

# AMERICAN RIVER MESSENGER

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May 2007, First Edition

## NCP Presents 2007 Book Awards



Susan Maxwell-Skinner receives her awards.  
Photo by John Skinner

By Marlys Johnsen Norris  
Northern California Publishers and Authors held their Annual Installation of Officers and Book Awards Banquet on April 27th at Coco's Restaurant. It was an exciting evening for many authors. President Barry Schoenborn presided over the event.

The evening's ceremony opened with the announcement of the 2007-08 NCPA Officers: President: Barry Schoenborn, Vice President: Bill Potts, Secretary: Michele Avanti, Treasurer: Carol Ryan, Membership: Ken Umbach, Newsletter: Ken Umbach, Web Master:

Sandra Williams, and Publicity: Marlys Norris presented each book award recipient with a beautiful plaque inscribed with their name and the name of their book.

The brightest three stars of the evening each topped the scales with three separate individual awards.

The Book Award winners were as follows:

**OVERALL BEST BOOKS:**  
Gold: "Hubie and the Fire Service," by William C. Teie.  
Best Interior Text, Images, Graphics and Best Exterior Hardcover:  
Silver: "Deer in My Garden, Volume 1," by Carolyn Singer.  
Best Exterior Design, Best First Book  
Bronze: "Carmichael: Americana on the Move," by Susan Maxwell Skinner, Best

Interior Photos/Photo Layout, and Best Exterior Softcover Award.

**Best in Class Awards:**  
Best Children's Book: "Buz Words Discovering Words in Pairs," by Maria Felicia Kelly; Best Juvenile Fiction: "GreHee: The Journey of Five," by Michele Avanti; Best Business/Technical Book: "Service Agreements for SMB Consultants," by Karl Palachuk;

Best Political Commentary: "Bushopedia," by Bill Potts  
Best Nonfiction Book: "The Donner Party: Weathering the Storm," by Mark McLaughlin.

**Other Special Awards:**  
Innovation Award: "The High Rider y Otros Quentos," by Hector R. Barrera;

Media Package: "The Huna Warrior: The Magic Begins," by Jennifer Martin;  
Honorable Mentions  
Essays: "Chatter to Flatter Your Platter," by Moj Dehghan; Humorous Essays: "Dad, You are NOT Going Out Wearing That!" by Tim Herrera; and General Fiction: "Beloved Vagabond," by Lew Osteen.

## Metro Fire District Awards Ceremony

By Jill Conner  
On Thursday, March 29th, Metro Fire held their Annual Awards Ceremony. This year we started a new tradition for our Awards ceremony. We had a catered luncheon to honor the Employees of the Year, the Employees reaching the 25, 30 and 35-year milestones, the Media Recognition Awards, and we also gave out Company or Division Citations and Commendations of Valor. The ceremony was held at the Rancho Cordova City Hall in the American River rooms, which were beautifully decorated for the occasion.

Many dignitaries were in attendance, including Sheriff John McGinnis and several members of his staff, Rancho Cordova Police Chief Reuben Meeks, Citrus Heights Police Commanders Mark Boettger and Bryan Roberts, Director Tom Lawson, Rancho Cordova Council Member Dan Skoglund, Citrus Heights Mayor Jeff Slowey and many others. The luncheon was led by Master of Ceremonies, Assistant Chief Mark Van Brunt who introduced the Honor Guard and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ward Cockerton led the invocation and Chief Mette then welcomed his guests.

Receiving awards for 25 years of service were: Reserve Firefighter Dennis Berry, Captain Rusty Dupray, A/C Michael Johnson, Fire Chief Don Mette, Engineer Don Morris, Engineer Dave Sinclair and Captain Jim Vell. Receiving awards for 30 years of service were: Reserve Firefighter Terry Barnes, Captain Dan Franke, Captain Randy Johnson, Captain Jack Knight, Captain Rex Paulsen and Engineer Ken Sordillo. Receiving an award for 35 years of service was Captain Mike George.

Next were the awards for Employees of the Year in the categories of Line Personnel, Support and Reserve Firefighter of the Year. This year's recipients were: Line Personnel - Engineer Bob Werner and Support Personnel - Public Education Senior Technician Brenda Briggs. The Reserve Firefighter of the Year Award went to Mark Siebert.

Next were the Peer Recognition Awards, which were awarded to: Reserve Firefighter Terry Barnes, Captain Steve Cormier, Firefighter Adam House, Logistics Technician Gary Lascelles, Office Technician Alex Lawrence, Captain Henry Ogg, Firefighter Pat Plexico, Assistant Fleet Manager Shea Pursell,



Brenda Briggs receives her Employee of the Year Award.  
Photo submitted by Jill Conner

Equipment Technician Joshua Snuffer and Captain Mike McKenna. Media Awards went to KCRA Assignment Editors and to News10 Assignment Editors.

This year, Metro Fire also awarded Company or Division Citations and Commendations of Valor. The Company or Division Citations, which were for outstanding acts or service performed as a company or division, were awarded to 27 of our employees for two different incidents within our district. The first was for incident 07-9557, which was the January 23rd incident involving a

person down a well. The other incident was for incident 06-73507, the June 27, 2006 rescue on the Rainbow Bridge.

Commendations of Valor, which are for Outstanding performance and bravery in saving a life, were awarded to Engine 55, B shift, with the crew of Captain Kevin Almeida, Engineer Mark Mattox and Firefighter Timothy Beard and to Engine and Medic 62, A shift, with the crew of Captain Rick Griggs, Engineer Craig Von Chance-Stutler, Firefighter Tom Hutchinson, Firefighter Carl Powell and Firefighter Rashawn Fulcher.



Michael Allen, of HR Allen

The Citrus Heights Chamber of Commerce is introducing the Lunch and Learn Program to local business owners. This free program will provide information on how to

## Lunch and Learn Program

successfully establish, maintain, and grow a small business. Topic areas will include finance, human resources, administration, information technology, operations, management, legal issues, marketing, and sales. The program is designed specifically for the small to medium-sized business owner that would not otherwise have access to this important information.

The Lunch and Learn Program will take place in the Citrus Heights Chamber Meeting Room on the first Tuesday of each month, between the hours of 11:30 am and 1:00 pm. Speakers will be limited to Citrus Heights Chamber of Commerce members. Attendance will be open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to bring business cards

for networking and a brown bag lunch.

On June 5, 2007 the speaker will be Michael Allen of HR Allen Consulting Services, who will discuss 2007 Labor Law Updates. Areas of discussion will include Hiring & Terminations, Compensation, Discrimination and Harassment, Leave of Absences, and Workers' Comp. Mr. Allen has an extensive background in Human Resource Management functions. For more information on HR Allen Consulting Services please visit [www.hrallencs.com](http://www.hrallencs.com)

For more information on the Lunch and Learn program please contact Jane Culich at Roseville IT Consulting (916) 342-5468.

## County Assessor to Reduce Values

Reflecting the fact that much of the residential real estate market has experienced a recent decline, Sacramento County Assessor Ken Stieger announces that the Assessor's Office has reviewed the market values of residential properties in Sacramento County and will be reducing the assessed values for over 50,000 properties on the 2007-08 property tax roll.

In late April, the Assessor's Office will send notices to the owners of these properties, notifying them that the assessed value of their property will be reduced for the 2007-08 property tax roll. The notice will advise affected owners of their new Proposition 8 assessed value and will also include their Proposition 13 factored value for comparison.

Generally speaking, properties purchased in 2005 and later are affected. Most decreases will range between 5% and 10%. These decreases will be reflected on tax bills issued in October of 2007.

This is the second major cycle of assessed value reductions since Proposition 13 passed in 1978.

The previous one started in 1992. At its peak, some 130,000 parcels received temporary reductions in assessed value. When the real estate market experienced a resurgence in the late 1990's, the Proposition 8 assessments were phased out, and the affected properties returned to their Proposition 13 factored base year values.

By law, the Assessor must annually enroll either a property's Proposition 13 value (factored for inflation by no more than 2% annually), or its current market value on the Lien Date (January 1), whichever is less. When current market value falls below Proposition 13 value, that lower value is commonly referred to as a "Proposition 8 Value." Proposition 8 reductions are temporary. When the Assessor discovers that market value is greater than Proposition 13 factored value, the Assessor must reinstate the lower Proposition 13 factored value.

The vast majority of properties in the county, some 400,000 parcels, will continue to be assessed under Proposition 13 provisions. They

will not be receiving notices.

The anticipated decrease in assessed value for the 50,000 properties should approximate \$1,500,000,000, and will result in a revenue decrease equal to 1% of that amount, or \$15,000,000. This decrease will be offset by an overall roll growth of approximately 9%, or \$11 billion.

Assessor Stieger also wishes to alert the public that property owners may receive solicitations from private businesses and individuals offering assistance in this process for a fee. While property owners are certainly at liberty to use these private companies, they can apply for this reduction themselves at absolutely no cost simply by writing a letter or otherwise contacting the Assessor's Office.

Taxpayers may visit the Assessor's web site: [www.assessor.saccounty.net](http://www.assessor.saccounty.net) for more Proposition 8 information or call the Assessor's Proposition 8 Customer Service Line at (916) 875-0455.

## Do You Know What to Do?



Lisa Taylor - Presenter  
Xisters' Networking, Avalar Real Estate & Mortgage Network

and the Rancho Cordova Seventh-Day Adventist Church invite you to attend a "DISASTER AWARENESS SEMINAR"

Are you prepared for a National Disaster or a terrorist attack? Would your children know what to do? Do you know how to take care of the elderly during a crisis, or your pets, or how to turn off the gas and water in case of emergency?

Come and find out how to get yourself and your family prepared in case of a local or national disaster. Help your family by being prepared and getting the proper knowledge now!

This is a seminar you don't want to miss! The seminar is free, so please invite your family and friends to attend with you!

The seminar will be held on May 20, from 2:00 am - 6:00 pm, at 3045 Viking Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95827.

Refreshments and entertainment will be provided for adults and children. For more information, Contact Lori Thomas (916) 871-9994, or Lisa Taylor (916) 616-0466. Refer to the website for additional information. [www.xistersnetworking.com](http://www.xistersnetworking.com).

## Niello Supports Prison Reform Plan

SACRAMENTO - Assemblyman Roger Niello (R-Fair Oaks) today voted in favor of a prison reform package that will address California's prison overcrowding problems.

"I commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for putting the safety and security of California families first, and acting responsibly to solve California's prison overcrowding problems without weakening important tough-on-crime, public safety laws," said Assemblyman Niello. "Working together, we have crafted responsible reforms that will expand prison capacity to house the dangerous criminals, and improve rehabilitation programs to reduce recidivism."

Key provisions of the bipartisan

prison deal include authorizing the construction of 53,000 new prison beds at state and local correctional facilities, along with expanded facilities for vocational education, rehabilitation programs and drug treatment. Republicans were successful in preventing the early release of prisoners or a sentencing review commission from being included in the final plan, arguing that such a plan would threaten public safety.

In addition to adding capacity, other provisions of the reform plan include an evaluation of current rehabilitation programs to new reforms to help rehabilitate inmates and prevent them from going back to prison. Job training programs will be expanded, and system-wide reforms will be

implemented to facilitate, without unnecessary delay, the hiring of the additional health professionals and correctional officers needed to effectively operate the state's correctional system.

"Regrettably, prisons are essential infrastructure and this bill recognizes that as California's population continues to grow, it is necessary for essential infrastructure to grow as well. This plan will keep the federal courts from dipping into California's general fund and taking important resources from other critical state programs and will help restore accountability and transparency in the operations of our troubled prison system," said Assemblyman Niello.

**DUTCH TREAT**



By Dennis Packard

**Where is the Bamboo Forest?**

Thirty-two years ago my wife, Stacey, and I were shocked and disappointed when we flew into Honolulu for the first time. It didn't seem possible, but after renting an automobile, we found ourselves in a traffic jam surrounded by smog and tall buildings. "This is not Hawaii!" I spit and coughed, "We're in downtown L.A.!"

I have no idea what we expected. Any postcard of Honolulu shows the tall hotels along the beach with Diamond Head in the background. We never saw postcards of the over crowded streets and road rage behind these buildings.

Fortunately, in 1975, once you crawled out of the downtown jungle we were able to fill our eyes with ferns growing wild along side the curb, glorious white sandy beaches, fields of pineapples, waterfalls and an ocean that someone had dyed deep blue. Then, to our delight, we discovered even less concrete and asphalt as we ventured to Maui, Kauai and the big island of Hawaii.

In December 2006, we were again slapped atop our heads with a big disappointment stick. Flying directly into Maui to attend a wedding, we took off from the airport in a rental van with our daughter and her husband. A tear began to form in the corner of my eye after passing a Costco, Safeway, Target, Macys, McDonalds and a Jack in the Box. What happened to the Bamboo Forest and the wild orchids? Then, to crush my heart even further, we stopped at a Wal-Mart because my wife forgot to pack a bathing suit for me. Yes, it was her job. I refuse to take any responsibility. I can't fold anyway. If I did pack a suitcase, each piece of clothing would be neatly rolled to form a cloth ball. It pays to be ignorant.

After driving fifty miles on the one highway that surrounds Maui we entered a quaint Harbor and the small whale village of Lahaina. To our dismay, tall buildings and large shopping centers began to appear again. The two-lane street that once took you through the middle of town that viewed sailboats and whales pushing geysers of sea water up through their blowholes was now replaced with an expressway that circled far outside the perimeter of the Harbor. The blue Pacific wasn't even in sight.

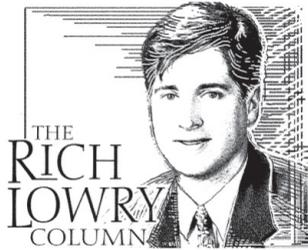
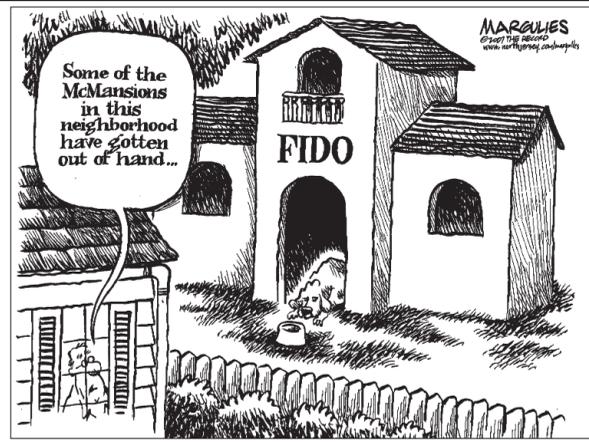
The following day, my whole family climbed back into the van. This time we dropped off the expressway and edged ourselves to Lahaina for lunch. We circled the town three times to find a parking spot. We discovered a questionable space and took our chances.

"Lahaina's Hawaiian Cheeseburgers" restaurant on the beachfront was a unanimous decision. After a 45-minute wait we were seated next to an open window with a beautiful ocean view. I personally downed a third pound cheeseburger piled high with a large grilled slice of pineapple. To wash down my meal I ordered a tall "Lava Flow"—a blend of a Pina Colada and a Strawberry Daiquiri. It was 1:30 p.m., Hawaiian time, but I informed everyone that I was still on Sacramento time and it was 3:30 in the afternoon. Everyone ordered "Lava Flows."

Absorbing the 84-degree temperature, we all strolled the boardwalk after lunch. Soon, I began to melt into the south sea culture with my bright flowery Hawaiian shirt, shorts long enough to cover my knobby knees, sandals and my straw hat. The shops were loaded with plastic souvenir trinkets. I wasn't interested. And then I saw it, and I grabbed my plastic gift and stood in line with the other tourists. It was a must. I bought a small ukulele for my 16-month-old granddaughter traveling with us.

And as full as my tummy seemed, driving back to the hotel, my mind began to wander and I kept thinking of that stack of macadamia nut pancakes smothered in coconut syrup I'll be devouring the following morning.

Quip for the Day: If you can't get away for a vacation, you can get the same feeling by staying at home and tipping every third person you see. P.S. Check out my new web site [www.dutchtreatwebsite.com](http://www.dutchtreatwebsite.com)



**Fighting for Farm Subsidies**

Spinach might not seem to have anything to do with military operations. But there it is, in an emergency supplemental bill to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan: \$25 million for California spinach growers, whose vigorous, martiallike spinach-growing had heretofore not been seen as part of the war effort.

The war bill illustrates the axiom that guides the nation's agricultural policy: namely, that any principles of good government, common sense

and fiscal sanity must always be abandoned in the cause of shoveling federal dollars at American farmers. Its \$4 billion for disaster relief, together with millions for peanut storage, sugar-beet production and the Milk Income Loss Contract Program, isn't unusual, except for the fact that it was used to buy votes for a pullout from Iraq. For House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, apparently, all geopolitics is local, and some of her members are happy to lose a war if they can win a subsidy.

Otherwise, the ag spending is unremarkable, part of the perpetual bi-partisan, farm-spending gross-out.

