Senate districts, and four State Board of Equalization districts which will stand for the next 10 years.” Cox added, “This process takes redistricting out of elected officials’ hands and gives that power to citizens.” Passed in November 2008, Proposition 11 requires the State Auditor to initiate an application process to fill a 14-member commission. According to the State Auditor, the process for determining the districts and coming to a final agreement must occur in an 8 ½ month period that starts January 1, 2011, and ends September 15, 2011, with the presentation of the final maps to the Secretary of State for certification. During those 8 ½ months, the duties of the commissioners will be complex and time-consuming. Duties of commissioners include but are not limited

to: holding public hearings throughout the state, review and discuss demographic data, hire and direct commission’s staff and vote for the approval of the final district maps. Applicants must be a registered California voter, who has voted in at least two of the last three statewide general elections. Interested voters can go online at www.wedrawthelines.ca.gov to fill out an application. For those without access to the internet, please call (866) 356-5217. “Qualified civic-minded Californians are encouraged to apply,” Cox concluded. Contact Senator Cox’s office at 916-651-4001, or via email at senator.cox@sen.ca.gov.

Democrats Unite to Support Ami Bera for Congress

Bera’s Focus on Jobs, Education and Health Care Earns Support from Community Leaders

Sacramento – Speaking about the need to create jobs, fix education and reform health care, Congressional candidate Ami Bera today received the formal endorsement of Bill Slaton, making Bera the sole Democratic candidate to challenge incumbent Republican Dan Lungren in the 2010 general election. “We are facing a record jobless rate, a health care crisis and schools just aren’t what they used to be,” said Bera as he received the endorsement of several community leaders at American River College, one of the region’s leading job training centers. “I’m running for Congress because we have to get people back to work, fix education and reform health care.” Bera received the formal endorsement of Bill Slaton,

who had planned to run against Bera in the Democratic primary. Slaton’s decision to support Ami Bera for Congress means Bera is the likely nominee to take on incumbent Dan Lungren in the 2010 general election. “Ami has demonstrated the kind of leadership we need in Congress to create good-paying green jobs here in our community,” said Slaton, director of the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District who is working to develop the new energy economy. “I look forward to working with him to put people back to work when he is our next Representative in Congress.” “I’ve seen first-hand just how much and often Dan Lungren has failed our community,” said Bill Durston, who ran a close race against Lungren last year, holding him to just under 50 percent of the vote. “We need Ami’s leadership and that’s why we must work harder than ever before to elect Ami Bera to Congress.” Ami Bera is a physician who has an extensive background in health care policy, both in the public and private sector. He is a former Chief Medical Officer for the County of Sacramento who recently served as Associate Dean for Admissions at the UC Davis School of Medicine. The 3rd Congressional District includes several communities in Sacramento and Solano County, as well as all of Alpine, Amador, and Calaveras Counties. The primary election is June 8, 2010 and the general election is November 2, 2010. To learn more about Ami Bera, visit www.BeraForCongress.com.

Assemblyman Niello Weighs In on CARB's Proposed Diesel Regulations

Sacramento – (December 11) Assemblyman Roger Niello (R-Fair Oaks) today testified at the California Air Resource Board hearing to consider the implementation of the truck and bus regulations relative to diesel emissions. Last year, the Board approved strict regulations to reduce emissions of diesel particulate matter, oxides of nitrogen, and greenhouse gases from in-use diesel trucks and buses that operate in California. This regulation establishes requirements for in-state and out-of-state motor carriers, California-based brokers, vehicle owner operators, and any California resident who hires or dispatches vehicles subject to the regulation. In September, Assemblyman Niello led an effort of nearly half of the members of the Legislature to send CARB a formal request to temporarily suspend the regulations given the weak economy and the unavailability of bond funds for retrofits of diesel engines. "Ironically, the economy is so bad that the conditions accused of producing the public health threat provoking the new rules are lessening," commented Niello. "This regulation will take a struggling economy and impose additional burdens on small and medium sized trucking companies.

I would only urge that the implementation timeline be seriously considered in order to allow businesses the time needed to recover." CARB staff has recently released data regarding the impact the downturn in the economy has had on emission levels in California. With the decrease in fuel usage, total tonnage of particulate matter has also naturally been reduced. Following Assemblyman Niello's testimony, the air board acknowledged that the economy had naturally reduced particulate matter and ordered that new rules be drawn up for consideration in April.



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By Jon Coupal
Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

When California voters barely approved a \$9.95 billion bond measure for High Speed Rail in 2008, they had no idea how soon they would learn the true meaning of the phrase “being railroaded.” As more about this project is revealed, the backlash from the public and political leadership is sure to grow.

For purposes of full disclosure, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association ran the unsuccessful campaign against Prop 1A (not to be confused with 2009’s Prop 1A, an attempt to raise \$16 billion in new taxes). Our most potent weapon was a devastating study by the Reason Foundation which revealed that the proponents’ representations regarding costs, fare price and profitability were pure fantasy. (Link: <http://reason.org/news/show/the-california-high-speed-rail>). But, from the start, we had an uphill battle convincing voters how poorly thought out this measure was. The California Legislature had already stacked the deck by providing such a biased title and summary for the measure that the issue of that deception is still the subject of litigation today. The deceptive ballot material, in addition to the campaign contributions from those who would profit from the project, was enough to ensure victory at the polls – albeit by a very small margin.