Disaster relief is always a rationale for giving money to farmers and ranchers, some of whom are so disaster-prone that they must be living on the set of the biblical-plague movie "The Reaping." A study of the past 21 years of emergency disaster aid by the Environmental Working Group found that most farmers and ranchers rarely receive

the aid, but a small minority "are chronically dependent on disaster aid and over two decades have collected it one year out of every two or three, if not more frequently."

Roughly 21,000 recipients collected "disaster aid more than 11 years out of 21, amounting to \$2.5 billion," or nearly 10 percent of the total disaster aid of \$26 billion in that period. This highlights another rule of federal agricultural spending -- it tends to benefit very few farmers and ranchers.

Over the past decade, most farmers (66 percent) didn't receive subsidies, but among those who did, a select 10 percent received 73 percent of all payments, according to EWG. That means they raked in more than \$120 billion from 1995 to 2005 and received an average of \$34,000 a year. Some of them are very rich, and they effortlessly evade the notional annual-income cap on subsidies of \$2.5 million.

With a debate concerning a new farm bill set for this year, the Bush administration is

proposing ending subsidies for 80,000 rich farmers. It would reduce the income cap on subsidies from \$2.5 million to \$200,000, saving \$1.5 billion over the next 10 years.

It also would close loopholes exposed in a recent Washington Post series, including one that enabled corn growers to game the government for an additional \$3.8 billion in 2005 and one that makes it possible for nonfarmers to still receive subsidies.

The Bush proposal already is facing opposition on Capitol Hill. The president is about to get a lesson in congressional resolve. Facing down enemies overseas is too arduous for a Congress that wants us out of Iraq by next year. But if someone dare attempt to diminish farm payments? Well, then, Congress will fight on the beaches, in the fields and in the streets.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*. (c) 2007 by King Features Synd., Inc.

**California: Nanny (State) 911**

by Adam B. Summers

There is a domestic emergency, of sorts, in California these days. Unlike the popular television shows, however, the nanny is the problem, not the solution. No, California's problem is much worse than a misbehaving toddler; it is the overzealous politician (and those nosy neighbors who support them). Some might call these audacious au pairs petty tyrants, but they are tyrants nonetheless.

Having failed to resolve such serious problems of the day as the State's structural budget deficit, crumbling infrastructure, declining public education, and public pension funding crises, impetuous politicians have taken it upon themselves to decide for us what kind of light bulbs we should buy, what kind of food we should eat, and even that ever-present grocery store conundrum: paper or plastic?

Yes, today the State Legislature is rife with so-called "nanny bills." The following are just some examples of the nanny measures that are currently working their way through the legislative process in Sacramento:

· AB 722—Would "phase out" the sale of incandescent light bulbs in favor of more energy-efficient fluorescent bulbs (despite the fact that

harmful levels of mercury from fluorescent bulbs can add up in landfills, contaminating the soil and making their way into the food supply)

· SB 7 — Would ban smoking in a vehicle—moving or stationary—in which there is a minor

· AB 86/AB 90/AB 97/ SB 490 — Would restrict the use of trans fats in restaurants and school cafeterias

· SB 120/SB 180 — Would require caloric, trans fat, saturated fat, and sodium content information to be printed on restaurant menus

· AB 1634 — Would require dog and cat owners to spay or neuter their animals by four months of age

Then there is the recently-passed San Francisco ordinance that will require the city's larger grocery stores to use recyclable paper bags (costing 3 to 5 cents apiece) or biodegradable plastic bags (4 to 10 cents apiece) instead of the traditional plastic bags (about 1 cent apiece). Adding insult to injury, Supervisor and ordinance author Ross Mirkarimi said it would be "mean-spirited" for retailers to pass on these higher costs to consumers instead of dutifully licking the hand that beats them and absorbing the losses. At the state level, a new law that takes effect July 1 will require

retailers to provide plastic bag recycling containers, print a recycling message on bags, and offer reusable bags for sale.

On their own, each of these bills might appear to be merely a minor trespass on our liberty. As such, many might not lift a finger to fight them and instead quietly acquiesce, but that is what makes them so dangerous. Those small transgressions quickly add up. One day we may realize that all those minor violations of our liberties amounted to a large loss of freedom. By then it will be too late. As philosopher and economist David Hume said, "It is seldom that liberty of any kind is lost all at once."

In short, government is turning into the homeowners association from Hell. It is time to ask ourselves again what the proper role of government should be. Government, if it must exist at all, should exist to protect the lives and property of its citizens against those who would violate these most basic of individual rights. It is not to make every decision for its citizens and dictate the course of their lives.

As Assembly Republican leader Mike Villines has astutely argued, "Could you imagine the Founding Fathers dealing with—I don't know—wearing a helmet when you're in the buggy? We

all know you can't mandate behavior; it just does not work. It creates criminals of people for things that are not criminal behavior."

The point is not that recycling grocery bags or abstaining from smoking in the presence of children or spaying/neutering your pets are bad ideas. It is that we should not have the power to compel everyone else to live their lives the way we think they should. We must be free to make our own decisions (even the bad ones), so long as we do not infringe upon the rights of others. If we turn over all our decision-making power to politicians and bureaucrats, we have become nothing more than a bunch of sheep blindly following our shepherd master. Then again, perhaps that is what those in power in government ultimately want.

Adam B. Summers is a policy analyst at the Reason Foundation. He has written extensively on privatization, government reform, law, and economics. He holds an M.A. in economics from George Mason University and B.A. degrees in economics and political science from the University of California, Los Angeles.

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**AMERICAN RIVER MESSENGER**



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# AMERICA'S HEROES

## Record A Veteran's Story

(NAPSA)-A national volunteer effort, started by a unanimous vote in the U.S. Congress, has been collecting the oral histories of America's war veterans. Over the last six years, the Veterans History Project (VHP), which is part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress, has collected more than 45,000 firsthand recollections-an impressive number. But it's only a fraction of the over 17 million stories the Project would like to add to the permanent collections of the Library of Congress.

This collection of stories of valor, sacrifice and love is unique in that it has been assembled by volunteers from all across the country. The stories become part of our nation's recorded history and are available to anyone who wants to share or learn from these

reminiscences-either in person or online.

As an interviewer, you are, in essence, a volunteer historian, recording a story that you're unlikely to get from a textbook or a typical historical account. And just as important, you are honoring our veterans by taking time to learn about their experiences as combatants or civilians who worked in jobs in direct support of our armed forces. It's as easy as having a conversation-only you're recording it on audio or videotape and maybe even gathering collections of letters, photographs or other historical documents.

You can become a volunteer historian and a part of this important program. Just go to VHP's Web site and learn step by step how to get involved. All

it takes is a few hours of your time and your desire to honor a veteran. Start with veterans in your extended family. Record their stories; make a copy for the Library of Congress and your own family archives. Become a part of the Veterans History Project and become a part of history. It's a wonderful way to acknowledge and pay tribute to the men and women who have given so much to their nation.

Visit VHP at [www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets), e-mail [vohp@loc.gov](mailto:vohp@loc.gov) or call the toll-free message line at 888-371-5848.



## Gold Star Mothers *by Penny Howard*

Every war kills another generation of young fighting men and women, and produces another generation of Gold Star Mothers.

On Memorial Day our nation honors the generations of young men and women who answered the call to duty and died in the service of their country. The young warriors went off to war shouting battle cries, such as "Remember the Alamo" and "Remember the Maine."

"The War to End All Wars" was the great battle cry of World War I. They were convinced they were fighting to bring everlasting peace to their nation and the world. Everyone rallied around the flag, and patriotism was high. The home front went all out in support of the war effort. When the war ended the victorious troops returned home to a hero's welcome. However, that battle cry was forgotten when a generation later the sons of the World War I soldiers went off to war shouting another battle cry, "Remember Pearl Harbor."

Again patriotism was high as the home front planted Victory Gardens, attended bond-selling rallies, and sacrificed many everyday comforts in support of the troops.

Next came the Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom in Iraq, and numerous other actions and interventions around the world. However, no galvanizing battle cries were heard to inspire and unite the troops, and the fervent patriotism of the previous wars was conspicuously lacking in these later conflicts.

Whether the country was united or divided about our participation in these conflicts, it made no difference on the battlefields because our young warriors were still dying, and their families were still grieving.

Out of the aftermath of World War I there arose an organization of women, with chapters in most of the fifty states in America. In spite of the pride they have in their organization and the good they do through volunteer efforts in the Veteran's hospitals

and elsewhere, none of these women want to see the membership increase. And there isn't a single one of them who wouldn't give anything not to belong.

Who are these women? They are the American Gold Star Mothers. The one and only qualification for membership in this elite organization is to have had a son or daughter killed in the defense of their country.

Beginning with World War I, a small flag or banner with one or more blue stars on a white background hung in the windows of the homes of men serving in the military. If a serviceman from that home was killed, a gold star was superimposed over the blue star to signify his death. Therefore, mothers whose sons were killed became known as Gold Star Mothers.

From a small group of twenty-five mothers in Washington, D.C. in 1928, they have grown into a National, non-profit, non-denominational, non-political organization dedicated to helping veterans and their families, assisting at Veteran's Hospitals, promoting patriotism and love of country, and inspiring respect for the Stars and Stripes in the youth of America.

Gaining new members through battlefield casualties is not the objective of these mothers, for they know only too well the personal and emotional price paid for that membership. But, as long as there continue to be wars, the Gold Star Mothers will be there to open their hearts to comfort and console the new members. They all share a common bond.

Today, as our nation pays homage to those brave servicemen and women who gave their lives in the line of duty for their country, let us also remember and honor our Gold Star Mothers. They, too, have made the supreme sacrifice for the defense of their country. A part of them died when their sons or daughters were killed. Their heartfelt plea now and forever is, "Stop the wars. No more members, please".



# VETERANS POST

*by Freddy Groves*

## Broken: The Disability Rating System

Severely injured personnel being given low disability ratings is a topic near and dear to my heart. It's been difficult to hear all the stories and have to wonder if the low ratings stem from incompetence -- or are intentional. Now we have some answers -- not all, but some.

In 2006, the Secretary of the Army directed the Inspector General to conduct an inspection of the Army Physical Disability Evaluation System to "determine if policies, procedures and execution meet the needs of soldiers and the institution

of the Army." The 311-page report recently came out. Here's some of what it reveals.

- Time standards are not being met. The Army isn't keeping to the DoD standards (perhaps only considering them to be guidelines?) for processing Medical Evaluation Board cases.

- There's no formal or standardized training for commanders, medical hold and medical hold cadre, USAPDA personnel, medical board officers and physical evaluation board liaison officers. There is no course of instruction to train those who evaluate the injuries of soldiers.

- Databases used to track information are inaccurate and unreliable, partly because

of lack of training, and it leads to "inaccurate reporting" of the status of soldiers in the system.

And here's a bad combination: The majority of soldiers interviewed didn't understand the differences between the Army and VA disability ratings, AND the majority of medical-holdover soldiers had little or no contact with their home station unit or chain of command.

Keep 'em in the dark and out of touch, and you get a soldier who doesn't know to fight for a higher disability rating.

*Write to Freddy Groves in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send an e-mail to letters.kfws@hearstsc.com. (c) 2007 King Features Synd., Inc.*

## Assemblyman Niello Names Vanessa McCarthy-Olmstead District Director



Ms. McCarthy-Olmstead  
SACRAMENTO – Assemblyman Roger Niello (R-Fair Oaks) has appointed

Vanessa McCarthy-Olmstead as his new District Director.

While Ms. McCarthy-Olmstead is new to Assemblyman Niello, she is by no means new to the 5th Assembly District, having served in the District Office of former 5th District Assemblyman and now 1st District Senator Dave Cox for the past six and half years.

A graduate of the University of San Francisco, Ms. McCarthy-Olmstead has extensive experience in public service, having also previously served under San Francisco Supervisor Leland Yee prior to joining Assemblyman Cox.

"I am fortunate to have someone with Vanessa's experience serving in my district office, where she will be able to help my constituents navigate their state government and represent me during those times when I can't be in two places at once," said Assemblyman Niello.

Ms. McCarthy-Olmstead will be working out of Assemblyman Niello's district office located at 4811 Chippendale Drive, Suite 501, Sacramento, 95841. She can be reached at (916) 349-1995 or via email at [mccarthy@asm.ca.gov](mailto:mccarthy@asm.ca.gov).

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## Monthly Military Retiree/Spouses/Widows Meeting

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for 9 May 2007. We have a change in venue and we will meet in the former McClellan AFB Chapel on Dudley Blvd. Our meeting starts promptly at 10:30 AM. Our speaker for the May monthly meeting is Mary Gillon and she will talk about the dreaded disease ALZMEIMERS. Come out and enjoy a cup of coffee furnished by the Outstanding Commissary Staff at McClellan. Questions can be directed to our volunteers at: (916)561-7476.

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# Celebrating Motherhood

Interviewed by Marlys Johnsen Norris



Carole Franklin with her mom Irene Boling of Citrus Heights.

Years have been gracious to Irene (Lundstrom) Boling who turned 91 years young last October. She is still a vibrant beautiful mother who enjoys life. Mrs. Boling's love and energies centered on her family. She said, "My sister Gladys was eight years older than myself. Childhood was a little lonely for me, because I never knew anyone else in my family other than my mother and father. For me, family has been my number one interest." Her parents were both Swedish, her mother born in Kansas and her father in Sweden. "My father's father lived in Sweden, and it is said he was the special tailor for one of the country's kings." Mrs. Boling cherishes both of her parents' Swedish Bibles which hold little notes scribed by her mother. As she holds them with deep respect, Mrs. Boling states, "I will one day leave these to my children, to pass on to future generations."

Mrs. Boling is the mother of two: Daughter Carole Franklin (retired teacher) of Orangevale and son John (family counselor) of San Francisco. She is a proud grandmother of three: Kristine Stuteville, Michael and Andrew Franklin; and great-grandmother of five: Cassie and Zachary of Fair Oaks, and Michael Jr., Eric and Mason of Orangevale.

Mrs. Boling was born in Los Angeles, where she lived until age four when her family moved first to Terra Bella and then to Covina in Southern California. At the time Covina was very small country town full of orange groves, twenty miles east of Los Angeles before there were freeways. Her father worked as foreman on one of the orange ranches. Those were the years of the great depression and work was hard to come by. Reflecting back, she said that those years were particularly hard because her father died unexpectedly and her mother, who had never worked before, had to go to work cleaning homes for affluent people in the area to provide the basic needs for the family.

During her high school years she served as President and a delegate to Girls League. In her freshman year she met her future husband, Everett Boling. Graduating from high school in 1932, she worked as a salesgirl and, later, as Secretary for J. J. Newberry Company in Covina. Those were the years when young men were drafted into the service, and Everett was called into the Air Force, stationed in Hawaii. He returned home, they were married in 1935 and moved to Oahu, Hawaii where he worked with Civil Service until he was transferred back to California in 1940 to work. They lived near McClellan Air Base until 1945, when they moved to Citrus Heights, where she is still a faithful resident.

Mrs. Boling has seen many changes through the years in Citrus Heights. "When we moved here, Madison Avenue did not exist. There was only one

'Halls' grocery store on Mariposa (which then ran north and south). They put an addition on the grocery building that included a variety store and Post Office that were operated by Mr. and Mrs. Woods. . . . [T]here was a "Stop and Shop" on Auburn Blvd. that became the first big shopping area. Then, in the '50's came the Tom Thumb Market. There were no freeways, and if a person wanted to go out to eat there were only two restaurants, one in Sacramento and one in Roseville. If a person wanted to see a movie, we had the choice of two movie houses in Sacramento or two in Roseville. We had a little airport in Fair Oaks by the name of Phoenix. One of my favorite places to go was Sylvan Corners, a small triangle of park-like ground, when it was truly a "tree shaded area." There were very few homes anywhere. No stop and go lights, just stop signs. There was little traffic and the speed of automobiles was modest also. Where the . . . Mall now stands, on Sunrise, there were a lot of trees, pasture and cows. My husband used to say, 'I took you to the country, but now the city has come to you!'"

During the years, Mrs. Boling belonged to the Patrons Club for the American River College (which used to be called "Mudtech" because the land was always muddy). She worked as historian of the group to beautify the landscape of the college. They even had Endura Ghandi as a speaker one year. Mrs. Boling served on the board of San Juan High School PTA, and as President and Secretary of the Wives of the Lions Club. Other clubs to which she still belongs are the Birthday and the Pinochle Card clubs. In the '50's she took dance lessons to learn the hula and performed with the Minsky Brown Dance Troup of Fair Oaks. Mrs. Boling has a huge sparkle in her eyes as she says her favorite song is "You Light Up My Life," the gentle tone of her voice exuding warmth and love. In her spare time she enjoys reading good books, stating "I read all the time." She loves the knowledge she gains from the written word.

Mrs. Boling and Everett planned to travel. Sadly, he passed away in 1979, just before his passport arrived. Mrs. Boling had several friends whose husbands did not care to travel, so she decided to see the world with them. They visited Egypt (where she rode a camel), England, Germany, Holland, Italy, France, Mexico, Panama Canal, Alaska and Canada together.