Now our predictions have come true. A headline from the San Jose Mercury News last week reads “State High-speed Train Rides To Be Costlier, Ridership Lower Than Promised To Voters.” Describing the most recent “business plan” for the HSR, reporter Mike Rosenberg writes: “The average ticket on the bullet

Wheels Coming Off High Speed Rail

train from San Francisco to Los Angeles is now estimated to cost about \$105, or 83 percent of comparable airfare. Last year, the state said prices would be set at 50 percent of comparable airfare and predicted a ticket from San Francisco to Los Angeles would cost \$55.” This near doubling of the projected fare price will have a major impact on ridership: “As a result of the higher fares, state officials now think the service will attract 41 million annual riders by 2035, down from last year’s prediction of 55 million passengers by 2030.”

Although this revised plan calls into question the entire viability of the project, the news is bound to get a lot worse. In short, even these revised figures by the Authority were born in dreamland.

Another fantasy: “The cost of the project — recently pegged at \$33.6 billion in 2008 dollars — is now estimated at \$42.6 billion in time-of-construction dollars.” Sure, that’s a projected increase of about \$10 billion, which is jaw-dropping by itself. But the Reason study suggests the final costs will be more than twice the revised projection. Many who analyze the trend lines of these megaprojects think that, if it is ever built, the cost will far exceed \$100 billion.

In a bit of poetic justice, another recent revelation will cause some hardcore backers of the project – environmentalists and urban activists – to suffer a case of buyers’ remorse. True, some environmentalists who took the time to actually analyze the project concluded that it would do more harm than good. But groups like the Sierra Club jumped on board without critical analysis. Like so many others, they applied a simple mindset: Cars, bad. Trains, good.

But it turns out that, from an environmental perspective, this is not so simple. Recent studies by the University of California regarding the environment life-cycle assessment of various passenger transportation systems cast specific doubt on California’s high speed rail project. In

reporting on those studies, the Institute for Transportation Studies noted that “if high-speed rail draws only half the ridership it says it will attract, its environmental performance will be twice as bad per passenger mile traveled. And, if compared to typical aircraft travel in situations where 70 percent of rail passenger seats are filled, high-speed rail performs worse (the crossover occurs when high-speed rail achieves 65 percent of estimated ridership compared against current aircraft utilization rates at 70 percent).”

If building California’s High Speed Rail project results in millions of metric tons of carbon going into the atmosphere, and its ridership is substantially less than needed to make the project viable – which is the current trend line – a legitimate question is whether HSR will inflict more damage to the environment than if it were never built.

The only good news is that it is still not too late to pull the plug on the entire HSR scheme. Legal authority exists to simply refuse to issue any more bonds or provide appropriations. Better yet, if the Legislature had the courage to do so, it would put the issue back before the voters and, instead of telling them a story of sugar plum fairies, tell the truth about costs and environmental impact.

But the chances the California Legislature will do the right thing here are zero. There are too many moneyed interests, too many cows to be milked to give up on this lucrative project to expect that rational thought will win the day. Between the p.r. firms, the contractors and bond brokers, they will push this horrible project as aggressively as possible before the real truth is realized. By then, they hope it will be too late for California to reverse itself.

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.

State Announces 2010 as the Year of the Checkpoint

More than 2500 Checkpoints Planned Throughout the Year

Sacramento – Including the past holiday travel season, state traffic safety officials continued to tighten their firm grip on drunk drivers by and declaring 2010 as “The Year of the Checkpoint” and announcing a record \$8 million in grant funding to 148 law enforcement agencies for DUI checkpoints – up from \$5 million in 2009. The California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) will fund more than 2,500 sobriety checkpoints in 2010, a 47 percent increase over the 1,700 conducted in 2009. More than 250 took place between December 18 and January 3 as part of the December DUI Crackdown enforcement campaign, Report Drunk Drivers. Call 911.

“To my knowledge, California conducts more checkpoints than any other state,” said OTS Director Christopher J. Murphy. “DUI checkpoints are time-tested and proven as the most effective DUI countermeasure and I’m gratified that we’re seeing the life-saving results.”

Since OTS and law enforcement began placing increased emphasis and funding toward sobriety checkpoints in 2006, alcohol-related deaths have declined in California. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) Fatality Analysis Reporting System, DUI deaths declined in California by 9.1 percent between 2007 and 2008, marking a total decrease of nearly 21 percent from the most recent high point

in 2005. In addition, statewide DUI arrests in 2008 were 214,811 – the highest since 1993.

“The California Highway Patrol will join more than 400 local agencies across the state over the next two weeks and throughout next year, taking part in sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols and multi agency task force operations to get drunk drivers off the roads,” said CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow. “The public can help by, first and foremost, planning ahead before you celebrate and designating a non-drinking driver. If you see a drunk driver, call 911.”

All the research points to DUI checkpoints as a major contributor to the declines. When checkpoints are mounted effectively and regularly, studies have shown up to 25 percent declines in alcohol related deaths and injuries.

OTS will fund checkpoint operations by the CHP and regional ‘Avoid’ DUI task force programs covering 42 counties and over 400 local police departments. Increased checkpoints will target California’s “Top 50 DUI Cities” with even more sobriety checkpoints in 2010. The number of OTS-funded DUI checkpoints in these ‘Top 50 DUI Cities’ topped out at 605 in FFY 2009. With increased funding, that number is expected to hit 975 in 2010, an increase of over 60 percent.


In addition to the checkpoints, the state’s traffic safety and transportation departments are

working together on multiple enforcement and public education fronts, with OTS, CHP, Caltrans, Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) all playing major roles. Among private sector partners in the effort are more than 1,300 7-Eleven stores throughout California and 115 Raley’s supermarkets in Northern California that have joined the campaign to promote the Plan Ahead. Designate a Sober Driver message.

“We are grateful for and heartened by the support of 7-Eleven and Raley’s management and employees,” said Director Murphy. “By working together to encourage customers to use a sober designated driver when they celebrate, we can prevent serious DUI tragedies this holiday season.”

This special campaign is one of many tactics that are part of the on-going anti-DUI effort from the California Strategic Highway Safety Plan. The plan lists the reduction of impaired driving-related fatalities as its first Challenge Area. Grant funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will be administered by the OTS through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. For a list of the “Top 50 DUI Cities” and 148 special DUI grant cities, visit www.ots.ca.gov.

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by Pastor Ray Dare

Luke 5:38 (Living) “New wine must be put into new wineskins.” You are the wineskin and the new wine speaks of the new things God wants to do in your life. As you think about the New Year, you’ll be facing a lot of new situations. Specifically you’ll face new problems, you’ll face new opportunities to grow, and you’ll face new possibilities. Each of these will require a new response, new perspective, new habits, and a new action. So as we start the New Year let’s pause for a minute and think about “What does the New Year require of me?”

New Problems Require New Perspective. I hate to tell you this but you’re going to have problems in 2010. You say, “Oh, no! Not the same old problems!” No. Some new ones. These will be even better ones. Some of them will be even bigger. You say, “Oh, no! I don’t want that!” But God says, “I’m not going to remove your problems. Instead I’m going to make you a stronger person.”

You can’t solve tomorrow’s problems with today’s solutions. New problems require new

What the New Year Requires

perspective. How many times have you ever caught yourself saying, “But we’ve never done it that way before.” Whenever I hear that, do you know what I think? That’s an old wineskin. “We’ve never done it that way before.”

Our attitudes are kind of like diapers. Sometimes they have to be changed or the situation starts stinking. You’ve got to get out of your old mindset. Maybe you’ve got a problem and you haven’t been able to solve it. Maybe God is saying you need to look at it in a new way. You need to approach it from a new angle. You need to try it from a new point of view. Ask yourself, “In what way do I need a new perspective?”

New Growth Requires New Habits. So often we get stuck in a rut. Most everything you do is habitual. The way you get up in the morning, the way you shower, the way you eat. Even the types of food you eat are pretty much habitual. The way you dress. The way you go to work. If you’re going to change, you’re going to have to change some habits. What new habits do you need to develop this New Year? Maybe it’s a new habit of getting involved in a Bible study or a new habit of having a regular prayer time every day. Or a new habit of reading the Bible. Or a new habit of tithing ten percent of

your money. I don’t know. But I can tell you this: if you’re going to grow this next year, you’re going to have to change some habits. Ephesians 4:24, *“Put on your new self, which is made in the image of Christ.”* Ask yourself, *“What new habit do I need to develop?”*

New Possibility Require New Action. There are two things you can be sure about in life. One, you can’t live in the past. Two, you can’t live off the past. The Christian life is one of constant renewal, growth, development, progress, faith and commitment. The level of faith that you had last year was great for last year, but it’s not going to cut it in 2010. You need to grow. I can say without a shadow of a doubt that God has a lot of great things in store for you this new year but you have to act. New possibilities require new actions. Don’t try to live off of last year’s commitment. God’s going to give you greater opportunities in this New Year. Ask yourself, “What new possibility requires my action today?”

Join me this Sunday at 10am as I share a message of hope and possibility entitled **“How To Make The Most Of the New Year.”**

See you Sunday, Pastor Ray

New Community Christian Church
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by Marlys Johnsen Norris

Tradition might inspire us to make a New Years Resolution, but the truth of that is, few people live up to it in the end. Realistically we know that what-ever we did in the past year will carry over into the New Year and its called sowing and reaping. However, a brand new year has begun and with it comes the anticipation of new adventures and new beginnings. Unrevealed good and bad events that will make or break our lives

Happy New Year!

and ultimately chip away those places that need to be removed to build our character. Events God allows in our lives to draw us closer to him and help us submit willingly to His divine will for our lives.

Out of will of God-- no one will find or experience the fulfillment, meaning and purpose He desires to give to all of His creation. Refusing to be in God’s will is--sin. That empty void continues the Creator of the universe created in each of us, where His Spirit is to live. It’s like having an empty room in your house for a guest who is never invited in the door to occupy it.