A sweet, genuine and endearing woman, Mrs. Boling remains loyal to the teachings of her mother. When she recently had a pacemaker installed, she found peace in her heart as she quoted this saying, "There is no life, truth, intelligence, no substance in matter. All is infinite manifestation, for God is all in all. Spirit is immortal truth; matter is mortal error. Spirit is the real and eternal; matter is the unreal and temporal. Spirit is God, and man is His image and likeness, therefore, man is not material, he is spiritual."

Mrs. Boling said, "The motto of my life would be-- Do your best what-ever you do!" She believes a clean life, accepting people the way they are, is important. Having tolerance of others and investigating something thoroughly before making any decision is wise. Giving people the benefit of the doubt is truly exemplifying God. Her advice: "Live, learn, and experience taking advantage of whatever opportunity is offered to you, and learn from your mistakes."

Mrs. Boling is a truly an endearing mother's mother!

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## THE MORTGAGE MANAGER



Now that spring is here people will begin moving again. It happens every year about this time as home buyers get spring fever just like the rest of us. Although home prices have remained relatively stable with little movement in prices up or down, let me give one word of caution: Go slowly, and make good decisions.

It's very easy to get excited about buying a new home or refinancing your home to buy that shiny boat. Although nationwide we are down to about 250,000 real estate and mortgage professionals, you still need to move about with caution. We will always have that element that is in this for the dollar, not the long haul. Those of us who are in it for the long haul have difficulty with that other way of doing business, as they make our job difficult. So ask your friends and family who they recommend. If they would use someone themselves, go for it. If not, get another referral to someone who has been used before and can be trusted.

There are a ton of us out there who really do this for fun and not for a paycheck. We are the ones you want to work with. And once that relationship is established, keep in touch with that person and use them every time. You should use that person much like you would your doctor or dentist. They really have that much stake in your overall financial well-being. Think of it for a moment, that person will help you with one of the largest transactions you will

ever do in your lifetime. Make sure you take it very seriously.

This article is normally used for reader education, but let me talk about something I recently accomplished. I completed a certification program for mortgage professionals; that is no small deal. I went through some pretty tough testing and passed with a certification as a Certified Mortgage Planning Specialist. So now, after that wonderful name I obtained from my parents, is listed the letters "CMPS." Further, I have been offered a radio show on KTKZ 1380AM/105.5FM on Saturday mornings from 9:30 to 10 AM. So we have some really fun things to get excited about now. I hope you will listen in, and let me educate there as much as I do here.

You can contact Ed Wacaster, CMPS at 916-677-0996 or at ewacaster@rpmortgage.com

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# Fugitive Returned from Malta

Sacramento, Calif.: Drew S. Parenti, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation(FBI),announced the arrest and return of fugitive Lewis Muscat, age 60, of Sacramento from Malta the evening of April 25, 2007. A Special Agent of the FBI and a Sacramento County Sheriff's Department detective traveled to Malta to transport Muscat back to the United States, landing at San Francisco International Airport. On 1/13/06, an Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution (UFAP) arrest warrant was obtained for Muscat from the United States District Court, Eastern District of California. The federal arrest warrant was obtained after investigation by the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department indicated

Muscat had fled Sacramento to his native county of Malta. A complaint filed in the Superior Court of California, Sacramento County, on 1/6/06 charged Muscat with 18 counts of Lewd Act on a Child under 14 years of age, 1 count of Possessing/Controlling Obscene Matter Depicting a person under 14 and 1 count of Distribution or Exhibition of Lewd Material to a Minor, violations of California Penal Codes 288(B)(1), 311.11(A) and 288.2(A) respectively. On 3/1/06, Muscat was arrested in Malta per a provisional arrest warrant and had been held in custody while he fought extradition to the United States. On 4/9/07, Maltese law enforcement authorities advised the FBI Muscat could be extradited to

California. Muscat was brought back to Sacramento through the FBI's "Project Welcome Home" program which provides funding to assist in the timely transportation of FBI fugitives back to the United States, where the repatriation by the host country is to occur through deportation and/or expulsion procedures. The program provides funding in UFAP matters in which the underlying offenses include but are not limited to homicide, manslaughter, rape, aggravated assault, assault with a dangerous weapon, armed robbery, kidnapping, sexual battery, and extortion. Upon his return to Sacramento, Muscat was lodged at the Sacramento County Main Jail.

# Giuliani Electable as Third-Party Candidate

(PRWEB) April 2007 -- His poll numbers are high and his approval numbers are the best of all 2008 presidential candidates. But many are starting to question the long-term viability of Rudy Giuliani as the Republican nominee because of his not-so-conservativepoliticalviews, says PresidentPolls2008.com. According to the U.S. presidential election poll-tracking Web site, once the primary season comes around and the "true" conservatives start to vote, that demographic may begin to sway away from "America's mayor." Since Giuliani has mass appeal among independents and moderates on both sides,

this leaves voters with a very interesting scenario: What if John McCain wins the primary? How would Giuliani fare if he ran as an independent? PresidentPolls2008.com ran a two-week straw poll on its Web site ending on March 31. The poll read, "Who Do You Support For President?" and the answer choices were in the following order: a)McCain(R), b)Giuliani (I), and c) Hillary Clinton (D). Party affiliations were placed in parentheses. Results showed Clinton leading with 47 percent, followed by Giuliani at 37 percent, and McCain receiving 16 percent of 264 total votes cast. Giuliani had nearly 2.5 times the support

as McCain, and these initial results seem to indicate McCain to be unelectable at election time -- in large part because of his conservative policies, according to PresidentPolls2008.com. Giuliani -- a much more moderate figure -- could reap the rewards, and receive much of McCain's party support. The poll indicated that Giuliani has solid backing from independents, moderates, and party loyalists. On the Democratic side, Clinton has been placed to have as high as a 47 percent no-vote response, and Barack Obama has far less of a definite no-vote result -- and may end up being a more electable candidate in the general election for this

very reason, according to the Web site. The previous month, PresidentPolls2008.com ran a straw poll across party lines, and noted the following percentages indicating overall support: Democratic Party (51 percent); Republican Party (41 percent), and Independent Party (8 percent). These numbers made sense because a large majority of Independents are Republicans dissatisfied with the war in Iraq, and are unsure how they will place their votes, explained the site. PresidentPolls2008.com archives the national and state presidential election polls from top-polling companies and Web sites.

# California's Postpartisan Leviathan

by Anthony Gregory  
Politicians never seem to tire of patting themselves on the back for their willingness to reach across the aisle and cooperate with each other, as if "bipartisan agreement" is some sort of glorious end in itself. The California Assembly has just passed a \$7.4 billion prison-construction plan by a vote of 70 to 1. The lawmakers approved the bill under heavy pressure from federal judges, who threatened to release some prisoners early if the state didn't address its continuing problem of horrible prison overcrowding. The Assembly also reportedly rushed the plan through to ease the burden on Governor Schwarzenegger, who has a lot on his plate right now. The prisons have for years been overflowing, and the California system now houses about twice its capacity in inmates. California and the

United States lead the world in incarceration rates, rivaling most European nations with seven or ten times the per capita prison population. This situation is an obscenity, resulting largely from crusades against victimless crimes, such as the war on drugs, which accounts for many tens of thousands of people convicted not for a crime against another person, but for a crime against the state. The cost to taxpayers is outrageous. What's worse is the savagery inflicted on peaceful people. The system is characterized by police brutality and prisoner-on-prisoner rape and violence. Even many actual criminals shouldn't be in prison but should be made to pay restitution to their victims. The whole institution of the modern prison needs to be rethought by everyone seeking a humane and sensible world.

But addressing the core problems is much harder for politicians, it seems, than squandering ever more tax dollars on the same old big government "solutions." Instead of freeing some of the many thousands of Californians who shouldn't even be in prison or looking at the problems of the criminal justice system and its laws, the governor and legislators will just throw billions more at the problem, which should keep the breaking point at bay for the time being, but not for long. Proud of this "achievement"—spending another \$7.4 billion of other people's money (an average of more than \$200 per California citizen)—Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez, a Democrat from Los Angeles, said, "The days of 'gotcha' politics are over in California. We're ready and willing to continue working" together.

The cooperation between Schwarzenegger and Democratic lawmakers has been called a practice in "post-partisanship." Last year, the Republican governor signed off on global warming legislation, a program to reduce prescription drug costs and a minimum wage raise—issues where Democrats have traditionally favored an active, expansive government role and Republicans have supposedly been more cautious of turning to government for answers. The governor, since his election, has been known for his grand bond initiatives for schools and unprecedented budgets to bolster infrastructure. Last year, he began flirting openly with moves toward socialized medicine. And in the last week, he has threatened to sue the Environmental Protection Agency for not allowing stricter enforcement of environmental regulations in California. Having Republicans approve all the big government programs in the Democratic agenda and the

Democrats approve all the law-and-order crackdowns and new prisons in the Republican agenda is not a reason to celebrate. It does not signify a new hope or usher in an era where both "sides" in California politics can agree on everything, where they can put their differences behind them, join hands, and sing "Kumbaya." No, what we have here is something quite insidious: A situation where the leadership of neither party in Sacramento seems interested in cutting government, or even slowing its growth, in virtually any area. Now everyone in power agrees that more government is always the answer. It is a good thing when parties disagree, after all. That's what they're supposed to do. The goal of an adversarial political system is to have at least two sides of a given policy debate represented. But there is no debate any more. Republicans are as happy about expanding the welfare

state as the Democrats are, if not more so. Democrats are as thrilled to build more prisons and expand the police state as the Republicans, if not more so. Both sides cooperate to steal our freedom and money, as their government "solutions" do nothing but create vastly more problems to be addressed down the line. California's "post-partisan" era of unanimous support for leviathan is not a sign of enlightened times. It is a tragedy and demonstrates the need for radical change. Anthony Gregory is a writer and musician living in Berkeley, California. He earned his bachelor's degree in history at U.C. Berkeley, where he was president of the Cal Libertarians. He is a research analyst at the Independent Institute, a policy advisor for The Future of Freedom Foundation, a guest editor of Strike The Root, and a contributor to Rational Review, LewRockwell.com, Antiwar.com, The Libertarian Enterprise, and Liberty Magazine. Libertarian Party of California | 14547 Titus Street | Suite 214 | Panorama City | CA | 91402-4935

Democrats approve all the law-and-order crackdowns and new prisons in the Republican agenda is not a reason to celebrate. It does not signify a new hope or usher in an era where both "sides" in California politics can agree on everything, where they can put their differences behind them, join hands, and sing "Kumbaya." No, what we have here is something quite insidious: A situation where the leadership of neither party in Sacramento seems interested in cutting government, or even slowing its growth, in virtually any area. Now everyone in power agrees that more government is always the answer. It is a good thing when parties disagree, after all. That's what they're supposed to do. The goal of an adversarial political system is to have at least two sides of a given policy debate represented. But there is no debate any more. Republicans are as happy about expanding the welfare

## CRIME REPORTS

From The Sacramento County Sheriff

### Fair Oaks

Sunday, April 15, 2007  
Public use area 2412 Narcotics 4/15/07 19:01 - 19:01 Illinois Ave  
Total reports received 4/15/2007: 1

Tuesday, April 17, 2007  
Vehicle 2414 Burglary From Vehicle 4/16/07 16:30 - 17:15 Madison Ave  
Total reports received 4/17/2007: 1

Wednesday, April 18, 2007  
Vehicle 2406 Burglary From Vehicle 4/17/07 11:00 - 15:00 California Ave  
Total reports received 4/18/2007: 1

Thursday, April 19, 2007  
Other/unknown 2418 Aggravated Assault 4/19/07 02:00 - 07:56 Madison Ave  
Residence/home 2403 Burglary Residential 4/19/07 07:00 - 23:30 Pennsylvania Ave  
Residence/home 2408 Burglary Residential 4/19/07 07:30 - 17:00 Lena Way  
Parking lot/garage 2404 Simple Assault 4/19/07 15:15 - 15:17 Fair Oaks Blvd  
Total reports received 4/19/2007: 4

Friday, April 20, 2007  
Other/unknown 2402 Burglary Business 4/20/07 03:30 - 03:44 Sunrise Blvd  
Total reports received 4/20/2007: 1

Saturday, April 21, 2007  
Residence/home 2406 Vandalism 4/21/07 02:50 - 02:50 Olive Ave  
Vehicle 2413 Vandalism 4/21/07 22:00 - 22:10 Yoloy Way  
Total reports received 4/21/2007: 2

Sunday, April 22, 2007  
Parking lot/garage 2419 Larceny/Theft 4/21/07 23:00 - 4/22/07 03:00 Dewey Dr  
Total reports received 4/22/2007: 1

Tuesday, April 24, 2007  
Vehicle 2402 Burglary From Vehicle 4/19/07 10:00 - 16:30 Sunrise Blvd  
Vehicle 2401 Burglary From Vehicle 4/23/07 21:30 - 4/24/07 09:15 Palmyra Dr  
Vehicle 2401 Burglary From Vehicle 4/23/07 22:30 - 4/24/07 06:30 Palmyra Dr  
Total reports received 4/24/2007: 3  
Report Count: 14

### Orangevale

Monday, April 16, 2007  
Vehicle 2517 Burglary From Vehicle 4/16/07 04:45 - 08:00 Greenback Ln  
Vehicle 2515 Narcotics 4/16/07 05:00 - 05:15 Greenback Ln  
Total reports received 4/16/2007: 2

Tuesday, April 17, 2007  
School/college 2503 Burglary Business 4/17/07 00:44 - 00:51 Trajan Dr  
Vehicle 2515 Burglary Business 4/17/07 01:19 - 01:33 Greenback Ln  
Highway/road/alley 2503 Aggravated Assault 4/17/07 18:40 - 18:47 Coyote Ct  
Total reports received 4/17/2007: 3

Friday, April 20, 2007  
Vehicle 2519 Vandalism 4/19/07 21:00 - 21:45 Greenback Ln  
Total reports received 4/20/2007: 1

Sunday, April 22, 2007  
Highway/road/alley 2514 Narcotics 4/22/07 01:20 - 01:30 Vallejo Dr  
Total reports received 4/22/2007: 1  
Report Count: 7



**Peggy Boling**  
Daughter  
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peggyboling.com



**Mary Ann Henrikson**  
Mother  
**247-7070**  
maryann@goldriverhomes.net  
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\$739,999	<b>Gold River</b>	Motherlode Village. 4 br + large bonus room. Butler yard pool, spa & waterfall. 4 car garage.
\$669,00	<b>Gold River</b>	Mother Lode Village. 4/5 bedroom, bonus room. Backyard paradise. Pool, spa, natural slide. Outdoor Kitchen
\$639,000	<b>Gold River</b>	Huntington Village. Single level. 2800+ sq ft. 3 br, 2 ba. 4 car garage. Gated village. Courtyard surrounded by french doors.
\$629,000	<b>Gold River</b>	Prospect Village. 5 br, 3 ba, 3100 sq ft. This model has not been available in many years. Quaint village 80+ homes, surrounded by walking trails.
\$589,000	<b>Gold River</b>	Prospect Village. 4 bed, 3 bath, single level. Prkwy location & 3 car garage
\$538,000	<b>Curtis Park</b>	Brick Tudor. Leaded glass windows, hardwood floors and new roof.
\$529,000	<b>Gold River</b>	Marshall Village. Single level, 3 bedroom, 3 car garage. Beautiful private yard, pool, spa. New roof.



# Fair Oaks News & Views

## Chamber of Commerce President's Message



Angela Talent - President, Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce

May 5th was the Fair Oaks Chamber's 58th Fair Oaks Spring Fest. The activities began with Channel 31 & 13 at a Toilet Bowl Race held right before the Parade. We cannot thank the Fair Oaks Water District enough for working so diligently to have the press cover the event!

We were also excited to have the Bicycle air show sponsored by Bob's Bicycles, what a turnout!!

Those of you that had a chance to make it out to the Spring Fest most likely noticed the abundance

of families taking advantage of Park Plaza and the Village Park. Many spectators stayed for hours on end enjoying all of the activities available.

What is in store next? The next event will be "A Taste of Fair Oaks" held June 8th at the Northridge Country Club. You can go online to [www.atasteoffairoaks.com](http://www.atasteoffairoaks.com) to purchase tickets or call the chamber office.

Thank you again for your dedication and support!

## You Can Make a Difference

By Penny Howard

What do you fear the most? Hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, wild fires, and floods are all true and legitimate fears for many people; that is, until they are hit with the big "C" word.. That's right, it's "CANCER".

Cancer knows no geographical, political, or economic boundaries, and it is totally non-selective in its victims. It can strike anyone, from infants to the elderly, and any area of the body.

Being diagnosed with cancer is like a kick in the stomach. It leaves you stunned. This was the reaction for Laurie Davis-McNerney and her husband, Lou, in September of 2006. Laurie was immediately started on a painful and aggressive program of treatments that left her terribly weak and nauseated. But, she wouldn't give up.

"I have to beat this" she told her friends. "I have two little girls that need me".

But no amount of fight or determination could halt the progress of this deadly and insidious disease. Week after week her friends and family could see the rapid deterioration in her condition. Finally, on March 17th, her body could fight no more. She died peacefully, at home with her family around her.