It is an awesome thing to realize God’s preparation of His residence within us. He desires every one of His creation to be “alive” with His Spirit and to “know” Him. This is

how He provides the gift of eternal life, but also provides help and protection in the now. God’s Spirit supernaturally gives instinctive qualities of knowledge because of His occupancy in an individuals life who has made the decision to open the door of his/her heart and invite Jesus Christ to live within. In a hundred different ways God knocks at the door of ones heart. His Word says, “Behold I stand at the door, and knock; and if anyone hear my voice and opens the door, I will come in and sup with him and he with Me.” (Rev. 3:20) A Happy New Year begins going God’s Way!

Marlys Johnsen Norris, Author
Marlys5934@sbcglobal.net
“Intimacy Begins Going God’s Way”
“God Moves Mountains, It was a Miracle”

Finding Inner Peace During Troubled Times

Christian Newswire - Peace is perhaps the most elusive, miraculous phenomenon in the human experience. From children arguing on the playground to world powers storing up weapons, we clearly struggle to coexist peacefully with each other. Yet for all our efforts to generate peace between people, we often overlook the importance of finding peace within ourselves. Though we long for this inner peace, our world full of war, famine, bank collapses, pandemics, and day-to-day struggles has discouraged us from even trying to find it.

In Finding Inner Peace During Troubled Times, author William Moss shows readers that inner peace is indeed attainable in the person and presence of Jesus. As a high-powered businessman and a key political decision-maker, Moss has faced his share of daily distractions. For over a decade, he has studied and practiced the lost art of Christian meditation.

“I believe God wants us to find peace and will show us the way, if we are willing to accept it,” says Moss. “There are many difficulties, distractions, and hardships that stand in the way of our inner peace. Through prayer and meditation we can transcend all the distractions and difficulties of our days if we live by the Spirit and put God’s love and presence first.”

Many are wary of any form of meditation because of its association with Eastern religions. Christians might be surprised to learn that meditation was regarded as a key spiritual discipline throughout church history. Eastern meditation focuses on emptying the mind completely. Christians find inner peace by filling their minds--with scripture and with the presence of the Holy Spirit. Another fundamental difference is the motivation behind the meditation. Peace, like life, is a gift from God that is for His glory--and it is meant to be shared. For those who are in Christ, meditation is not about practicing the kind of self-focus that precludes people from being involved in the solutions of the many problems that confront them. It is communion with God through the Holy Spirit. It is letting go of anger, worry, and fear and taking on the loving, serving character of Christ instead.

Finding Inner Peace During Troubled Times uses key scriptures to demonstrate God’s gift of peace to every believer. This slender book encourages readers to be intentional about pursuing that peace, even including a simple, step-by-step example of Christian meditation

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Prayers & Novenas

MOTHER THERESA PREDICTION 2009

You were chosen to receive this novena. The moment you receive it, say:
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven, give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

"Father, please protect and bless the person reading this message..."
GOD WANTED ME TO TELL YOU. It shall be well with you this coming year. No matter how much your enemies try this year, they will not succeed... You have been destined to make it and you shall surely achieve all your goals this year. For the remainder of 2009 and all of 2010, all your agonies will be diverted and victory and prosperity will be coming in abundance. Today God has confirmed the end of your sufferings, sorrows and pain because HE that sits on the throne has remembered you... He has taken away the hardships and given you JOY. He will never let you down.
This is a Novena from Mother Theresa that started in 1952. This is a powerful Novena.

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Attempted Bank Robbery in Citrus Heights

Citrus Heights - On 1/4/2010, at approximately 1340 hours, a female Hispanic or Arabic subject, approximately 5'4"-5'6", heavy, wearing a black sweater and dark pants, approached a teller window inside the bank, and slid a plastic bag underneath the security window. The bag had a note attached to it that read the subject demanded money and the bag contained a bomb. After placing the bag under the security portal, the suspect waited a few moments, turned and fled the bank. The suspect did not say a word and did not get away with any money. Police officers arrived within minutes, but did not locate the female suspect in the area. The bank was evacuated for the safety of the bank employees.

Due to the suspicious nature of the package, CHPD notified the Sacramento County Sheriff's Bomb Squad and they responded to the scene. Bomb squad detectives conducted an investigation and determined the package not to be an explosive. The package (plastic bag) was empty. The Citrus Heights Police Department is conducting follow-up on the crime. There were no injuries. Persons with information on the suspect's identity or have information regarding this crime are requested to contact the Citrus Heights Police Department at (916) 727-5500. For further information, please contact the Watch Commander.