Laurie had an enthusiasm and zest for life that was contagious. In spite of the demands of her own law practice, she always made the time to be involved in her children's school and in her church, St. Francis Episcopal, where she taught Sunday School.

Everyone knew they could depend on her to help out whenever and wherever she was needed.

Her passing has left a tremendous void in the lives of her many friends and family members. How many more children will lose their mothers to this dreadful scourge? How many more men or women will lose their beloved life mates. A cure must be found!

If you agree this terrible disease must be eradicated, you can help by participating in the



Laurie Davis-McNerney with her daughters, Sedona McNerney and Skye McNerney

"Relay For Life" at Bella Vista High School on June 2nd and 3rd. Make a donation, or start a Relay For Life team. For more information contact Dustin Buck at (916) 965-1469.

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**Support the Chamber & Volunteer Today!  
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## Taste of Fair Oaks June 8th

The Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual A Taste of Fair Oaks event on Friday June 8, 2007 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. The popular event features a wide variety of wines, gourmet food, and handcrafted ales and lagers. There will also be live music, a raffle, a fine art exhibit, and an auction.

Festivities will be held at the North Ridge Country Club located at 7600 Madison Avenue in Fair Oaks. Tickets are \$38 in advance or \$45 at the door. Tickets can

be purchased online at [www.atasteoffairoaks.com](http://www.atasteoffairoaks.com). Tickets are also available at locations in the Fair Oaks Village including the Chamber of Commerce office, American River Bank and Oaks Hardware.

More than twenty wineries and restaurants will be on hand. Some of the featured wineries include: Colibri Ridge Winery and Vineyard, Oakstone Vineyards, Clos Du Lac Cellars, Crystal Basin Cellars, Stag's Leap Winery, Turnbull Winery, Groth

Vineyards, and Artesa Winery.

Some of the participating restaurants include: The Melting Pot, Il Forno Classico, Mikuni's, Ruth's Chris Steak House, Chocolate Fountains of Sacramento, Chipotle, Camille's Sidewalk Café, Taka's Sushi, and The Village Café and Grill.

For additional information, visit the website at [www.atasteoffairoaks.com](http://www.atasteoffairoaks.com) or call the Fair Oaks Chamber of Commerce at 916-967-2903.



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Call Dustin Buck: 916.965.1469



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## Water District Building Project Update



FAIR OAKS WATER DISTRICT  
OPTION THREE

From Tom R. Gray

The Fair Oaks Water District completed a series of meetings to provide the Fair Oaks Community an opportunity to give input on the look and feel of the new Fair Oaks Water District Administration Center and Corporation Yard. At each of these public meetings District representatives asked the public questions. The objective of each of the meetings was to document the public's ideas and concerns, as well as the answers to specific questions. At the first meeting District representatives asked the public for input on two questions: What is Fair Oaks? What is Civic?

Using the public's answers to the two questions and all the other input received at the first meeting, three design concepts were developed. These three design concepts were presented at the second public meeting hosted by the Fair Oaks Water District. At this meeting all attending were asked which conceptual design option best represented an appropriate architectural expression for a public building in Fair Oaks. District representatives recorded all of the comments received on all of the presented options.

After all of the comments were recorded, the public selected one conceptual design scheme they felt best represented the community of Fair Oaks and that would fit into the Fair Oaks Village. With this conceptual design scheme as direction for the look of the Administration Center, the Fair Oaks Water District team is moving forward with the Fair Oaks Water District Administration Center Project. Key Points Learned from Public Meeting One:

What is Fair Oaks?

The Fair Oaks Village has a sense of place, comprised of an eclectic blend of commercial, residential, and civic buildings surrounding a central gathering space that includes the park, community clubhouse, and the theater.

What is Civic?

Civic buildings in Fair Oaks should represent the best of the community: proud, friendly, and understated. Such a building should stand out while being sympathetic to the existing village architectural fabric. The public decided that the "tutor" style was a late comer to Fair Oaks and too residential to demonstrate a civic face for a public building. The Spanish eclectic,

mission, and contemporary styles evident in the Village are more suitable for a public venue.

Key Points Learned from Public Meeting Two:

What is an appropriate architectural expression for a public building in Fair Oaks?

With the understanding that the building concepts presented at the second meeting were not final solutions but design concepts, the public selected a Spanish eclectic design concept as the preferred style for a new Fair Oaks Water District Administration Center.

The public felt it was dynamic, sympathetic to the village architectural fabric, and provided a civic feel without being overstated. This option also tied the architectural expression of the buildings that make up the village center, including the theater building and the community clubhouse. The proposed concept has a modest presence and an old town look which the public felt was important.

"The new District facilities should evoke a sense of civic pride and serve as a community cornerstone."

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# Gold River News & Views

## Tax Benefits of Owning Investment Property



Owning real estate as a form of long-term investment offers many advantages for the investor, and has proven to be a powerful method of creating wealth over time. Although the high appreciation rates of the last few years for residential properties have plateaued in most cities, long-term realty investing still provides major tax benefits.

For investors who meet ownership (owning more than 10% interest) and material participation tests, they can deduct up to \$25,000 of their "passive activity" losses from their ordinary taxable income of up to \$100,000. The deduction gradually phases out if the taxpayer's income is above \$100,000, and phases out completely above \$150,000 AGI.

So what's the secret to claiming unlimited investment property losses against your AGI, regardless how much you or your spouse earns? The little-known, perfectly legal way is to become a real estate professional. If you spend at least 750 hours per year on investment activities, you can be classified as a real estate professional. These can include setting rents, establishing rental rules, and authorizing major expenditures. A real estate license is not required.

Many people believe that depreciation is the most valuable real estate deduction. Depreciation is a "paper loss" for estimated wear, tear and obsolescence. Residential real estate is currently depreciated over 27.5 years, and other non-residential real estate (i.e., commercial buildings, industrial properties, shopping centers) is depreciated over 39 years. Personal property used in operating the property, such as appliances (and even automobiles and trucks), is depreciated over

shorter periods, typically 5-10 years. Also, there is a new first-year 100% tax deduction for up to \$100,000 of business equipment purchased. Sorry, you can't buy a brand new Jaguar and deduct 100% of the cost, but there are special rules for work vehicles, such as trucks.

Although most investment real estate offers many benefits, there may be taxes owed to Uncle Sam as well as to the state when the property is sold. Uncle Sam also imposes a 25% "depreciation recapture" tax for the depreciation deductions enjoyed earlier. However, there are ways to avoid these taxes. If you die, all capital gains and depreciation recapture tax will be waived by Uncle Sam. Another way is to do a 1031 exchange for another investment property of equal or greater cost and equity. Personal residences are not eligible. However, there is also a way to combine the benefits of owning a personal residence and an investment property. If the property was owned and acquired for at least 60 months, 24 months of which it was occupied as the owner's principal residence, the owner can claim up to \$250,000 of capital gains tax-free (up to \$500,000 for a married couple), thanks to the Internal Revenue Code 121. You can have your cake and eat it too!

It's important to keep in mind that the IRS follows very strict guidelines. Be sure to check with your tax professional to assess your personal qualifications, and to make sure you have all the necessary documents for the related costs.

*Article submitted by Eriq Cicelski (To reach her regarding your real estate needs, call 916-599-3949 or email eriq.cicelski@cbnorcal.com)*

*Eriq Cicelski is a Realtor® with Coldwell Banker Real Estate, as well as a charter member of the Gold River Business Group. She was previously a licensed tax specialist for 5 years, and has prepared hundreds of tax returns during her employment with H&R Block, as well as a private CPA firm.*

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- Tool Time (Sizzix, Circle Cutters, Paper Cutters, Eyelets Setters, and more to share)
- Scrapbook your memories and raise money for Cancer at the same time

- Sunday, May 27th 3PM - 11PM
- Saturday, June 23rd, 3PM - 11PM
- Saturday, July 21st 3PM-11PM

\$10.00/per person (includes dinner and snacks) all proceeds go towards Relay for Life  
Burchett Hall at Valley Community Church  
3150 Wissemann Drive, Sacramento, CA 95827

We hope you will join us for a good time of scrapbooking with friends and cropping out cancer! If you plan on attending please send me an email (VCC-sign up at the hospitality center). Feel free to pass on this email to anyone who may be interested. Email me with any questions - Christy Cabrera - relayforliferc@yahoo.com



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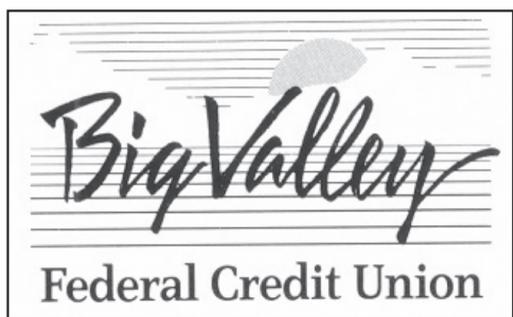
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# Orangevale News & Views

## POW WOW Days May 17th through 20th

Orangevale Chamber of Commerce is preparing for Orangevale's annual Pow Wow Days. This popular event this year and it is going to be bigger and better than ever. The 44th edition of Pow Wow Days will be May 17-20 at Orangevale Community Park, at Filbert and Oak Avenues.

People and businesses interested in becoming sponsors or vendors should contact the Orangevale Chamber of Commerce for deadlines; large crowds are expected to attend the festivities, which will include the Butler Amusement carnival, live entertainment, a parade, food, a beer and wine garden and a Cantina. This year's theme is "Back to the Country" and that is just what you will see when you attend. Here is just some of what's in store for at the 44th annual community celebration. Plan to join us and help make it an event to remember.

Thursday 5/17 - 3 p.m. The Carnival begins, vendors set up. This will be our Blues/Rock night. Music starts @ 3 p.m. Remedy plays from 8-10 p.m.

Friday 5/18 - 3 p.m. the carnival and festivities

## Support POW WOW Days

The Orangevale Chamber of Commerce is working hard to make this year's Pow Wow Days celebration the best ever! This 4-day event is sure to attract a huge crowd, starting Thursday May 17th. There will be live entertainment. Butler Amusement brings the best carnival rides around, and there will be great food and arts and craft booths. On Saturday the Vernon Cable Memorial Parade will begin at 9:00 am down Greenback Lane, with the theme "Back to the Country". This is the biggest celebration of the year in Orangevale!

The Chamber is seeking sponsors and vendors. They still have room for Arts and Crafts booths. Space is getting limited so contact them right away. Commercial vendors pay only \$200.00 for the entire 4 days. They are currently interviewing

starts. This is our Classis Rock Night and Over the Edge plays @ 8-11 p.m.

Saturday 5/19 - 9 a.m. the parade lines up, kicks off at 10 a.m. and ends back at the park. The parade winners will be announced and the 2008 Honorary Mayoral candidates introduced.

Noon- 3 p.m. Kraft kids event-free games, crafts, raffles, a real BUG PETTING ZOO, mini horses and donkeys and face painting.

Noon and 1:15 p.m. the East Valley's Christian Rock band will be rocking you into the spirit of things @ 8-11 p.m. Wild Wild West will be playing on the Main Stage.

Sunday 5/20 - 12 noon the fun begins all over again! Come see the Gymkhana and hear some good country music.

Through out the four days we will have a variety of musical guests and demonstrations. Be sure to check out the Cantina for their musical line up.

For details, call the chamber at (916) 988-0175 or visit the Web site [www.orangevalechamber.com](http://www.orangevalechamber.com).

local bands for the "Battle of the Bands" on Sunday. Contact the Chamber for more information at 916 988-0175

The Chamber is also seeking volunteers to help with planning, setting up for the events, help with clean up during the event or afterwards, and to give a helping hand with the parade. Have a Boy Scout troop or Girl Scout troop that needs to earn a badge? Please call if you can help in any way!

Applications for sponsors, vendor booths and parade entries are available online at [www.orangevalechamber.com](http://www.orangevalechamber.com), or at their office Orangevale Chamber of Commerce, 9267 Greenback Lane Suite B-91, Orangevale, CA, 95662.

## Major Eric I. Eglund (Reserve) Speaks to ARRWF



Major Eric I Eglund, a California native, will be the guest speaker at the American River Republican Women, Federated Annual Spring Fashion Show ( by Cho Cho's) and Buffet Luncheon on Saturday, May 19, 2007. The Luncheon will be held in Fair Oaks, at 11:00 A.M.

Major Eglund has served in dozens of Countries including, Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Bosnia and Columbia. He is the author of *The Troops Need You, America: Six Ways to Help Them Win*. His book and web page ([www.Troopsneedyou.com](http://www.Troopsneedyou.com)). His work has been publicly praised by First Lady Laura Bush. Edwin Meese III, a principal member of the Iraq Study Group and former US Attorney General says this book shows how to make a difference.

For more information and reservations, please call 916-435-9730. The price of the Luncheon is \$20.00 and guests are welcomed.



## Krafty Kidz Events....

We are at Pow Wow Days Saturday May 19th 12:00-3:00 only. We offer Free hands on crafts, games, Bug Petting Zoo, Gold Panning, Raffles, and more.

It is Sponsored by "The ParakerMussmann Group of Kraft Real Estate and Kraft Real Estate" This is our Way of giving back to the community.



## Local Author Signing Part of Casa Roble High School Fundraiser at Barnes & Noble in Citrus Heights

Local author Dr. Leslie Cummings will sign copies of her new book, *Born To Ride*, as part of the fundraising activities for Casa Roble Fundamental High School over the May 19th and 20th weekend at Barnes & Noble in Citrus Heights. The store will donate a percentage of every sale made with a special voucher to the school in Orangevale. Vouchers are available at the school, located at 9151 Oak Avenue, and in the store during the fundraiser.

The Barnes & Noble Bookfair will help Casa Roble in several ways. First, a percentage of the fundraiser sales from the vouchers will assist in enhancing their library collection. A library wish

list will also be available in the store during this fundraiser. Bookfair supporters may choose books from this in-store wish list display to purchase for the library.

Dr. Cummings is a Gold River resident. Her novel, *Born To Ride*, is the story of Wendy Newman and her family and their adventures moving to a farm and raising several untamed horses.

Please support Casa Roble Fundamental High School by shopping at Barnes & Noble, 6111 Sunrise Blvd. in Citrus Heights, on May 19-20 with a voucher. For more information, contact Barnes & Noble Community Relations Manager Mike Troyan at (916) 853-1389.

## The Follies of Market Timing



Kirk Camunez

Many investors try to "time" the market by "buying low and selling high." In theory, that's a great idea - but it's almost impossible to put into practice.

If you try to outguess the market, you run the substantial risk of guessing wrong - of buying stocks too soon, before they get even cheaper, or of selling stocks too late, after they've fallen from their highs. But these are only the most obvious of the problems that can result from market timing. Here are some others to consider:

You could lose your investment discipline. The best investors are the disciplined investors. They choose quality stocks and hold them for the long term, through good and bad markets. In fact, they have conditioned themselves to ignore short-term price swings in either direction, based on their belief that their patience eventually will be rewarded.

You could hurt your diversification. To succeed as an investor, you need to build a diversified portfolio. Your exact mix of investments will depend on your individual goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. Over time, as your situation changes - for example, when you move from the working world to retirement - you will need to adjust your portfolio. But if you're constantly buying and selling in a vain attempt to time the market, you may well end up with a perennially "unbalanced" portfolio. Keep in mind, though, that even a diversified portfolio won't guarantee a profit, nor will it protect against a loss in a declining market.

You could run up transaction costs. Stock transactions can be expensive, as you rack up commissions and other fees. Over time, these costs can significantly erode your investment returns. If you are always trying to "buy low" and "sell high" you'll be doing an awful lot of buying and selling.

You could run up your tax bill. When you sell a stock for a profit, you must pay capital gains taxes. However, if you hold a stock for at least one year before selling, you will be assessed the most favorable capital gains rate, which is 15 percent for most investors. But if you were to pursue a buy low/sell high strategy, you could sell some stocks before a year has lapsed and pay higher capital gains rates. And if you're repeatedly selling a lot of shares in this accelerated time frame, you could face some unpleasant surprises when it's time to file your taxes.

Clearly, the buy low/sell high approach has some major drawbacks. So should you ignore the price of a stock when you're making buy or sell decisions? No - just look at more than the price. If you're considering buying a stock whose price is low, try to find out why it's low. If it's a good company in the grip of a strong "bear" market, then a low price may indeed indicate a good bargain. But if a company's stock price is low because its products are no longer competitive or the company itself is part of a declining industry, then "buying low" with the hopes of eventually reaping big profits probably doesn't make much sense.

Make your investment decisions carefully. But until a crystal ball arrives, don't try to stay one step ahead of the market - or you could fall far behind.

**YOU CAN'T CONTROL THE WORLD, BUT AT LEAST YOU CAN CONTROL YOUR DECISIONS.**

Sometimes the market reacts poorly to world events, but just because the market reacts doesn't mean you should. Still, if you're feeling uncertain about your finances, schedule a complimentary portfolio review. That way, you can make sure you're in control of where you want to go and how you plan to get there.