Intersection Collision Turns Fatal

Sacramento - On December 16, 2009, at approximately 12:39 a.m., Monica Colton a 36 year old from Sacramento was driving a blue 1997 Chevrolet Cavalier on westbound Madison Avenue at Auburn Boulevard in the #3 lane at an unknown speed. Kym Goodman, a 49 year old from Sacramento was driving a silver 2004 Kia Spectra on eastbound Madison Avenue making a left turn onto northbound Auburn Boulevard at an unknown speed. As Goodman was making the left turn, the Cavalier was also entering into the intersection and the front of the Cavalier struck the front of the Spectra. The Spectra spun out of control and came to rest facing in a southerly direction. The Cavalier spun out of control and came

to rest partially on the west sidewalk of southbound Auburn Boulevard. The Spectra caught fire and citizens came to the aid of Goodman and pulled her from the vehicle. The citizens left the scene before Officers arrived. Goodman was transported to Mercy San Juan Medical Hospital with complaint of pain to her chest and leg. Colton sustained fatal injuries as a result of this collision. Both parties were wearing seatbelts at the time of the collision. The California Highway Patrol is asking anyone who may have witnessed this collision to please contact the North Sacramento CHP office at (916) 338-6710 or after hours at (916) 861-1300. This collision is still under investigation.

Checkpoint Results

Citrus Heights - The Citrus Heights Police Department held a DUI/Drivers License Checkpoint on Saturday, 12-17-09, 8:00 pm to 2:00 am. The checkpoint took place at Greenback Lane and Arcadia Drive. DUI/Drivers License Checkpoints involve vehicles being stopped randomly as they drive through a specific location. Drivers are briefly contacted to determine if they are impaired; and/or licensed. Unlicensed drivers may have their vehicle towed. Those drivers found to be under the influence are arrested.

The goal is to improve traffic safety by removing impaired and unsafe drivers from our roadways. 1,523 vehicles drove through the checkpoint, 15 vehicles were towed, 3 drivers were arrested for DUI, 24 citations were issued. Drivers are reminded not to drink and drive. If you are going to drink, please use a designated driver. Funding for the grant comes from the University of California at Berkeley SafeTREC through the California Office of Traffic Safety.

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Welcome to America Emma!

A Facebook Voyage to Ring in the New Year



Friends and Family welcome Emma to California. Photo by Amanda Morello.

By Amanda Morello

For several months I have had the privilege to read as the Klein Family shared their journey to adopt their second child, Emma Nichole Asnakech Klein from far off Africa on their Facebook Pages. This young couple, Aaron and Cacey, adopted their first child, Spencer, from South Korea. As I looked through their profile and took a glimpse into this young family’s life, the problem of orphaned children around the

world became more of a reality. I came across staggering statistics about worldwide orphans during the 2 year celebration of Spencer’s Adoption Day. Aaron posted “There are 134 million orphaned children around the world. 130,000 waiting forever for families in the U.S. foster care system. Every 18 seconds another child becomes an orphan. Every 15 seconds a child loses a parent to AIDS. And my favorite statistic: it only takes ONE person to make a difference

in the life of a child. You!” Almost a year after adopting Spencer, the Kleins decided to start the process of adopting another child in October of 2008. There would be a few posts about their process, but mostly they shared about their love and excitement of their son Spencer. On July 2, 2009 the excited couple announced that they will be parents again! They were given the name and photo of their new baby girl born April 18,


2009, Emma Nichole Asnakech Kleinher. They posted, “Her birth mother gave her the Ethiopian name, which means “no one is like her.” She is currently at the Holt International Care Center in Durame, and we expect to travel to Addis Ababa in two to four months to bring her home, depending on the legal process and visas, etc.” On December 20, Cacey and Aaron began their 11 day journey to Africa to bring their new daughter to America! Spencer

stayed back with grandparents who also helped the growing family finalize the purchase of their new home. The Facebook posts were frequent and exciting. The 32 hour plane rides, countries they had to travel through and obstacles they hurdled were shared including the much awaited first sight of their “beautiful little princess.” As the adoption process was being finalized on December 29th, Aaron posted “Stuck in Africa. Need a few Congressional

Offices to Advocate to Federal Government.” Remember, this is two days before New Year’s and during Winter Break for Government Officials. Within an hour, this social network began helping the Kleins. They posted that there were over 100 reposts and re-Tweets to help get Emma to America. The next post read, “McClintock’s Office on the Case.” The waiting game began. We saw posts about the farewell ceremony from the Care Center and their first night together at the hotel. The next morning waiting on the computer screen was a post, “Aaron, they give you your visa today. Your “Senator” say” Our Profound thanks to Congressman McClintock and his amazing staff!” Finally, the two-day journey back home began. More Facebook posts about their layovers, including a stop in Sudan, and an invitation for anyone who would like to welcome them home. Finally arriving at Sacramento International Airport at 11:53 pm on New Years Day, Spencer finally saw his little sister for the first time! This beautiful little girl is now home with her family. She will have opportunities and freedoms in life that she would never have had in Africa thanks to a loving couple that traveled around the world to receiver her, a remarkable elected leader and a social network. I am thankful that I was able to be part of one of the happiest and special days of their lives all thanks to a Facebook “Friend Request.”

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CindySue Jones Bids Farewell



CindySue Jones
Orangevale – My mother, God rest her soul would always say, “When God shuts one door he always opens another”, she has never been wrong about that. As some of you know, the Orangevale Chamber is moving in a new direction in 2010, and I am

moving in another direction myself. All is good because a new door has opened in my life. I would like to take this moment and Thank each of you for welcoming me into your busy life. Moreover, during the time I have been with the Orangevale Chamber, I have gotten to know so many of you and some of you have become close to me. In addition, each of you has gone to great lengths to support me while I have been with the Orangevale Chamber. Thanks for making this a great job and one that I am very proud to say, “I did make some difference while I was there”.
Now I am not totally out of sight, you will see me at the up coming mixers or any other networking events. You know I am a Pampered Chef consultant and I will be bringing

that business back to life again. This is a positive transformation.
Check out my website at www.pamperedchef.biz/CindySueCookingParty and keep an eye out for my advertisement in the paper.
I would like to take this moment and acknowledge JoAnn Swars an Orangevale Chamber office volunteer for over 3 years. She has been faith full in her duties and she has made such an enormous difference by being in the office. I would like to say “Thank You” to her dedication and say how much I appreciate all she has done. I know I have made a friend for life along with each of you. May 2010 be one filled with love, friendship and great success in all that you do.
Sincerely,
CindySue Jones and the Jones gang!!



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by David Dickstein

Family Films



The Spy Next Door
Opens Jan. 15, rated PG
thespynextdoorfilm.com

His days of playing straight action heroes long gone, Jackie Chan plays an undercover CIA superspy on the brink of retirement in this family action-comedy. Before leaving a career in espionage to pursue the girl of his dreams, he assigns himself one last mission: to win over her three high-maintenance children. Sounds like “Spy Kids” meets “Are We There Yet?”

Hoodwinked Tool: Hood vs. Evil
Opens Jan. 15, rated PG
[no official site at press time](#)

If the sequel is half as witty as the 2006 original, fans of fractured fairy tales are in for a treat. Red Riding Hood (voiced by Hayden Panettiere, replacing Anne Hathaway) is again the focus, this time going through training in a far away land with a covert group called the Sister Hoods. Red’s new skills are put to good use when she and the Wolf are asked to investigate the disappearance of Hansel and Gretel.

Films and DVDs for the Whole Family

The Tooth Fairy
Opens Jan. 22, rated PG
toothfairy-movie.com

The meanest player in hockey, who alone has extracted more teeth than some odontontists – earning him the nickname “The Tooth Fairy” -- is given the ultimate penalty by having to be a real tooth fairy for a week. Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson stars as the goon. Ashley Judd, Billy Crystal and Julie Andrews co-star..



Family Home Entertainment

Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging (ages 12-16, rental only, PG-13): Nearing her 15th birthday and the party of parties, Georgia stops at nothing to nab the hot, new boy in school away from her archrival. Well done by “Bend it Like Beckham” director Gurinder Chadha. Some suggestive themes and language make this one to watch without pre-teens in the room. Grade: A

Bugs Bunny’s Cupid Capers (ages 4-10, released Jan. 12, not rated): Love, Looney Tunes style hits Bugs, Elmer Fudd, Tweety, Porky Pig and other cupid-targeted characters in this collection of animated shorts packaged for Valentine’s Day sales. Amorous skunk Pepe Le Pew offers up the biggest laughs. Grade: A-

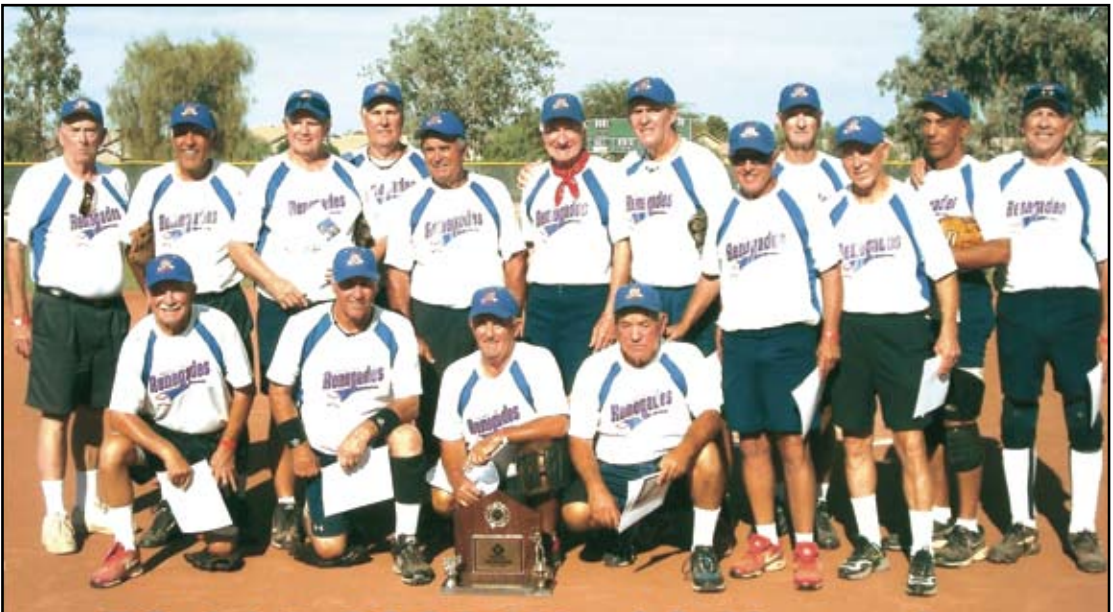
Call of the Wild (ages 9-15, just out, rated PG): Getting a contemporary 3-D makeover is Jack London’s classic story of a young Montana girl who attracts the attention of an evil stranger after she rescues an injured wolf. Stars Christopher Lloyd, Joyce DeWitt, Timothy Bottoms and, as 9-year-old Ryan, Ariel Gade. Two pairs of special 3-D glasses are included, along with a 2-D version. Grade: B



Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (ages 4-10, released Jan. 5, rated G): Stretching the thin storyline of the popular children’s book for a full-length animated feature means the film adaptation bears little resemblance to the source material. Still, the yummy yarn of an inventor who makes it rain food over the tiny town of Chewandswallow is a savory treat. Grade: B+

Scooby’s All Star Laff-a-Lympics (ages 3-9, released Jan. 19, not rated): A wacky cross between the Olympics and TV’s “Battle of the Network Stars, this series originally aired Saturday mornings in the late-’70s. DVD includes four episodes and an extra from another Scooby spin-off featuring Shaggy and the goofy great dane. Grade: B

Renegades Are 2009 World Champs



Members of the World champion Nor-Cal Renegades are, kneeling, (l to r) Norm Blum, Dick Bach, Bob Petersen and Manny Vasquez. Standing (l to r) manager Mike Bayne, Ray Garcia, John Figlar, Larry Heise, Al Fereria, Dave Fairchild, Ken Byrnes, John Teves, Herb Epple, Ed Robinson, Norm Gilbert and Don Holt.

With it’s first-ever World Championship safely tucked away, the Nor-Cal Renegades now have its sight set on yet a bigger stage – the Tournament of Champions at Lakeland, FL, Feb. 12-14, 2010. The TOC features winners of 18 national and world tournaments of senior softball.

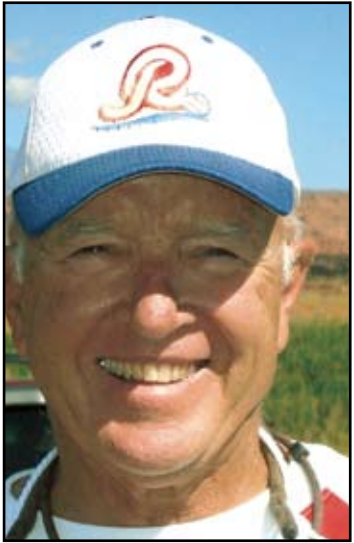
The Renegades posted a perfect 8-0 record at Phoenix in capturing Senior Softball USA World Championship in the 70 AAA division. All players must be at least 70 years of age to compete. Second baseman John Teves led the attack with a .842 batting average which included 10 runs batted in, two doubles, two triples and a home run. Teves was voted Most Valuable Player for the tourney by his peers as well as selected to the All-World tournament team.

Other Renegades voted to the team included pitcher Don Holt; catcher Larry Heise; shortstop Ken Byrnes; and outfielder Herb Epple. Byrnes knocked in 19 runs during the four-day annual event and slugged six triples while collecting 19 hits.

Each player receives specially designed championship rings for their effort. The World Championship title followed a similar feat by the Renegades when it walked away with the World Masters title at Las Vegas in late September.

With one loss, the Renegades faced elimination from the tournament when it rebounded with a lopsided 22-8 triumph over New Concepts from Albuquerque, NM.

The Renegades then had to face undefeated Lighthouse Loans from Westlake Village, CA. In the first meeting, the Renegades romped to a 15-3 victory forcing an “if” game between the two 1-loss teams.



Second Baseman John Teves

In the championship battle, the Renegades jumped out to a 11-0 lead midway through the third inning and never looked back in coasting to 22-8 decision over their Southern California rivals. Al Fereria, who batted .824, was named the MVP and chosen to the All-World team along with Holt, Teves, Dick Bach and Norm Gilbert. Bach hit .750 for the three-day tourney, drove in 20 runs, with 18 hits including a home run and four triples.

The Renegades began its major championship run in Woodland in August by capturing the California State Championship after nearly being eliminated by Lighthouse Loans.

After breezing through the

seeding round undefeated, the Renegades began double-elimination play with a 16-6 win over Lincoln Hills that setup a meeting with Lighthouse. Lighthouse prevailed, 9-8, putting the Renegades into the loser’s bracket. An 18-2 win over the California Gold Rush led to a rematch with Lighthouse.

The Renegades trailed throughout the seven-inning contest and were down 14-6 after five innings. In the sixth, the Renegades pecked away and got within three but Lighthouse added a run in the top of the seventh. At 15-11 things were not looking good for Nor-Cal. The Renegades picked up a run and then loaded the bases with two outs. Merv Mill hit a drive to center field for a grand slam home run and the Renegades escaped with a 16-15 come from behind win leading to a showdown between the two once-beaten team.

In the championship battle, the Renegades got off to a fast start and coasted to a 15-2 triumph. Fereria, Holt, Gilbert, Manny Vasquez and Ed Robinson were named to the All-State tournament team. In all, the Renegades have won eight tournaments in 2009 and have compiled an overall record of 62-26.