Call or stop by today.

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# Animal Overpopulation: Truth vs. Propaganda

by Laura Taylor



After having spent eleven years working and volunteering in the field of animal welfare, I was appalled at the punitive mandatory spay/neuter ordinance proposed for the County of Sacramento by the self-appointed "Coalition to Stop Animal Overpopulation."

To give you some background, this coalition was founded by the extremist animal rights group, Animal Protection Institute, in partnership with Davis' own AVAR (Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights). They spent a year working on this ordinance under the radar, and hoped it would stay that way when they presented it to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors almost two years ago. Fortunately, at least at that time, our elected officials could recognize an end-run on their constituent's rights, and required this coalition and County Animal Control staff to present their ordinance at local government councils and City councils throughout the County.

This was the first I'd heard of this proposed ordinance. After 11 years working with the Placer SPCA as a volunteer fostering over 300 animals (mostly neonate kittens), adoption counselor, fundraiser and spay/neuter educator, and as a staff member writing the business plan for and launching the Placer SPCA's successful PetMobile program, my first thought was to check with my friends over in Roseville. What I heard was that the Executive Director had seen a presentation, but hadn't seen the final ordinance at that time. What she told me was that this ordinance would be "just another tool in the toolbox." And, in fact, that is the line that has been used over and over by supporters and promoters of this ill-conceived ordinance.

Another tool? For what purpose and in whose toolbox? Indeed, it is a 200-pound sledgehammer aimed directly at the rights of Sacramento County Pet Owners.

This ordinance will make it mandatory that pet owners spay or neuter their pets at 4 months of age and will increase licensing fees from \$10 per year to \$15 (a 50% increase – the first in over 10 years) for altered animals. Unaltered or intact animals will be charged \$150 (a 500% increase from the previous \$30). However, if you breed AKC registered animals and you show these animals and can prove all this, the County will grant you a "reduced" fee for altered animals of \$45 per year. If you breed dogs for search and rescue, law enforcement or Canine Companions for Independence, you pay the full fee.

The idea behind this is to provide a "dis-incentive." The dis-incentive is the high, unaltered animal license fee and the \$500 fine you will be charged if your unaltered animal is seized and ends up in the shelter. Which it very well could if you advertise it in the Sacramento Bee. The animal rights groups are already going after unsuspecting advertisers, answering ads and showing up as "interested adopters." Once they've seen the animals and recorded the seller's address, they say they need to "think about it" and then report the seller to Animal Control of Code Enforcement. This new ordinance will give the animal rights groups license to pursue these advertisers legally. In fact, at an August Board of Supervisor's Meeting, Terri Barnato, head of AVAR, stated in public testimony that AVAR (Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights) has committed \$10,000 per year in a staff paid position just to comb the paper for potential violators. Getting the legal right to harass breeders would be quite a coup for the animal rights movement.

The reality is this: Mandatory spay/neuter ordinances don't work. In every case in which this type of legislation has been adopted, licensing has dropped. Indeed, in most jurisdictions where mandatory spay/neuter has been adopted, licensing was already far below what it should be. In Sacramento County only 2% of owned cats are licensed. Licensed animals are those who have received their rabies vaccinations and have paid a mandatory fee to the County. Do we want people to stop vaccinating their animals for rabies?

This legislation doesn't save lives. Los Angeles County adopted mandatory spay/neuter in June of 2006. Already the General Manager of Animal Control for L.A. County, Ed Boks, has testified before the State Assembly Business and Professions Committee that their animal euthanasia numbers have increased 28% in the past year. What's the reason for this increase? When an unaltered animal is impounded and its owner arrives to claim it, before L.A. County can levy the \$500 fine, the pet owner suddenly remembers that the dog isn't his and is out the door. The shelter collects no money but has another dog, which it may eventually have to euthanize, in its custody.

Proponents of this legislation will tell you that Sacramento has the most dismal euthanasia statistics of any major metropolitan area in California. In fact, since the passage of the Hayden Law back in 1993, Sacramento County animal intake, animal adoption AND animal euthanasia has dropped 50%. Sacramento is still euthanizing roughly 50% of the animals it takes in; however, a portion of these are necessary euthanasias, owner requests, and dangerous or sick animals. The majority of euthanasia is for feral (wild) cats and unweaned kittens. It has taken almost a year for a group of concerned citizens to get the real numbers from Animal Control and the picture isn't as dismal as they have lead the public, or the Board of Supervisors, to believe. In fact, the Hayden Law is working as it was intended to. The animals in the custody of the County or other animal shelter must be spayed or neutered before they can be adopted according to the law. This was in answer to studies that showed that many animals leaving shelters prior to 1993 were responsible for the birth of the next crop of animals to enter the shelter.

So what do we do? We continue to educate. As a long-time animal welfare proponent (Note: There is a huge difference between animal welfare and animal rights), I have spent a fair amount of time educating people and helping them adopt the right pet for their family. Even the toughest, tattooed, pierced guy will listen when you share with him the positive benefits of spaying or neutering the dog he wants to adopt from the PetMobile. (Note: Early spay/neuter is not always the best option for a pet and should be decided by pet owner and veterinarian.)

In some areas, rescue groups are finding an interesting phenomenon. A friend of mine, who works with Bad Rap Pit Bull rescue, has shared with me her experience. Bad Rap regularly holds shot clinics for pit bulls and other dogs in socio-economically challenged parts of our County. At these clinics the volunteers regularly offer free spay/neuter vouchers to owners of pit bulls. And regularly, these vouchers are refused. FREE spay/neuter and it is refused. So if money isn't the issue, what is? In this case, we need to continue to ask the right questions, until we know how to educate.

We know that education works. The statistics bear this out. The majority of licensed animals in the County of Sacramento are altered, although less than half of owned animals are licensed. Many people in our community choose to voluntarily spay/neuter their animals – just like me. So why has the Animal Rights movement suddenly decided to stop educating and is instead seeking to shove mandatory spay/neuter down the throats of county pet owners instead of educating them? Why indeed.

Hopefully, the Animal Rights propaganda (complete with quotes from a slanted Zogby poll – which only surveyed 213 residents in Citrus Heights – one quarter of one percent of residents) will fall on the enlightened ears of Citrus Heights residents when they try to push this ordinance on our community. And in the meantime, perhaps its time for our fair City to look into opting out of yet another broken County department: Animal Care and Regulation.

*Laura Taylor is an 11-year animal welfare veteran and long time volunteer with the Placer SPCA. She currently sits as the Vice-Chair of the Citrus Heights Planning Commission and ran for Citrus Heights City Council in 2006.*

Dear Editor,

I oppose Assembly Bill 1634 which mandates spay/neuter of all privately owned dogs and cats at four months of age.

When working for Animal Control, one of my many duties was euthanasia. I guess you could say I was a type of 'Executioner' for the government, a guard at a kind of 'Guantanamo Bay' for dogs and cats. Many of the animals I dealt with were old, diseased and decrepit. Many were mentally unstable (beastly terrorists if you will) and therefore, un-adoptable. Euthanasia was always a task that saddened me but it was an unavoidable fact of life. Animal Control and its centers will never be able to go away because its mission will never change. It exists for the sole purpose of protecting the public from loose or vicious animals, to protect against communicable diseases such as rabies. Regardless of whether this bill passes or not, euthanasia of these kinds of animals will continue. I am sorry but this is the truth.

I am actually pro-life at heart. I grew up around all kinds of farm and companion animals. I witnessed, and sometimes participated in, the birth and renewal of many

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

It is very hard for me to keep the bitterness out of my writing. It's natural to feel that way when everything you've been taught, everything that made sense, has been taken away from you.

We, as citizens, were put on trial on February 21, 2006, given three minutes to defend our lives, our loves, our American way of life. We were accused of profiting, of being abusive, of being Capitalists, of not paying taxes, and of not caring. I knew something was wrong; it sounded like something we'd heard before. Then I realized, they had it backwards.

This is an "undersupply" [of animals] being spun as an "over" to capitalize on our good hearts, and to cut the very fabric of our society. Neither the citizens of the City nor of the County of Sacramento were ever informed of the actual real numbers. As a matter of fact, the City of Sacramento Council Members never even looked at their numbers, nor at the applicable law. The County Board of Supervisors saw their actual numbers for all of two quick minutes. We were only given three minutes to defend a lifetime of American tradition. Yet they gave their liberal socialistic employee 20 minutes, putting citizens on trial by using implied, negative assumptions and propaganda that would make anyone's head swim. We do, in reality, have an undersupply.

The City of Sacramento Animal Care Director, Hector Cazare, testified on Jan. 2006, that "The problem we have is not enough adoptable dogs." This was, of course, not brought out. For each year, the intake numbers have gone down, and the department budget has gone up. By playing on the hearts of everyone, they are capitalizing on a myth rather than reporting the truth.

Probably one of the worst quotes is from Pat Claerbout, the County of Sacramento Animal Care Department Director. "We are working at bare bones." What does "bare bones" look like? \$4.5 million for 15,000 animal intake in 2006. (Animals are: cats, dogs, rabbits, rodents and wildlife)

There has actually been a 41% reduction in intake for the County of Sacramento over the last four years.

Dog-wise, in 2006 6,363 came in and 2,512 were euthanized. The County took in on average 17 dogs a day. Five dogs a day went home with their owners. That means that there were 12 homes a day needed for dogs from the County facility for all to have lived. The City of Sacramento has seen a 56% reduction, along with a rise in the budget during the same time period - \$2.2 million in 2002 to \$3.2 million, 2005. While there is a significant decrease in intake, a reversal and bloating of a budget has taken place.

The local SPCA has averaged about 10,000 a year intake, but these come from other cities as well as our local area. SPCA Director Rick Johnson has testified, and the Modesto Bee has reported, that the SPCA is actively importing/trucking in dogs to meet the local needs of our area. In 2005, the SPCA transferred from our County facility a total of 115, and [from the] City, 69. In 2006, 131 from the County facility and 65 from the City. The SPCA actively goes thru the shelters looking for adoptable dogs, but as you see, not many leave with them.

When 75%-85% [of the public] wants to do a "socially" conscious thing like adopt from a shelter, and there are less pets to meet the local area needs, where will our pets come from? Our area already has an 85% spay/neuter rate. Where will the next generation of dogs come from?

It is with deepest regret that I report that we currently have an undersupply, and that as these coercive measures have been pushed on us, we are now at great risk. You see, we no longer have an educated society; in reality, we have citizens so indoctrinated into propaganda that they believe that a stork will fly in their next dog. Our leaders have, in reality, passed a law based on a myth rather than on verified information. A municipal service is prohibited by law from charging more than the cost of the service mandated. A 400% tax increase to own a healthy dog is beyond intolerable; it is barbaric.

Where did the tax increase idea come from? From the extreme animal rights activists who believe that people should not own pets, and if they are all spay/neutered, then we won't have any. Many newspapers have quoted Pam Runquist of AVAR, but what was not noted is their mission statement: "Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights: Committed to balancing the needs of non-human animals with those of human animals."

Our local area has undergone a slick media and pressurized propaganda campaign undertaken by a government employee working with an extremist group. The ramifications of this level of subterfuge will negatively impact everyone.

Locally, small home-based mom-and-pop type breeders testified against the proposed coercive measures. These breed enthusiasts, or hobby breeders, struggle just like everyone else, out of love to continue a tradition. For them it's a vocation, a calling of the heart to raise healthy locally-bred pets. Buy local, shop local, donate local.

Citizens who testified against the proposed ordinance were subjected to slandering, demoralizing testimony. They, like myself, risked retribution. This was a reverse-McCarthyism. America and Americans were put on trial for not being a Communist, for not being a non-profit, and for not caring. When the smoke cleared, we were left with enabling a government employee and a pseudo-nonprofit to build its own form of government. They created windfall profits to superfund what they claimed was overpopulation.

An onsite visit to the shelter in September 2006 indicated otherwise. There were 11 empty cages. Dogs were being held there for extended periods of time, some for up to three months. Of those, some were very old with severe dental or hip problems.

What the animal rights people failed to realize: We will never give up our pets, and there is a limit to our good and caring hearts. When deceit is used, everyone loses. Fool me once, fool me twice, but never ever mess with my dog.

It has taken me a year of research and investigation to ferret out how such a hoax can be perpetrated on us. Our government employees need to be held accountable. Misuse of a government office is an abuse of power, especially when the employee liberally falsely misreports, testifying not only to the community but also to the Supervisors. Our citizens were cut out of the whole process. The animal welfare people, the rescuers have been indoctrinated into a negative based belief system. They were easily manipulated by innuendo claims against breeders and how people didn't care, and that the spay and neuter campaigns over the last ten years hasn't worked. Spay and neuter works. It permanently ends the line; the heritage, the source of some of our best pets.

It takes strength and courage of conviction to uphold the values, traditions, and laws of our land. Locally we had heroes, people who stood up and risked the innuendos and the undue social pressure. Supervisor Roberta McGlashan, Councilwoman Jayna Karpinski-Costa and City planner Laura Taylor. The little guy. That's us; you and me. We don't have much, and what we have we are thankful for. We have the integrity to stand firm and to hold our ground when the wind is blowing.

What we must do now is recognize that the tide has turned, that we do have an undersupply and that the pseudo-non-profits who have scammed everyone need to be held accountable for their misuse of the public trust.

Testifying at the meetings put my family, my home, my loved ones at risk. There are people now who actively believe that if you own a healthy, possibly reproductive dog, you are a criminal.

That if you go to work and leave your dog alone, you are abusive. That if you have children, they could possibly hurt a dog, and therefore you shouldn't own a dog. That if you might possibly move in the future, you shouldn't have a dog. That if you have ever given away a pet, you should never get another one. That if you want to adopt a pet, you have to sign a document allowing them access to your home anytime.

What this has done to me and to my sons is more than what most people can endure, and more than people will ever want to know. The day they made me out to be a criminal, they didn't have a leg to stand on. But, by breaking the law, they have now made me a criminal.

**Teresa Johnson**

Citizens for Responsible Animal Ownership  
(edited by permission)

forms of life, from baby chicks emerging from their shells to calves nursing for the first time; from watching a colt take his first step to discovering a nest of baby snakes. I love life and believe that it is the right of every red-blooded American to choose what kind of animal they own, and whether they choose to have that animal reproduce in a responsible manner.

For years at Animal Control, my co-workers and I spent hours educating the public about responsible pet ownership. This is more than reproduction, it is obeying the leash laws, it is vaccinating against rabies in rabies-infested counties. It is picking up after your dog when on a walk, and not letting a larger dog kill or maim a smaller animal, be it a cat or a Chihuahua. This education has worked; 85% of all dogs in Sacramento County are altered.

Spaying and neutering immature animals is rashly irresponsible to the highest degree. So what if that kitten or puppy doesn't come out of anesthesia; you just add it to the "euthanized" list; oh well, life goes on. Well to hell with that kind of thinking! Protect our pets by NOT allowing AB 1634 to pass into California State Law!

Sincerely,  
Crystal Winter

## Weekly SUDOKU

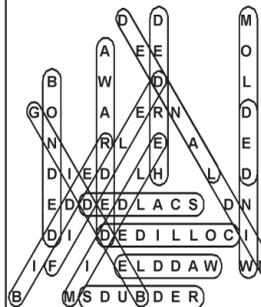
Answer

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

## Magic maze

Answers

REMOVE THE D'S TO MAKE A NEW WORD



## Trivia Test Answers

1. Barbara Stanwyck
2. Red blood cell
3. Western Canada
4. Early 19th century
5. Johann Strauss
6. Rita Hayworth
7. Meg
8. Bing Crosby and Bob Hope
9. Emerald
10. Red

## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

L	A	W	P	R	I	G	M	A	D	E
O	V	A	A	O	N	E	I	R	O	N
C	O	I	N	T	O	S	X	M	A	S
I	N	F	O	R	M	T	I	E		
T	O	Y	A	C	R	O	S	S		
A	N	G	E	L	A	L	E	G	E	E
L	O	R	D	H	S	T	E	L	A	N
E	R	A	A	U	K	E	X	E	R	T
E	M	B	O	S	S	A	M	P		
A	P	T	S	I	E	S	T	A		
A	P	E	S	L	I	P	G	L	O	S
D	E	L	I	E	V	E	R	R	A	H
O	A	K	S	D	Y	N	E	T	R	Y

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**LIVING FOR GOD™**  
By Calvin and Lisa Wulf  
“Finish the Race”

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”  
2 Timothy 4:7 (NIV)  
“I really thought God wanted me to do this ministry,” she confides to her group. “I’ve been praying and working for months, but not much is happening. Maybe I don’t have the gifts for it. Maybe I’m not really called. Maybe God just doesn’t want to use me.

Maybe....I should just give up.” Who hasn’t been there? We feel called to a task but it doesn’t turn out as we hope. Maybe it’s a career move or a church project. But we’re frustrated. The doors are hardly budging. Why does God use everyone but us? All of His job openings seem to be filled already.  
Are we cheating ourselves by giving up too soon? Perhaps our expectations are off center. Society says we must be the biggest, best and fastest. We’re a celebrity culture. But God hands out all kinds of jobs – big and small. Maybe our “failure” is exactly what God wants us to be doing.  
Could our timing be off? We’re so instant success oriented that God’s timing is tough to accept. After all, a call means right now – or does it? The Lord does things in His own time. He may have lots of puzzle pieces to arrange before He’s ready to place ours.

Fulfilling a call is a spiritual battle. No way around it. Obstacles, discouragement and delays wait around every corner. How many runners give up in the dark hours right before the dawn of success? Only faith can keep us in the race.  
Before you give up, consider the ways of the Lord:  
• Look for small blessings every day. God will encourage you.  
• Check your expectations. How important is mega success?  
• Be willing to wait. Use God’s stopwatch instead of your own.  
The race is won by those who endure the fight. The race is won by those who keep the faith. With Christ as your personal trainer, you’ll cross the finish line and hear “Well done, good and faithful servant.”  
*Living for God (TM) offers resources on Christian living. Readers may check out the ministry’s latest workshop, Doing the Disciplines with Jesus and His Friends, at www.livingforgod.net or call (719) 578-8837. Copyright 2001 - Calvin R. Wulf and Lisa Aré Wulf*



**Memories of Grandpa**

Grandpa was the son of a Swedish-Episcopal Methodist Minister who traveled by horse and buggy throughout Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin ministering to the Swedish immigrants. He didn’t speak much English and his pay was homemade pies, pastries, fresh vegetables and chickens.  
I can hardly believe it was over sixty years ago, when my dear grandpa used to ride the streetcar to and from work to the Post Office in my hometown of Minneapolis. He loved people and was a friendly sort of fellow. When he met anyone, he would give a kind greeting to open a conversation. He would question them about their family, job and the amount of money they earned and even their church affiliation. Surprisingly people always responded favorably to his warmth and interest in them. Grandpa’s saying was “A stranger is a friend you just haven’t met yet” and he pursued every stranger as though they might become his friend.

Grandpa was friendly, yet quiet and loving family man. As young children, he always had time for us. We would sit on his lap while he dramatically made the stories come alive as he read us the comic strips. If we had a cold, he would take the streetcar to our house and bring us our favorite cough drops letting us know how special we were to him. When we visited our grandparent’s home, he would take us to the local city park and push us on the swings. On the walk to the park he would sing several old gospel songs, comment on the beauty of nature and how God had created it. Then, he would tell us about Jesus and taught us the song “Jesus Loves Me” after expounding on his personal love for the Savior of His soul. He would be pleased, those tiny “seeds of faith” he planted in our hearts so long ago, are in full bloom today!

Marlys Johnsen Norris  
LIFE MESSAGE WORKSHOPS  
“Intimacy Begins Going God’s Way”  
Marlysj@sbglobal.net



**When Evil Happens**

“Sometimes something useless happens on earth. Bad things happen to good people...” Eccles. 8:14 (NCV)  
This is not heaven, this is earth, people do evil things to other people. People kill other people. People steal from other

people. The fact is people will hurt you in life, sometimes intentionally. Jesus warned us, “...Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” Jn 16:33 (NLT)  
Some people imply that if you give your life to Christ, you’ll be protected from evil in the world. I have a real spiritual word for that belief: “Baloney.” That’s just not true. You’re living proof of that, and so am I. It’s a fact of life that people will hurt you.  
I think of a man named Job. He faced a lot of evil. One day he lost everything. He lost all of his possessions, his children were murdered, his wife turned against him and all of his friends

accused him of doing wrong, yet he was innocent. If anybody had a reason to be devastated by evil, it was Job. But Job, instead of becoming devastated, instead of getting stuck in his pain, made a full recovery. The Bible says that God made the last part of Job’s life greater than the first. Regardless of the pain you experience in life, regardless of how other people may have hurt you or may hurt you in the future, you can make a full recovery if you do what Job did.  
Reveal your hurt. Don’t try to hide it. Don’t say, “They didn’t hurt me.... I’m not angry....” Share your hurt. Don’t minimize the offense. Job said, “Therefore I will not

keep silent; I will speak out in the anguish of my spirit, I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.” Job 7:11 (NIV)  
Job spills his guts to God. “God, I don’t like it! Life’s not fair! I’m ticked off! I’m angry!” He tells God how angry he is. This is the beginning of the healing. If you want to get over your hurts emotional hurts, you must reveal your feelings to God and also to a friend.  
Release your offender. You’re never going to have peace until you do. Job’s friends hurt him badly. They were disloyal. They criticized him. They misunderstood him. Nothing hurts more than being misunderstood or falsely accused. It wasn’t Job’s fault at

all. He was innocent. He had every right to be resentful. It’s interesting to note that Job’s healing began after he released his offenders. Job 42:10 “After Job prayed for his three friends, God made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before.” You may think, “They don’t deserve forgiveness!” That’s true, but one day God is going to settle the score. My suggestion is you forgive the person and let God even things up in the end.  
Reach Out To God. “Put your heart right, reach out to God, then face the world again firm and courageous. Then all your troubles will fade from your memory like floods from your past and remembered no more.”

Job 11:13 Face the world again firm and courageous! When you face or experience evil, you have two options: You can panic or you can pray. I suggest you pray and settle in your mind that God is going to take care of you. “He will not be overthrown by evil circumstances. God’s constant care of him will make a deep impression on all who see it. He does not fear bad news, nor live in dread of what may happen. For he is settled in his mind that God will take care of him. That is why he is not afraid but can calmly face his foes.” Ps. 112:6-9 (LB)  
Pastor Ray Dare  
New Community Christian Church  
www>YourNewChurch.org

**A New Home For The Dominican Sisters of Mary**

Loomis will be the new home of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist. Three missionary sisters from Ann Arbor, Michigan, plan to arrive in August. The mission of the sisters will be to teach in local Catholic schools and eventually have their own school, together with a novitiate, residence and chapel for up to 100 sisters.  
The order has experienced a rise of women entering the sisterhood, growing from four original sisters to 72 in the

last ten years. This rapidly expanding “family” required a vision beyond Ann Arbor, driving the relocation of three sisters to live and minister in Placer County.  
Fred and Joan Cordova, who have been close to the order for many years, found a 38.4 acre site on the corner of Barton Avenue and Rocklin Road in Loomis. A small house on the property has been enlarged and renovated, thanks to many volunteers from St. Joseph

Marello Parish in Granite Bay.  
Their community will be a tremendous asset to the area, and especially to the town of Loomis, which has been very welcoming.  
For additional information for those interested in supporting the project or who wish to donate services can call Karen Chappellear at (916)-652-7560 or visit the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, website: <http://www.sistersofmary.org/>

**Faith and Family, Books Worth Reading**

(NAPSA)-“Full of Grace,” Dorothea Frank’s new novel, is full of her trademark Southern charm, wit and sassy dialogue.  
When her dysfunctional (but irresistible) parents move from New Jersey to Hilton Head, 30-something heroine, Maria Graziela Russo (call her “Grace”) relocates to Charleston, immediately falling in love with its antebellum allure.  
Italian tempers flare when Grace and Michael (a doctor specializing in stem cell research) move in together.

As she makes the regular pilgrimages to her family for holidays, she can’t help but wonder when the people she loves most in the world will come to accept the man who has won her heart.  
Grace has the job most everyone dreams of: planning amazing vacations and corporate retreats. But when Michael is diagnosed with an insidious and often inoperable form of brain cancer, her employer asks her to plan a pilgrimage for local Charleston churchgoers to the sites of some of the world’s most

celebrated and debated miracles.  
When Grace and Michael experience a miracle of their own on Mexico City’s most hallowed ground, the stage is set for a major change in faith.  
Reading “Full of Grace” is like embarking upon a mile-a-minute heart-to-heart with the author about family, love, life and the search for the perfect state of grace. Visit her at [www.dotfrank.com](http://www.dotfrank.com).  
Frank’s new hardcover, “The Land Of Mango Sunsets,” is available now wherever books are sold.

**Biblical Tales For Families To Share**

(NAPSA)-A growing number of families are discovering that films of biblical tales are not only exciting, they’re fun to experience together. To their delight, an increasing number of breathtaking films in this vein have been released on DVD that are perfect for gift giving.  
The collection of epic biblical titles features legendary actors including Charlton Heston (“The Agony and the Ecstasy”), Richard Burton (“The Robe”) and Peter O’Toole (“The Bible”).  
Here’s a more detailed checklist of some of the classic epics you can expect to find in stores:  
Biblical Film Favorites  
“The Agony and the Ecstasy”-Charlton Heston and Rex Harrison portray two of the Renaissance’s most colorful figures in this

historical drama set in the early 16th century. The film was nominated for an Oscar for its breathtaking cinematography and named one of the year’s best films by the National Board of Review.  
“The Bible”-The greatest stories of the Old Testament are brought to the screen with astounding scope and power in this international film that depicts the first 22 chapters of Genesis.  
“Luther”-Regional princes and the powerful Church wield a fast, firm grip on 16th century Germany. But when Martin Luther issues a shocking challenge to their authority, the people declare him their new leader-and hero. The result is a fast-moving film about a revolution that shakes the entire continent to its core.  
“Demetrius and the Gladiators”-Rome, soon

after the death of Christ. The depraved and mad Caligula is on the throne, obsessed with two things: The robe, the garment that fell from Jesus’ shoulders on the cross, and brutal gladiatorial displays.  
“The Greatest Story Ever Told”-A magnificent film, handled with artistic appreciation. This glorious epic is an inspiring-creation of the life of Jesus of Nazareth, from his humble birth and teachings to his crucifixion and ultimate resurrection.  
“The Robe”-The first movie ever filmed in CinemaScope, “The Robe” was nominated for five Academy Awards in 1953, including

Best Picture and Best Actor for Richard Burton. Burton stars as Marcellus Gallio, a Roman centurion whose life is forever changed when he wins Christ’s robe in a gambling game.  
Richard Burton and Victor Mature star in “The Robe.”

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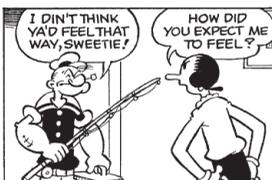
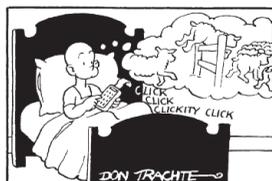
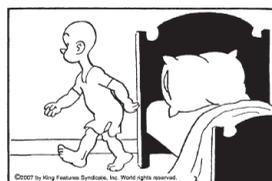
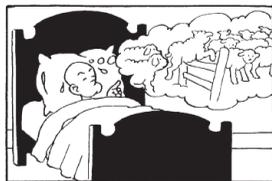
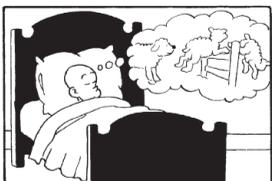
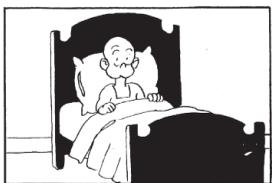
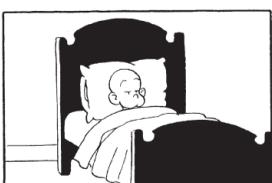
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**BIBLE TRIVIA**  
by **Wilson Casey**

1. Is the book of Micah in the Old or New Testament or neither?  
2. What perfectly square “new” city is described as having walls made of Jasper? *Jerusalem, Jericho, Paphos, Gibeon*  
3. From 1 Samuel, what Philistine soldier was slain by a boy? *Joab, Abishai, Dan, Goliath*  
4. On which “Mount” did Jesus deliver his final discourse? *Zion, Olives, Carmel, Pisgah*  
5. In what book is the phrase, “Holier than thou”? *1 Kings, Ezra, Amos, Isaiah*  
6. What friend of Jesus was buried in a cave? *Sisera, Joshua, Lazarus, Arioch*  
ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Jerusalem; 3) Goliath; 4) Olives; 5) Isaiah; 6) Lazarus  
*Wilson Casey’s “Do You Know Your Bible? A Fun Quiz on the Good Book” (Sourcebooks, \$5.95) has just been published.*  
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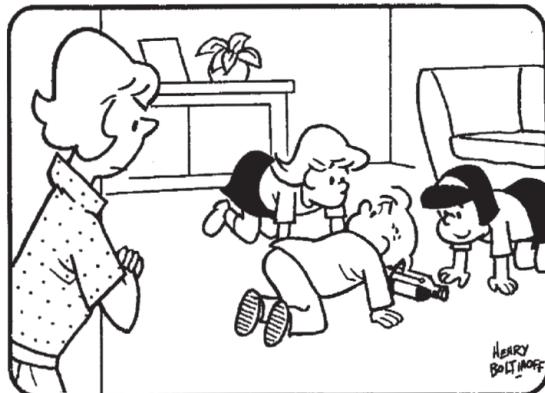


The Spats

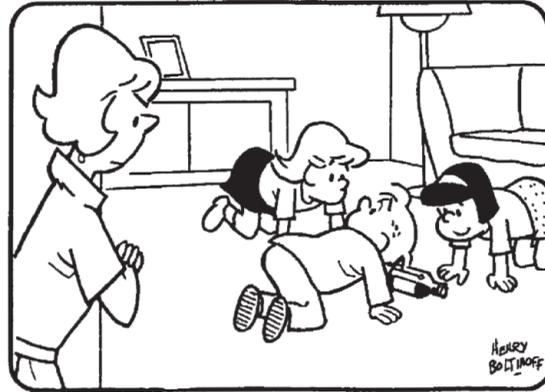
by Jeff Pickering



**HOCUS-FOCUS** BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Plant is missing. 2. Frame is added. 3. Woman's blouse is different. 4. Lamp is added. 5. Girl's skirt is different. 6. Woman's earring is added.

**Trivia test** by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: What famous female movie star held the lead role in "The Big Valley" television saga?
- ANATOMY: What is another name for an erythrocyte?
- GEOGRAPHY: Where is the Peace River?
- HISTORY: In what century was the Erie Canal constructed?
- MUSIC: Which composer wrote more than 400 waltzes, including "The Blue Danube"?
- ENTERTAINERS: Which female movie star was born with the name Margarita Carmen Cansino?
- LITERATURE: Which sister is the oldest in the classic book "Little Women"?
- MOVIES: Who starred in the 1942 film "The Road to Morocco"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the common birthstone for May?
- GAMES: What color is the No. 3 ball in billiards?

**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★**

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging  
★★★ HOO BOY!

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**REMOVE THE MAGIC MAZE'S TO MAKE A NEW WORD**

Y L H E B X U R O L I E B Y V  
S Q N K H E D B D Y W T R M O  
L J G E B A Y E E W U R P O N  
K I B G D W B Z D X V S Q L O  
E G O M K A I E R N G E C D A  
Y L N W U R L S E Q A P N E L  
J H D I E D F L H E C L A D Y  
X V E D D E D L A C S U D N S  
Q P D I A D E D I L L O C I N  
M I F K I S E L D D A W J W M  
B H F M S D U B D E R E C B Z

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

- Awarded
- Bedding
- Bidder
- Bonded
- Collided
- Fiddled
- Herded
- Landed
- Middle
- Midland
- Molded
- Redbuds
- Scalded
- Waddle
- Winded

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**Contract Bridge**

**All Answers on Page 9**

Both sides vulnerable.  
**NORTH**  
 ♠ A 9 7 6 2  
 ♥ A K 5  
 ♦ 9 3  
 ♣ J 7 4  
**WEST**  
 ♠ 4  
 ♥ J 10 9 3 2  
 ♦ K 10 7 5  
 ♣ A 8 2  
**EAST**  
 ♠ 8 3  
 ♥ 6 4  
 ♦ J 8 6 4 2  
 ♣ K 10 9 5  
**SOUTH**  
 ♠ K Q J 10 5  
 ♥ Q 8 7  
 ♦ A Q  
 ♣ Q 6 3  
 The bidding:  
 South 1♠ Pass  
 West Pass  
 North 3♠  
 East Pass  
 Opening lead — jack of hearts.  
 Declarer can sometimes manufacture a trick that does not exist naturally by forcing the opponents to lead a particular suit. Dozens of card combinations lend themselves well to this type of trick development, and declarer should always be on the lookout for it.  
 For example, examine the club holding in this deal. If declarer plays the suit first, regardless of whether he leads initially from dummy or his hand, he loses three club tricks against normal defense.  
 three tricks for his side. If South leads the queen instead, West takes his ace and returns a club to produce the same result. The defenders likewise score three club tricks if declarer initiates the suit by playing from dummy first, whether he leads the jack or a low club to the queen.  
 But if the defenders initiate the suit, they can score only their A-K, and declarer winds up with a club trick. It does not matter whether East or West leads the suit first; declarer simply plays low from the next hand to achieve his goal.  
 Declarer can put this knowledge to good use on the present hand. South wins the opening heart lead with the queen and sees that he has four potential losers — a diamond and three clubs. He then cashes the K-Q of trumps and A-K of hearts.  
 Declarer next leads a diamond to the ace, deliberately rejecting the finesse, and exits with the queen. He does not care which defender actually wins the trick, since that player has to return a club or yield a ruff-and-discard, and either way the contract comes home.  
 Note that if South attempts the diamond finesse at trick six and it loses, a diamond return will force him to initiate the club suit himself, and he will go down one.  
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**ReVive Yourself at Rollingwood Racquet and Health Club**

This is a free one month program to raise awareness to the benefits of warm water and light, low impact exercise. It is a "joint" effort by the Arthritis Foundation and Rollingwood Racquet and Health Club to offer classes specifically designed to help arthritis patients. Water group exercise classes are held in a warm, heated indoor pool year-round. Class instructors are certified not only by nationally recognized organizations, they are also certified by the Arthritis Foundation. Rollingwood Racquet Club is located at 9373 Winding Oak Dr. Fair Oaks Call: 988-1727 and ask for member services or email bmergens@paradigmclubs.com

**1st Annual 4-Wheel Fest Saturday, May 19th**

4-Wheel Fest is an off-road specific event that allows owners to showcase their modified trucks to other enthusiasts, as well as the public, at beautiful Fair Oaks Park. All makes, models, and all conditions of trucks are encouraged to register for this event. This event will include live music, 4WD vendors, food vendors, beer, and awards. All registered trucks will receive an event T-shirt. Please visit the website below for further information regarding the event and event registration. All registrants need to arrive no later than 9:45a.m.