The Renegades continue to search for sponsors which are difficult to find during the current economic conditions. Anyone who might be interested can contact team treasurer Richard Bach at 962-3329 or 214-3329 for further information.

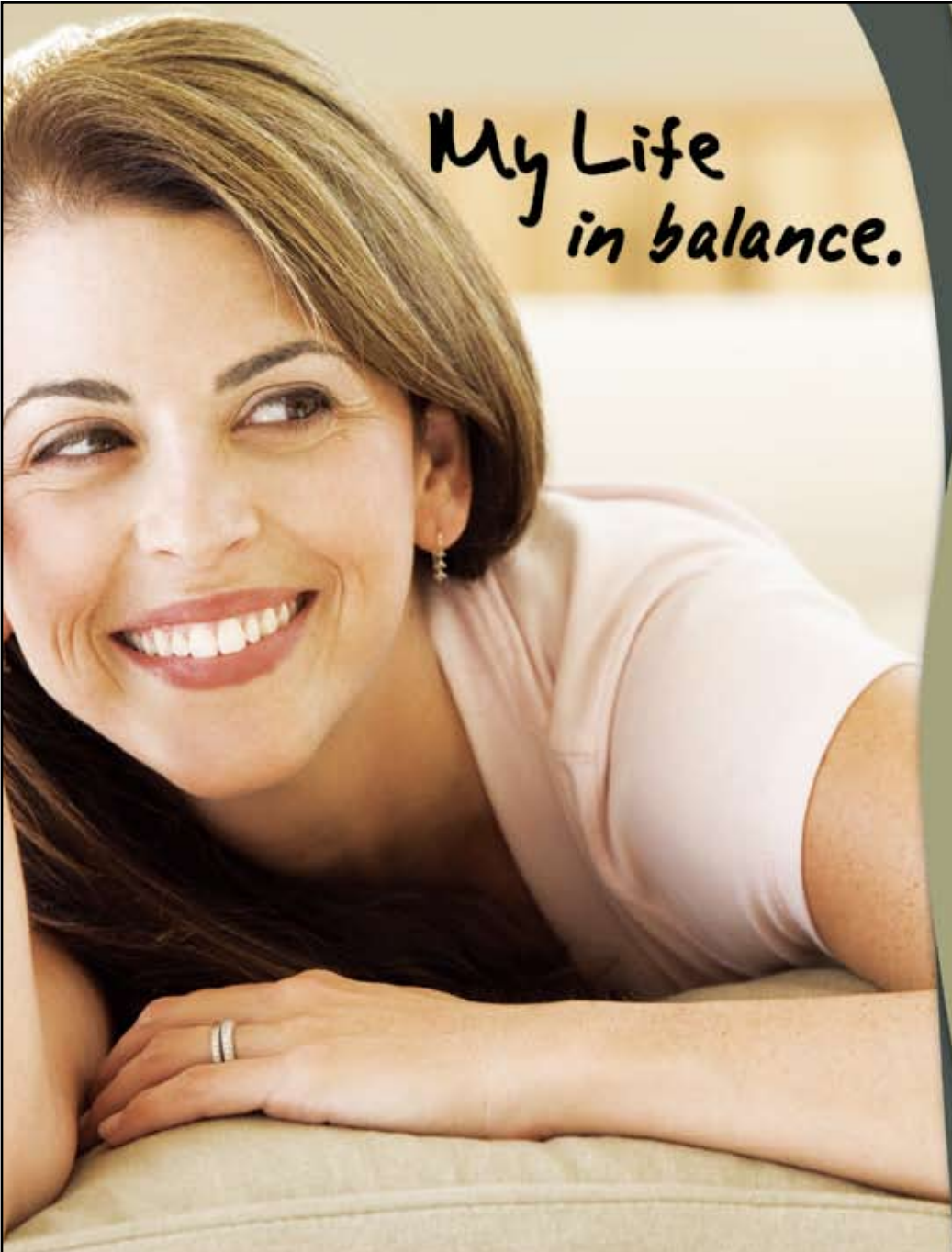
Jason Feldkamp Shines in the Desert

Congratulations to 2009 Stingray of the Year Jason Feldkamp (10) and his phenomenal performances at the Desert Thunder Holiday Swim Festival at Chandler High School in Arizona the weekend of December 3-4, 2009. This Trials and Finals meet drew hundreds of talented USA swimmers from the southwestern United States. Jason had the third highest point total overall finishing: 1st in the 50 breast (38.73 AA) 2nd in the 50 free (29.13 AAA) 3rd in the 100 IM (1:13.54 AAA), 50 back (34.69 AA) and 100 yard breast (1:24.65



2009 Stingray of the Year Jason Feldkamp (10)
AA) 4th overall in the 200 free (2:19.54 AA) and 100 fly (1:15.55

AAA) 5th in both the 100 free (1:04.42) and the 200 IM (2:38.79 AAA personal best by 2.08 seconds) Jason has also somehow found the time to add to the excitement of his holiday season by competing at the National USA Track and Field (USATF) Cross Country Championships in Reno, Nevada the weekend of December 12—13 where he finished 80 out of 210 runners. He qualified for this prestigious competition by finishing 13 in his age group at the USATF Pacific Championships November 28, 2009.




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