9a.m. to 2p.m. Located @ Fair Oaks Park, Fair Oaks Blvd. & Madison Ave in Fair Oaks, CA. 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd. Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Pre-Register: \$25/Truck  
 Day of Registration: \$35/Truck www.fairoakspark.org

**Volunteerism from the Front and Back of Corporate America**

Kathy Chow, Director of Hands on Sacramento will do a presentation on Corporate Volunteers. Kathy has over 10 years experience in program development with various non-profit agency. Previously she worked for 6 years as a public affairs representative where she was in charge of their employee volunteer program, charitable contributions, book of dreams, Share a Story Book Drive, and the development of client relations with clients such as the Asian, Hispanic, Black and Metro Chambers. She also sits as a board member for the Discovery Museum.

Presented by DOVIA, Sacramento Chapter. Thursday May 10, 2007, 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Breakfast begins at 8 a.m. \$12.00 members, \$16.00 non-members. Registrations required. Call Casa Garden Restaurant 916.452-2809

**Spring Clean-up on the American River Parkway**

Saturday, May 12th, 2007, 9:00 A.m.—noon

- Four sites to choose from
- Northgate Blvd. at Hwy 160
  - Howe Avenue at La Riviera
  - Sunrise at South Bridge Street
  - Ancil Hoffman Park

At each site, look for large signs reading "River Clean Up" ♦ Proceed to the volunteer check-in table at each site ♦ Please wear long pants and closed-toe shoes ♦ We suggest that you bring sunscreen, a hat and water.

Sign up for the Spring Clean up event at http://www.arpf.org/CleanupRegistrationForm.htm  
 American River Parkway Foundation ♦ Contact Lana Sumati - Volunteer Event Coordinator ♦ 916-486-2773

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**Support Oakview Elementary School by shopping at Barnes & Noble in Citrus Heights**

On Thursday and Friday, May 10-11, Barnes & Noble will donate a percentage of every sale made with a special Bookfair voucher to Oakview Elementary School in Orangevale. Vouchers will be available at the school, 7729 Beech Avenue. The Barnes & Noble Bookfair will help Oakview in several ways. First, a percentage of Bookfair sales will assist in enhancing their library collection. A library wish list will also be available in the store during this fundraiser. Bookfair supporters may choose books from this in-store wish list display to purchase for the library. Please help support Oakview Elementary School by shopping at Barnes & Noble, 6111 Sunrise Blvd. in Citrus Heights, on May 10-11 with a Bookfair voucher. For more information, contact Barnes & Noble Community Relations Manager Mike Troyan at (916) 853-1389.

# Cancer Survivors to be Special Guests

Citrus Heights - Cancer survivors will be special guests at the Citrus Heights Cancer Relay for Life on the weekend of June 9th and 10th at San Juan High School's McArthur Field, located at 7551 Greenback Lane.

In addition to being a major fundraiser, the Cancer Relay for Life honors and recognizes cancer survivors. There is a survivor tent with complimentary refreshments and seating. The inspirational Survivor Lap officially opens the relay. They can participate in the luminaria and closing ceremonies. A special shirt and tote bag are presented to each attending survivor that identifies them as fighters of this horrific disease.

In only its 4th year, the Citrus Heights Relay is one of the largest and most successful in the country - it ranked 5th in 2005 (for its urban density); 2006 figures are not yet available. For 24 hours, participating teams walk/run around the track, sponsor game, food, and activity booth; and/or provide entertainment.

"We invite cancer survivors to be our special guests and to participate in some or all of the weekend activities," said Dr. Scott Nygard, co-chair of the event.

To register, obtain information, or provide names for the survivor invitation list, please contact Helen Brewer,

a member of the Survivor Committee at (916) 383-1834 or at hbrewer@comcast.net.

For information about participating as a team member, contact Diane Pleines, Team Captain Chair, at (916) 722-5100 or at dianep@rosevillebankofcommerce.com.

By Helen Brewer



**Light the way in the fight against cancer.**



## Relay For Life of Citrus Heights

### June 9-10, 2007

**10AM Sat. - 10AM Sun.**

**San Juan High School**  
7551 Greenback Avenue

**Honor lives touched by cancer with a luminaria donation; join the luminaria ceremony at dusk on June 9.**  
Call Diane Pleines: 916.719.5341



This is the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life, a 24-hour community event where people come together to remember loved ones, inspire others, and celebrate life. Join your community in walking the track and camping overnight to raise much-needed funds for cancer research, education, advocacy, and patient services. Purchase a luminaria to remember those lost to cancer and honor those who have survived.

**1.800.ACS.2345 /** [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

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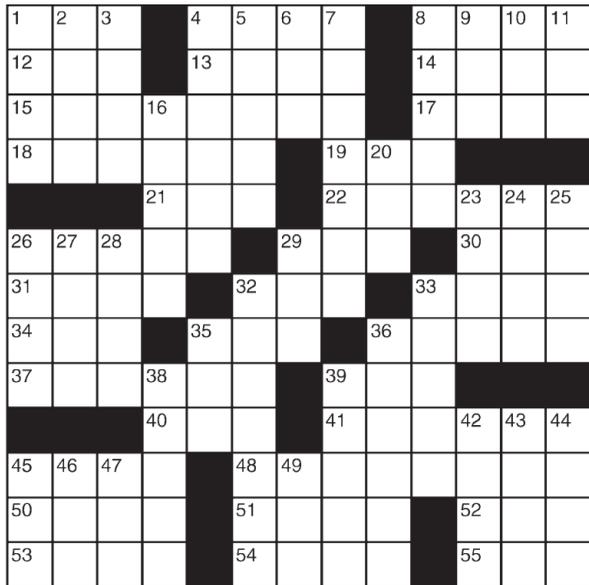
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## KING Crossword



**ACROSS**

- 1 Matlock's field
- 4 Goody-goo
- 8 Put together
- 12 Eggs
- 13 Top-rated
- 14 Pressing need
- 15 Football-game start
- 17 Opening day?
- 18 Tell
- 19 Father's Da gift
- 21 Nursery item
- 22 This way
- 26 Broadway backer
- 29 Pub order

- 30 Right-turn command
- 31 Upper House member
- 32 White House monogram
- 33 Verve
- 34 History chapter
- 35 Black-and-white seabird
- 36 Put forth
- 37 Decorate with raised work
- 39 Rock-concealment
- 40 Likely
- 41 Nap
- 45 Tarzan's clique
- 48 Kissers

- 50 Sandwich shop
- 51 Always
- 52 Cheerleader cry
- 53 Thousand-Calif.
- 54 Unit of force
- 55 Make an effort

**DOWN**

- 1 Sites
- 2 Shakespear river
- 3 Child of the streets
- 4 Beat
- 5 Spacious
- 6 Officeholder
- 7 "Whole

**Answers on Page 9**

- exceeds sum of parts
- of theory
- invitations
- 8 Countertop appliance
- 32 Sped
- 9 Branch
- 33 Vote off the island
- 10 — good deed
- 35 Cleo's slay
- 11 Type measures
- 36 Political mover?
- 16 Famous
- 38 Refugee
- 20 Bar supply
- 39 Skiers' mecca
- 23 Eye
- 42 Do mailroom work
- 24 Burn somewhat
- 43 Autocrat
- 25 Foxed
- 44 Wan
- 26 Sheltered
- 45 Big bother
- 27 "Cheers" habitué
- 46 Split — sou
- 28 Snatch
- 47 Wapiti
- 29 Mail
- 49 Wall climber



Travel Article Sponsored By:  
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## Elkhorn Slough Safari Nature Tour in Moss Landing

by Judy M. Zimmerman

All too often, people driving south on Highway 1 head straight to Carmel or Monterey, bypassing all the North Monterey County coast has to offer.

Salty old Moss Landing, halfway between Santa Cruz and Monterey, is a great place to turn off Highway 1. Moss Landing, 100 miles south of San Francisco, is still one of the busiest commercial fishing ports on California's central coast. It offers a glimpse into coastal life past and present. When the boats come in, the docks hum with activity as the catch is unloaded. And the mighty ocean brings crashing surf to the quaint fishing village's two large sandy state beaches, where walking, surfing, shore fishing and horseback riding are popular beach activities.

For the outdoor adventurer, Moss Landing is the gateway to the Elkhorn Slough, one of California's largest remaining

relatively undisturbed coastal wetlands.

One of the best ways to visit this precious natural wildlife habitat is with the Elkhorn Slough Safari, a two-hour guided nature tour on a 27-ft stable pontoon boat that takes you right down the main channel which winds inland for seven miles. With Captain Yohn Gideon's keen eye you won't miss a thing as a naturalist guide offers an educational in-depth look at slough ecology, its fascinating history, and many of the slough's over 200 species of birds.

At the way you involved everyone in reporting and counting the sightings was a great touch, Captain Gideon," said one of our safari members.

It is one of the best places in the world to see rafting otters. You can watch them playing, feeding by cracking their clam shells, and socializing. In addition, harbor

seals have an active rookery of newborn pups in the spring and summer months.

No doubt you'll be hungry when you return from exploring the slough. Back in the small fishing village of Moss Landing, a hearty, delicious seafood feast awaits you at Phil's Fish Market and Eatery. A former fisherman, Phil and his family owned Angelo's in Monterey. He features his grandmother's recipes and will share them with you. It's just good peasant food,@ says Phil.

Afterwards, a short stroll reveals other hidden treasures in the sleepy village. Over 20 of the old homes, warehouses, and even the red caboose, that cluster around the village post office have been converted into antique shops, each with something special to offer. Call ahead for reservations: 1-831-633-5555. Find out more at [www.elkhornslough.com](http://www.elkhornslough.com).

## It's Musical Chair Time... Will You Be Left Without A Chair?

Legions of borrowers will be shopping for a new loan to replace their adjusting current mortgages this year. However, a recent poll showed a shocking fact: One out of six mortgage holders do not know what type of mortgage they have. The statistics improve somewhat when borrowers are asked the rate they pay. One out of four could answer that question. The numbers really improve when quizzed on their payment. But thereafter, questions addressing subjects of prepayment penalties and how they are calculated... Well let's just say mental fatigue has set in.

Remember that packet the nice escrow officer from the title company handed you when you closed your last mortgage? Now is the time to search the file cabinet, back of closet or, in the case of an unnamed client, under the mattress, and start reading. Among those papers you will find your mortgage note (an additional one for seconds); the note rate, loan term and index are there. Then locate all the addenda and/or riders. As the saying goes, the devil is in the details...this is where you

will find your prepayment penalties and how they are calculated as well as other possible modifications.

If you have a mortgage that gives you monthly multiple payment choices (known as a negative amortization or "Pick a Payment"), then your note should also tell you to what percent your principle can increase before your payment will recast. Recasting is the process of recalculating your mortgage payment prior to the five-year period for which the loan was designed.

"Pick a Payment" loans give the borrower a minimum payment option, where the payment does not cover the interest on the loan for that month. That unpaid interest is added to the principle of the loan. When the principle increases beyond a certain point (110% to 120% of the original loan), the lender eliminates the minimum payment and recalculates the payment based on the new principle. These loans were originally designed



for borrowers who need flexibility in payments due to their cash flow. Later, they attracted borrowers who wanted to stretch their buying power and budget. These people are sitting on a ticking financial bomb. Many are unaware of the recast provision of their loan. Many borrowers are going blithely along thinking they have five years before worrying about significant payment changes. In actuality, many loans are due to recast prior to their 3-year anniversary. Will you be left standing when the music stops?

Delia Fling is a mortgage planner with Trans Pac Financial in Fair Oaks. You can contact her at [deliaf@transpacflc.com](mailto:deliaf@transpacflc.com) or 916-284-0066.

## A Model Neighborhood



Gorgeann Giranis took the picture of our Neighborhood Committee Members. Dave Camerer; Andy Nomof, Joan Cuomo, Kim Bone, Cece Deanne, Jackie Nomof, Georgette Lewis, Candi Miller, and Jerry Roach.

Submitted by Jerry Roach

Have you ever lived in a neighborhood where most of the neighbors know each other, have seven events a year, have an active Neighborhood Watch and Architectural Control Committee, and their own web site?

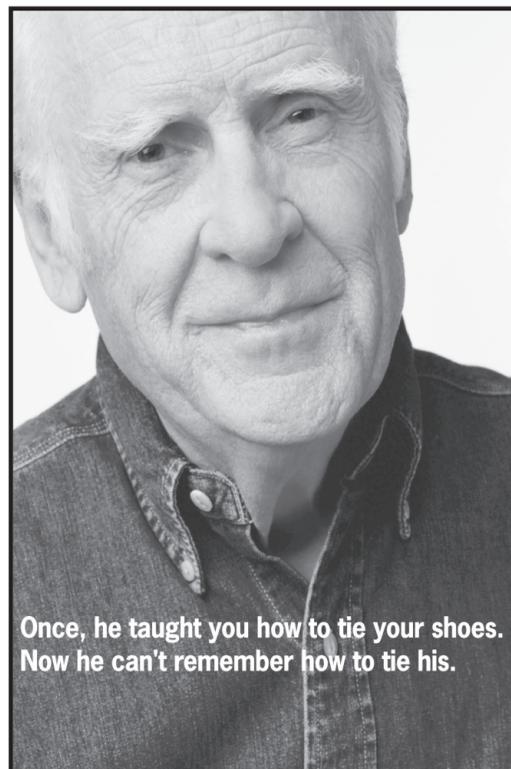
Real Estate agents say St. Andrews Court in Citrus Heights (off Old Auburn Road, near Holy Family Church) is a very special and unique neighborhood of 82 homes. The neighborhood is coveted by outsiders because of its reputation as a fun, safe and active community. Meticulous homes averaging 2500 square feet, and selling for \$500,000 also make it a one of the most high-end and sought after developments in the area.

Each year, the neighborhood committees organize an Easter Egg Hunt, Home Tour, July 4th Parade, National Night Out, Movie Night (outside in the court), Picnic in Greenbelt, and a Holiday celebration complete with Santa Claus.

"Pride of Ownership" and communication are key to helping create neighborhood

pride, according to Jerry Roach, an original homeowner (15 Years ) who takes pride in calling St. Andrews Court the "Best Neighborhood in Citrus Heights." Jerry says the keys to a safe, active, and well-respected neighborhood are very simple:

- 1) Create a Neighborhood Phone Directory to improve communication and awareness;
- 2) Start a Neighborhood Watch group to address crime and organize events;
- 3) Elect a committee (Architectural Control) to oversee the CC&R's in a fair and non-threatening manner to make sure property values stay high;
- 4) Put out a newsletter four times a year to improve communication;
- 5) Create a website to post pictures and event information;
- 6) Have a variety of events for all ages to improve participation; and
- 7) Finally, collaborate with a local real estate agent, and other professionals to help with events and expenses. Our first Annual Home Tour (June 2006) was one of our most successful events (over 60 people attended) because of our professionals' donations and guidance.



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## Take A Monday OFF! Tee Up 18 to Care About Kids

**WHAT:** The first annual Sports Guy Pat Walsh's "We Care About Kids" golf tournament presented by the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce. 18 holes of exciting, fast-paced foursomes will tee up at Ancil Hoffman Golf Course along the beautiful American River Parkway to benefit free youth service programs at the North Area Teen Center. Join Sports Guy Pat Walsh from KFBK and take a Monday off to help the kids!

**HOW:** Individuals may request a registration form at 916-486-9893.

Local sponsors have three levels of participation providing company recognition, a cart, tee markers and 18 holes of exciting play. Prizes will also be offered to the players who hit Closest to the Pin, and Longest Drive.

**COSTS:** Individuals register for \$115.00. Foursomes register together for \$350.00. Tournament sponsorships are available at \$250, \$500 and \$1000. Proceeds benefit the non-profit North Area Teen Center and are tax-deductible. Lunch is included.

**WHEN & WHERE:** 9 A.M. MONDAY, May 21, 2007.  
Ancil Hoffman Golf Course

**WHO:** Hosted by Carmichael Chamber of Commerce President Jim Vargas and the North Area Teen Center.

**WHY:** To help the kids... to play golf, to enjoy the company of friends and other dedicated individuals while providing assistance and financial support to the youth of our community. This is what the Sports Guy Pat Walsh's "We Care About Our Kids" Golf Tournament is all about. Through NATC and The Chamber various programs have been developed in our area. These programs provide healthy and safe alternatives for our young men and women, and many times assists those who are "at risk".

For more information call, "We Care About Kids" Golf Tournament, 916-486-9893. Media contact: Rick Reed 916-704-0080.

## Field Hockey at Bella Vista

The Bella Vista High School Girls' Field Hockey Teams will be hosting their 4th Annual Alumni Game Fundraiser on Friday May 11, 2007 beginning at 7:00 PM at the Bella Vista Stadium, 8301 Madison Avenue. There is no charge for admission to watch and learn about this fast-paced and growing sport. Bella Vista is a long-time member of the Eastern Athletic Field Hockey League and plays a fall Varsity and Junior Varsity season schedule against teams from Davis, Yuba City, River Valley, Chico, Pleasant Valley, Corning and Lassen High Schools. Incoming freshman girls are especially invited to attend as anticipation is high for the coming fall season with games on Bella Vista's new smooth grass field hockey field. The evening will also feature a special performance by the renowned Bronco Jazz Band.

## The Celebration Continues – May 12 - 2:00 to 6:00

The Gold River Racquet Club Spring Celebration continues through the Open House Saturday, May 12. The celebration is an assortment of fun tennis and fitness events going on right now at the club. So, bring a guest and introduce them to all that we offer. Try something new like a free tennis lesson or cruise into a group exercise class. We have something for everyone. Pick up at the front desk an official schedule or visit web-site at [www.sparetimeclubs.com](http://www.sparetimeclubs.com) under News and Events. It is all in good fun to benefit the American Diabetes Association, because for every new member who joins during the Celebration the club will donate \$25 to help find a cure.

## I Was Having Contractions at 23 Weeks and I Was Scared!

**May 13th is Mother's Day; So This Article Is To Honor Mothers And Expectant Mothers.**

There is no emotion in the world that compares to the love, nurturing, and bonding that a Mother demonstrates to her children.

**And Now Back to My Scary Title!** A short time ago I started seeing a patient who had delivered her first son prematurely at 22 weeks. It looked like she was headed down the same tract with her second baby when she started having contractions at 22 weeks. This is when she came into my office. With a few sessions of gentle adjustments the baby had moved up, and she was no longer experiencing severe back pain and muscle spasms. Her obstetrician gave her the green light to cease bed rest and resume normal activity. In my years of practice I have treated many women during their pregnancy, and they have all noted that they had an easier time during delivery after being under chiropractic care.

**Children and Chiropractic!** From the moment of birth our bodies are subjected to tremendous stress. The birth process itself is incredibly stressful on mother and child. The newborn neck must be bent one way then another to pass through the birth canal. Many infants affected by this and are left with a subluxation (spinal misalignment) which if left untreated can lead to deformities and pinched nerves. There are case studies that show that back pain is a Condition found in children more than we have realized, as many as 30% of children ages 12 to 15 years old reported a history of back pain. Another study found that 23% of elementary school children complained of back pain, and until recently your family doctor would have scoffed it off to growing pains.

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## Foot Pain Ruining Your Golf Swing?

(NAPSA)-The next time you head to your favorite golf course, make sure your feet are in shape before approaching the tee box.

The American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS) says your big toe, heel and ball of your foot are the spots most likely to cause pain that can ruin your golf swing. But pain relief is possible and frequently does not require surgery.

According to the ACFAS Web site FootPhysicians.com, the three most common foot conditions that can be the barrier to a perfect golf swing are neuromas, arthritis and heel pain.

Neuromas are nerves that become thickened, enlarged and painful because they've been compressed or irritated. A neuroma in the ball of your foot can cause significant pain as your body transfers its weight from one foot to the other while swinging the club.

Arthritis can cause pain in the

joint of your big toe that makes it difficult to follow through.

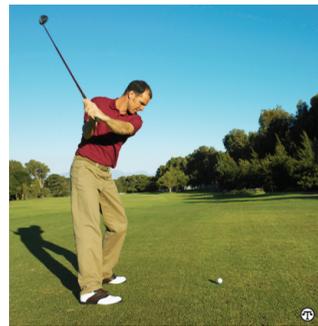
Heel pain typically results from an inflammation of the band of tissue that extends from your heel to the ball of your foot. People with this condition compare the pain to someone jabbing a knife in their heel. Heel pain can make it uncomfortable for golfers to maintain a solid stance during crucial portions of the swing.

Several other painful conditions can also make the perfect swing difficult. Ankle arthritis or ankle instability can affect the proper weight shift during the golf swing. Some athletes and former athletes develop chronic ankle instability from previous ankle sprains that failed to heal properly. Achilles tendonitis can also contribute to balance-threatening instability during your golf swing. Ill-fitting golf shoes may cause corns and calluses that make standing uncomfortable.

Foot pain is not normal. With the treatment options available to your foot and ankle surgeon, a pain-free golf swing is clearly in view. When your feet aren't in top condition, your golf swing won't be either.

For reliable information on painful foot and ankle conditions or to locate a foot and ankle surgeon nearby, visit the ACFAS Web site FootPhysicians.com.

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## A SPORTING VIEW

By Mark Vasto

### Hall of Fame "Locks"

Last week we took a guided tour of Jurassic Ballpark, a place between the lines where dinosaurs of generations past still meet and compete at the top levels of Major League Baseball, setting and smashing records as they lumber along. Last week, we profiled the Grand Poobahs -- Julio Franco and Jamie Moyer. This week, "A Sporting View" begins to profile the Hall of Fame locks.

Barry Bonds

If baseball has a reigning heavyweight champion, it's Barry Bonds.

Subject to more scrutiny -- and, thanks to his charming disposition, criticism -- Bonds has nonetheless continued to soar higher than perhaps any other player in the history of the game.

It's hard to believe, but the son of Bobby Bonds and nephew of Reggie Jackson (how's that for lineage?) began his pro career for the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1986.

Immediately, speculation was rampant about the kid because he had all the tools: He could hit for average (although, that first season he struck out more than 100 times and hit a mere .223); had power; was a great fielder (people forget, but he's won five Gold Gloves, and that's more than Mickey Mantle ever won); and he could light up the base paths (he had 52 steals one season).

We all know he broke the all-time home run record during an era where hitting 40-plus round trippers became the norm, but this guy hit 73 out of the yard in 2001. Most players don't hit that many singles in a year. It's an incredible achievement. Perhaps even more impressive, in 2004 he was on base more than six times every 10 at bats for an astounding .609 on-base percentage. And according to the nerds and wonks that work with Bill James, his statistics make him the fourth-best player of all-time.

Given that, Bonds hasn't necessarily been a champion of character, rattling out other ballplayers every time a dog comes sniffing around his locker for

performance-enhancing drugs and routinely refusing to come clean with the fans over his use of the "clear."

Greg Maddux

Roger Clemens (who will be profiled next week) may grab most of the headlines, but Greg Maddux is the closest thing to Cy Young or Christy Mathewson you'll get to see in your lifetime. Check this stat: Maddux is 120-0 when given a five run lead.

"The Professor" has been pitching in the show since 1986, and he has gone on to win four Cy Young Awards (all in a row for the Braves during the '90s), eight All Star Game trips, 16 Gold Gloves and, oh yeah, he's won more than 300 games and struck out more than 3,000 batters. Now in San Diego, Maddux is such a lock for the Hall of Fame that he already has the keys.

Mark Vasto is a veteran sportswriter and publisher of The Parkville (Mo.) Luminary.

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Is health issues? -- Empty Nesters in New York

A: The Siamese breed in general is a very laid-back, social cat, and can be a very good companion. However, like any cat, Siamese have individual temperaments and tolerances - some play constantly, others sleep; some are fine with occasional snuggling, while others yowl for attention. I want you to carefully consider several factors before getting a cat. In addition to choosing one with the right temperament for your home, you need to make sure that you're financially able to support a cat's needs. They don't seem high-maintenance, but like any pet, there are annual exams and shots to get, pet food and sometimes medicine to buy. I'm also personally opposed to

declawing a cat for any reason, even though I understand your husband's special medical needs. Declawing can cause tremendous emotional stress to a cat as it loses a primary means for defense and an essential part of its identity. With this in mind, once you've considered the financial and time obligations required of a pet, I hope you will consider adopting a cat at the local shelter, and discuss your specific needs with the shelter staff. They can help you decide if a cat is the right pet to have. Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com. (c) 2007 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Black Beauty

Syra is a beautiful purebred 80-pound all black German Shepherd. Owners Chuck and Debi Hammond have nicknamed Syra "Pretty" and rightly so. She is also a very bright nine-year old with brown eyes and big ears.

Syra is truly an integral part of the Hammond family. She has more human tendencies than most humans do. She loves to go hiking, fishing, boating and loves playing with children. She has become smart in her old age...often tricking Chuck and Debi into feeding her twice at dinnertime. Debi will come home from work first, Syra will nudge her on the leg, and run over to her food bowl to let her know she is hungry. Well, when Chuck comes home she does the same thing to him. She tries to trick them into feeding her two dinners. As soon as she realizes they know what she is up to, she goes about her business. Syra loves spearmint gum. If a piece of steak is placed on the floor next to a piece of spearmint gum she will eat the gum.

The German Shepherd dog is one of the most popular and recognizable breeds of the



American Kennel Club. The German Shepherd dog has been in the public eye and media many times, recognizable as "Rin Tin Tin" and canine characters.

Syra goes to work with Debi Hammond, owner of Merlot Marketing Co. "Pretty" Syra has done some professional work. She has modeled for PR photos; her photos printed in newsletters, and she is a company mascot for trade shows.

"People gravitate to Syra because of either her beauty or her personality. Lucky for us, she was blessed with both".

By Kay Burton

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# Liberal Totalitarianism

*Liberal Democrats are attempting to muzzle conservative talk radio*



**Commentary by Jeffrey T. Kuhner, Editor of Insight**

Liberal Democrats are attempting to muzzle conservative talk radio: they are assaulting free speech. Like the communists in the former Soviet Union, America's liberals seek to crush dissent by consolidating control over the media—especially talk radio, which has emerged as the dominant medium for conservative opinion.

Allies close to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi are promoting legislation, which if passed, will take off the air prominent conservative radio hosts such as Michael Savage, Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity and Bill O'Reilly—along with thousands of smaller conservative broadcasters. The bill, entitled the "Media Ownership Reform Act," is sponsored by Rep. Maurice Hinchey, a leftist Democrat from New York. The legislation aims to revive the so-called "Fairness Doctrine" of the 1940's: "all views" are to be given equal time on radio. In particular, the Federal Communications Commission would have the power to oversee and change radio and television content. The goal is to tilt the ideological balance of power away from the right on the nation's air waves.

The real force behind the effort to censor conservative talk radio is the progressive-philanthropist, George Soros. The radical leftist billionaire has made no secret of his hatred for conservatives. He says President Bush has transformed America into a militaristic, "fascist" empire. Moreover, Soros champions many of liberalism's chic causes: abortion on demand, legalization of drugs, homosexual marriage, euthanasia, unlimited Third World immigration, open borders, and one-world government anchored in the United Nations. He advocates all the issues that are anathema to popular radio talk-show hosts like Savage, Limbaugh and Hannity. Hence, he wants these commentators to be exiled to the political wilderness.

At a recent National Conference for Media Reform, sponsored by Free Press, a Massachusetts-based group heavily subsidized by Soros, Hinchey laid bare his plan to silence conservative voices on television and radio. The anti-war McGovernite attacked Savage, Limbaugh and other conservative radio hosts, saying they were "responsible" for leading the U.S. into the Iraq war, as well as for preparing the ground for future military invasions of Iran and

Syria. According to Hinchey, these men pose a "threat" to American national security. Hence, under his bill, they would be fired.

"All of that stuff will end," Hinchey said.

In the Senate, the legislation is being supported by Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont. A self-styled "social democrat," Sanders is forming a media caucus with the explicit goal of ending conservative hegemony on talk radio.

"Now is the time to begin asking that if networks provide their listeners with 99 percent of talk shows being with right-wing extremists, whether that really is what public trust is about," Sanders said in an address in January. "Now is the time to open the question of the Fairness Doctrine again."

However, this begs the question of why do radio networks have most of their shows hosted by conservatives? The answer is a simple one: They're popular with listeners. Talk radio is overwhelmingly right-leaning because it satisfies the public's growing appetite for alternative news and commentary to the liberal media establishment. If the Democrats don't like the opinions of Savage, Limbaugh or Hannity, then all they need to do is go to CNN, MSNBC, NPR, The New York Times or The Washington Post. There are countless outlets peddling the anti-war, anti-Bush mantras of the left.

The liberal media and political class have tried to marginalize conservative talk radio for years—first by ignoring it, then by demonizing it, and finally by attempting to compete with it. Air America, with hosts such as Al Franken, was supposed to be the great liberal alternative to conservative talk radio. But, in spite of all the puff stories in The Times, The Post and CNN, Air America failed dismally to attract a large audience. When Hinchey, Sanders, Soros and their liberal Democratic allies complain about the need to "give equal time" to left-

leaning views on radio, they forget one important fact: The radio audience is not interested. Now, after the failure of Air America, the Democrats are attempting to implement the final solution to their conservative problem: censorship.

Eastern European conservatives have faced similar oppression for the last 15 years. From Georgia to Croatia, Serbia to Slovakia, Soros' media empire has relentlessly sought to marginalize patriotic and conservative journalists. In many countries in the former communist bloc, there are hardly any conservative voices left in the mainstream media. In fact, the billionaire activist openly brags that the former Soviet empire has become "the Soros empire." He is now bent on destroying his ideological enemies in the belly of the beast—America.

What Soros understands—like all ambitious leftists before him, such as Lenin, Trotsky, FDR—is that attaining cultural power is the necessary precondition to achieving political power. The brilliant Italian Leninist revolutionary, Antonio Gramsci, outlined this strategy in his theory of cultural hegemony. Gramsci argued that once the left captures the commanding organs of culture and the media, the "state will simply fall into our hands." He understood that, by dominating culture and stifling all voices of opposition, the left would be free to manipulate and mold public opinion, thereby paving the way to permanent political dominance. This is why Soros and his Democratic allies are determined to smash talk radio, the main bastion of cultural/media resistance to the liberal regime.

The attempt to revive the "Fairness Doctrine" represents a direct assault on freedom of speech. It is a concession by liberals that they are losing the battle in the marketplace of ideas. Unable to compete with conservatives in the arena of rhetoric, facts and reasoned argument, Democrats are resorting to the Stalinist method of stifling all dissenting points of view. Unable to out-argue and out-debate Savage, Limbaugh and Hannity, liberals

are hoping to silence them—once and for all.

More importantly, the war on talk radio reveals the totalitarian impulse at the heart of modern liberalism. Above all, liberalism is an ideology based on radical social engineering. Its ultimate goal is to transform America into a society characterized by economic collectivism, personal—and especially, sexual—liberation and multilateral globalism. To accomplish these goals, the left must fundamentally restructure the economy, the family unit, traditional bourgeois values, and even the nation itself.

This is why liberals ultimately rely on coercion to pass much of their agenda. They must raise taxes and propose new entitlement programs (like universal health care) to keep expanding the power of the state; they must push for homosexual marriage and abortion to keep undermining the nuclear family; they must expunge religion and the Ten Commandments from the public square to keep rolling back traditional morality; and they must insist on amnesty

for illegal immigrants and subordinating foreign policy to the United Nations to keep subverting America's national sovereignty and distinct cultural identity. Their favorite tools of coercion are usually judicial activism and bureaucratic decrees. Now, however, riding high after the November midterm elections, they are going for the jugular—the outright silencing of their ideological opponents.

Conservatives must form a united front to prevent this blatant power grab by the Soros Democrats. If not, the return of the "Fairness Doctrine" will not only be a great victory for the forces of censorship, but a watershed moment in the continuing march of liberalism against everything that is good, decent and virtuous in America.

Jeffrey T. Kuhner is the editor of Insight, [www.insightmag.com](http://www.insightmag.com)

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SCSO Board President, James McCormick, and American Federation of Musicians Local 12 Secretary/Business Agent at their collective bargaining agreement signing, April 3, 2007

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According to SCSO Board President James McCormick, "The agreement is designed to benefit our local professional players, the SCSO and the Sacramento Community alike. Our team of performers on stage for most concerts will

now number 230 musicians."

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A Broadway Salute, the final performance of the SCSO's 11th season featuring music from Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic Broadway hits, will take place on Saturday, May 12 at 8 PM at the Sacramento Community Center Theater (13th & L Streets). A limited number of tickets may be available by calling (916) 264-5181.